



Using the Wilderness

Craters of the Moon - Idaho

On October 23, 1970, Craters of the Moon Wilderness became the 82nd area designated as wilderness. It includes 43,243 acres of volcanic landscape.

The 1964 Wilderness Act defines wilderness as "undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character...with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable...which has outstanding opportunities for solitude". This designation carries special management responsibilities for Craters of the Moon. The act states that a wilderness area is to be "protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions". The Backcountry Use Permit System was established to ensure visitor safety and to protect the wilderness resources.

Permits: Each party must obtain a free permit for overnight use.

Camping: The wilderness area has been divided into two opportunity classes (see map on reverse side). In the Primitive Opportunity Class visitors are encouraged to camp in Echo Crater. To minimize resource damage, it is best if people utilize these sites rather than create new ones. In the Pristine Opportunity Class visitors should camp in areas that show no sign of previous campers and leave no sign that they camped there. Campsites should only be used for one night.

Regulations: This should be considered only a partial list of regulations. For detailed information inquire at the visitor center.

- Pets are not permitted in the wilderness.
- No wood fires. Backpacking stoves must be used for cooking.
- Party size is limited to 12 people.
- For horse and pack animal regulations make inquiry.
- No visitor use of mechanized or motorized equipment is permitted. This includes bicycles.
- Visitors may not cache equipment or supplies.

Safety: Visitors must understand the inherent dangers of crosscountry travel in volcanic terrain. The lava is uneven and sharp. Summer temperatures can be very hot on the black lava. Drinking water is not available in the wilderness area.

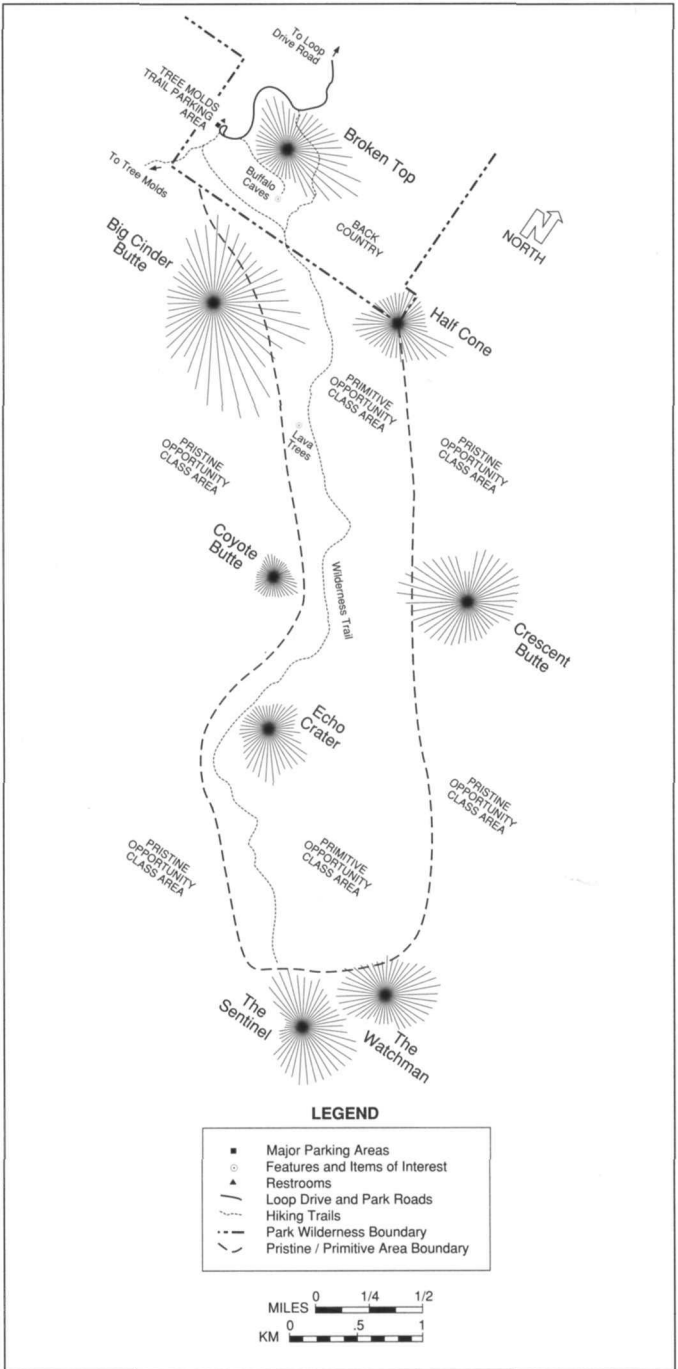
- Hikers should carry at least two gallons of water per person per day.
- Visitors are advised to take a topographic map and compass.

Minimum Impact Techniques: While you are a guest in the wilderness area please remember the familiar advise: "Take only pictures; leave only footprints".

- If you pack it in, pack it out.
- Human waste will be buried 6 inches deep in cinder areas using the "cathole" method.



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