APPENDIX F

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

I. STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health & Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Standards for Rangeland Health

The Standards for Rangeland Health, as applied in the State of Idaho, are to be used as the Bureau of Land Management's management goals for the betterment of the environment, protection of cultural resources, and sustained productivity of the range. They are developed with the specific intent of providing for the multiple uses of the public lands. Application of the standards should involve collaboration between the authorized officer, interested publics, and resource users.

Rangelands should be meeting the Standards for Rangeland Health or making significant progress toward meeting the standards. Meeting the standards provides for proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling, and energy flow.

Monitoring of all uses is necessary to determine if the standards are being met. It is the primary tool for determining rangeland health, condition, and trend. It will be performed on representative sites.

Appropriate to soil type, climate, and landform, indicators are a list of typical physical and biological factors and processes that can be measured and/or observed (e.g., photographic monitoring). They are used in combination to provide information necessary to determine the health and condition of the rangelands. Usually, no single indicator provides sufficient information to determine rangeland health. Only those indicators appropriate to a particular site are to be used. The indicators listed below each standard are not intended to be all inclusive.

The issue of scale must be kept in mind in evaluating the indicators listed after each standard. It is recognized that individual isolated sites within a landscape may not be meeting the standards; however, broader areas must be in proper functioning condition. Furthermore, fragmentation of habitat that reduces the effective size of large areas must also be evaluated for its consequences.

Standard 1 (Watersheds)

Watersheds provide for the proper infiltration, retention, and release of water appropriate to soil type, vegetation, climate, and landform to provide for proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling, and energy flow.

Indicators may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The amount and distribution of ground cover, including litter, for identified ecological site(s) or soil-plant associations are appropriate for site stability.

2. Evidence of accelerated erosion in the form of rills and/or gullies, erosional pedestals, flow patterns, physical soil crusts/surface sealing, and compaction layers below the soil surface is minimal for soil type and landform.

Standard 2 (Riparian Areas and Wetlands)

Riparian-wetland areas are in properly functioning condition appropriate to soil type, climate, geology, and landform to provide for proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling, and energy flow.

Indicators may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The riparian/wetland vegetation is controlling erosion, stabilizing stream banks, shading water areas to reduce water temperature, stabilizing shorelines, filtering sediment, aiding in floodplain development, dissipating energy, delaying flood water, and increasing recharge of groundwater appropriate to site potential.

2. Riparian/wetland vegetation with deep strong binding roots is sufficient to stabilize stream banks and shorelines. Invader and shallow rooted species are a minor component of the floodplain.

3. Age class and structural diversity of riparian/wetland vegetation is appropriate for the site.

4. Noxious weeds are not increasing.

Standard 3 (Stream Channel/Floodplain)

Stream channels and floodplains are properly functioning relative to the geomorphology (e.g., gradient, size, shape, roughness, confinement, and sinuosity) and climate to provide for proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling, and energy flow.

Indicators may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Stream channels and floodplains dissipate energy of high water flows and transport sediment. Soils support appropriate riparian-wetland species, allowing water movement, sediment filtration, and water storage. Stream channels are not entrenching.

2. Stream width/depth ratio, gradient, sinuosity, and pool, riffle and run frequency are appropriate for the valley bottom type, geology, hydrology, and soils.

3. Streams have access to their floodplains and sediment deposition is evident.

4. There is little evidence of excessive soil compaction on the floodplain due to human activities.

5. Stream banks are within an appropriate range of stability according to site potential.

6. Noxious weeds are not increasing.

Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities)

Healthy, productive, and diverse native animal habitat and populations of native plants are maintained or promoted as appropriate to soil type, climate, and landform to provide for proper nutrient cycling, hydrologic cycling, and energy flow. Indicators may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Native plant communities (flora and microbiotic crusts) are maintained or improved to ensure the proper functioning of ecological processes and continued productivity and diversity of native plant species.

2. The diversity of native species is maintained.

3. Plant vigor (total plant production, seed and seedstalk production, cover, etc.) is adequate to enable reproduction and recruitment of plants when favorable climatic events occur.

4. Noxious weeds are not increasing.

5. Adequate litter and standing dead plant material are present for site protection and for decomposition to replenish soil nutrients relative to site potential.

Standard 5 (Seedings)

Rangelands seeded with mixtures, including predominately non-native plants, are functioning to maintain life form diversity, production, native animal habitat, nutrient cycling, energy flow, and the hydrologic cycle.

Indicators may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. In established seedings, the diversity of perennial species is not diminishing over time.

2. Plant production, seed production, and cover are adequate to enable recruitment when favorable climatic events occur.

3. Noxious weeds are not increasing.

4. Adequate litter and standing dead plant material are present for site protection and for decomposition

to replenish soil nutrients relative to site potential.

Standard 6 (Exotic Plant Communities, Other Than Seedings)

Exotic plant communities, other than seedings, will meet minimum requirements of soil stability and maintenance of existing native and seeded plants. These communities will be rehabilitated to perennial communities when feasible cost effective methods are developed.

Indicators may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Noxious weeds are not increasing.

2. The number of perennial species is not diminishing over time.

3. Plant vigor (production, seed and seedstalk production, cover, etc.) of remnant native or seeded (introduced) plants is maintained to enable reproduction and recruitment when favorable climatic or other environmental events occur.

4. Adequate litter and standing dead plant material is present for site protection and for decomposition to replenish soil nutrients relative to site potential.

Standard 7 (Water Quality)

Surface and ground water on public lands comply with the Idaho Water Quality Standards.

Indicators may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Physical, chemical, and biologic parameters described in the Idaho Water Quality Standards.

Standard 8 (Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals)

Habitats are suitable to maintain viable populations of threatened and endangered, sensitive, and other special status species.

Indicators may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Parameters described in the Idaho Water Quality Standards.

2. Riparian/wetland vegetation with deep, strong, binding roots is sufficient to stabilize stream banks and shorelines. Invader and shallow rooted species are a minor component of the floodplain.

3. Age class and structural diversity of riparian/wetland vegetation are appropriate for the site.

4. Native plant communities (flora and microbiotic crusts) are maintained or improved to ensure the proper functioning of ecological processes and continued productivity and diversity of native plant species.

5. The diversity of native species is maintained.

6. The amount and distribution of ground cover, including litter, for identified ecological site(s) or soil-plant associations are appropriate for site stability.

7. Noxious weeds are not increasing.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management

Guidelines direct the selection of grazing management practices, and where appropriate, livestock management facilities to promote significant progress toward, or the attainment and maintenance of, the standards. Grazing management practices are livestock management techniques. They include the manipulation of season, duration (time), and intensity of use, as well as numbers, distribution, and kind of livestock. Livestock management facilities are structures such as fences, corrals, and water developments (ponds, springs, pipelines, troughs, etc.) used to facilitate the application of grazing management practices. Livestock grazing management practices and guidelines will be consistent with the Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan.

Grazing management practices and facilities are implemented locally, usually on an allotment or watershed basis. Grazing management programs are based on a combination of appropriate grazing management practices and facilities developed through consultation, coordination, and cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, permittees, other agencies, Native American tribes, and interested publics. These guidelines were prepared under the assumption that regulations and policies regarding grazing on the public lands will be implemented and will be adhered to by the grazing permittees and agency personnel. Anything not covered in these guidelines will be addressed by existing laws, regulations, Indian treaties, and policies.

The BLM will identify and document within the local watershed all impacts that affect the ability to meet the standards. If a standard is not being met due to livestock grazing, then allotment management will be adjusted unless it can be demonstrated that significant progress toward the standard is being achieved. This applies to all subsequent guidelines.

Guidelines

1. Use grazing management practices and/or facilities to maintain or promote significant progress

toward adequate amounts of ground cover (determined on an ecological site basis) to support infiltration, maintain soil moisture storage, and stabilize soils.

2. Locate livestock management facilities away from riparian areas wherever they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian-wetland functions.

3. Use grazing management practices and/or facilities to maintain or promote soil conditions that support water infiltration, plant vigor, and permeability rates and minimize soil compaction appropriate to site potential.

4. Implement grazing management practices that provide periodic rest or deferment during critical growth stages to allow sufficient regrowth to achieve and maintain healthy, properly functioning conditions, including good plant vigor and adequate vegetative cover appropriate to site potential.

5. Maintain or promote grazing management practices that provide sufficient residual vegetation to improve, restore, or maintain healthy riparian-wetland functions and structure for energy dissipation, sediment capture, ground water recharge, stream bank stability, and wildlife habitat appropriate to site potential.

6. The development of springs, seeps, or other projects affecting water and associated resources shall be designed to protect the ecological functions, wildlife habitat, and significant cultural and historical/ archaeological/paleontological values associated with the water source.

7. Apply grazing management practices to maintain, promote, or progress toward appropriate stream channel and stream bank morphology and functions. Adverse impacts due to livestock grazing will be addressed.

8. Apply grazing management practices that maintain or promote the interaction of the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow that will support the appropriate types and amounts of soil organisms, plants, and animals appropriate to soil type, climate, and landform.

9. Apply grazing management practices to maintain adequate plant vigor for seed production, seed dispersal, and seedling survival of desired species relative to soil type, climate, and landform.

10. Implement grazing management practices and/or facilities that provide for complying with the Idaho Water Quality Standards.

11. Use grazing management practices developed in recovery plans, conservation agreements, and Endangered Species Act, Section 7 consultations to maintain or improve habitat for federally listed threatened, endangered, and sensitive plants and animals.

12. Apply grazing management practices and/or facilities that maintain or promote the physical and biological conditions necessary to sustain native plant populations and wildlife habitats in native plant communities.

13. On areas seeded predominantly with non-native plants, use grazing management practices to maintain or promote the physical and biological conditions to achieve healthy rangelands.

14. Where native communities exist, the conversion to exotic communities after disturbance will be minimized. Native species are emphasized for rehabilitating disturbed rangelands. Evaluate whether native plants are adapted, available, and able to compete with weeds or seeded exotics.

15. Use non-native plant species for rehabilitation only in those situations where:
    a. native species are not readily available in sufficient quantities;

    b. native plant species cannot maintain or achieve the standards; or

    c. non-native plant species provide for management and protection of native rangelands.

    d. include a diversity of appropriate grasses, forbs, and shrubs in rehabilitation efforts.

16. On burned areas, allow natural regeneration when it is determined that populations of native perennial shrubs, grasses, and forbs are sufficient to revegetate the site. Rest burned or rehabilitated areas to allow recovery or establishment of perennial plant species.

17. Carefully consider the effects of new management facilities (e.g., water developments, fences) on healthy and properly functioning rangelands prior to implementation.

18. Use grazing management practices, where feasible, for wildfire control and to reduce the spread of targeted undesirable plants (e.g., cheatgrass, medusa head, wild rye, and noxious weeds) while enhancing vigor and abundance of desirable native or seeded species.

19. Employ grazing management practices that promote natural forest regeneration and protect reforestation projects until the Idaho Forest Practices Act requirements for timber stand replacement are met.

20. Design management fences to minimize adverse impacts, such as habitat fragmentation, to maintain habitat integrity and connectivity for native plants and animals.

II. ALLOTMENT BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

When the Monument was expanded in 2000, some portions of new lava included in allotment boundaries were transferred to the NPS. Since federal regulations do not authorize livestock grazing on NPS lands, the affected allotment boundaries would be revised to exclude these portions of lava. These areas consist primarily of exposed lava flows, which are mostly devoid of available forage and/or are inaccessible to livestock; therefore, prohibiting grazing in these areas would have little to no impact on the livestock industry. There would be no change in forage allocation or reduction in these affected allotments, and no boundary fences or border would be built.

Table F-1 and Figure F-1 (A through G) show the revised allotment acres and boundaries. The map legends show affected allotments, which are the allotments within the Monument that are impacted with the adjustments from BLM- to NPS-administered land. Affected area represents the area of land that was previously BLM and is now administered by NPS.

Table F-1
Revised Allotment Acres

Allotment	Total Acres	NPS Acres Removed from Allotment	Adjusted Allotment Total Acres
Craters	10,800	8,600	2,200
Blizzard Mountain	4,900	1,400	3,500
Big Desert	236,200	200	236,000
Rudeen	15,600	600	15,000
Minidoka	100,800	1,000	99,800
Schodde	22,000	900	21,100
Crater	4,200	1,700	2,500
Lava Lake	15,500	1,000	14,500
Timber Butte	8,700	800	7,900

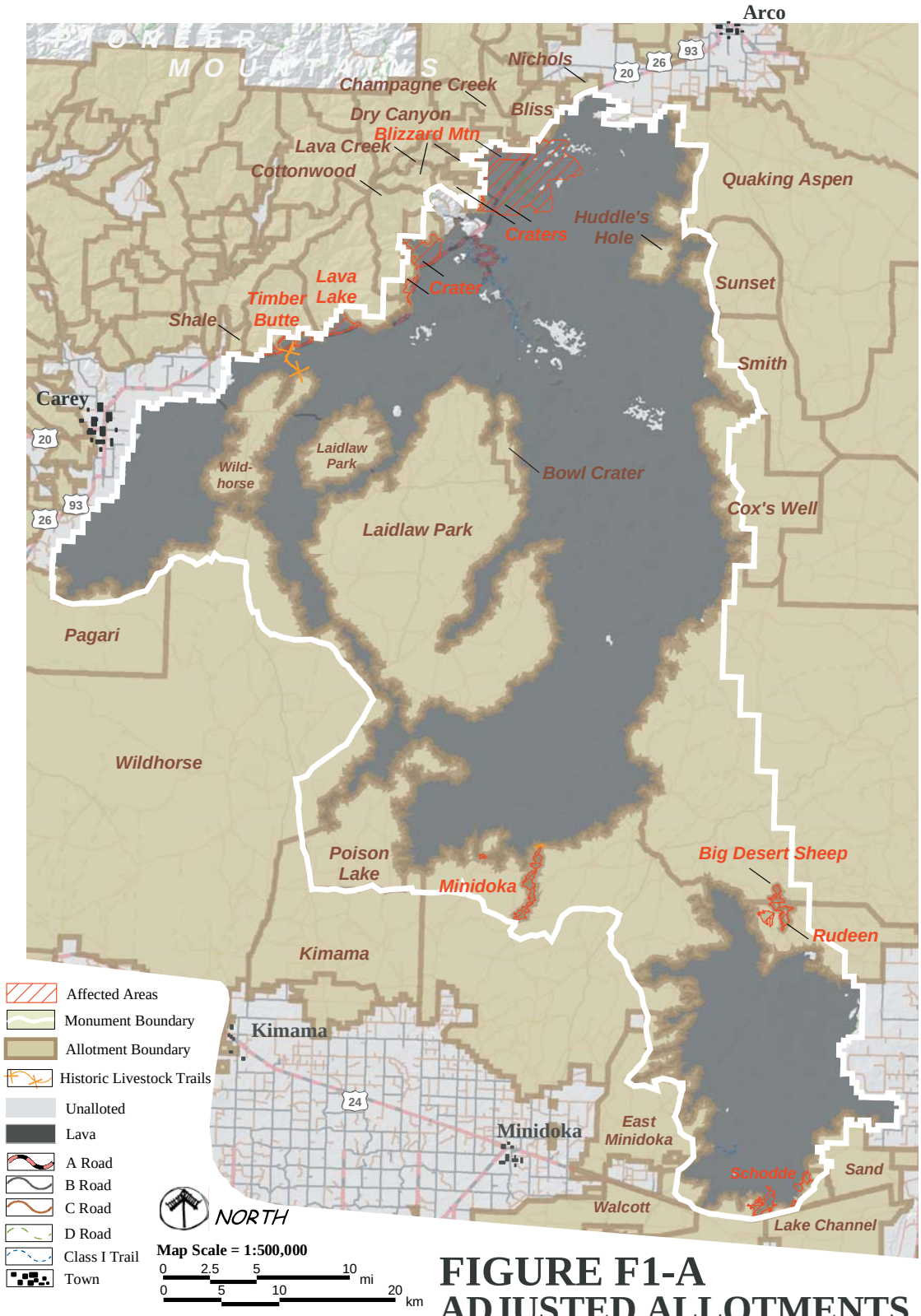
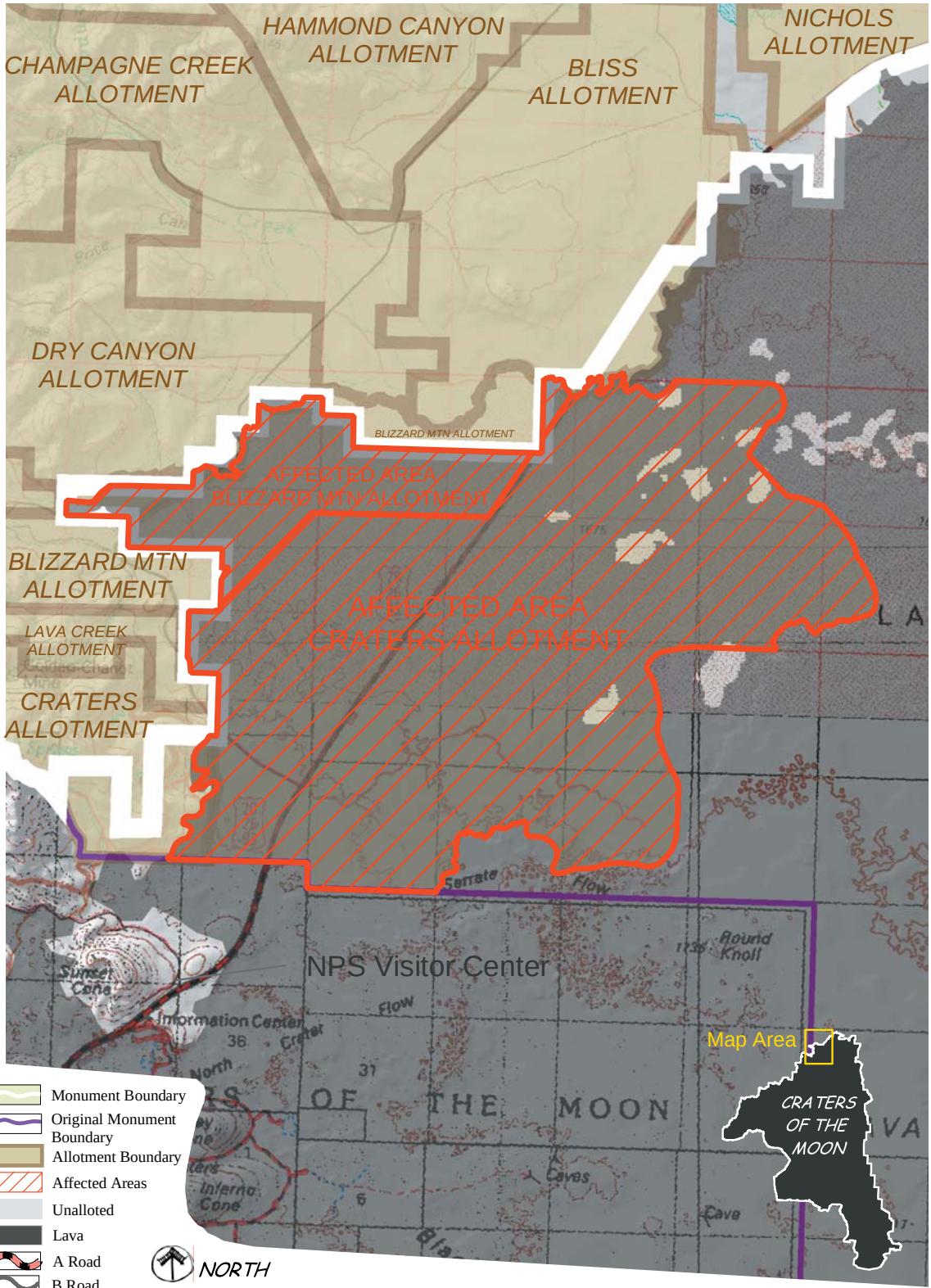


FIGURE F1-A
ADJUSTED ALLOTMENTS

Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve

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

Only those allotments which are either inside or immediately adjacent to the Monument have been labeled here. No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management or National Park Service for use of the data for purposes not intended by these agencies.

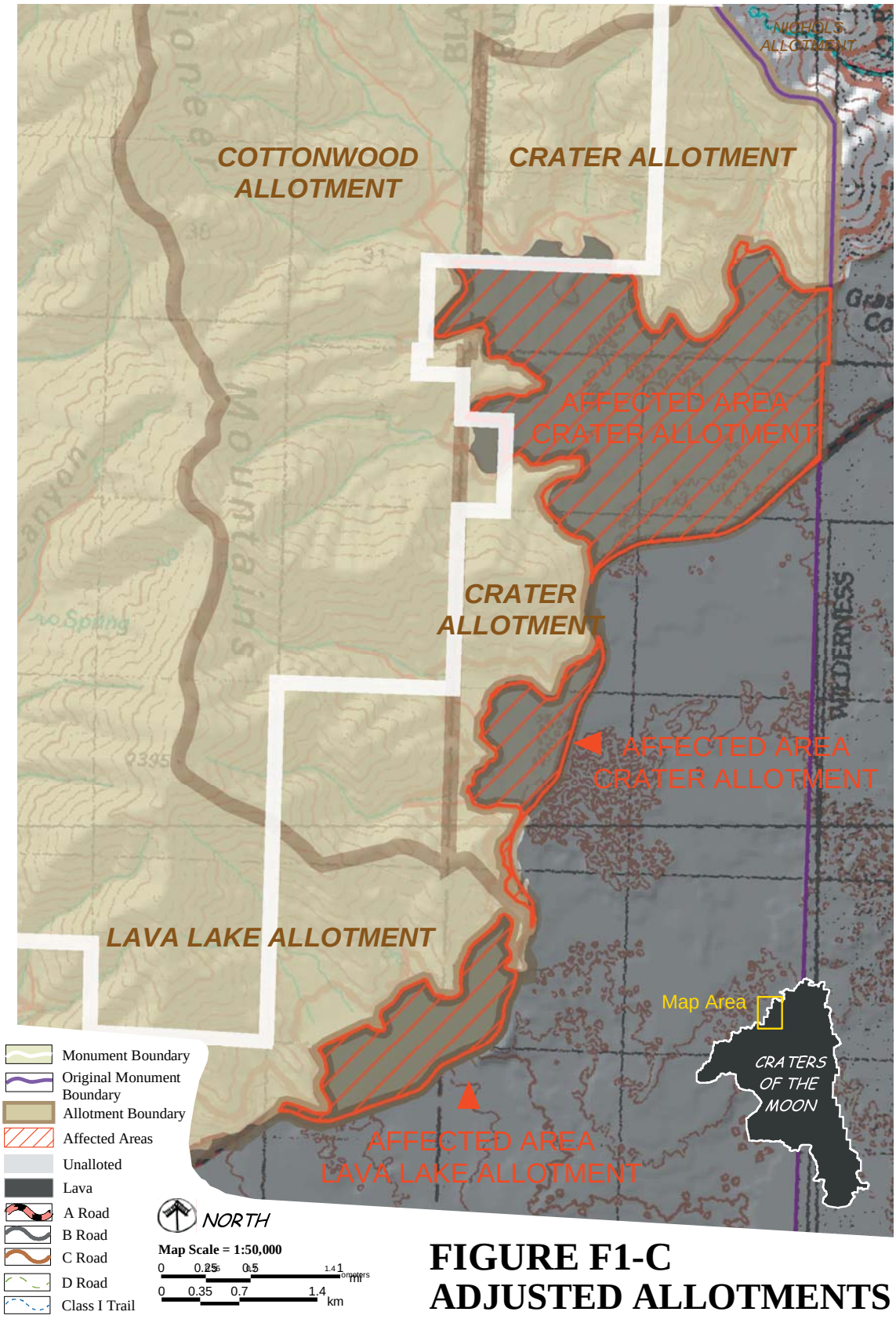


No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management or National Park Service for use of the data for purposes not intended by these agencies.

FIGURE F1-B
ADJUSTED ALLOTMENTS

Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve

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

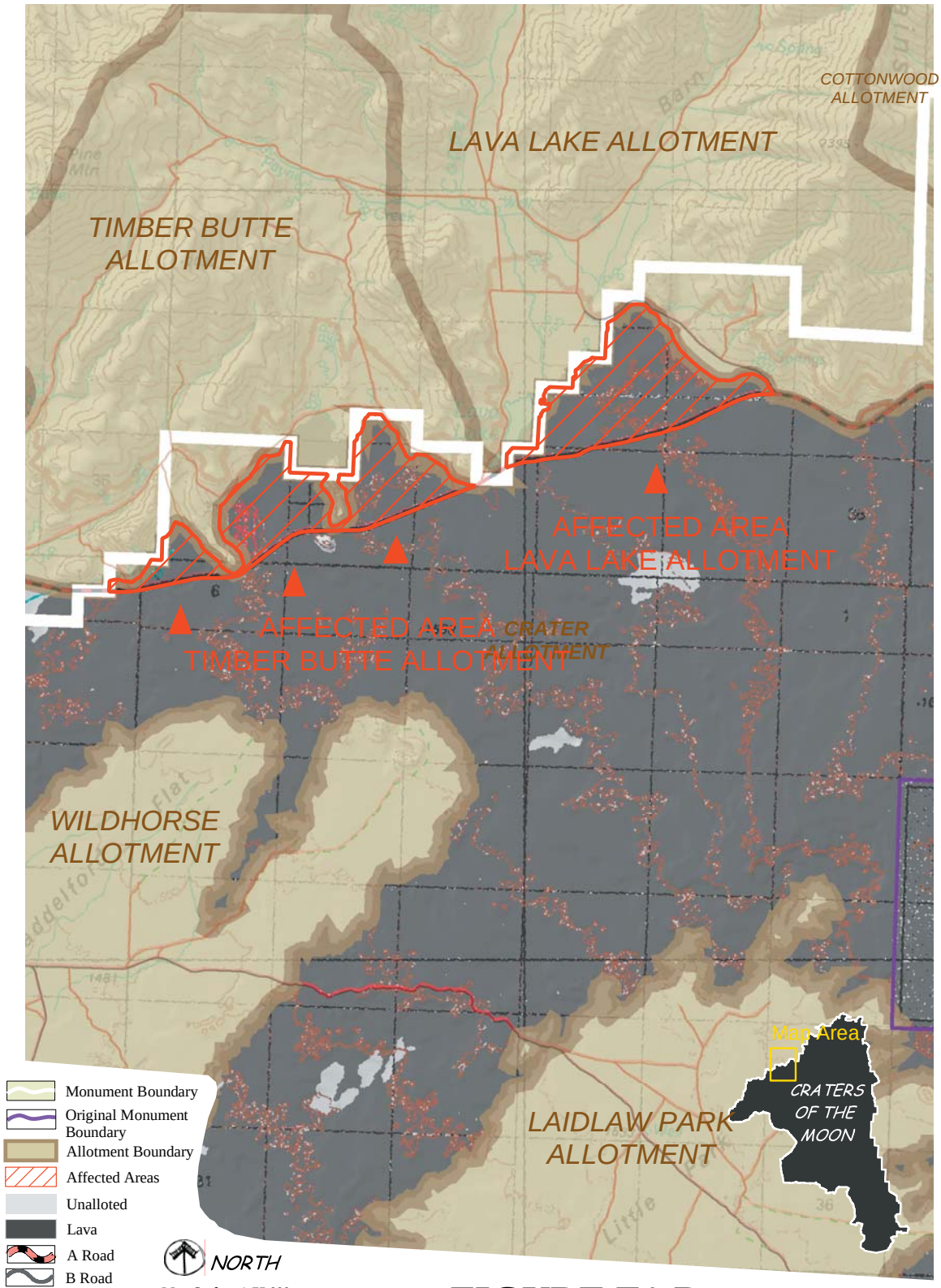


No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management or National Park Service for use of the data for purposes not intended by these agencies.

FIGURE F1-C
ADJUSTED ALLOTMENTS

Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve

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

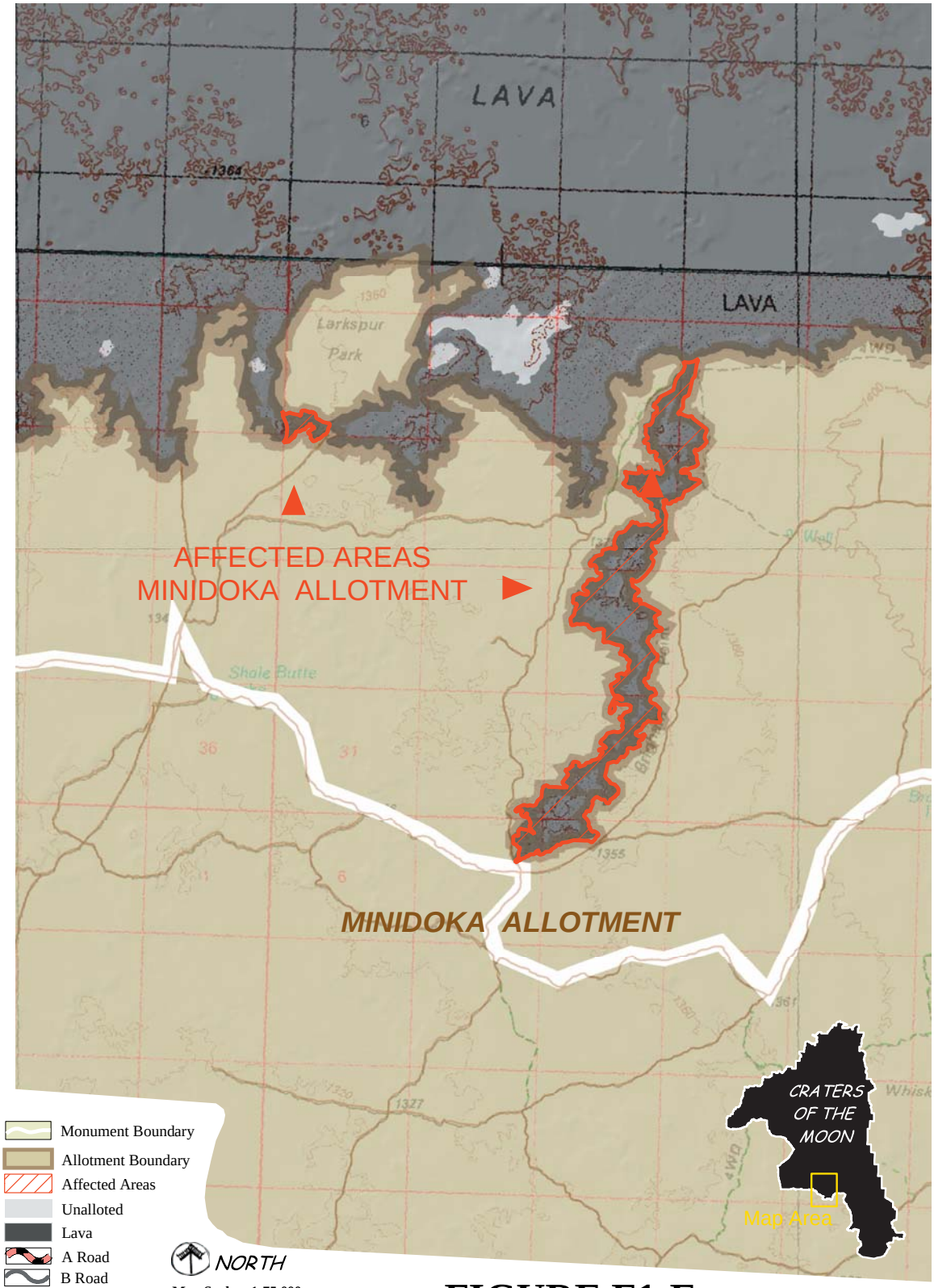


No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management or National Park Service for use of the data for purposes not intended by these agencies.

FIGURE F1-D
ADJUSTED ALLOTMENTS

Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve

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

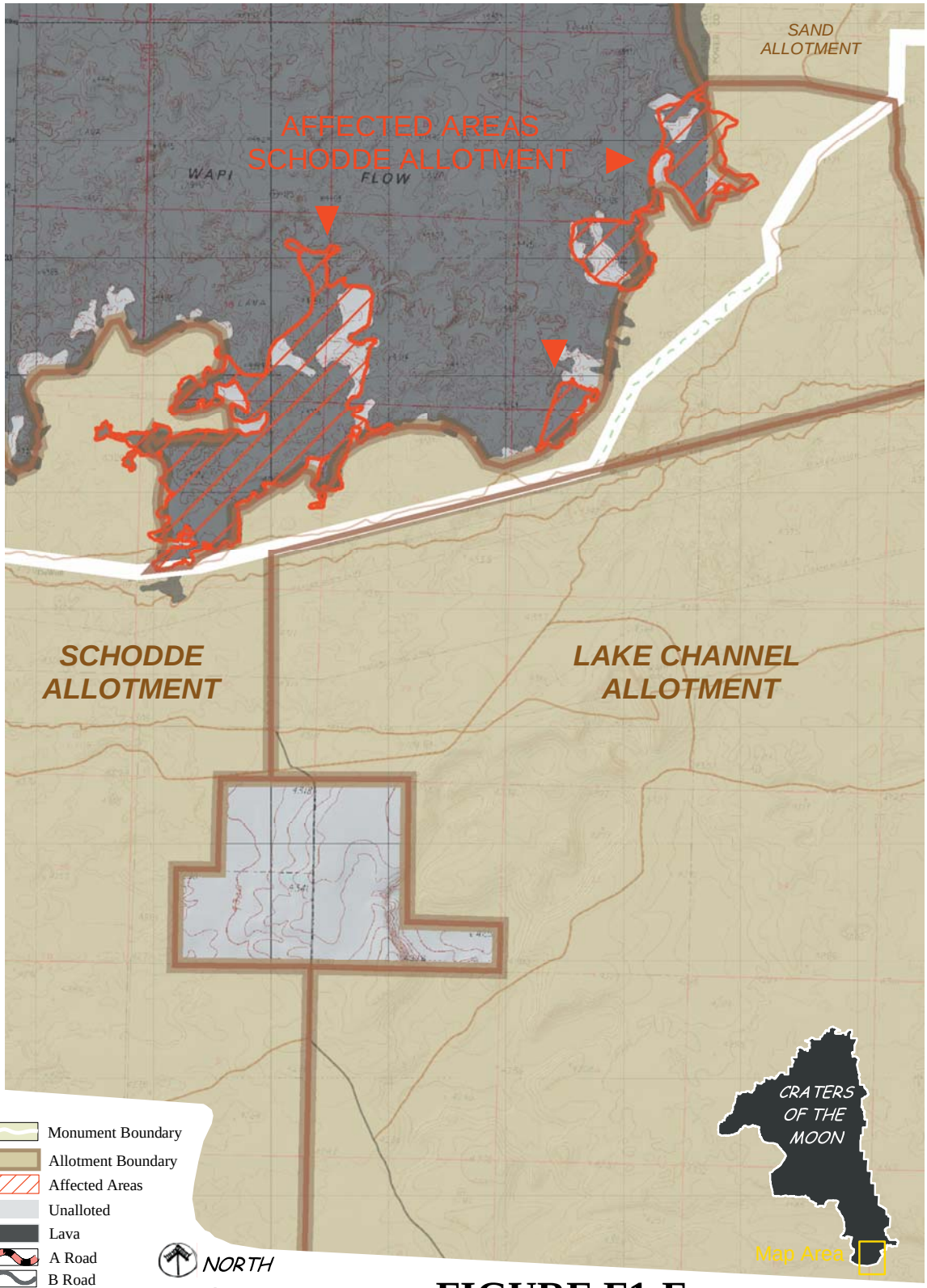


No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management or National Park Service for use of the data for purposes not intended by these agencies.

FIGURE F1-E
ADJUSTED ALLOTMENTS

Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve

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

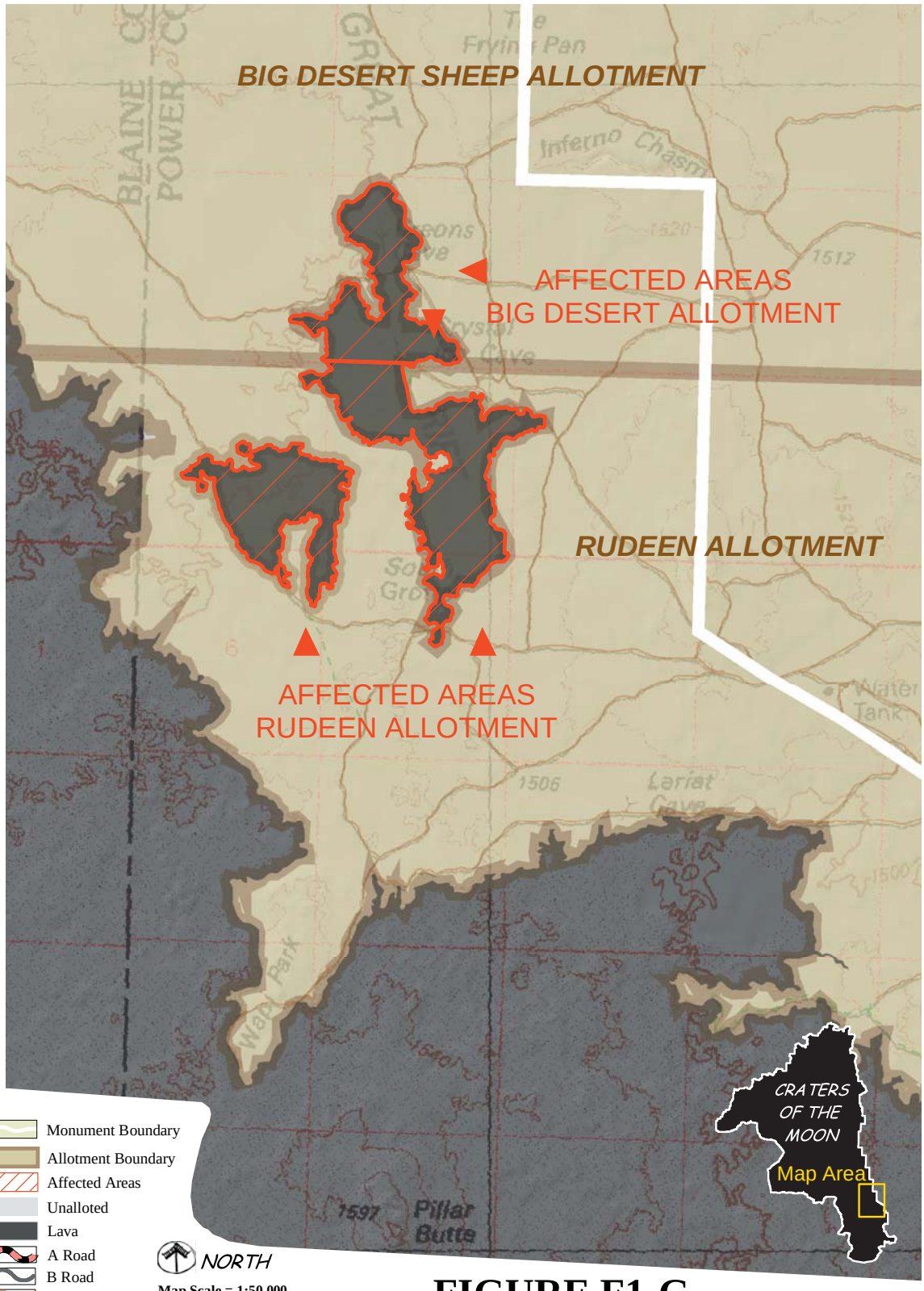


No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management or National Park Service for use of the data for purposes not intended by these agencies.

FIGURE F1-F
ADJUSTED ALLOTMENTS

Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve

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



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management or National Park Service for use of the data for purposes not intended by these agencies.

FIGURE F1-G
ADJUSTED ALLOTMENTS

Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve

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

III. LIVESTOCK ADMINISTRATION ADJUSTMENTS

In this plan, there is no change in AUM preference. Adjustments to stocking rates, if needed, would be addressed during the standards and guidelines process, or similar NEPA-compliant decisions. The standards and guidelines process would be used to accurately address the specific needs of each allotment.

Any changes in livestock management and AUM allocations (a grazing increase or decrease) would conform to the grazing regulations (43 CFR 4130) and this land use plan. Monitoring, field observations, ecological site inventories, or other BLM acceptable data must support management changes.

If grazing preference is reduced through relinquishment, which could occur when a permittee voluntarily gives up all or part of their preference, or through cancellation, then that preference may be used to provide management flexibility to conduct vegetation treatments, rehabilitation or other natural resource management actions. The preference may also be allocated to a different permittee in that Allotment. In addition, the pasture or allotment that held the reduced grazing preference may be combined with an existing allotment/pasture to allow additional management flexibility. BLM may reduce grazing use if that would facilitate progress toward meeting land use plan objectives.

Proposals to reduce or increase grazing use will be analyzed and documented in a NEPA compliant grazing decision. Completely removing grazing from an area identified in this plan as "available for livestock grazing" requires NEPA analysis as well as a Land Use Plan Amendment.

The trailing of livestock from one allotment to another is a common practice in the livestock industry. Historic trail routes are still used today in many areas of the Monument. The majority of this trailing occurs along existing roads. There are two historic livestock trails in the Monument that do not follow designated roads and cross lava flows now administered by the NPS. Federal regulations and NPS policy strictly limit authorized livestock use on National Park System lands. If livestock permittees should request trailing of livestock across NPS-administered lands on either of these two trails, the NPS would consider granting a special use permit after first determining whether legal authority exists and completing an environmental analysis to assure no unacceptable impacts to the Monument's resources, values, or purposes occur. Figure F-1 shows the location of the two existing trails.

IV. ISSUING LIVESTOCK GRAZING PERMIT AND LEASE SUMMARY

The procedures for issuing livestock grazing permits and leases usually follow a logical progression. Certain steps are followed in order to issue livestock grazing permits and leases. In some instances, steps are conducted concurrently. Below is a progression of these steps:

Step 1 — Notify the permittees that their allotment(s) are being assessed and evaluated in preparation for renewing their livestock grazing permit(s)/lease(s). Appropriate state agencies, tribes, and interested publics are also notified. Provide an opportunity for all of these entities to submit data and information they feel are important to consider in the Rangeland Health Assessment and Evaluation (RHAE).

Step 2 — Field managers (FMs) assemble an interdisciplinary (ID) team to complete the Initial Allotment and Permit/Lease Review and RHAE. The ID team recommends to the field manager allotments that need additional field data. The RHAE is completed when no additional data is needed.

Step 3 — Provide opportunities for the permittees, appropriate state agencies, tribes, and interested publics to participate in the training for field data collection, analysis, and evaluation and the actual collection of field data and information.

Step 4 — When necessary, collect field data and information needed to make a determination of whether the allotment is meeting or making progress toward meeting the Idaho Standard for Rangeland Health (ISRH).

Step 5 — Complete the Rangeland Health Assessment (RHA). When Endangered Species Act (ESA) proposed and/or listed species or designated critical habitat is an issue in the allotment, the ESA Level 1 Team may be involved. FMs may elect to provide the permittees, state agencies, and interested publics an opportunity to review and provide comment on a draft RHA.

Step 6 — FM completes and signs the Evaluation and Determination at least 30 days prior to completing the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and issuing the proposed decision.

Step 7 — Send the Determination to permittees, state agencies, tribes, and interested publics.

Step 8 — Send the permittee(s) an application to renew a livestock grazing permit. Field staff works with the permittee(s) during field data gathering and the RHA to develop management proposals, and to add known issues. The permittee should be instructed to describe the grazing management they propose in order to address the issues described in the determination. BLM will offer to assist the permittee in completing the application.

Step 9 — BLM develops alternatives to be considered in the EA. The management proposed in the application for livestock grazing will be the proposed action. When the applicant's proposed management is not likely to begin making progress toward meeting the ISRH, BLM will develop

an alternative that would likely begin to make progress. The "no livestock grazing" alternative generally will not be included in the EA. Other grazing management proposals may be analyzed in detail, or they may be considered without being analyzed in detail.

Step 10 — When ESA Section 7 consultation or conferencing is required, the Level 1 team should be brought into the process when developing the alternatives, including working with the applicant. This will help ensure timely consultation.

Step 11 — Carefully prepare the Purpose and Need statement for the EA.

Step 12 — Prepare the EA.

Step 13 — When ESA Section 7 consultation or conferencing is required, prepare the Biological Assessment (BA). The preferred alternative in the EA is the proposed action in the BA. The permittee must be consulted regarding the proposed action in the BA. Therefore the analysis in the EA will provide much of the analysis in the BA. At the conclusion of the consultation, a concurrence letter or biological opinion must be incorporated into the EA.

Step 14 — A copy of the EA may be sent to the public for review and comment. The review period is generally 30 days.

Step 15 — Complete the FONSI.

Step 16 — Prepare the proposed decision with appropriate protest periods.

Step 17 — Respond to protests and prepare the final decision with the appropriate appeal procedures.

APPENDIX G

PROPOSED LAIDLAW PARK ACEC DESIGNATION

The purpose of an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation is to focus management attention on special resources located in the area. The potential ACEC designation was brought to the attention of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which then used a screening process – the ACEC Criteria Review Checklist – as an initial evaluation to determine if the nominated area met basic relevance and importance criteria for designation. The BLM considered the appropriate amount of land needed to protect the resource values reflected in the nomination. The designation of this ACEC in Laidlaw Park is proposed in Alternative C of this document (See Chapter 2, Alternative C).

The ACEC evaluation was based on guidance provided by 43 CFR 1610.7-2 and BLM Manual Section 1613, which state that potential ACECs must meet specified criteria for relevance and importance. Relevance is based on the presence of a significant

- Historic, cultural, or scenic value;
- Fish or wildlife resource or other natural system or process; or
- Natural hazard.

Upon meeting the relevance criteria, a nominated site must then have substantial significance and values that meet one or more of the "importance" criteria:

- Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.
- Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.
- Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of Federal Land and Policy Management Act (FLPMA).
- Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.
- Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.

North Laidlaw Park met the relevance criteria for scenic values, wildlife resources, and natural process or system and importance criteria for scenic values and wildlife resources. The Laidlaw Park ACEC (10,500 acres of public land) is proposed in Alternative C. However, it is uncertain that ACEC designation is needed to provide special management for the identified resources or values, because current management, regulation, and law provide sufficient protection for the values identified; therefore, ACEC designation may not be necessary. The ACEC criteria review checklist follows:

Relevance: **Does the area contain a significant historic, cultural or scenic value; fish or wildlife resource; natural process or system; or natural hazard?**	**Yes/No**
Historic: There are no recorded historical resources that contribute to the ACEC.	No
Cultural: There are no recorded cultural resources that contribute to the ACEC.	No
Scenic: Laidlaw Park is the world's largest kipuka and contains unobstructed views of the volcanic landscapes for which the Monument was established, as well as the Pioneer Mountains to the north. Because of the isolated nature of the area it provides excellent night-sky viewing. Air quality monitoring from the nearby NPS Monument headquarters indicates that the airshed is among the cleanest in the nation.	Yes
Fish or Wildlife Resource: There are no fish resources in the area. North Laidlaw Park contains one of the last remaining large contiguous blocks of low elevation sagebrush habitat found in the central Snake River Plain. The area provides critical breeding, brood rearing, and winter habitat for sage grouse and other sagebrush dependent wildlife. In addition, the area provides important seasonal habitat for pronghorn and elk and important transition range for migrating mule deer. North Laidlaw Park contains 7 active and historical leks.	Yes
Natural Process or System: The natural system in Laidlaw Park is classified as cool shrub, with communities dominated by basin big sagebrush, Wyoming big sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, and threetip sagebrush in association with bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurber's needlegrass, and Idaho fescue. Communities within the park are in a variety of seral stages, ranging from early seral grassland post-fire to early- and late-seral shrub-dominated stands. There is currently little known about the ecology of threetip sagebrush communities, which are common throughout the area. In particular, it is unknown if these communities are a long-term seral stage of a big sagebrush association, or climax communities unto themselves. Laidlaw Park has only been grazed for approximately 70 years, as compared to surrounding areas that have been grazed for over 100 years. Recent livestock use in North Laidlaw has been light due to lack of water. This area is in good to excellent ecological condition without large areas dominated by exotic species and with considerable forb diversity. Therefore the area serves as a reference site for ecologically comparable, more heavily grazed sites. North Laidlaw also contains an aspen grove at Snowdrift Crater, a plant community that is rare in this desert environment. Habitat is present for the BLM Sensitive species, Picabo milkvetch (*Astragalus oniciformis*), which is endemic to this area of the central Snake River Plain.	Yes
Natural Hazard: There are no known natural hazards within the area.	No

Importance: **Does the value, resource system, process, or hazard meet one or more of the following importance factors: (1) has more than locally significant qualities and special worth or cause for concern; (2) has qualities/circumstances making it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change; (3) is recognized as warranting protection to satisfy national priority concerns or carry out FLPMA's mandates; (4) warrants highlighting to satisfy concerns about safety and public welfare?**	**Yes/No**
Historic:	N/A
Cultural:	N/A
Scenic: The scenic qualities found within the area are unique on a national level. Bordered on the north side by the National Park Service's first federally designated Wilderness area, North Laidlaw Park offers the viewer a striking visual progression. Looking north across the vast sagebrush steppe landscape, the view from North Laidlaw Park climbs abruptly into the black austerity of the Craters of the Moon lava fields, then high into the Pioneer Mountains. To the south lies Laidlaw Butte, representing one of the most outstanding examples of a low shield volcano in the world outside of Hawaii. The shallow-angled slopes of Laidlaw Butte typify the unique volcanic character of the Snake River Plain. Snowdrift Crater is the summit caldera of another discrete shield volcano. Over one mile long and nearly a half-mile across, Snowdrift Crater is geologically comparable to Kilauea Caldera in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, offering views into the giant cinder cones and fresh multi-colored lavas of the Craters of the Moon Wilderness. In the southern part of the Crater, a rare stand of aspen offers shade to both visitors and a large herd of migrating elk. The spectacular seasonal color changes combined with the unique variety of disparate ecosystems and landforms earned published photographs in both Sunset Magazine and Sierra Club Calendars.	Yes
Fish or Wildlife Resource: There are no fish resources within the area. The area contains key habitat for sage grouse and other sagebrush steppe obligates (Terrestrial Family 11 as defined by ICBEMP). This habitat, particularly big sagebrush vegetation types, has declined substantially from historical to current on a regional level. ICBEMP identified areas such as this as being significant regionally due to this decline. The Proclamation for the expansion of the Monument highlighted the importance of the area as habitat for sagebrush steppe obligates and its protection.	Yes
Natural Process or System: North Laidlaw Park is not vulnerable to adverse change under existing management. Current fire management direction is for full fire suppression, especially for the protection of sage grouse "strongholds," which includes the entire park. Current post-fire rehabilitation policy directs the use of native species where it is appropriate.	No
Natural Hazard:	N/A

Alternative A (No Action Alternative)

The nominated Laidlaw Park ACEC would not be designated. Existing management for the area would continue to be implemented (see the appropriate resource sections in this chapter for management direction).

Alternative B

The nominated Laidlaw Park ACEC would not be designated.

Alternative C

In this alternative, 10,517 acres of public land encompassing North Laidlaw Park, north of the Turnbull Fence, would be designated as an ACEC (see Figure G-1). The following actions would be implemented to protect the high quality native vegetation, wildlife habitat, and scenic values of the area:

a) Develop standards and indicators for vegetation health that allow for natural disturbance and processes while ensuring that degradation due to invasion of invasive or noxious weeds does not occur.

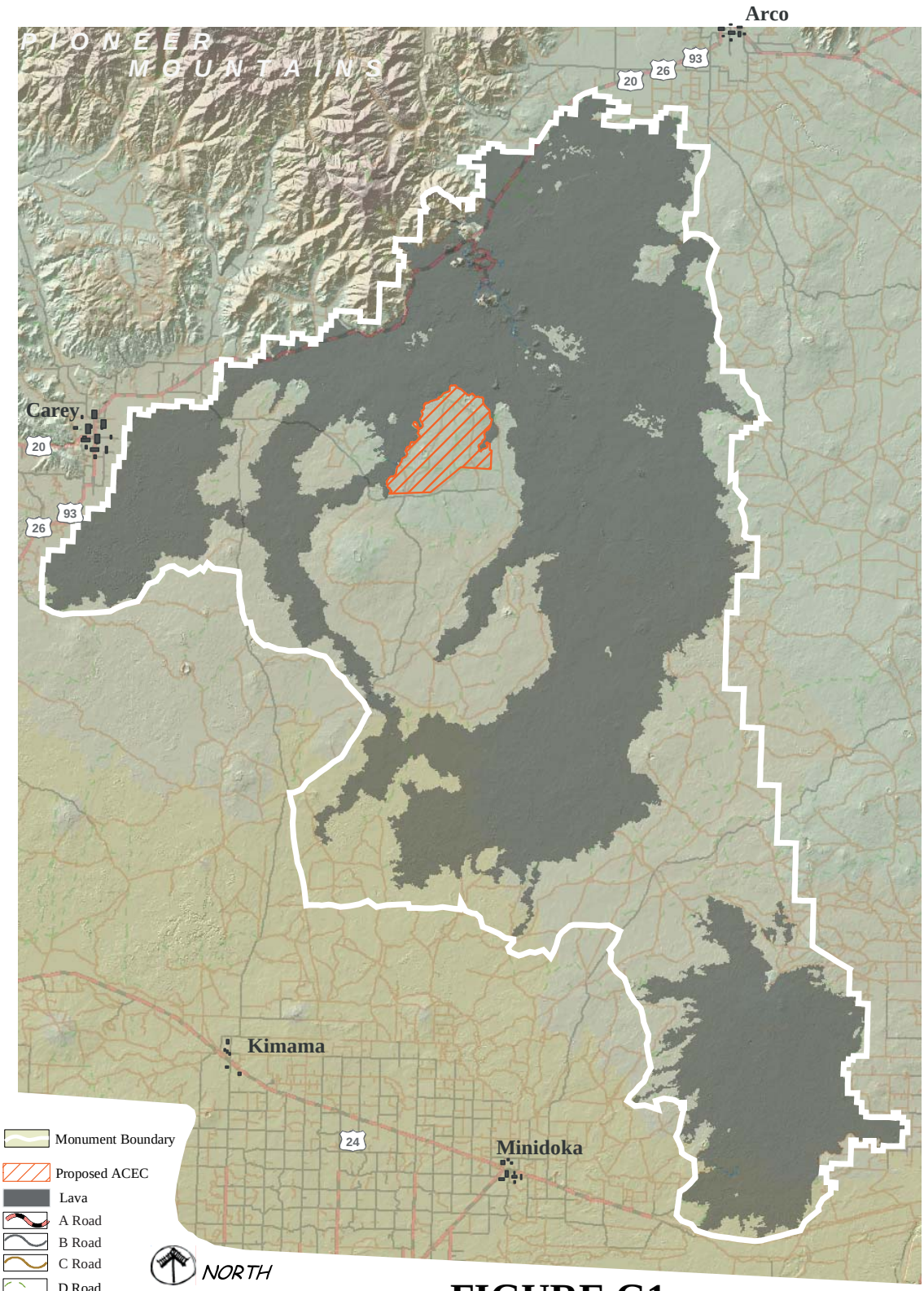
b) Develop a low-use transportation network with no new routes, trails, or signs.

c) No new development of permanent livestock watering facilities to ensure that the existing, light use of the area continues. The two existing watering facilities will be maintained, but not expanded. Water hauling to temporary sites will remain at the current level.

d) Use off-site interpretive resources (e.g., brochures and displays in the Visitor Center) to highlight grazing management, native vegetation, and scenic qualities of the area.

Alternative D

The nominated Laidlaw Park ACEC would not be designated.



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management or National Park Service for use of the data for purposes not intended by these agencies.

FIGURE G1

PROPOSED LAIDLAW PARK ACEC

Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve

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

APPENDIX H

RECREATION STATISTICS — CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL MONUMENT, 1999-2002

Month	Year	Recreation Visits	Total Visits	Tent Campers	RV Campers	Total RV/Tent Campers	Back-country Campers	Misc. Campers	Total Overnight Stays
January	1999	2,691	2,691	0	0	0	0	0	0
February	1999	2,040	2,040	0	0	0	0	0	0
March	1999	6,495	6,495	0	0	0	0	0	0
April	1999	6,900	6,900	0	19	19	0	0	19
May	1999	21,926	21,926	558	896	1,454	25	20	1,499
June	1999	35,507	35,507	1,206	2,003	3,209	41	270	3,520
July	1999	46,843	46,843	1,590	1,779	3,369	19	180	3,568
August	1999	42,100	42,100	1,482	1,724	3,206	15	219	3,440
September	1999	29,442	29,442	905	1,643	2,548	20	0	2,568
October	1999	13,848	13,848	254	391	645	1	0	646
November	1999	5,860	5,860	47	62	109	0	0	109
December	1999	1,915	1,915	0	0	0	0	0	0
January	2000	1,431	1,431	0	0	0	0	0	0
February	2000	1,719	1,719	0	0	0	4	0	4
March	2000	5,065	5,065	0	0	0	6	0	6
April	2000	9,131	9,131	152	198	350	36	0	386
May	2000	20,574	20,574	555	952	1,507	32	60	1,599
June	2000	59,573	59,573	1,234	1,547	2,781	18	270	3,069
July	2000	39,358	39,358	1,435	1,339	2,774	8	120	2,902
August	2000	29,013	29,013	1,104	1,020	2,124	12	120	2,256
September	2000	26,271	26,271	608	862	1,470	8	0	1,478
October	2000	14,262	14,262	254	322	576	19	0	595
November	2000	3,475	3,475	19	31	50	0	0	50
December	2000	1,770	1,770	3	6	9	0	0	9
January	2001	2,368	2,368	0	0	0	0	0	0
February	2001	1,290	1,290	0	0	0	0	0	0
March	2001	5,726	5,726	0	0	0	1	0	1
April	2001	7,660	7,660	121	81	202	8	0	210
May	2001	21,338	21,338	490	725	1,215	38	270	1,523
June	2001	30,394	30,394	1,110	1,451	2,561	37	240	2,838
July	2001	40,769	40,769	992	1,026	2,018	12	180	2,210
August	2001	33,133	33,133	1,215	1,141	2,356	10	0	2,366
September	2001	24,808	24,808	840	1,150	1,990	11	0	2,001
October	2001	13,161	13,161	177	239	416	16	0	432
November	2001	4,991	4,991	71	28	99	12	0	111
December	2001	161	161	3	0	3	0	0	3
January	2002	1,897	1,897	0	0	0	0	0	0
February	2002	1,141	1,141	0	0	0	0	0	0
March	2002	4,495	4,495	0	0	0	0	0	0
April	2002	6,181	6,181	90	62	152	2	0	154
May	2002	20,968	20,968	496	741	1,237	20	0	1,257
June	2002	30,346	30,346	1,073	1,547	2,620	24	90	2,734
July	2002	37,447	37,447	1,308	1,265	2,573	8	210	2,791
August	2002	36,173	36,173	1,538	1,460	2,998	16	90	3,104
September	2002	25,833	25,833	756	1,237	1,993	9	90	2,092
October	2002	13,103	13,103	220	279	499	13	0	512
November	2002	3,565	3,565	6	0	6	0	0	6
December	2002	2,424	2,424	0	0	0	2	0	2
TOTALS		796,581	796,581	21,912	27,226	49,138	503	2,429	52,070