



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lava Beds
National Monument

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Lava Beds National Monument News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date June 5, 2013

Vandalism to Irreplaceable Petroglyphs at Lava Beds National Monument

TULELAKE, California— On May 17, 2013, park rangers discovered vandalism of an area of Lava Beds National Monument known as Petroglyph Point. Damage included over 50 occurrences in which individuals had carved over prehistoric and historic petroglyphs (a form of rock art) across a 300 foot stretch of the west face of this important cultural site. Petroglyph Point contains thousands of culturally significant petroglyphs, the most concentrated number in the state of California, which may date as far back as 4,000 years, and are important to members of The Klamath Tribes.

“A mindless act of this nature causes damage in seconds that can never be restored, shows disrespect to American Indian tribal members and current monument visitors, and prevents future generations from enjoying a part of American history. These resources belong to us all, and their protection is everyone’s responsibility. Unfortunately, this practice has occurred in the past, and while there is no way to repair the damage done, future destruction can be prevented by promoting respect of all cultural and natural resources, and educating visitors about the importance of the evidence of our collective past,” adds Lava Beds National Monument Superintendent Mike Reynolds.

A temporary site closure has been enacted and additional security measures have been taken while a long term protection plan is established. Additionally, monument law enforcement officers are currently conducting an investigation into this incident of vandalism. If you see

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suspicious behavior, or have information relating to this case or any other impacts to resources, please report it to a park ranger.

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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 and learning about our great cultural resources, call 530-667-8100, email labe_interpretation@nps.gov, or go to www.nps.gov/labe. Also, visit the park's Facebook and Twitter pages.

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