



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lava Beds
National Monument

PO Box 1240
Tulelake, CA 96134

Mike Reynolds
Superintendent
530-667-8101
mike_reynolds@nps.gov

Lava Beds National Monument News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2014

Tourism to Lava Beds National Monument Creates Millions in Economic Benefit

Report shows visitor spending supports jobs in local economy

TULELAKE, California— A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that visitors to Lava Beds National Monument spend millions of dollars in communities near the park. Visitor spending created up to 86 jobs in the area in 2012, according to the report.

“Lava Beds National Monument is proud to welcome visitors from across the country and around the world,” said Superintendent Mike Reynolds. “We are delighted to share the story of Lava Beds and the experiences it provides as well as to use the park as a way to introduce visitors to this part of the country and all that it offers. National Park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy – returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service – and it’s a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are proud to play a role in the local communities”.

This report is especially interesting as it reminds us of the potential for positive local effects of the new Tule Lake Unit located in Newell, CA. Established in December, 2008 and funded for the first time in 2012, the Tule Lake Unit protects the story of those incarcerated at the Tule Lake Segregation Center during World War II. As this new NPS unit is developed, it too will bring increasingly positive economic benefits to the Tulelake and Klamath Basins.

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by U.S. Geological Survey economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas and Christopher Huber as well as Lynne Koontz of the NPS. The report shows \$14.7 billion of direct spending by 283 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of an NPS unit. This spending supported 243,000 jobs nationally, with 201,000 jobs found in these gateway communities, and had a cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy of \$26.75 billion.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

According to the report, most visitor spending supports jobs in restaurants, grocery and convenience stores (39%), hotels, motels and B&Bs (27%), and other amusement and recreation (20%).

To download the report, which includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state, visit <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/economics.cfm>.

To learn more about national parks in Oregon and California and how the NPS works with Oregon and California communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to www.nps.gov/oregon and www.nps.gov/california.

* * *

Lava Beds National Monument, established in 1925, is a land of turmoil, both geologic and historic. Over the last half-million years, volcanic eruptions have created a rugged landscape dotted with diverse volcanic features. Lava tube caves, Native American sites, historic battlefields and a high desert wilderness experience await you!

For more information about visiting Lava Beds National Monument, call 530-667-8100, email labe_interpretation@nps.gov, or go to www.nps.gov/labe.

-NPS-