

**CRATERS OF THE MOON
NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PRESERVE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW**

FINAL REPORT



prepared for the

**USDI NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
and
USDI BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

by

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Due to the combined efforts of the BLM, NPS and the University of Oregon, roughly 45,000 acres (18%) of the Monument have been intensively inventoried for archaeological resources. Due to these efforts, a total of 291 prehistoric sites and 306 prehistoric isolated finds have been documented. In addition, seven archaeological sites on the Monument have been subjected to subsurface investigations within the past 25 years (see Figure 5.1). These include Baker Caves (10BN153 and 154), Scaredy Cat Cave (10MA30/143), Bowl Crater (10BN1066), Alpha Cave (10PR641), the Roasting Rock Site (10BN389), Catchment Cove (10BN861) and the Drifting Gene Site (10MA421).

While previous archaeological survey coverage of the Monument has been excellent, there are at least 50,000 acres of lava edge and 150,000 acres of open steppe that have yet to be explored. Based on the results of previous surveys, there are likely to be an additional 500 cultural resources (both prehistoric sites and isolates) encountered at the lava edge and 600 additional cultural resources found on the sagebrush steppe. It is more than likely that some of these resources will consist of seasonal base camps and, perhaps, residential bases. In addition, it is suspected that numerous aboriginal trails cross the basalt flows within the Monument.

Due to the density of prehistoric archaeological sites that are likely to be encountered within 300 meters of the lava edge, these areas should be considered “high archaeological sensitivity” zones. Unless subsurface investigations can be performed, these zones should generally be avoided by any ground disturbing activities. In addition, the lava edge requires regular monitoring by BLM and NPS personnel to reduce the potential for illegal surface collection and excavations. Based on the 2005 University of Oregon field investigations, it is apparent that accreting sediments along the lava flows can obscure significant subsurface cultural deposits and features.

Due to the significant number of properties that are clearly eligible to the NRHP within its boundaries, the Monument should be nominated as a National Register District and afforded the protection that such a designation can provide.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Management Summary	i
Table of Contents	ii
List of Figures	v
List of Tables	xi
INTRODUCTION	1
Previous Archaeological Research.....	2
Environmental Setting	6
Geological Setting	8
SECTION I: Paleoenvironmental Data for the Eastern Snake River Plain....	12
Middle Butte and Rattlesnake Caves	12
Tomcat Cave	14
Scaredy Cat Cave.....	14
Kelvin’s Cave.....	15
Conclusions.....	16
SECTION II: Projectile Point Chronology for the Eastern Snake River Plain	17
Excavated Archaeological Sites on the Eastern Snake River Plain.....	19
The Early Holocene	19
The Middle Holocene	22
The Late Holocene.....	23
SECTION III: Geospatial Analysis of Prehistoric Sites	24
Methods.....	26
Projectile Points and Temporal Distribution of Sites on the Monument.....	30
Variables Considered in Predictive Model	33
Distance to Water.....	33
Distance to Lava	37
Residential Bases on the Monument.....	38
Base Camps on the Monument	39
Field Camps in the Monument.....	43
Hunting Blinds on the Monument.....	45
Analysis of the Temporal Distribution of Archaeological Sites.....	45
Discussion.....	47
Conclusions.....	48
SECTION IV: Geochemical Analysis of Projectile Points from the Monument	50
Methods.....	50
Results.....	51
Discussion.....	56
Conclusions.....	59

SECTION V: Excavated Sites on the Monument	60
<i>Baker Caves</i>	60
Management Recommendations	63
<i>Scaredy Cat Cave (10MA30/143)</i>	63
1996 Interior Test Excavations	65
2000/2001 Above Ground Test Excavations	71
Discussion	79
Management Recommendations	80
<i>Bowl Crater (10BN1066)</i>	80
Management Recommendations	81
<i>Alpha Cave (10PR641)</i>	82
Interior Surface Assemblage	87
2005 Test Excavations	90
Lithic Assemblage	93
Excavated Faunal Analysis	94
Radiocarbon Dates	97
Black Widow Cave	97
Management Recommendations	100
<i>The Roasting Rock Site (10BN389)</i>	100
2005 Test Excavations	102
Stratigraphy	104
Lithic Assemblage	105
Faunal Assemblage	106
Unit 1/7 Hearth/Rock Feature	107
Lava Flow Features	111
Management Recommendations	113
<i>Catchment Cove (10BN861)</i>	114
2005 Test Excavations	117
Stratigraphy	119
Lithic Assemblage	120
Ceramic Assemblage	122
Faunal Assemblage	124
Lava Features	125
Management Recommendations	128
<i>The Drifting Gene Site (10MA421)</i>	129
Stratigraphy	131
Lithic Assemblage	135
Faunal Assemblage	136
Management Summary	137
 SECTION VI: The 19th Century Shoshone-Bannock Seasonal Round	 138
Large Game Hunting	141
Food Sharing	142

SECTION VII: Summary	143
Recommendations	147
Appendix A: Intensive Archaeological Surveys on the Monument	149
Appendix B: Prehistoric Sites and Isolates on the Monument	151
Appendix C: Results of Geochemical Analysis of Selected Points from the CMNM	168
Appendix D: Results of Analysis of Faunal Remains Collected during the 2005 Excavations at Site 10PR641	171
Appendix E: Results of Analysis of Faunal Remains Collected during the 2005 Excavations at Site 10BN389	176
Appendix F: Results of Analysis of Faunal Remains Collected during the 2005 Excavations at Site 10BN861	180
Appendix G: Results of Analysis of Faunal Remains Collected during the 2005 Excavations at Site 10MA421	182
REFERENCES CITED	183

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. Location of the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve in southern Idaho.....	1
2. Map showing the locations of archaeological sites identified by Sneed in 1967.....	3
3. Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, near Snowdrift Crater in northern Laidlaw Park	7
4. Distribution of late Pleistocene and Holocene flows on the eastern Snake River Plain (adapted from Kuntz et al. 1992)	9
5. Eruptive periods documented on the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve lava field (from Kuntz et al. 1992)	11
1.1. Location of lava tubes that have generated paleoclimatic data in the vicinity of the Craters of the Moon Monument and Preserve	13
1.2. Pollen diagram from Tomcat Cave (from Cummings 2002)	14
1.3. Modified Pollen diagram from Kelvin’s Cave (from Cummings and Puseman 2005)	15
2.1. Projectile point chronology for the eastern Snake River Plain	18
2.2. Excavated sites in southeastern Idaho	20
3.1. Intensive archaeological surveys conducted within the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve	27
3.2. Distribution of recorded prehistoric sites and isolated finds on the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve	28
3.3. Distribution of sites on the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve containing temporally diagnostic artifacts	32
3.4. View of ponds and archaeological sites within the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve boundary	34
3.5. Distribution of prehistoric sites on the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve in relation to water sources	35

3.6. Distribution of prehistoric sites on the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve in relation to Holocene-aged lava flows	37
3.7. Documented residential bases on the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve	41
3.8. Documented base camps on the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve	42
3.9. Documented field camps on the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve	44
3.10. Distribution of middle and late Holocene sites in relation to water on the Monument	46
3.11. Distribution of middle and late Holocene sites in relation to the lava edge on the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve	47
4.1. Distribution of projectile points included in the geochemical analysis (green dots indicate middle Holocene sites and red dots indicate late Holocene sites)	52
4.2. Graph of the temporal distribution of the sample projectile points from the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve subjected to XRF analysis	53
4.3. Location of volcanic glass sources represented in the sample of projectile points from the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve	54
4.4. Graph of proportions of volcanic glass sources represented in the sample of projectile points from the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve	55
4.5. Ethnographic seasonal movements of the Shoshone-Bannock (adapted from Murphy and Murphy 1986) with location of nearest volcanic glass sources	57
5.1. Excavated sites within the boundaries of the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve	61
5.2. Location of Site 10BN145 on the Lake Walcott East 7.5 minute quad ..	62
5.3. Plan view of Baker Cave III (from Plew et al. 1987)	62
5.4. Location of Site 10MA143 on the Bear Den Butte 7.5 minute quad	64

5.5. Plan view and profile of Scaredy Cat Cave (10MA143)	64
5.6. Plan view of surface artifacts in the central chamber of Scaredy Cat Cave, as noted in 1996	66
5.7. Antler tines from the interior of Scaredy Cat Cave (10MA143)	67
5.8. Surface of sagebrush feature in Test Unit 1	68
5.9. Profile of Test Unit 4 in the central chamber of Scaredy Cat Cave (10MA143)	69
5.10. Plan view of Site 10MA143, showing the location of the cave, collapse and site boundary	72
5.11. Projectile points from the interior and exterior of Scaredy Cat Cave (10MA143): a) 205-1; b) 215-1; c) 206-1; d) 208-1; e) 542-1; f) 218-1; g) 213-1; h) 217-1; i) 214-1; j) 210-1	74
5.12. Plan view of exterior test units in the collapse located west of Scaredy Cat Cave	75
5.13. Profile of Test Unit 3 in depression near Scaredy Cat Cave	76
5.14. Projectile points recovered from exterior Test Unit 3 at 10MA143: a) 537-1; b) 536-1; c) 514-2; d) 535-1	78
5.15. Location of Site 10BN1066 (Bowl Crater) on the North Laidlaw Butte 7.5 minute quad	81
5.16. Plan view of Site 10BN1066 showing the location of test units and vandalized areas within the shelters (from Hoffert et al. 2005)	82
5.17. Location of Site 10PR641 (Alpha Cave) on the Pillar Butte 7.5 minute quad.....	83
5.18. Map of 10PR641 showing the location of lava tubes, depressions and the extent of the surface lithic scatter	84
5.19. Plan view of Alpha Cave showing the location of test units, sagebrush Features and surface artifacts	85
5.20. Profile of Alpha Cave, showing the location of the sagebrush feature ...	86
5.21. Antler tines collected from the floor of Alpha Cave	87

5.22.	Hand stone collected from the floor of Alpha Cave	88
5.23.	Hand stone collected from the floor of Alpha Cave	88
5.24.	Bison elements recovered from the floor of Alpha Cave in 2005	89
5.25.	Intact row of sagebrush stalks along the cave wall in Alpha Cave	90
5.26.	West wall profile of Test Unit 1 in Alpha Cave	91
5.27.	East wall profile of Test Unit 2 in Alpha Cave, showing the composition of the cold storage feature	92
5.28.	Rose Spring projectile points from Test Unit 1 in Alpha Cave	93
5.29.	Volcanic glass scraper and Elko Corner-notched point from Test Unit 2 in Alpha Cave	94
5.30.	Tip of antler tine recovered from Test Unit 2 in Alpha Cave	96
5.31.	Highly polished and notched bone ornament from Test Unit 2 in Alpha Cave	96
5.32.	Plan view of Black Widow Cave, showing the location of pictograph panels	98
5.33.	Red ochre tally marks comprising Panel No. 5 in Black Widow Cave ..	99
5.34.	Projectile point fragments from the interior of Black Widow Cave	99
5.35.	Location of Site 10BN389 (the Roasting Rock Site)	101
5.36.	Sample of projectile points collected from Site 10BN389 in 1992	101
5.37.	Site 10BN389, showing the location of test units and rock features	103
5.38.	Facing west from atop the recent lava flow at Site 10BN389	104
5.39.	Schematic stratigraphic profile of Site 10BN389	105
5.40.	Stone tools recovered from the test excavations at Site 10BN389	106
5.41.	Surface of rock feature in Test Units 1/7 at Site 10BN389	109

5.42. Plan view of rock feature in Unit1/7 showing the distribution of basalt cobbles and stained soil	110
5.43. Profile of the rock feature in Test Units 1/7 at Site 10BN389	111
5.44. Semicircular rock feature on the basalt flow at Site 10BN389	112
5.45. Circular rock feature on the basalt flow at 10BN389	112
5.46. Planview of a circular rock feature atop the basalt flow at site 10BN389.....	115
5.47. USGS quad showing the location of Site 10BN861 (Catchment Cove) .	115
5.48. Stone tools collected from the surface of site 10BN861 in 2004	116
5.49. Irregularly notched biface fragment collected from the surface of Site 10BN861 in 2004	116
5.50. Rockshelter located on east end of Site 10BN861 in 2004	117
5.51. Site map of Site 10BN861	118
5.52. Orthophoto showing the placement of Test Units from the 2005 excavations at Site 10BN861	119
5.53. Stratigraphic profile of the east wall of Test Unit 3 at Site 10BN861	120
5.54. Projectile points and projectile point tips collected during the 2005 excavations at Site 10BN861	121
5.55. Ground stone grinding slab recovered from the surface of Test Unit 2 during the 2005 excavations at Site 10BN861	122
5.56. Intermountain ware potsherds recovered during the 2005 excavations at Site 10BN861	124
5.57. Orthophoto showing the relationship of 10BN389 and 10BN861, as well as the location of the Finger Cutoff trail and water catchments near 10BN861	126
5.58. Photograph of section of Finger Cutoff trail.....	127
5.59. Catchment feature in lava flow north of Site 10BN861	127

5.60. One of several rock ring features along the edge of the lave flow at Site 10BN861	128
5.61. Area map showing location of Site 10MA421	129
5.62. Site map for Site 10MA421, showing locations of Test Units	130
5.63. Agate Basin-style projectile point recovered during 2005 pedestrian survey of Site 10MA421	131
5.64. Several test units at 10MA421, viewed facing southeast from atop a basalt lobe on the west side of the site	132
5.65. Schematic stratigraphic profile Test Units 1-6 at Site 10MA421	133
5.66. Stratigraphic profile of the east wall of Test Unit 10, located in accreting sediments on the edge of the basalt lobe at the western edge of Site 10MA421.....	134
6.1. Ethnographic seasonal movements of the Shoshone-Bannock wintering in the Fort Hall Bottoms (from Murphy and Murphy 1986)	138
7.1. Distribution of recorded prehistoric sites and isolated finds on the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve	144
7.2. Example of High Archaeological Sensitivity Zone on the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve	146

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1.1 Previous Archaeological Surveys within the Monument	5
3.1. Codes and Numbers of Site Types Recorded on the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve	30
3.2. Projectile Points and Corresponding Code Combinations Used to Assign Periods of Occupation at Various Sites	31
3.3. Comparison of Prehistoric Sites and Random UTM Points in the Study Area in Relation to Distance from Water	36
3.4. Comparison of Prehistoric Sites and Random UTM Points in the Study Area in Relation to Distance from Lava	38
3.5. Location of Base Camps within the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve	40
4.1. Distance of Volcanic Glass Sources Represented by Projectile Points from the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve	55
4.2. Temporal Trends in Source Distances from the Study Area	56
5.1. Artifacts and Ecofacts Recovered from Test Unit 4 in Scaredy Cat Cave	70
5.2. Identifiable Bison and Large Artiodactyl Bones from Scaredy Cat Cave	70
5.3. Radiocarbon dates from Scaredy Cat Cave	71
5.4. Artifacts and Ecofacts from 2000 Surface Probes at Scaredy Cat Cave .	73
5.5. Flaked Stone Tools from Test Unit 3, Grid A at 10MA143	77
5.6. Flaked Stone Tools from Test Unit 3, Grid B at 10MA143	77
5.7. Flaked Stone Tools from Test Unit 3, Grid C at 10MA143	77
5.8. Waste Flakes Recovered from the 2001 Excavations near the Mouth of Scaredy Cat Cave (10MA143).....	79
5.9. Faunal Remains Recovered from the 2001 Excavations near the Mouth of Scaredy Cat Cave (10MA143)	79

5.10. Distribution of Waste Flakes Recovered from Test Units 1 and 2 in Alpha Cave	93
5.11. Number of Large Mammal Remains from the 2005 Test Excavations in Alpha Cave	95
5.12. Number of Small Mammal Remains from the 2005 Test Excavations . in Alpha Cave	95
5.13. Stone Tools Recovered during the 2005 Test Excavations at 10BN389 .	106
5.14. Distribution of Waste Flakes in the 2005 Test Excavations at 10BN389	108
5.15. Stone Tools Recovered during the 2005 Test Excavations at 10BN861 .	121
5.16. Distribution of Waste Flakes Recovered during Test Excavations at 10BN389	123
5.17. Ceramics Collected during the 2005 Test Excavations at Site 10BN861	124
5.18. Distribution of Waste Flakes Recovered during Test Excavations at 10MA421	135
6.1. Animals with Edible Parts (Turner et al. 1986)	139
6.2. Plants with Edible Parts (Turner et al. 1986)	140
6.3. Plants and Animals Available in Snake River Plain Resource Patches...	140

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to present current archaeological data for the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and provide park managers and researchers with the appropriate measures to manage and interpret cultural resources contained within the Monument boundaries. This document also identifies specific areas with elevated archaeological sensitivity requiring special management and presents a predictive model that provides sufficient information to make knowledgeable decisions regarding future cultural resource policies.

The Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve encompasses 750,000 acres, of which almost 500,000 are covered by late Pleistocene and Holocene basalt flows (Figure 1). The remaining acres are primarily contained within “kipukas”, a Hawaiian term that refers to an island of land surrounded on all sides by lava. The Monument can boast of containing the largest kipuka in the world, referred to as Laidlaw Park.

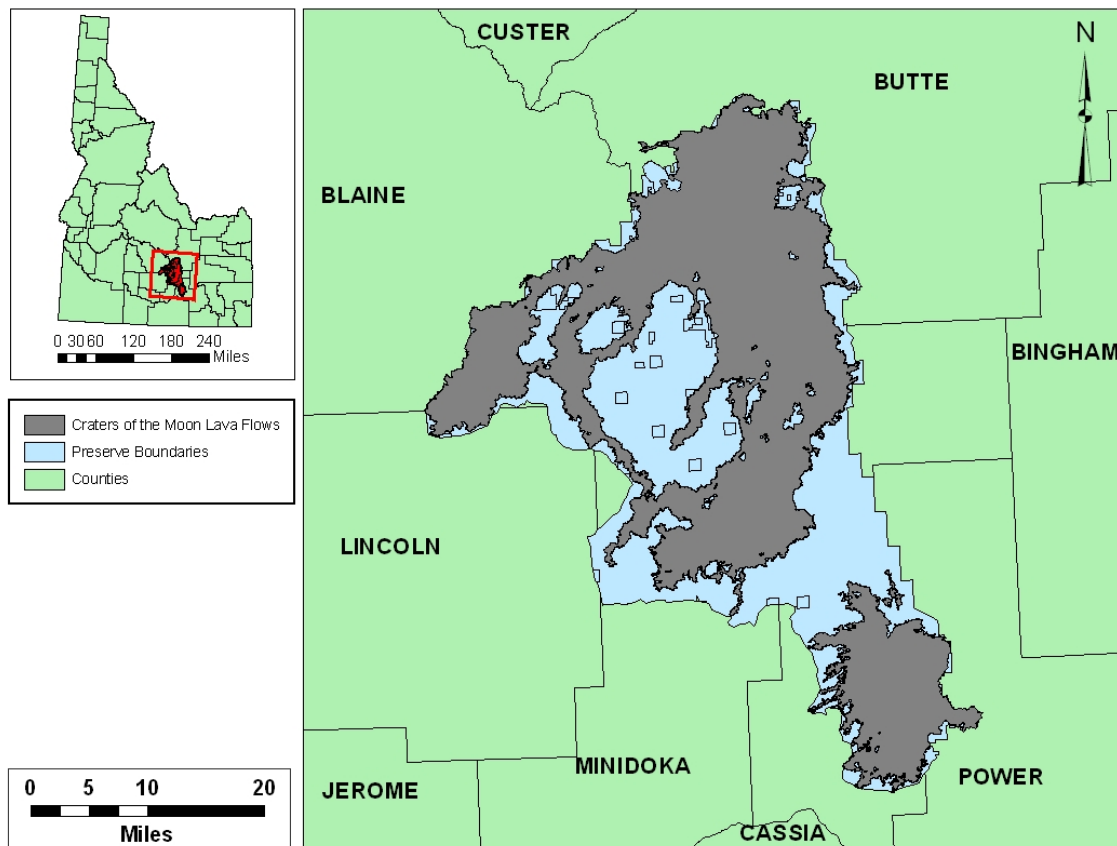


Figure 1. Location of the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve in southern Idaho.

The Monument is located on the eastern Snake River Plain, a relatively flat volcanic feature bounded by the Basin and Range physiographic province to the south and the

Idaho batholith to the north. The plain drops gradually from an elevation of roughly 2000 meters at the border of the Yellowstone Plateau on the eastern side, to roughly 700 meters on the western edge. The surface of the eastern Snake River Plain is comprised of Pleistocene and Holocene basalt flows covered by aeolian deposits (Kuntz et al. 1992). More recent flows (including many of those on the Preserve) are devoid of sediments.

Previous Archaeological Research

The Monument contains over 600 documented archaeological sites and isolated finds. While the majority of these resources were initially recorded during intensive areal surveys associated with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) range fire rehabilitation efforts, the National Park Service (NPS) has also conducted archaeological investigations within the original monument boundaries.

One of the earliest formal archaeological investigations conducted on the Monument involved a reconnaissance survey by Idaho State University in the summer of 1966 (Sneed 1967). The survey included four segments of the Monument that Earl Swanson and Paul Sneed considered to be distinct. These included the mountainous northwestern section, the cinder cones and kipukas in the central section, the broken a'a and pahoehoe flows in the southeast and the Carey Kipuka in the southwestern most section. A total of 28 prehistoric sites were documented, ranging from middle to late Holocene in age (Figure 2). Most of the sites consisted of open lithic scatters and rock features associated with perennial or intermittent water sources. However, two hunting blind sites, two obsidian quarries and five lava tube caves were also recorded. Sneed carried out an intensive collection strategy, resulting in a substantial number of projectile points (98), flaked stone tools (98), flakes and blades (77), ground stone (12), and ceramics (71) being removed from the surface of the sites (Sneed 1967).

Although Sneed's research generated a significant number of archaeological resources, the disposition of specific sites and location of the survey areas were not sufficiently documented. Sites were not described in any detail and sketch maps and/or small scale maps of the area were inadequate. In 1992, the NPS engaged the Idaho Museum of Natural History to conduct the first systematic archaeological survey within the Monument (Sammons and McLaughlin 1992). The research involved the intensive survey of roughly 300 sample units totaling 2000 acres. The selection of survey units was based on environmental variables and an effort to relocate the sites previously recorded by Sneed in 1966. However, the map showing the locations of the 300 sample units does not clearly identify where the 1992 intensive inventory occurred. Some effort will be required in order to include this survey in the GIS database.

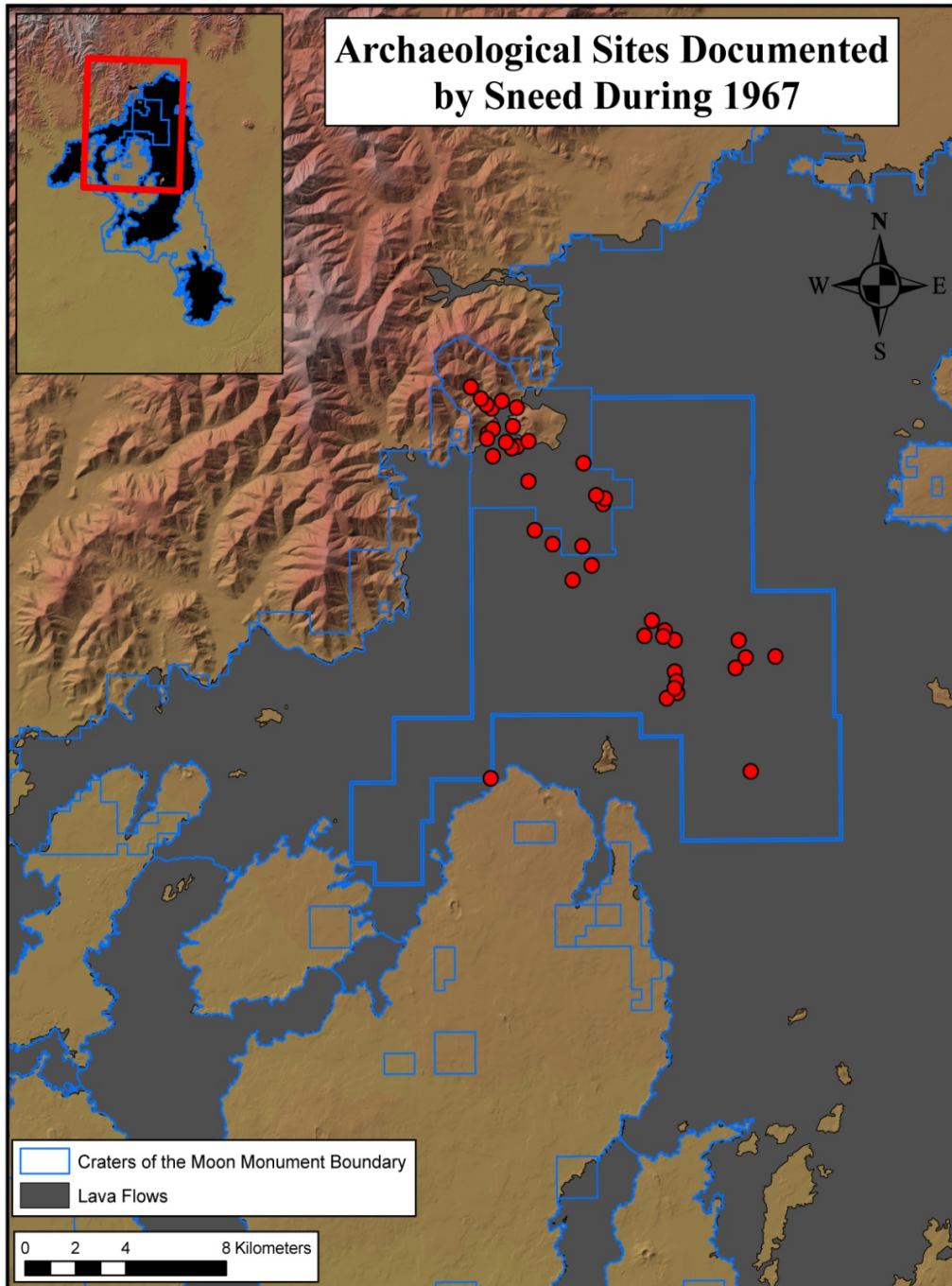


Figure 2. Map showing the locations of archaeological sites identified by Sneed in 1967.

A total of five new cultural resources were documented during the 1992 survey and most of Sneed's site locations were reportedly found. However, the ISU crew noted that the character of some sites differed from the original recording. Although most of the rock features were still intact, lithic scatters had either been altered by accreting sediments or heavy surface collecting. In fact, the lack of surface debris was directly attributed to the

previous intensive collecting by Sneed (Sammons and McLaughlin 1992). The “quarry” sites also exhibited only minimal evidence of use.

The Idaho Museum of Natural History returned in 1993 to conduct an intensive survey of 2000 acres in Little Prairie, located in the east-central portion of the Monument (Sammons 1993). Although ground exposure was exceptional due to a previous burn, only eight archaeological sites were documented. The report includes very brief descriptions of three prehistoric lithic scatters, four prehistoric isolated finds and one historic isolated find and, due to the absence of a 7.5 minute USGS map, the boundaries of the survey area are somewhat unclear.

In 1996, Idaho State University conducted an archaeological field school in the northern end of the Monument in the vicinity of Goodale’s Cutoff (Jenks 1998). The primary goals of the field school were to attempt to locate any surviving material remains indicative of the Oregon Trail and characterize the nature of prehistoric sites associated with the transition zone between the Snake River Plain and Pioneer Mountains to the north. Although not specified in the report, approximately 235 acres were intensively surveyed during the field school. A total of eleven new prehistoric cultural resources were documented. However, no historic sites associated with the Oregon Trail were encountered. Immediately following the pedestrian survey, two extensive lithic scatters (10BT2054 and 10BT2064) were subjected to test excavations. However, the very limited nature of these subsurface investigations precludes an evaluation of NRHP eligibility.

In 2004 and 2005, the University of Oregon Archaeological Field School conducted intensive pedestrian surveys in portions of the Monument. A total of 1600 acres were examined during the 2004 field season and 28 new archaeological sites were recorded. In 2005, the UO Archaeological Field School returned to the Preserve for additional intensive pedestrian surveys. These surveys were primarily conducted along the perimeter of basalt flows of various ages within Laidlaw Park. These efforts were designed to gain information on the nature of archaeological sites associated with specific late Pleistocene and Holocene lava fields on the Preserve. A total of 3200 acres were inventoried during the 2005 field season and 84 new sites were recorded. In addition to the pedestrian surveys, five archaeological sites were subjected to test excavations.

In addition to the archaeological research discussed above, numerous intensive fire rehabilitation surveys have been conducted on the Monument within the past 20 years. These have been performed by the BLM, usually within a month to two months following range fires, prior to reseeding activities. Because of the potential ground disturbance that can be caused by reseeding with a range-land drill, intensive archaeological inventories were carried out to ensure that properties potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places are not adversely affected by these federal undertakings.

Table 1 below provides a list of previous archaeological surveys conducted within the Monument and information, if available, regarding the name of the survey, acreage

surveyed and number of documented cultural resources (including sites and isolated finds). It should be noted that this list is far from complete. It does not identify the multitude of small compliance surveys conducted by the BLM or NPS over the past few decades. However, the Idaho State Office of the BLM is currently in the process of creating a comprehensive survey database, which should be completed within the next five years.

In addition, the authors were not able to obtain specific information regarding large fire rehabilitation surveys conducted by the Burley and Idaho Falls field offices of the BLM. These surveys were primarily performed in the eastern and southern portions of the Monument. Although included in Section IV with other survey data, the names of these projects and their associated reports are unknown at this time.

Table 1. Previous Archaeological Surveys within the Monument

Year	Acres	Cultural Resources	Survey Name	Reference
1966	Unknown	28	Archaeological Reconnaissance of the CMNM	Sneed 1966
1992	2000	5	Systematic Survey of Cultural Resources within the CMNM	Sammons and McLaughlin 1992
1992	9216	91	Black Ridge and Potter Butte Fire Rehabs	Henrikson and Henrikson 1993
1992	4134	26	Great Rift Fire Rehab	Balcom and Brewer 1993
1993	2000	8	Little Prairie Burn	Sammons 1993
1995	2765	26	Survey of North End of the CMNM	Force and Salley 1995
1996	235	11	Survey of Goodale's Cutoff Corridor	Jenks 1996
1996	1207	4	Richfield Fire Complex	Henrikson and McLaughlin 1997
2000	1477	14	Laidlaw Park Survey	Henrikson 2001
2001	750	8	Laidlaw Park Survey	Henrikson 2002
2003	1600	18	Crystal Ice Cave/King's Bowl Fire Rehab	Hoffert 2004
2004	1618	32	East Laidlaw Park Survey	Henrikson et al. 2005
2005	3228	95	Laidlaw Park Thumb Survey	Henrikson et al. 2005

Section I presents an environmental overview of the Monument and surrounding region, including a discussion of existing paleoclimatic studies. These studies can provide useful insights regarding the age and distribution of archaeological resources on the Monument and the cultural chronology of the region. Section II provides an overview of this chronology and highlights previously excavated archaeological sites that were used in the development of this chronology.

Geospatial analysis of the roughly 600 prehistoric sites and isolates on the Monument is presented in Section III. The analysis required manipulating the database provided by

the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). (However, roughly 40 sites and isolates recorded in the original Monument boundaries were not in the database, including those documented by Sneed in 1966, and could not be incorporated into this study).

The cultural resources in the SHPO database and those recorded during the past two field seasons were sorted into “types” based on the range of artifacts noted in surface assemblages. Because it was suspected that the “site description” attribute field in the database omitted useful information or contained erroneous data, efforts were made to resolve these issues. Dates of occupation were assigned to previously recorded archaeological sites within the study area if they contained diagnostic projectile points. This allowed for an examination of the distribution of sites through time.

Section IV presents a geochemical source analysis of diagnostic volcanic glass projectile points collected from the Monument over the last 25 years. The primary goal of this analysis was to examine how far volcanic glass projectile points from the Monument have been transported from their original source and assess whether patterns in the data suggest direct procurement or exchange networks. The results of this analysis are also considered with other facets of the archaeological record from the Monument to determine if changes in mobility and land use has occurred through time.

Section V provides of an overview of previously excavated sites on the Monument. A total of seven sites within the Monument have been subjected to formal test excavations. These have been conducted for research purposes, to evaluate NRHP eligibility or to assess damage associated with ARPA violations. Sites excavated prior to the University of Oregon investigations include Baker Caves (10BN153/154), Scaredy Cat Cave (10MA143) and Bowl Crater (10BN1066). The remaining sites, Roasting Rock (10BN389), Catchment Cove (10BN861), Alpha Cave (10PR641) and the Drifting Gene Site (Temporary No. 05-KM-20) were excavated in 2005 to collect data for inclusion in this document. Because surface lithic scatters on the eastern Snake River Plain are notorious for “disappearing” and “re-emerging” due to the continuous accretion and deflation of aeolian sediments, the primary purpose of the 2005 test excavations was to assist in identifying the geomorphic processes involved in this phenomenon. Section V also provides management recommendations for all previously excavated sites within the Preserve.

An overview of the 19th Century seasonal round of the Shoshone-Bannock is presented in Section VI and the delineation of archaeologically sensitive areas on the Preserve (as well as gaps in the data) is addressed in Section VII.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve is located on the sagebrush steppe of the eastern Snake River Plain (Figure 3). The area is a cold desert with elevations ranging from 1500 to 2000 meters a.s.l. and winter snow and early spring rains

produce less than 10 inches of annual precipitation (Butler 1978). The region, bordered by the Basin and Range Province to the south and Northern Rocky Mountain Province to the north, is a lava plain given limited contrast by landforms of low topographic relief. These include rolling basalt pressure ridges, shallow basins, swales, knolls, buttes, vegetated areas surrounded by and isolated by lava flows (kipukas) and dozens of lava tube caves. These features were created primarily by pahoehoe basalt flows from low shield volcanoes and fissure eruptions ranging from Pliocene to Pleistocene in age (Greeley and King 1977; Kuntz et al. 1992). Sediments consist primarily of aeolian deposited silty or sandy loams, with most accumulations occurring on the lee sides of prominent land features. The Snake River, the region's only major waterway, transects the Plain, arcing east to west. Because of the incline of plain and catastrophic events such as the Bonneville Flood around 14,000 years ago (Currey and James 1982), much of the river corridor is characterized by deep, narrow gorges.



Figure 3. Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, near Snowdrift Crater in northern Laidlaw Park.

The dominant native vegetation includes the shrubs *Artemisia tridentata* (big sagebrush), *Artemisia tripartita* (three-tip sagebrush), *Purshia tridentata* (bitterbrush), *Tetradymia canescens* (horsebrush), *Chrysothamnus puberulus* (rabbitbrush), and *Gutierrezia sarothrae* (snakeweed). Common native grasses include *Agropyron spicatum* (bluebunch wheatgrass), *Koeleria cristata* (junegrass), *Oryzopsis hymenoides* (ricegrass), *Poa nevadensis* (poa), *Poa secunda* (common poa), and *Stipa comata* (needle and thread grass) (Franzen 1980). Common mammals exploited by the region's historical inhabitants include *Antilocapra americana* (pronghorn antelope), *Odocoileus hemionus* (mule deer),

Bison bison (buffalo), *Cervus elaphus* (elk), *Lepus californicus* (blacktailed jackrabbit), *Sylvilagus nuttalli* (cottontail), *S. idahoensis* (pygmy rabbit), and *Marmota flaviventris* (yellow-bellied marmot). Common birds include *Dendragapus obscurus* (blue grouse), and *Centrocercus urophasianus* (sage grouse).

Although much of the eastern Snake River Plain is devoid of permanent water sources (except the Snake, Big Wood and Little Wood rivers), many swales and basins serve as natural catchment areas for winter snowmelt and spring rains (Henrikson et al. 1998). During the spring and early summer months, these ponds are a magnet for numerous species of waterfowl, including *Anas crecca* (green-winged teal), *A. acuta* (northern pintail), *A. cyanoptera* (cinnamon teal), *A. clypeata* (northern shoveler) and *Branta Canadensis* (Canada goose), which feed on the indigenous fresh water crustaceans.

GEOLOGICAL SETTING

An important consideration that is often overlooked in the investigation of Snake River Plain prehistory is the late Pleistocene and Holocene volcanism that has occurred in the region during the last 15,000 years (Kuntz et al. 1986, 1992). The geologic characteristics of the eastern Snake River Plain are distinct from those of the western Snake River Plain.

Geologists divide the two halves at roughly Highway 75 from Twin Falls to Ketchum because their “structural, geophysical, and geological characteristics” indicate “different origins” (Kuntz et al. 1992:229). The current character of the eastern Snake River Plain was established roughly 10 million years ago by continuous pahoehoe flows from fissure eruptions or vents that range between 1 and 2 kilometers across. Big Southern Butte, Middle and East Butte are rhyolite domes that were extruded between 1 million and 300,000 years ago (Kuntz, et al. 1992).

To grasp the potential impact of basaltic eruptions on prehistoric populations, it is important to review the various stages of volcanic activity that have occurred on the eastern Snake River Plain. The first stage of activity was characterized by harmonic tremors with the opening of fissures and steam vents. Lava fountains erupted, producing flames that may have extended to 500 meters in height, and tephra was ejected to distances as great as 10 kilometers downwind. The second stage began when lava fountains became localized, tephra cones formed and larger quantities of lava exuded from open fissures, resulting in surface flows. The third stage was marked by extended eruptions that may have lasted for months or a few years. Although lava tubes did form during the second stage (if the lava volume was adequate), tubes primarily formed during the third stage and dispersed lava to the outer edges of the flow. Most lava on the eastern Snake River Plain was dispersed in this fashion.

There are eight lava fields on the eastern Snake River Plain that formed during the late Pleistocene and Holocene. Although some are covered with a thin layer of aeolian deposits, most are fully exposed. These include Craters of the Moon, Wapi, Shoshone, Kings Bowl, North Robbers, South Robbers, Cerro Grande and Hells Half Acre (Figure

4). Cerro Grande is radiocarbon dated to roughly 13,000 ry B.P. and North and South Robbers dates to 12,000 ry B.P. The dates for each flow were generated from charcoal recovered from immediately beneath the flows (Kuntz et al. 1986).

Hells Half Acre, located southwest of Idaho Falls, has been radiocarbon dated at roughly 5200 ry B.P. The flow originated from a shield volcano that exuded pahoehoe lava for several months (Kuntz et al. 1992). Kings Bowl lava field, located between Craters of the Moon and Wapi flows, has been identified as a single eruption that may have lasted less than a day, occurring around 2200 ry B.P. Based on the character of the flow, this event must have been pretty spectacular, with explosion pits, lava lakes and spewed tephra. The Wapi lava field probably started at the same time as Kings Bowl but remained active for several months, as indicated by the lava tube systems typical of the

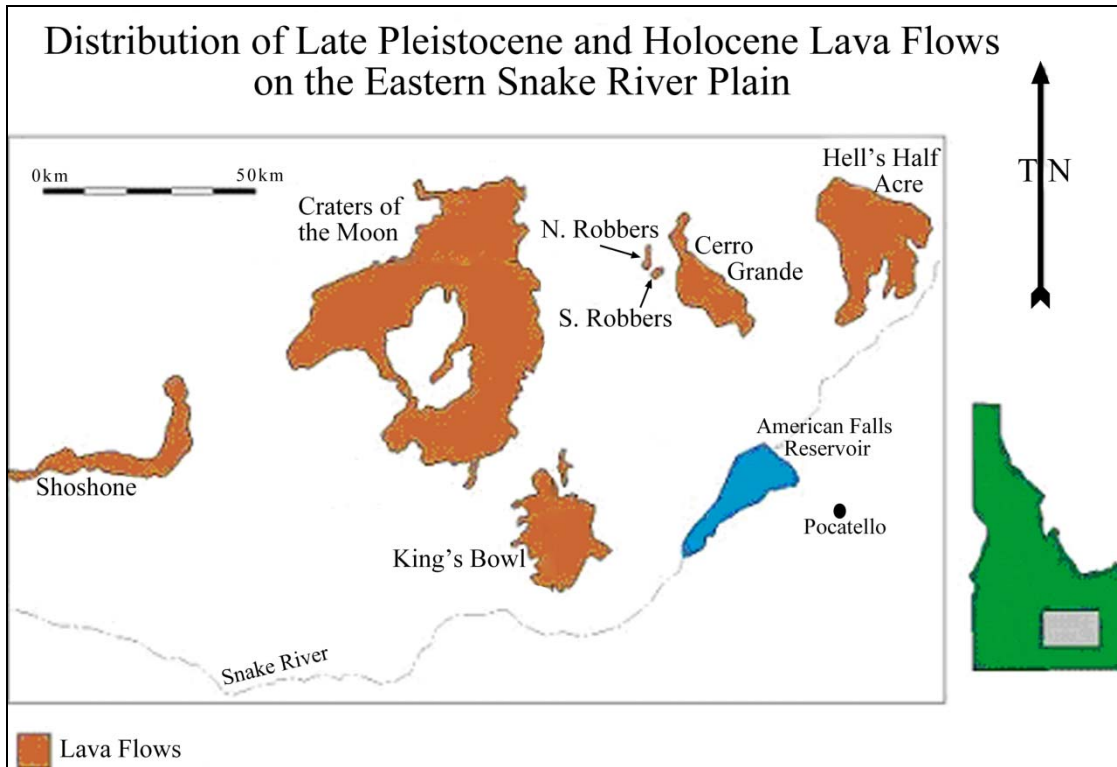


Figure 4. Distribution of late Pleistocene and Holocene lava flows on the eastern Snake River Plain (adapted from Kuntz et al. 1992).

third stage of a fissure eruption. A radiocarbon date of 2200 ry B.P. was obtained for the Wapi flow. The Shoshone lava field, west of Craters of the Moon, has been dated to 10,000 ry B.P. Although this flow occurred at the very beginning of the Holocene, it had to have impacted human populations. The lava field is 2 to 5 kilometers in diameter and altered the flows of the Big Wood and Little Wood Rivers at the time of its occurrence. Both rivers were forced to flow around the field. The two rivers now converge about 40

kilometers to the west at the terminus of the flow. The Craters of the Moon lava field is the largest in the continental United States and includes over 60 individual flows from cones or fissure eruptions (Figure 5). These eruptions range in age from 15,000 ry B.P. to 2100 ry B.P. (Kuntz et al. 1986) and have been classified into eight separate eruptive periods. These dates were generated from charcoal excavated from selected locations within the lava field to determine the ages of various eruptions. Specific eruption phases may have had significant impacts on the seasonal round and on the use of individual cold storage caves by humans then in the area.

Eruptive Period E, which includes the Grassy Cone, Laidlaw Lake and Lava Point flows, has been dated to between $7,840 \pm 140$ and $6,670 \pm 100$ ry B.P. Eruptive Period B and its associated flows range in age from 4510 ± 100 to 2660 ± 60 ry B.P. The largest of the Period B flows is the Minidoka. This massive flow is roughly 40 kilometers long and 5 to 10 kilometers wide, extending from the Craters of the Moon National Monument to the Wapi lava field to the south. It is thought to have occurred around 3600 ry B.P (Kuntz et al. 1986). The Minidoka flow may have also closed the area to game animals and people alike for an extended period, until creatures began entering the resultant “kipuka” at a later date when the eruptions ceased.

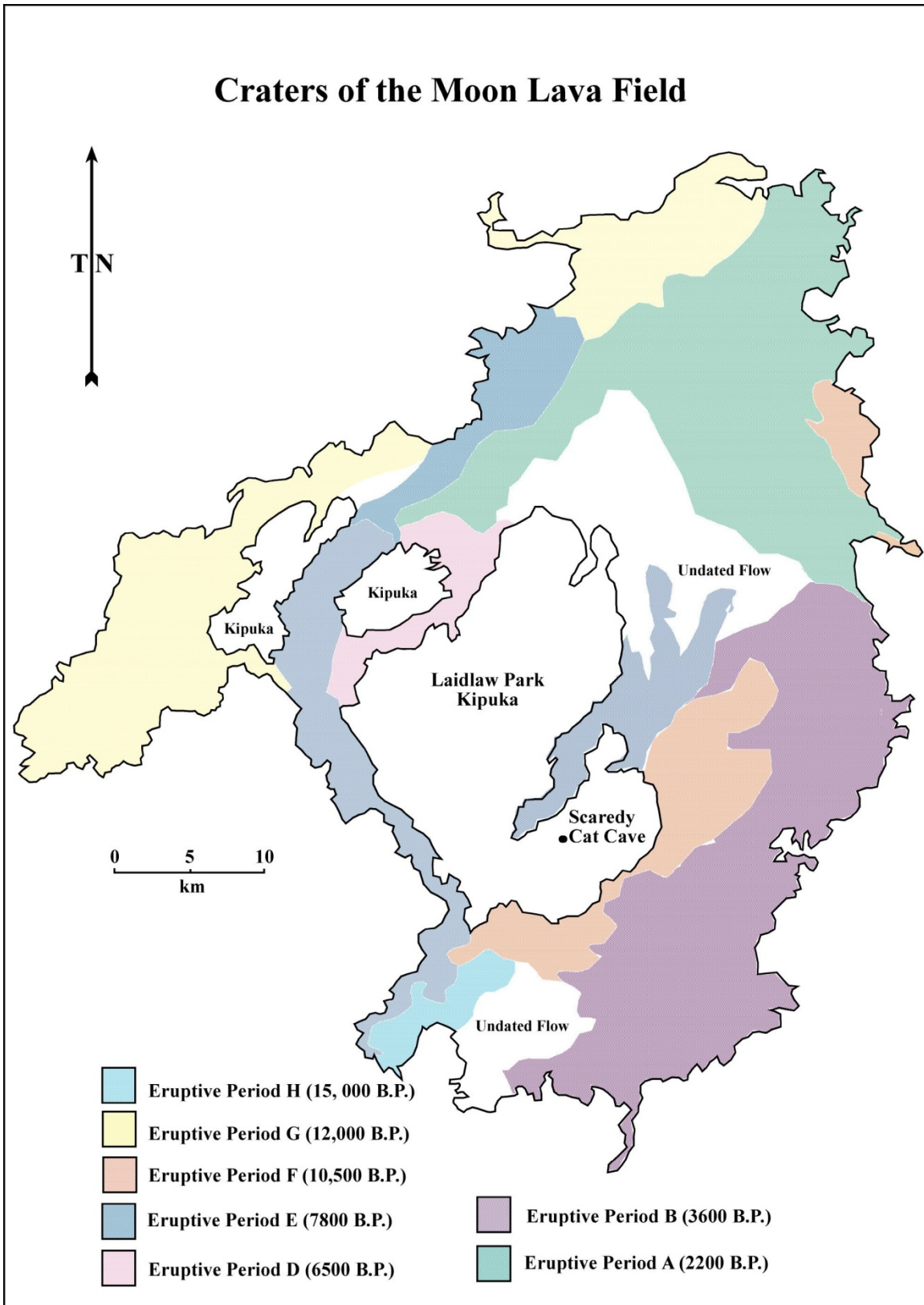


Figure 5. Eruptive periods documented on the Craters of the Moon Lava Field (adapted from Kuntz et al. 1992).

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to present current archaeological data for the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and provide park managers and researchers with the appropriate measures to manage and interpret cultural resources contained within the Monument boundaries. This document also identifies specific areas with elevated archaeological sensitivity requiring special management and presents a predictive model that provides sufficient information to make knowledgeable decisions regarding future cultural resource policies.

The Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve encompasses 750,000 acres, of which almost 500,000 are covered by late Pleistocene and Holocene basalt flows (Figure 1). The remaining acres are primarily contained within “kipukas”, a Hawaiian term that refers to an island of land surrounded on all sides by lava. The Monument can boast of containing the largest kipuka in the world, referred to as Laidlaw Park.

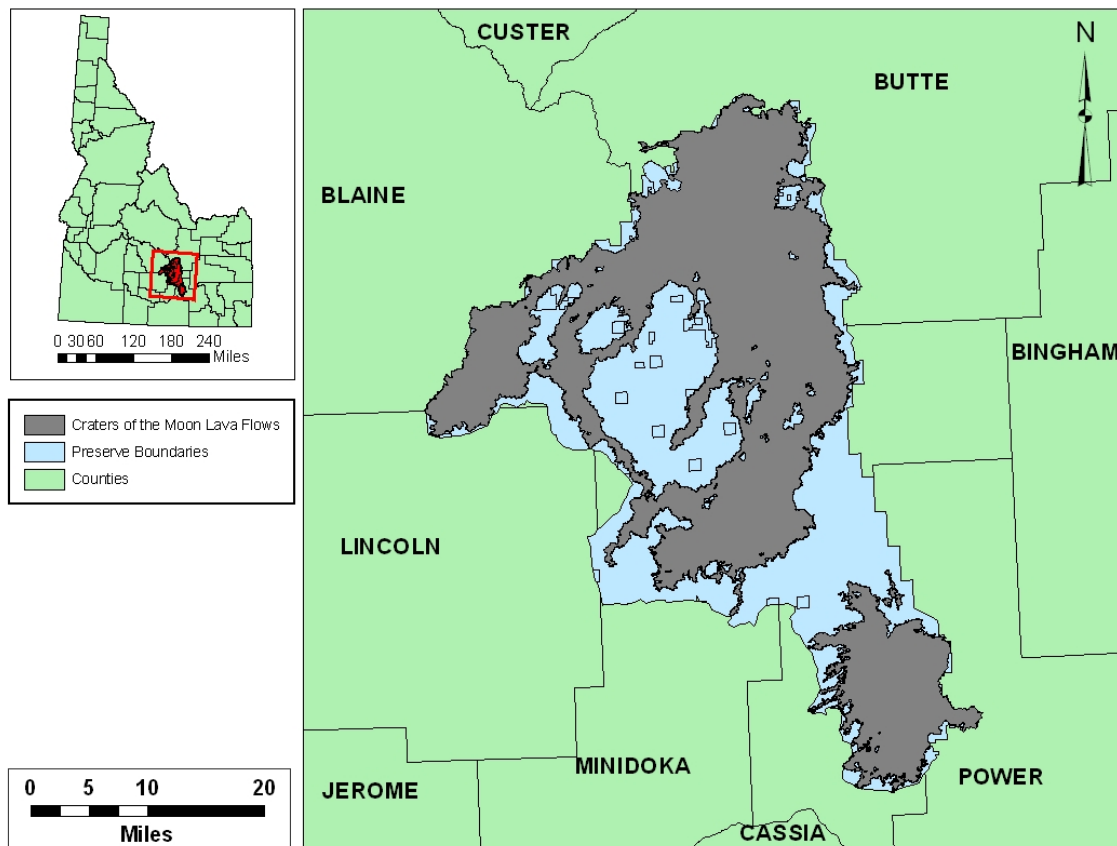


Figure 1. Location of the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve in southern Idaho.

The Monument is located on the eastern Snake River Plain, a relatively flat volcanic feature bounded by the Basin and Range physiographic province to the south and the

Idaho batholith to the north. The plain drops gradually from an elevation of roughly 2000 meters at the border of the Yellowstone Plateau on the eastern side, to roughly 700 meters on the western edge. The surface of the eastern Snake River Plain is comprised of Pleistocene and Holocene basalt flows covered by aeolian deposits (Kuntz et al. 1992). More recent flows (including many of those on the Preserve) are devoid of sediments.

Previous Archaeological Research

The Monument contains over 600 documented archaeological sites and isolated finds. While the majority of these resources were initially recorded during intensive areal surveys associated with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) range fire rehabilitation efforts, the National Park Service (NPS) has also conducted archaeological investigations within the original monument boundaries.

One of the earliest formal archaeological investigations conducted on the Monument involved a reconnaissance survey by Idaho State University in the summer of 1966 (Sneed 1967). The survey included four segments of the Monument that Earl Swanson and Paul Sneed considered to be distinct. These included the mountainous northwestern section, the cinder cones and kipukas in the central section, the broken a'a and pahoehoe flows in the southeast and the Carey Kipuka in the southwestern most section. A total of 28 prehistoric sites were documented, ranging from middle to late Holocene in age (Figure 2). Most of the sites consisted of open lithic scatters and rock features associated with perennial or intermittent water sources. However, two hunting blind sites, two obsidian quarries and five lava tube caves were also recorded. Sneed carried out an intensive collection strategy, resulting in a substantial number of projectile points (98), flaked stone tools (98), flakes and blades (77), ground stone (12), and ceramics (71) being removed from the surface of the sites (Sneed 1967).

Although Sneed's research generated a significant number of archaeological resources, the disposition of specific sites and location of the survey areas were not sufficiently documented. Sites were not described in any detail and sketch maps and/or small scale maps of the area were inadequate. In 1992, the NPS engaged the Idaho Museum of Natural History to conduct the first systematic archaeological survey within the Monument (Sammons and McLaughlin 1992). The research involved the intensive survey of roughly 300 sample units totaling 2000 acres. The selection of survey units was based on environmental variables and an effort to relocate the sites previously recorded by Sneed in 1966. However, the map showing the locations of the 300 sample units does not clearly identify where the 1992 intensive inventory occurred. Some effort will be required in order to include this survey in the GIS database.

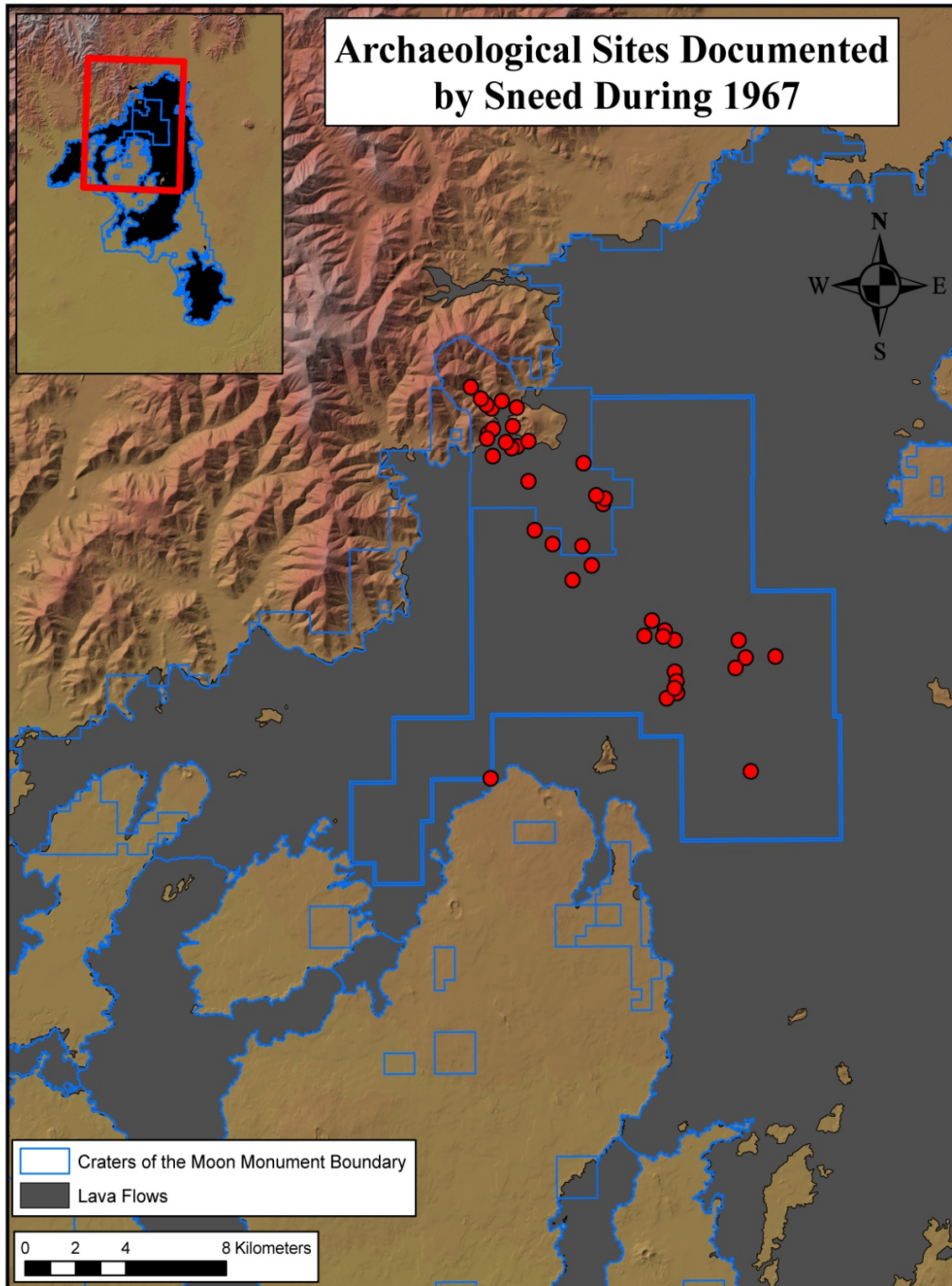


Figure 2. Map showing the locations of archaeological sites identified by Sneed in 1967.

A total of five new cultural resources were documented during the 1992 survey and most of Sneed's site locations were reportedly found. However, the ISU crew noted that the character of some sites differed from the original recording. Although most of the rock features were still intact, lithic scatters had either been altered by accreting sediments or heavy surface collecting. In fact, the lack of surface debris was directly attributed to the

previous intensive collecting by Sneed (Sammons and McLaughlin 1992). The “quarry” sites also exhibited only minimal evidence of use.

The Idaho Museum of Natural History returned in 1993 to conduct an intensive survey of 2000 acres in Little Prairie, located in the east-central portion of the Monument (Sammons 1993). Although ground exposure was exceptional due to a previous burn, only eight archaeological sites were documented. The report includes very brief descriptions of three prehistoric lithic scatters, four prehistoric isolated finds and one historic isolated find and, due to the absence of a 7.5 minute USGS map, the boundaries of the survey area are somewhat unclear.

In 1996, Idaho State University conducted an archaeological field school in the northern end of the Monument in the vicinity of Goodale’s Cutoff (Jenks 1998). The primary goals of the field school were to attempt to locate any surviving material remains indicative of the Oregon Trail and characterize the nature of prehistoric sites associated with the transition zone between the Snake River Plain and Pioneer Mountains to the north. Although not specified in the report, approximately 235 acres were intensively surveyed during the field school. A total of eleven new prehistoric cultural resources were documented. However, no historic sites associated with the Oregon Trail were encountered. Immediately following the pedestrian survey, two extensive lithic scatters (10BT2054 and 10BT2064) were subjected to test excavations. However, the very limited nature of these subsurface investigations precludes an evaluation of NRHP eligibility.

In 2004 and 2005, the University of Oregon Archaeological Field School conducted intensive pedestrian surveys in portions of the Monument. A total of 1600 acres were examined during the 2004 field season and 28 new archaeological sites were recorded. In 2005, the UO Archaeological Field School returned to the Preserve for additional intensive pedestrian surveys. These surveys were primarily conducted along the perimeter of basalt flows of various ages within Laidlaw Park. These efforts were designed to gain information on the nature of archaeological sites associated with specific late Pleistocene and Holocene lava fields on the Preserve. A total of 3200 acres were inventoried during the 2005 field season and 84 new sites were recorded. In addition to the pedestrian surveys, five archaeological sites were subjected to test excavations.

In addition to the archaeological research discussed above, numerous intensive fire rehabilitation surveys have been conducted on the Monument within the past 20 years. These have been performed by the BLM, usually within a month to two months following range fires, prior to reseeding activities. Because of the potential ground disturbance that can be caused by reseeding with a range-land drill, intensive archaeological inventories were carried out to ensure that properties potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places are not adversely affected by these federal undertakings.

Table 1 below provides a list of previous archaeological surveys conducted within the Monument and information, if available, regarding the name of the survey, acreage

surveyed and number of documented cultural resources (including sites and isolated finds). It should be noted that this list is far from complete. It does not identify the multitude of small compliance surveys conducted by the BLM or NPS over the past few decades. However, the Idaho State Office of the BLM is currently in the process of creating a comprehensive survey database, which should be completed within the next five years.

In addition, the authors were not able to obtain specific information regarding large fire rehabilitation surveys conducted by the Burley and Idaho Falls field offices of the BLM. These surveys were primarily performed in the eastern and southern portions of the Monument. Although included in Section IV with other survey data, the names of these projects and their associated reports are unknown at this time.

Table 1. Previous Archaeological Surveys within the Monument

Year	Acres	Cultural Resources	Survey Name	Reference
1966	Unknown	28	Archaeological Reconnaissance of the CMNM	Sneed 1966
1992	2000	5	Systematic Survey of Cultural Resources within the CMNM	Sammons and McLaughlin 1992
1992	9216	91	Black Ridge and Potter Butte Fire Rehabs	Henrikson and Henrikson 1993
1992	4134	26	Great Rift Fire Rehab	Balcom and Brewer 1993
1993	2000	8	Little Prairie Burn	Sammons 1993
1995	2765	26	Survey of North End of the CMNM	Force and Salley 1995
1996	235	11	Survey of Goodale's Cutoff Corridor	Jenks 1996
1996	1207	4	Richfield Fire Complex	Henrikson and McLaughlin 1997
2000	1477	14	Laidlaw Park Survey	Henrikson 2001
2001	750	8	Laidlaw Park Survey	Henrikson 2002
2003	1600	18	Crystal Ice Cave/King's Bowl Fire Rehab	Hoffert 2004
2004	1618	32	East Laidlaw Park Survey	Henrikson et al. 2005
2005	3228	95	Laidlaw Park Thumb Survey	Henrikson et al. 2005

Section I presents an environmental overview of the Monument and surrounding region, including a discussion of existing paleoclimatic studies. These studies can provide useful insights regarding the age and distribution of archaeological resources on the Monument and the cultural chronology of the region. Section II provides an overview of this chronology and highlights previously excavated archaeological sites that were used in the development of this chronology.

Geospatial analysis of the roughly 600 prehistoric sites and isolates on the Monument is presented in Section III. The analysis required manipulating the database provided by

the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). (However, roughly 40 sites and isolates recorded in the original Monument boundaries were not in the database, including those documented by Sneed in 1966, and could not be incorporated into this study).

The cultural resources in the SHPO database and those recorded during the past two field seasons were sorted into “types” based on the range of artifacts noted in surface assemblages. Because it was suspected that the “site description” attribute field in the database omitted useful information or contained erroneous data, efforts were made to resolve these issues. Dates of occupation were assigned to previously recorded archaeological sites within the study area if they contained diagnostic projectile points. This allowed for an examination of the distribution of sites through time.

Section IV presents a geochemical source analysis of diagnostic volcanic glass projectile points collected from the Monument over the last 25 years. The primary goal of this analysis was to examine how far volcanic glass projectile points from the Monument have been transported from their original source and assess whether patterns in the data suggest direct procurement or exchange networks. The results of this analysis are also considered with other facets of the archaeological record from the Monument to determine if changes in mobility and land use has occurred through time.

Section V provides of an overview of previously excavated sites on the Monument. A total of seven sites within the Monument have been subjected to formal test excavations. These have been conducted for research purposes, to evaluate NRHP eligibility or to assess damage associated with ARPA violations. Sites excavated prior to the University of Oregon investigations include Baker Caves (10BN153/154), Scaredy Cat Cave (10MA143) and Bowl Crater (10BN1066). The remaining sites, Roasting Rock (10BN389), Catchment Cove (10BN861), Alpha Cave (10PR641) and the Drifting Gene Site (Temporary No. 05-KM-20) were excavated in 2005 to collect data for inclusion in this document. Because surface lithic scatters on the eastern Snake River Plain are notorious for “disappearing” and “re-emerging” due to the continuous accretion and deflation of aeolian sediments, the primary purpose of the 2005 test excavations was to assist in identifying the geomorphic processes involved in this phenomenon. Section V also provides management recommendations for all previously excavated sites within the Preserve.

An overview of the 19th Century seasonal round of the Shoshone-Bannock is presented in Section VI and the delineation of archaeologically sensitive areas on the Preserve (as well as gaps in the data) is addressed in Section VII.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve is located on the sagebrush steppe of the eastern Snake River Plain (Figure 3). The area is a cold desert with elevations ranging from 1500 to 2000 meters a.s.l. and winter snow and early spring rains

produce less than 10 inches of annual precipitation (Butler 1978). The region, bordered by the Basin and Range Province to the south and Northern Rocky Mountain Province to the north, is a lava plain given limited contrast by landforms of low topographic relief. These include rolling basalt pressure ridges, shallow basins, swales, knolls, buttes, vegetated areas surrounded by and isolated by lava flows (kipukas) and dozens of lava tube caves. These features were created primarily by pahoehoe basalt flows from low shield volcanoes and fissure eruptions ranging from Pliocene to Pleistocene in age (Greeley and King 1977; Kuntz et al. 1992). Sediments consist primarily of aeolian deposited silty or sandy loams, with most accumulations occurring on the lee sides of prominent land features. The Snake River, the region's only major waterway, transects the Plain, arcing east to west. Because of the incline of plain and catastrophic events such as the Bonneville Flood around 14,000 years ago (Currey and James 1982), much of the river corridor is characterized by deep, narrow gorges.



Figure 3. Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, near Snowdrift Crater in northern Laidlaw Park.

The dominant native vegetation includes the shrubs *Artemisia tridentata* (big sagebrush), *Artemisia tripartita* (three-tip sagebrush), *Purshia tridentata* (bitterbrush), *Tetradymia canescens* (horsebrush), *Chrysothamnus puberulus* (rabbitbrush), and *Gutierrezia sarothrae* (snakeweed). Common native grasses include *Agropyron spicatum* (bluebunch wheatgrass), *Koeleria cristata* (junegrass), *Oryzopsis hymenoides* (ricegrass), *Poa nevadensis* (poa), *Poa secunda* (common poa), and *Stipa comata* (needle and thread grass) (Franzen 1980). Common mammals exploited by the region's historical inhabitants include *Antilocapra americana* (pronghorn antelope), *Odocoileus hemionus* (mule deer),

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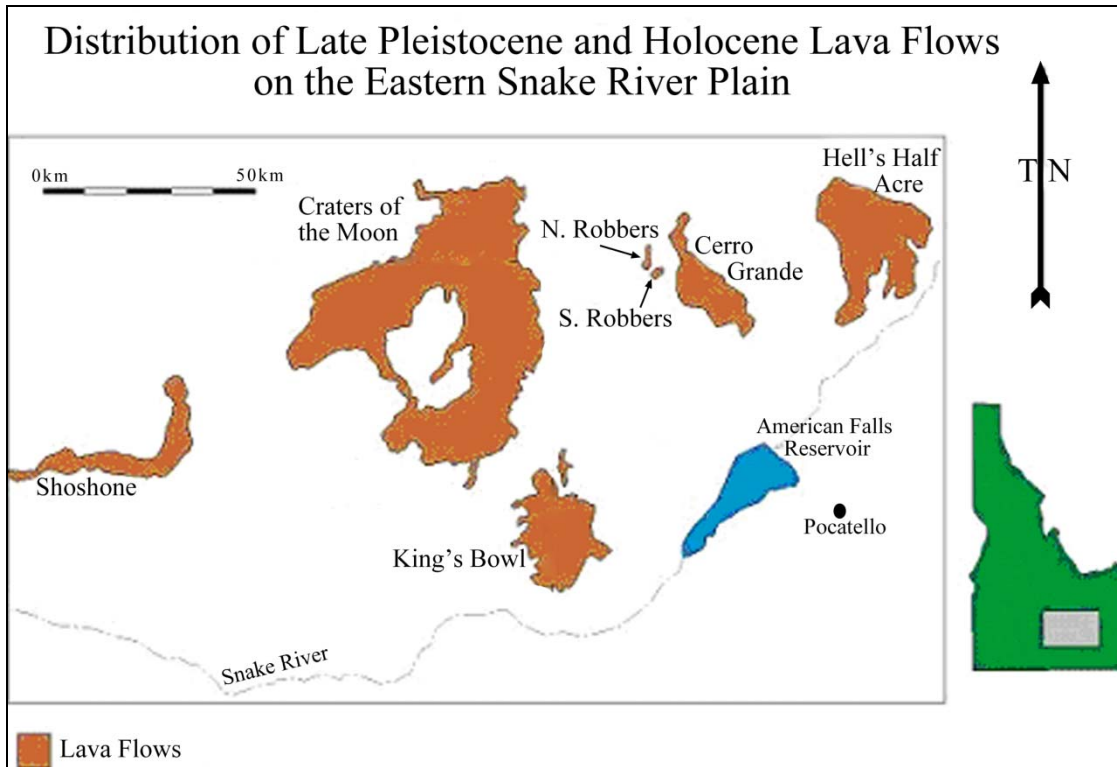


Figure 4. Distribution of late Pleistocene and Holocene lava flows on the eastern Snake River Plain (adapted from Kuntz et al. 1992).

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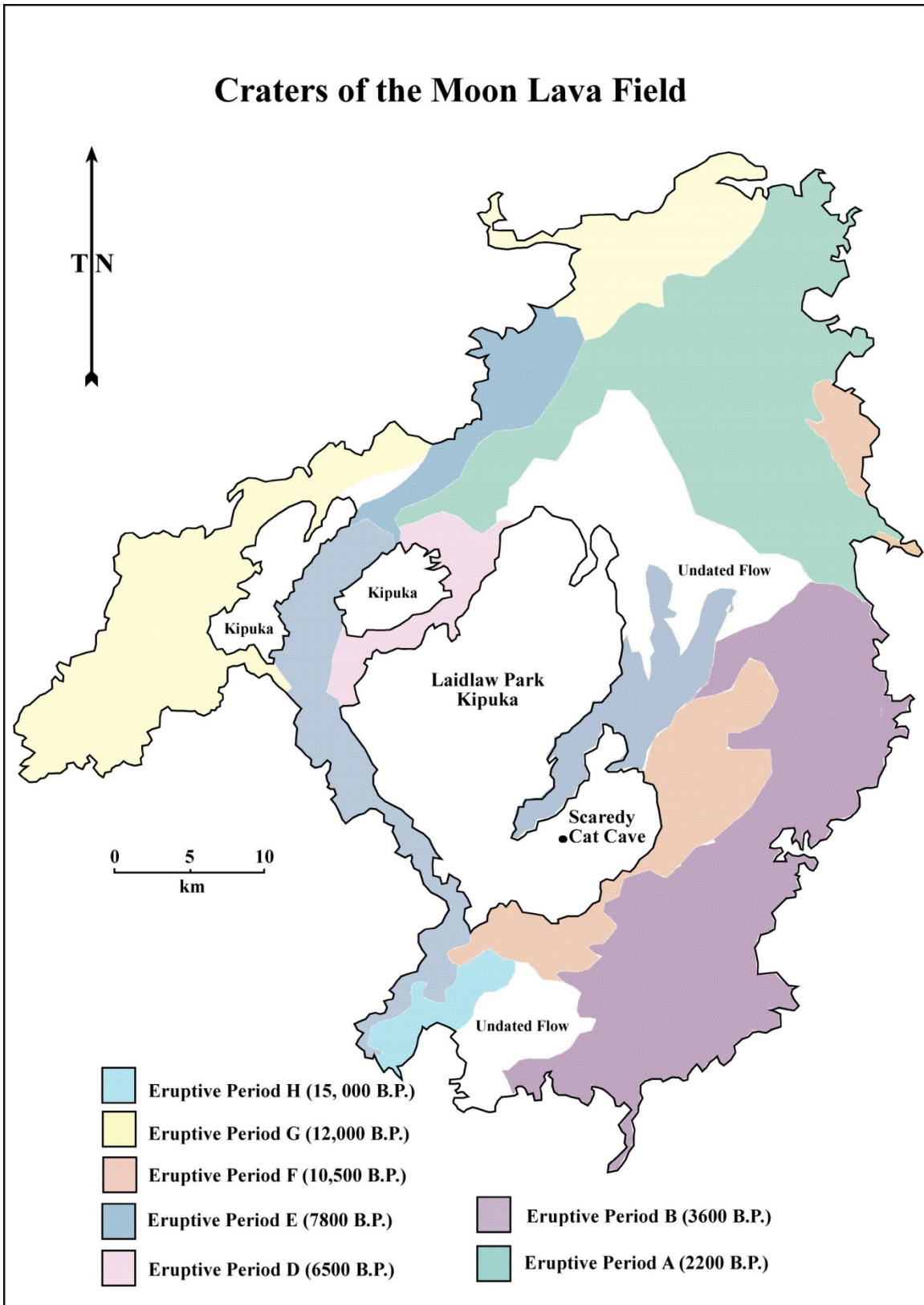


Figure 5. Eruptive periods documented on the Craters of the Moon Lava Field (adapted from Kuntz et al. 1992).

SECTION VII

SUMMARY

Due to the combined efforts of the BLM, the NPS and the University of Oregon, roughly 45,000 acres of the Monument have been intensively inventoried for archaeological resources (see Figure 3.1). Although these surveys do not represent a random or stratified sample of the research area they have been sufficiently numerous and extensive to provide a good view of the region's archaeology (see Appendix A). Through these efforts, over 600 prehistoric cultural resources have been documented on the Monument (Figure 7.1, see Appendix B). In addition, at least seven prehistoric archaeological sites on the Monument have been subjected to subsurface investigations within the past 25 years (see Figure 5.1). These include Baker Caves (10BN153 and 154), Scaredy Cat Cave (10MA30/143), Bowl Crater (10BN1066), Alpha Cave (10PR641), the Roasting Rock Site (10BN389), Catchment Cove (10BN861) and the Drifting Gene Site (10MA421). The Roasting Rock, Catchment Cove and Drifting Gene sites were tested during the 2005 University of Oregon Archaeological Field School to gain information on the geomorphology of open sites on the eastern Snake River Plain. Limited test excavations were also performed at Alpha Cave in 2005 to determine whether intact cultural deposits were still present in the cave.

In examining the distribution of prehistoric sites within the Monument, some patterns emerge that appear to conflict with a predictive model developed for the eastern Snake River Plain (Henrikson 2002). The temporal distribution of sites in the broad region surrounding the Monument indicates that many ephemeral ponds were used repeatedly throughout the middle and late Holocene, giving evidence of long term reliance on these resource localities over millennia. However, the study performed here suggests that, in the area containing the Monument, recent basalt flows were utilized to a greater degree than ephemeral ponds located on the open sagebrush steppe. Depressions in the lava flow near many archaeological sites are now suspected of containing water through the spring months (see Section V).

Based on the geospatial analysis of site distribution patterns on the Monument (see Section III), site density increases significantly within a distance of 300 meters of the lava edge. Using this distance as the delineating factor, roughly 22,900 acres of "lava edge" has been intensively surveyed within the Monument and roughly 261 prehistoric cultural resources (including prehistoric sites and isolates) have been recorded as part of these surveys. Based on these results, the density of prehistoric sites encountered along the lava edge is roughly 0.01sites/acre.

Almost an equal amount (roughly 21,400 acres) of the open sagebrush steppe within the Monument has been intensively surveyed, with the documentation of 90 prehistoric cultural resources (both sites and isolates) in these areas. Therefore, the estimated density of prehistoric sites in open steppe is roughly 0.004sites/acre. Of course, it should be noted that the frequency of sites encountered on open steppe may be influenced by the density of ephemeral ponds in a given area.

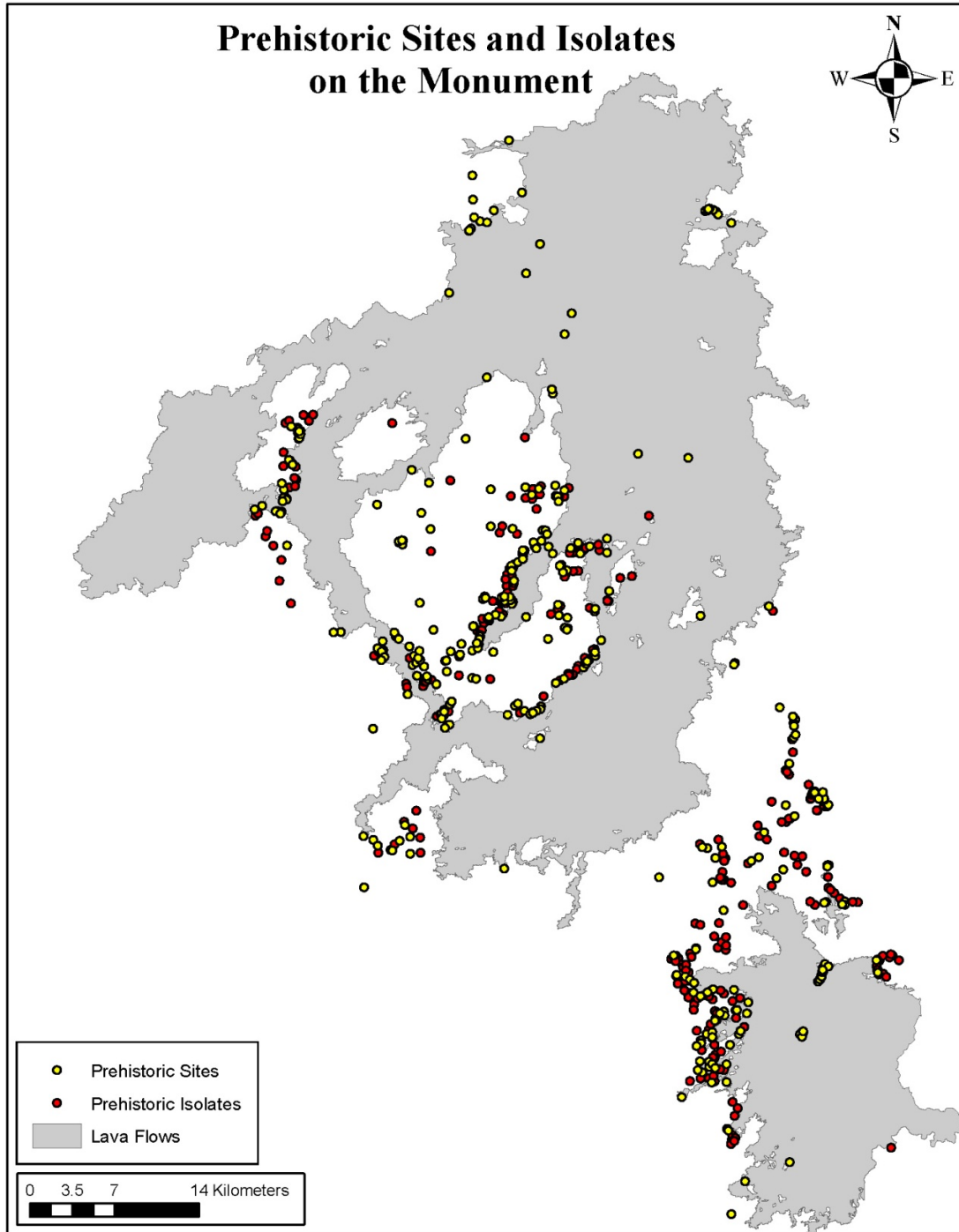


Figure 7.1. Distribution of recorded prehistoric sites and isolated finds on the Monument.

While over 600 prehistoric sites and isolated finds are presently known to exist within the Monument, as of 2005, only 18% of the Monument has been intensively inventoried (of

the 250,000 acres not covered in basalt flows). There are at least 50,000 acres of lava edge and 150,000 acres of open steppe that have yet to be explored. Based on the results of previous surveys, there are likely to be an additional 500 cultural resources (both prehistoric sites and isolates) encountered at the lava edge and 600 additional cultural resources found on the sagebrush steppe. It is more than likely that some of these resources will consist of seasonal base camps and, perhaps, residential bases. In addition, aboriginal trails recorded during the 2005 archaeological investigations at 10BN389 and 10BN861 may represent only the “tip of the iceberg”. It is suspected that numerous trails cross the basalt flows within the Monument. Locating and documenting these trails will lead to greater insights into the prehistoric use of the area.

Due to the density of prehistoric archaeological sites likely to be encountered within 300 meters of the lava edge, these areas should be considered “high archaeological sensitivity” zones (Figure 7.2). Unless subsurface investigations can be performed, these zones should generally be avoided by any ground disturbing activities. In addition, the lava edge requires regular monitoring by BLM and NPS personnel to reduce the potential for illegal surface collection and excavations. Based on the 2005 test excavations at 10BN389, it is apparent that accreting sediments along the lava flows can obscure significant subsurface cultural deposits and features.

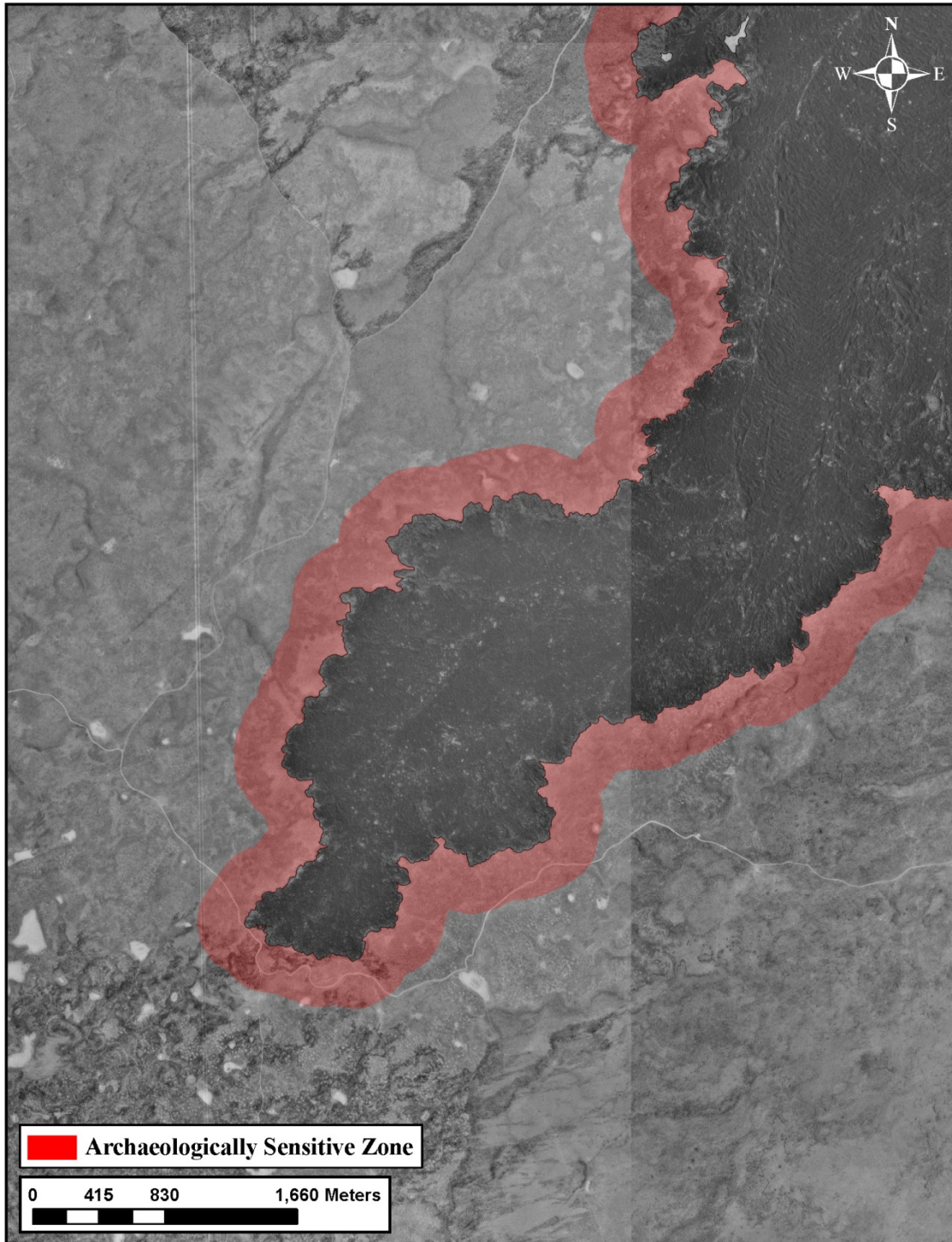


Figure 7.2. Example of High Archaeological Sensitivity Zone on the Monument.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the analysis of prehistoric archaeological data within the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, Holocene lava flows clearly need to be considered in any investigation of pre-contact Shoshone settlement and subsistence patterns on the eastern Snake River Plain. The data indicate that, in the region containing the Monument, the lava edge was a preferred location whether groups intended to stay overnight or for longer periods. Recent test excavations on the Monument also suggest that, during the last 4000 years, there were perhaps less obvious incentives for camping at the lava edge. The more intense utilization of lava edges during the late Holocene may be correlated with an overall increase in site density in the region. The number of archaeological sites that can be assigned to the late Holocene on the Monument is more than double the number of middle Holocene sites.

The presence of what appear to be defensive structures at base camp 10BN389 and the inhospitable location of the Lost Lava Rings residential base suggest that the variables responsible for site distribution patterns as well as the character of late Holocene sites on the eastern Snake River Plain may be more complex than previously thought. Although the availability of food and water were critical in the cold high desert, recent discoveries on the Monument suggest that intercommunity stress associated with late Holocene population pressures may have also greatly influenced where people chose to stay. These intriguing developments should be pursued as part of future investigations of the region. Based on the geospatial analyses performed here, it is predicted that an additional 1100 prehistoric sites and prehistoric isolated finds are likely to be encountered during future surveys within the Monument.

As noted in the introduction, the information regarding previous archaeological surveys on the Monument is currently incomplete. A more accurate GIS database of previous investigations should be constructed in the near future. This database should include the numerous small compliance surveys conducted by the BLM or NPS (including those performed by Idaho State University in the 1960s and 1990s) as well as the large fire rehabilitation surveys conducted by the Burley and Idaho Falls field offices of the BLM. In addition, those sites and isolates recorded in the original Monument boundaries need to be incorporated into the cultural resource inventory.

Some irregularities exist in the artifact records and site documentation, particularly for those sites recorded within the original Monument boundaries. While the artifacts collected by Sneed (1967) and others are currently housed at the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve Headquarters, specimens collected during the numerous BLM fire rehabilitation surveys are curated at the Southeastern Repository of the Archaeological Survey of Idaho. Upon completion of the GIS database, a comprehensive artifact catalog should be created for all specimens recovered during previous pedestrian surveys and/or subsurface investigations on the Monument. Although many of the projectile points from previous BLM surveys have been used in obsidian sourcing studies (see Section IV), other artifacts (including the specimens collected by Sneed) have never been examined or analyzed. Once the catalog is complete, the

appropriate analyses should be performed. Following this, decisions should be made regarding the most suitable curatorial facility for these items.

Although not within the scope of the current study, research should be conducted on the numerous historic sites that have been documented within the Monument. Many of these are associated with 19th and 20th Century sheep herding and ranching activities and can provide valuable insights into early Euroamerican use of the area. The northern end of the Monument also contains Goodale's Cutoff of the Oregon Trail.

If the predictions regarding site densities are accurate, the Monument contains nearly 1500 prehistoric sites that may be eligible to the NRHP. Previous test excavations at open base camps such as 10BN389 and 10BN861 clearly indicate sufficient intact subsurface deposits to warrant NRHP eligibility and many more base camps are likely to be discovered during future surveys. In addition, due to their significant contribution to our understanding of regional prehistory, Baker Caves (10BN153 and 154), Scaredy Cat Cave (10MA30/143) and Alpha Cave (10PR641) are also recommended as eligible.

Because of the huge volume of potentially significant properties within its boundaries, it is recommended that the Monument be nominated as a National Register District and afforded the protection that such a designation can provide.