Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Friends:

We are continuing to work on the development of a new general management plan (GMP) for Lava Beds National Monument, which will determine the monument’s management direction for the next 15 to 20 years.

This newsletter presents four preliminary concepts for managing the monument. Each concept has a slightly different approach to cultural and natural resource management, facilities, and visitor opportunities in the monument. The planning team developed these concepts based on the monument’s purpose and significance, issues facing the monument, our legal mandates, and comments that you provided during the scoping period.

None of the concepts envision a significantly different future for Lava Beds. Instead, we are looking to build on the successful implementation of our last GMP, which focused on the improvement of park facilities and infrastructure, including the construction of a new Visitor Center and a Research Center. No major new facilities are proposed in the management concepts presented in this newsletter. We are primarily looking at ways of expanding and improving our level of service through new interpretive features, better access to monument sites and features, ensuring protection of sensitive resources, new educational opportunities and/or programs, improved resource management, and new partnership opportunities with neighboring land management agencies, tribes and communities. Obviously we can’t accomplish everything presented in these management concepts. We are looking to you to help us determine which ideas are preferred for Lava Beds.

We would like your comments and suggestions on the preliminary management concepts presented in this newsletter. You may like some but not all of the elements described here, or you may like a particular concept but disagree with the actions that may be taken to translate that concept into actual visitor experiences or resource protection. You may also have an entirely different vision of how the monument should be managed. We’d like to hear from you. Your comments will help the National Park Service formulate the best possible future for the monument.

We have included a mail-in form for your comments. You may also send in comments over the internet at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/labe or join us at a public meeting in Klamath Falls on January 29th to discuss and comment on these preliminary concepts.

Based on your comments, the planning team will reevaluate the proposed concepts, modify them as necessary, and develop a preferred alternative. Our preferred alternative may be one of the concepts in this newsletter, it may include elements from several of the concepts, or it may be an entirely new concept. The management concepts and an analysis of the impacts of implementing each concept will be presented in a Draft General Management Plan in late 2008.

I sincerely value your input regarding the future management of Lava Beds National Monument, and thank you in advance for your participation. Public communication, collaboration, and cooperation are essential to developing a successful general management plan. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dave Kruse
Superintendent

You’re invited

The monument will be hosting a public meeting on Tuesday, January 29, 2008 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, Oregon. The meeting will take place in the College Union Building (2nd Floor, Mt. Scott Room). You will have an opportunity to provide your input on the preliminary management concepts presented in this newsletter and to share any additional ideas or comments with the planning team.

Oregon Institute of Technology
Location: 3201 Campus Dr.
Klamath Falls, OR 97601-8801

Meeting Room Location

What’s Inside...

- Development of Preliminary Management Concepts, p. 2
- Draft Management Concepts, pp. 3-6
- Overview of Desired Conditions for the Preliminary Management Concepts, p. 7
- How to Participate, p. 8

The GMP planning team developed four preliminary management concepts for managing Lava Beds.

Draft concept highlights and management zoning maps.

Comparison of the desired conditions for each draft management concept.

How to comment on the draft management concepts and other opportunities to participate. Also see public meeting invitation above and the enclosed comment form.
Development of Preliminary Management Concepts: Exploring Options

Both the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Park Service planning process require the NPS to examine a variety of approaches for managing Lava Beds National Monument in a general management plan. This process allows managers, park visitors, partners and interested community members to work together in exploring various approaches for future management.

The management concepts presented in this newsletter were developed to explore different options for the future. None of the options represent a dramatically different future for Lava Beds. Instead, these management concepts offer new ways to improve on what we have in place today. Examples include ideas for new trails, new education programs, expanded outreach and regional coordination, and improvements at the Petroglyph Point Unit. No major new facilities or development projects are proposed in the preliminary management concepts.

All of the preliminary management concepts must be consistent with the purposes for which the monument was established (see Foundation Statement Summary). The management concepts must be reasonable, and must be consistent with other special mandates and laws (e.g. the Endangered Species Act or the National Historic Preservation Act).

Once we have received your input, we will evaluate the various ideas presented in the management concepts and select a preferred alternative. This preferred alternative may be one of the management concepts presented in this newsletter, or it may be a new concept comprised of ideas from several of the management concepts presented. Please let us know which ideas you think are best for Lava Beds. Feel free to suggest new ideas not presented in this newsletter.

The National Park Service will identify a preferred alternative after we have analyzed your comments on the concepts and after initial environmental impact analysis of the management concepts has been completed.

The Preliminary Management Concepts

During the summer of 2007, the GMP planning team developed four preliminary management concepts for managing Lava Beds. These concepts represent different approaches to address specific goals (see text box: GMP Goals) identified by park staff, park visitors and other interested parties.

Each preliminary management concept presented on the next few pages begins with a concept statement followed by concept highlights, management zones, and future desired conditions. A concept statement generally describes the guiding philosophy or overall direction for each concept. The concept highlights provide general description of the management directions and actions that would be taken for each concept. Management zones (shown on the maps) identify how different areas of the monument could be managed to achieve a variety of resource conditions and visitor experiences. Each zone specifies a particular combination of resource conditions, visitor experiences, and appropriate development. On page 7 there is a more detailed table that compares the desired conditions, or specific ideas and actions, for each management concept.

While you read the management concepts, keep in mind that these are just initial ideas. At this stage there may be some gaps and inconsistencies and some ideas might not be fully developed. With your input, the planning team will continue to refine these concepts. Unless otherwise stated, all existing uses and visitor and administrative facilities would continue in the monument under all of the concepts.

Also keep in mind that management concepts are conceptual in nature. The general management plan establishes a vision of the future that will guide year-to-year management of the monument; full implementation could take many years.

Common Threads for the Management Concepts

With the exception of Management Concept A: Continuation of Current Management, the following actions would hold true for all of the concepts:

- The monument would conduct a conservation assessment of Petroglyph Point to determine the best protection measures for the petroglyphs and appropriate locations for visitor services.
- The Petroglyph Point land transfer included in the 1996 General Management Plan is in progress.
- The National Park Service would develop a Long Range Interpretive Plan to implement recommended interpretive programs and services at Lava Beds National Monument.
- No new large-scale facilities would be proposed. Improved utilization of existing facilities would be emphasized wherever possible.
- Additional opportunities for research and education would be available at the Research Center.
- Sensitive caves (such as Fern Cave and Crystal Ice Cave) would be operated in a manner that preserves the resources while providing for visitor use.
- Lava Beds would explore more opportunities to accommodate large groups at visitor use areas.
- Interpretive materials would be provided in multiple languages.
- The National Park Service would continue to provide limited support services for the Tule Lake Segregation Center National Historic Landmark through its current management agreements with the Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Transportation.
Management Concept A: Continuation of Current Management

Management Concept A provides a baseline for evaluating changes and impacts in other concepts. Under this management concept the National Park Service would continue to manage Lava Beds National Monument as it has been managed since the approval of the 1996 General Management Plan.

Concept Highlights:
- Current management trends and ongoing projects would continue.
- Existing facilities and trails would remain and continue to be maintained.
- Current resource management and visitor service levels would continue.
- Limited education programs would be provided.
- The park would maintain the existing wilderness boundary.

Existing Facilities and Conditions
Management Concept B: Expanded Resource Preservation and Restoration

In concept B, the National Park Service would enhance and expand existing natural and cultural resource preservation and management. This would be achieved through landscape restoration, research, and interagency cooperation. The monument would feature visitor services and programs that emphasize wilderness experiences.

**Concept Highlights:**

- Increased emphasis would be placed on restoration of the landscape to its Pre-European ecological setting and providing additional habitat for threatened and endangered species.
- The monument would provide a world-class cave experience and develop a leadership role in the management of lava tube systems by assisting other parks and agencies in cave management, restoration and monitoring.
- The monument would consider expansion of designated wilderness areas.
- Natural recovery processes would reclaim some administrative roads. These roads would be converted to trails.
- The intrusion of facilities and infrastructure on views would be minimized. The monument would partner with local communities to protect views and dark night skies.
- Greater documentation would be completed for cultural resources and collections. Additional research on archeological sites would be conducted.
- The monument would consider additional nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.
- New trails and visitor programs would emphasize wilderness experiences.
- The National Park Service would work closely with surrounding agencies, tribes and other partners to enhance natural and cultural values.

Management Zones

### Petroglyph Point Unit

- A small visitor use area would be created at Petroglyph Point that would allow visitors to experience the petroglyphs while providing maximum protection of sensitive sites. The road through Petroglyph Point would be realigned to the south end of the site.

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**Backcountry Zone**

This zone would emphasize the preservation of natural and cultural resources and offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. Recreational opportunities would be primarily unstructured with many opportunities for adventure. This zone includes legislatively designated wilderness areas and other areas managed as wilderness.

**Frontcountry Zone**

Areas would be predominantly natural, but the sights and sounds of people would be evident. Resources could be modified for essential visitor needs such as trails and interpretive media and park operation needs in a way that harmonizes with the natural and cultural environment.

**Developed Zone**

Developed visitor use areas that provide for high density use and support services. Education and interpretive facilities and services, and concentrated visitor use would be accommodated. This zone would serve as a primary entry into other zones.

**Administrative Zone**

Concentrated area of development that would generally be closed to the public. Comprised of facilities that directly contribute to the day-to-day operations of the monument.
Management Concept C: Diversified Recreation Opportunities

Through an expanded range of visitor programs and recreation opportunities, the National Park Service would strive to meet both current and changing visitor needs. Expanded outreach efforts would develop a more visible identity for the monument. These actions would enhance appreciation for the unique resources protected at Lava Beds and improve understanding of the monument’s role in its regional setting.

Concept Highlights:

- Lava Beds would create additional recreation and/or interpretive trails and explore connections to national forest trails and sites.
- New recreational opportunities and experiences would be provided (e.g., annual events, adventure tours, winter activities, hiking, and caving seminars).
- Lava Beds would actively restore the Modoc War landscape. New research and battle forensics would enhance interpretation and knowledge of the Modoc War sites.
- Visitors would have more access to cultural features and collections. In sensitive areas, access would be guided.
- The campground would be improved to better accommodate groups and RVs.
- Management of sensitive resources would remain consistent with current management. However, the National Park Service would conduct additional monitoring and evaluate impacts to resources in high visitor use areas.
- The park would maintain the existing wilderness boundary.

Management Zones

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Petroglyph Point Unit

- A limited day-use facility and additional recreational opportunities such as wildlife viewing would be available at Petroglyph Point. The road through the Petroglyph Point unit would be realigned to the south and paved.
Under this concept, Lava Beds National Monument would be viewed as a destination for education and learning. The National Park Service would provide increased educational opportunities and in-depth experiences for visitors. Partnerships with the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, affiliated tribes, and educational institutions would provide interpretation and more consistent management of sites and features outside of Lava Beds that are related to the park purpose.

Concept Highlights:

- Lava Beds would strengthen partnerships with communities, agencies, tribes and schools to interpret sites related to park purpose (both within and outside of the monument).
- The Research Center would be better utilized for research and educational programming (e.g. opportunities for visitors to participate in research and restoration activities, school groups, educational workshops, cultural research opportunities, and tribal use for education).
- New opportunities would be provided for visitors to learn about astronomy, homesteading, the Civilian Conservation Corps era, and wildlife.
- Additional educational/interpretive trails would be provided in key areas of the monument.
- Increased interpretation and education of the caves would be provided on the cave loop. Additional guided tours would be provided by rangers or cave docents.
- More monument collections would be made available to visitors and researchers (e.g. more exhibits, a collection for hands-on educational use, virtual museum, etc.)
- Lava Beds would develop more formalized relationships with schools.

Management Zones

**Petroglyph Point Unit**

- A visitor contact station and day-use facilities would be located at Petroglyph Point. The existing road through the Petroglyph Point unit would be paved.

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A: Continue Current Management
Provides a baseline for evaluating changes and impacts to other concepts.

B: Expanded Resource Preservation and Restoration
Enhances and expands existing natural and cultural resource values, preservation and management through landscape restoration, research, and interagency cooperation. Features visitor services and programs that emphasize wilderness experiences.

Natural Resources
Current management would continue.
Emphasis would be placed on restoring the ecological setting to Pre-European conditions. Threatened and endangered species such as the sage grouse would be protected. Habitat for bat species would be improved.
Lava Beds would be a leader in the management of lava tube cave systems. Wilderness caves would receive a higher level of management through monitoring, restoration, cave permits, and management plans.

Cultural Resources
Current management would continue.
Greater research emphasis and assessment of archaeological values would occur. Collections storage facilities would be improved. The NPS would consider additional nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. The NPS would compile baseline information on ethnohistoric resources. The NPS would develop accurate documentation for all known historic properties, collections, and cultural landscapes (common to all concepts).

Wilderness
Would maintain current wilderness.
Evaluate potential wilderness expansion. Greater emphasis would be placed on preserving dark night skies and monument views. New opportunities to experience wilderness areas would be provided.

Visitor Experience
Current resource management and visitor service levels would continue. Limited education programs would be provided.
Maintain existing designated trails, trailheads, parking areas and roads. The monument would explore additional trail opportunities in wilderness areas. Create better trailhead/visitor connections between visitor areas would be reduced. Guided backcountry hikes are provided. The visitor center would be expanded to include educational activities.

Interpretation/ Education
Current resource management and visitor service levels would continue. Limited education programs would be provided.
Current management would continue. Collections storage facilities would be improved. The NPS would provide a broader variety of resources to visitors. The NPS would develop more formalized relationships with schools and universities. The NPS would provide a broader variety of resources to visitors. The NPS would develop more formalized relationships with schools and universities.

Facilities (main park unit)
Current management would continue. Limited education programs would be provided.
The Monodoc War historic landscape is actively utilized as a research, educational, and tourism destination. The monument would explore additional trail opportunities in wilderness areas. Diversified trails would be provided as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

Boundary Adjustments
Current boundary would be maintained.
Current boundary would be maintained. Current boundary would be maintained. Current boundary would be maintained.

Partnerships/ Regional Cooperation
Cooperative agreement for Tule Lake Segregation (common to all). Continue current collaboration with tribes, communities, partners and agencies.
Lava Beds would initiate increased interagency cooperation for resource protection. Increased tribal involvement would be emphasized (e.g. relocation, employment, concessions, and interpretation and education programs). Partners would have greater role in research and monitoring. The monument would provide more accessible trail opportunities in wilderness areas.

Petroglyph Point Unit
Current management continues.
Existing facilities would be maintained.
A small day-use area with parking, trails, picnic area, and shade structures would be provided. The monument would provide a surfaced accessible trail to petroglyphs. The Petroglyph Point road would be realigned to the south.

Cave Loop
Current management continues.
The cave loop would be closed at night. Occasional administrative closures may be provided to protect cave resources. More rangers would be present at the cave loop during peak visitation.

Cave interpretation would be developed for caves that may receive increased use. The NPS would conduct additional monitoring and assessment of sensitive resources in high visitor use areas.

Diverse recreation opportunities would be provided (such as guided tours, workshops, educational programs) throughout the monument and in related sites throughout the region.

New interpretive opportunities would be provided (e.g., astronomy, homesteading, Civilian Conservation Corps era, wildlife viewing). Lava Beds would provide a broader variety of resources to visitors.

Use of the Research Center for cultural resource research, education, and social impacts would be improved. The NPS would collect of oral histories related to the Tule Lake Segregation Center, tribes, Civilian Conservation Corps crews.

More in-depth visitor education opportunities would be provided (such as guided tours, workshops, educational programs) throughout the monument and in related sites throughout the region.

Interpretive information would be provided and more rangers would be present at the cave entrance, and large group day-use facilities would be provided.

The Petroglyph Point road would be paved. The Petroglyph Point road would be realigned to the south and paved. The Monument Point road would be paved.

Diversified recreational opportunities would be provided (e.g. bike, horse, and cross-country skiing). Paved road shoulders would be striped for bicycle use.

The monument would designate day-use areas that would accommodate large groups. Primitive camping sites would be available. The campground would be improved to better accommodate groups and large vehicles (no net loss or gain in total number of sites).

The monument would designate day-use areas that would accommodate large groups. Primitive camping sites would be available. The campground would be improved to better accommodate groups and large vehicles (no net loss or gain in total number of sites).

The monument would establish zone-specific interpretative trails (e.g. geology, nature).

The monument would designate day-use areas that would accommodate large groups. Primitive camping sites would be available. The campground would be improved to better accommodate groups and large vehicles (no net loss or gain in total number of sites).

The monument would provide a broader variety of resources to visitors.

Lava Beds National Monument General Management Plan Newsletter #3 7
We would like to hear from you! How to participate:

The planning team welcomes your comments anytime in the planning process. Right now, we would like to hear your ideas and comments with respect to the preliminary management concepts and zones presented in this newsletter. Please comment through any one of the following methods:

- Fill out the enclosed comment form and drop it in the mail
- Attend the public workshop on January 29, 2008 at the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, Oregon (see p. 1)
- Fill out an electronic comment form at http://parkplanning.nps.gov (select Lava Beds National Monument in the drop down box; then link to Lava Beds National Monument General Management Plan)
- Mail comments to the General Management Plan Team, Lava Beds National Monument, 1 Indian Well, Headquarters, Tulelake, CA 96134

Please send your comments by February 28, 2008.

Future Opportunities for your Participation

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<tr>
<th>Planning Activity</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Public Involvement Opportunities</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Scoping - Set the stage for planning: Reaffirm purpose, significance, and identify ideas, concerns or issues to be addressed in the GMP. Summarize scoping comments and report back.</td>
<td>Spring 2006 to Spring 2007</td>
<td>Review newsletter and send us your ideas or concerns on the comment form provided or through our planning website. Attend public meetings and voice your ideas and concerns.</td>
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<td>2 Develop and present preliminary alternatives: Outline different possible futures for the park and provide opportunities for review and comment by the public, agencies, tribes and other park stakeholders. <em><strong>WE ARE HERE</strong></em>**</td>
<td>Summer 2007 to Winter 2008</td>
<td>Review preliminary management concepts newsletter and send us your ideas and comments. Attend workshop to comment on preliminary management concepts.</td>
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<td>3 Prepare and distribute a Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Document: for review and comment by the public, agencies, tribes and other park stakeholders.</td>
<td>Spring to Fall 2008</td>
<td>Review the Draft GMP and provide written comments. Attend public meetings to learn more about the draft document and to voice your ideas and concerns.</td>
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<td>4 Revise draft and publish Final General Management Plan / Environmental Document: Analyze comments, respond to comments, revise draft document, distribute to the public.</td>
<td>Spring 2009</td>
<td>Review the Final GMP.</td>
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