

# Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve



Bureau of Land Management  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Comprehensive Travel Management Plan Newsletter

First Issue, October 2007

### Inside this Issue:

- What is travel management?
- Upcoming meetings
- How to contact us with your comments and/or questions about this plan

Dear Friends:

It's been some time since we last sent out an update, and we've been busy at Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve (Monument). The printing of the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve Management Plan (Monument Plan) is nearly complete and implementation is underway.

Thank you all again for your input into development of the Monument Plan that will guide management of the Monument's diverse resources for many years. The final printed version of the Monument Plan will be available this fall – stay tuned.

As stipulated in the Proclamation that expanded the Monument, we are developing a Comprehensive Travel Management Plan (Travel Plan). Your input is needed as we shape the future of travel, transportation and access to the Monument's abundant resources and opportunities.

A well-planned transportation network in the Monument can help achieve the objectives established in the Monument Plan. It will have an impact on the natural features of our Monument, local ranching and agricultural operations, and other resource qualities such as wildlife habitat, air and water quality. We must make travel management decisions that balance the needs of the public with natural and cultural resource protection, while accomplishing the objectives set out in the Monument Plan.

All of us at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Park Service (NPS) appreciate and value your involvement in this process and hope you will continue to participate in shaping the future management of this great place.

Douglas S. Neighbor, Superintendent  
Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve  
National Park Service

Holly Hampton, Monument Manager  
Craters of the Moon National Monument  
Bureau of Land Management

### Monument Travel Plan Mailing List

Please contact us if you no longer wish to receive information regarding the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve Comprehensive Travel Management Plan. Call us at 208-732-7200 or send an email to [ID\\_Craters\\_Plan@blm.gov](mailto:ID_Craters_Plan@blm.gov).

## What Is Travel Management?

Comprehensive travel management is the proactive management of public access, natural resources and regulatory needs which ensure that all aspects of road and trail system planning are considered. Transportation features such as roads and other routes ensure access for recreation and public safety. These activities must be balanced against the responsibility to protect the area's resources -- including wildlife and plant species, geological, archaeological, historic, and cultural attributes that make up the Monument. This includes resource management, road and trail design, maintenance, recreation and non-recreation uses of the roads and trails. Travel activities in this context incorporate access needs and the effects of all forms of travel both motorized and non-motorized.

### A Travel Plan...

- facilitates the accomplishment of the objectives set out in the Monument Plan
- depicts the principal transportation infrastructure (road and trail systems) needed to properly manage BLM and NPS administered lands and uses
- targets desired system outcomes, prescribes settings needed to produce them, and how management will achieve both
- identifies all existing and planned access routes and areas [motorized and non-motorized]
- identifies needed improvements and maintenance to those routes and areas

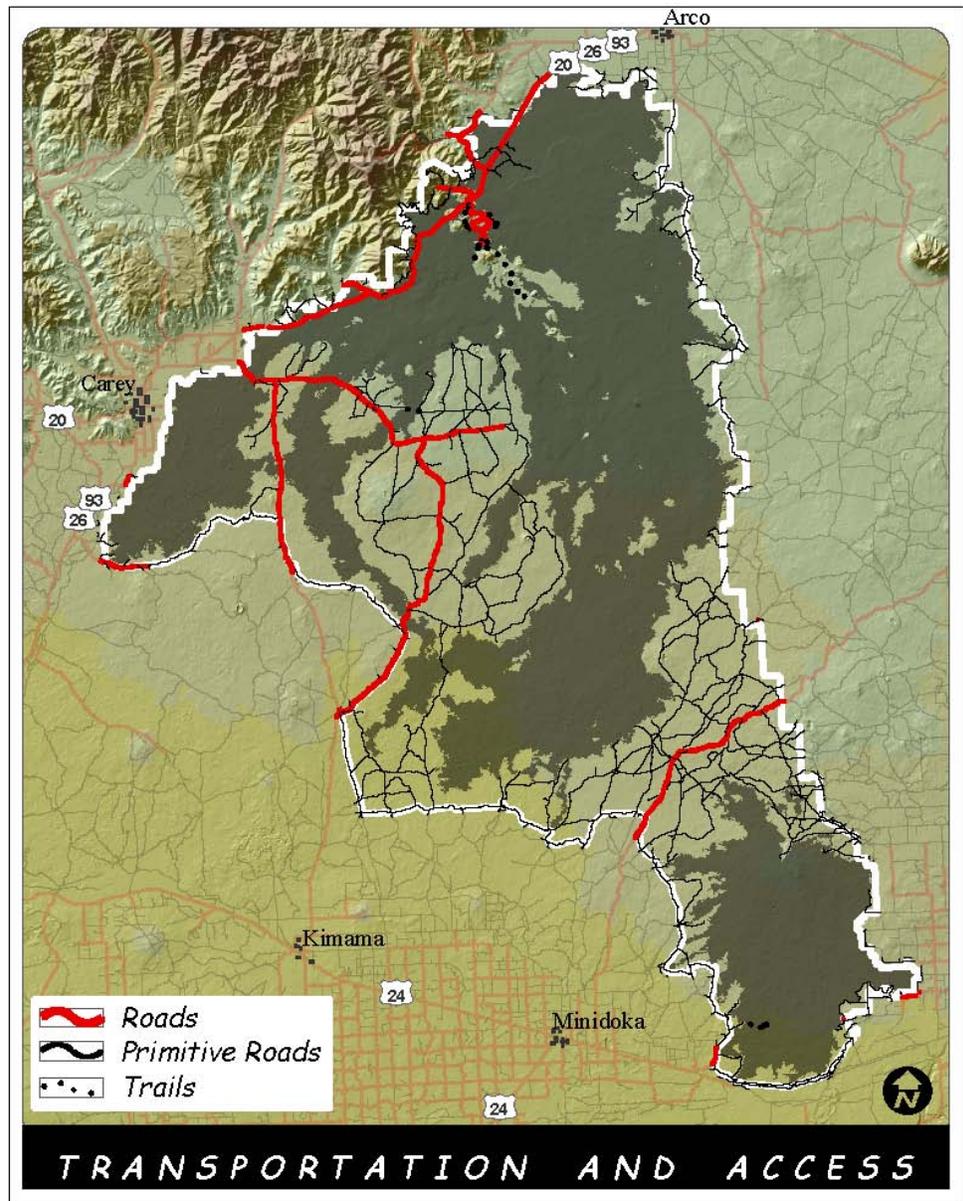
## Decisions To Be Made in the Travel Plan...

The Travel Plan will identify a system of all motorized and non-motorized access within the Monument. All decisions in the Travel Plan will apply only to federal lands within the Monument. Management zones were defined in the Monument Plan that will guide the level of service and access the BLM and the NPS provide to the public.

All federal lands within the Monument were designated as either “limited” or “closed” to motorized use in the Monument Plan. Working within the confines of the Monument Plan, there will be no net increase in the nearly 650 total road and trail miles. The Travel Plan will evaluate motorized and non-motorized travel and transportation uses of each designated road and trail within the Monument.

This travel planning effort will focus on identifying the types of uses and seasons of use appropriate on roads, primitive roads, and trails within this desert environment. The basis for the evaluation of various alternatives in the Travel Plan will be those roads, primitive roads, and trails contained in Figure 16 in the Proposed Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (July 2005).

We encourage you to take part in formal public scoping, as well as in person with BLM and NPS officials at any time during this process prior to the decision. Initial public open-house scoping meetings will be held in the communities of American Falls, Rupert, Carey, and Arco on October 16, 18, 23, and 25. If you are unable to attend one of the meetings, please submit your comments by contacting one of our offices or e-mail with your input to [ID\\_Craters\\_Plan@blm.gov](mailto:ID_Craters_Plan@blm.gov). To be most useful, we request that your initial comments be sent to us by November 26, 2007. A second round of public meetings will occur after the development of alternatives and the selection of an agency preferred alternative.



**As outlined in the Monument Plan Record of Decision, the Travel Plan will utilize criteria for determining closures or limitations on use of existing roads, which will include, at a minimum, answers to the following:**

1. What is the road used for?
2. Does its purpose justify potential threats to the resources for which the Monument was established?
3. Is this road adequate to provide access for all of its intended purposes?
4. Who needs access to this road?
5. Is it appropriate to limit access to roads based on intended uses?
6. Where (and when) will access be limited to administrative uses including fire suppression, restoration activities, livestock management, or research activities?
7. Is there a need for further recreational use restrictions for ATVs, snowmobiles, horses, and/or mountain bikes?
8. What options do we have to address other issues related to roads?
  - Access restrictions
  - Road/Trail Closures
  - Conversion to Trails
  - Consideration of upgrades

## How You Can Participate...

### Plan to attend the Monument Travel Plan public scoping meetings!

The Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service will host a series of open-house public meetings to begin a Comprehensive Travel Management Plan for the Monument. Travel plan team members will be on hand to identify transportation-related issues and to take your comments. Come out to discuss your vision for travel management in the Monument!

<p><b>AMERICAN FALLS</b></p> <p>October 16, 2007</p> <p>4:00-7:00 pm</p> <p>American Falls City Hall 550 North Oregon Trail American Falls, Idaho</p>	<p><b>RUPERT</b></p> <p>October 18, 2007</p> <p>4:00-7:00 pm</p> <p>Rupert City Hall 624 F Street Rupert, Idaho</p>
<p><b>CAREY</b></p> <p>October 23, 2007</p> <p>4:00-7:00 pm</p> <p>Carey School Multipurpose Room 20 Panther Lane Carey, Idaho</p>	<p><b>ARCO</b></p> <p>October 25, 2007</p> <p>4:00-7:00 pm</p> <p>Arco/Butte Business Incubation Center (BIC) 159 N. Idaho Street Arco, Idaho</p>

## How to comment...

While we encourage all comments, suggestions, and ideas, you can help us most by answering the following questions:

1. Do you represent a group (please specify) or a concerned citizen?
2. Where are you from?
3. What are your interests in the Monument?
4. Are there specific areas that you utilize within the Monument? If so, please specify.
5. Are there specific times that you travel to these areas? Please specify.
6. What roads do you use to get there? If possible, please reference the road segment numbers on the maps at [http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/shoshone/programs/travel\\_management.html](http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/shoshone/programs/travel_management.html).
7. Please identify what type of transportation you use within the Monument (4-WD, ATV, horse, cattle truck, on foot, etc.).
8. Are there roads or road segments which you would like to see used differently, motorized and non-motorized?
9. Are there other areas or roads of concern (please be specific)? What are your recommendations for these areas or roads.
10. What other issues or conflicts do you feel can be addressed in the Travel Plan?

In order for your comments to be of most use to the team working on the Travel Plan, please submit initial comments by November 26, 2007.

The Monument Plan Record of Decision was signed in the fall of 2006. Many decisions made in the Monument Plan limit the decisions that can be made in the Travel Plan. Some decisions already made include:

- Only those roads, primitive roads, and trails that are identified in Figure 16 of the Proposed Management Plan/ Final Environmental Impact Statement (July 2005) will be used to identify alternatives for the travel network.
- Proclamation 7373 closed the Monument to cross-country vehicle travel.
- The Monument Plan closed nearly 30 miles of roads within the Pristine Zone.
- There will be no net increase in road and trail miles within the Monument.
- Trails will only be created from existing roads.

## What You Can Do Now...

- Plan to attend the October workshops. Bring a friend!
- Submit comments or ideas at [http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/shoshone/programs/travel\\_management.html](http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/shoshone/programs/travel_management.html). Maps and other information are available for download.
- Contact the Shoshone Field Office at 208-732-7200 or the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve headquarters at 208-527-3257 for more information about this planning effort.
- Keep checking the website to stay up-to-date on all the latest Monument Travel Plan news!



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SHOSHONE FIELD OFFICE  
400 W F STREET  
SHOSHONE ID 83352  
PHONE: (208) 732-7200  
FAX: (208) 732-7317

---

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

### Ways to Submit Comments to the Travel Plan Team:

Web: [http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/shoshone/programs/travel\\_management.html](http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/shoshone/programs/travel_management.html)

E-mail: [ID\\_Craters\\_Plan@blm.gov](mailto:ID_Craters_Plan@blm.gov)

Fax: (208) 732-7317 (Attn: Monument Travel Plan)

Phone: (208) 732-7200 or (208) 527-3257

Mail: Monument Travel Plan Project Lead,  
BLM Shoshone Field Office  
400 West F Street, Shoshone ID 83352

### What's Available on the Website

- Maps of roads within the Monument under consideration in this planning effort. Roads are numbered and should be referenced in your comments.
- Links to the Monument Plan, Record of Decision, and abbreviated sections of the Monument Plan that contain reference information specifically related to travel planning in the Monument.
- Form for use in submitting your specific comments to the Travel Plan Team.
- Electronic copy of this newsletter.
- Travel Plan Team contact information.

#### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CONSIDERATIONS:**

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.