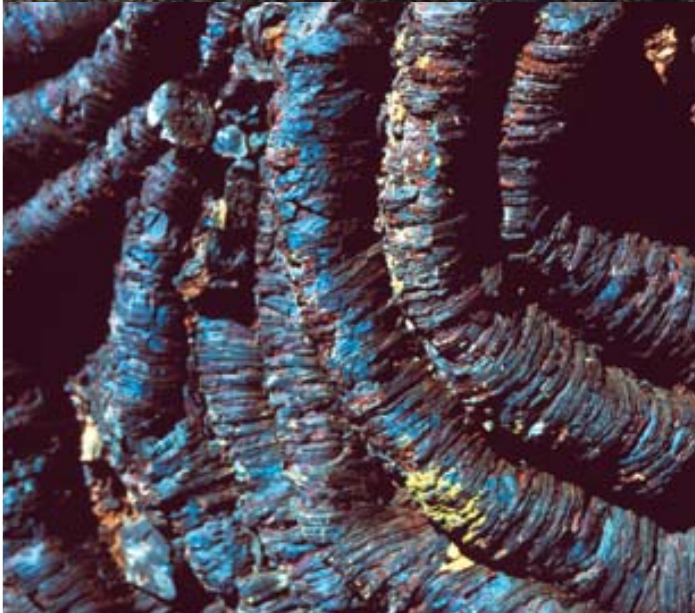


Chapter 2

Alternatives, Including the Preferred Alternative



Previous page, clockwise, from top left
A'a and cinders
Lava flow
Cave entrance
Ropy pahoehoe

CHAPTER 2

ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

OVERVIEW OF ALTERNATIVES

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Park Service (NPS) developed management alternatives for Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve (Monument) using public responses to newsletters and public meetings, as well as ideas from staffs of both agencies. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations and BLM and NPS resource management planning regulations require the formulation of a reasonable range of alternatives that seek to address identified planning issues and management concerns. Each alternative must be evaluated to ensure that it would be consistent with the area's purpose and significance; the mission goals for the Monument; and current laws, regulations, and policy.

The four management alternatives developed for the Monument are detailed in this section, including:

- Alternative A – No Action Alternative (required by NEPA) – retains current management of the Monument
- Alternative B – Places emphasis on a broad array of visitor experiences within the Monument
- Alternative C – Places emphasis on retention and enhancement of the Monument's primitive character
- Alternative D (Preferred Alternative) – Places emphasis on aggressive restoration of sagebrush steppe communities

Each alternative has a somewhat different concept, which is primarily defined in terms of area allocations into different management zones. Each alternative also varies somewhat in its desired future conditions and management prescriptions for various resource topics. All alternatives afford the high degree of protection for Monument resources required by Proclamation 7373.

This chapter first contains a description of the four management zones that are apportioned differently in each of the alternatives. These are:

- Frontcountry Zone
- Passage Zone
- Primitive Zone
- Pristine Zone

Next, there is a discussion of "Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives," organized by resource topic. This management guidance includes desired future conditions and management actions for each resource. Desired future condition statements describe the preferred long-term condition for

specific resources. Future decisions and actions by management would be judged by whether they further progress towards these desired conditions.

Management actions describe specific activities that help to achieve the desired future conditions.

Following the summary of Management Guidance Common to All, each alternative is described, with emphasis on the concepts behind the alternative, management zone allocation, and management guidance for those topics that vary from alternative to alternative. Table 7, at the end of this chapter, contains a summary of the alternatives, with emphasis on the key features described below and those aspects that differentiate the alternatives from one another.

DESCRIPTION OF MANAGEMENT ZONES

Four management zones were developed for use in this plan to guide future management actions within the Monument: Frontcountry, Passage, Primitive, and Pristine. These management zones respond to the wide range of preferences expressed by the public. Different views were expressed about what sort of visitor experiences should be available and what facilities and accommodations should be provided within the Monument. While a different emphasis would be given to various zoned portions of the Monument, the intent is to always be consistent with the purposes for which the Monument was established and with the mission goals identified in the Introduction to this document.

Zones are tools that help guide decision-making on visitor uses, facility development, and other uses. Management zones do not address natural and cultural resource management. Certain limitations and developments in some areas may better provide for one user-type than another. Management zoning would be established throughout the planning area to provide and maintain a range of recreational opportunities for different user-types with varying interests and abilities. Each separate zone has distinct settings to be provided and maintained. Physical settings consider the degree of naturalness and amount and type of facilities, as well as proximity to roads. Social settings consider the number of contacts with other people, the size of groups, and evidence of other users. Managerial settings consider the amount of visitor management used to achieve desired social and resource conditions, the compatibility of traditional land uses with the recreational environment, and the type of vehicle use allowed in the area.

All public lands within each alternative would be assigned to one of the four zones. The location and extent of the various zones vary among the alternatives in order to support the concept behind each alternative.

Table 1 summarizes the main features of each of the four management zones, and photos below illustrate the typical types of uses that would be expected in each zone.



Frontcountry Zone



Passage Zone



Primitive Zone



Pristine Zone

Examples of typical uses in each Management Zone.



Table 1
Management Zones

	FRONTCOUNTRY ZONE	PASSAGE ZONE	PRIMITIVE ZONE	PRISTINE ZONE
Basic Concept	The Frontcountry Zone would be defined by structures and grounds provided for visitor support services such as information, education, and recreation. Access would be easy and convenient, and the visitor encounter rate would be very high. High maintenance and intervention would be required to accommodate concentrated visitor use. Challenge and adventure would be less important compared to other zones.	The Passage Zone would include secondary travel routes that receive use as thoroughways and provide access to destinations. Most roads would be regularly maintained to a consistent standard. Would also contain access-oriented facilities like trailheads and dispersed campsites. Zone corridor would be 660 feet wide along roads.	The Primitive Zone would provide an undeveloped, primitive and self-directed visitor experience, while accommodating motorized and mechanized access on designated routes. Facilities would be rare and provided only where essential for resource protection.	The Pristine Zone would include mostly lava flows, designated Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas. This zone would provide an undeveloped and self-directed visitor experience, generally without motorized or mechanical access. Facilities would be virtually non-existent.
Visitor Experience	<p>High chance for encounters with people.</p> <p>Travel on paved, improved, or maintained roads.</p> <p>Developed campgrounds.</p> <p>A high level of interpretation programs; informational exhibits.</p> <p>Diverse trail system, some paved.</p> <p>Low chance for encounters with livestock or associated developments.</p> <p>High level of contact with agency staff.</p> <p>Typical visitor activities: sightseeing, driving, bicycling, walking, nature study, ranger-led programs, camping, picnicking.</p>	<p>Medium chance for encounters with people.</p> <p>Travel on roads with usually higher level of maintenance than the Primitive and Pristine zones.</p> <p>Rustic, designated campsites.</p> <p>Limited interpretation, wayside exhibits.</p> <p>Multiuse, maintained, and designated trails.</p> <p>High chance for encounters with livestock or associated developments.</p> <p>Low to moderate level of contact with agency staff.</p> <p>Typical visitor activities would be mostly self-directed: driving, sightseeing, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, dispersed camping.</p>	<p>Low chance for encounters with people.</p> <p>Travel on low-standard roads with challenging driving.</p> <p>No developed campsites; dispersed primitive camping.</p> <p>Minimal on-site interpretation.</p> <p>Low-standard multiuse trails with little or no maintenance.</p> <p>Medium chance for encounters with livestock or associated developments.</p> <p>Very low level of contact with agency staff.</p> <p>Typical visitor activities would require self-sufficiency: hiking, hunting, horseback riding, mountain biking, remote camping, driving on unimproved roads.</p>	<p>High chance for solitude.</p> <p>Travel involves challenging access and no roads.</p> <p>No developed campsites; dispersed primitive camping.</p> <p>No on-site interpretation.</p> <p>Very few trails.</p> <p>Low chance for encounters with livestock or associated developments.</p> <p>Essentially no contact with agency staff.</p> <p>Typical visitor activities would require self-sufficiency and involve challenge, risk, and adventure: dispersed camping, backpacking, nature study, and hunting.</p>
Access and Kinds of Development	<p>Paved roads and high-standard gravel roads.</p> <p>Hardened and maintained pedestrian trails.</p> <p>Frequent signs for directions, safety, and interpretation.</p> <p>Offices, utilities, maintenance facilities, storage areas, visitor center, employee housing, and restrooms.</p> <p>Livestock developments unlikely.</p>	<p>Roads would be regularly maintained to allow car, SUV, light truck passage.</p> <p>Trailheads; maintained motorized and non-motorized trails.</p> <p>Signs for directions, safety, resource protection, and interpretation.</p> <p>Minimal administrative structures, vault toilets.</p> <p>Livestock developments would be common, including fences, corrals, troughs, reservoirs, and sheep bed grounds.</p>	<p>Two-track dirt roads, accessible seasonally only with high-clearance vehicles and OHVs.</p> <p>Low standard multiuse trails.</p> <p>Minimal signs for visitor safety and resource protection only.</p> <p>No buildings.</p> <p>Some livestock developments.</p>	<p>No roads.</p> <p>Very few trails; no motorized trails.</p> <p>Very few signs.</p> <p>No buildings.</p> <p>Primarily temporary developments associated with livestock trailing.</p>

MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

The following sections describe the management guidance that would be applicable to all four alternatives. The actions described here would be implemented regardless of which alternative is ultimately selected. This section compiles common direction in one place so that the reader can focus on the actual differences among alternatives. Technical terms used here are defined in the Glossary or are explained more fully in Chapter 3.

Laws, regulations, and policies drive a large portion of BLM and NPS work (see Planning Criteria,

Appendix B). The management guidance described in this section includes many decisions, which are required in a land use plan, and also brings forward relevant direction from existing land use plans. Agencies frequently do not have much latitude to vary proposed management across alternatives and still comply with laws, regulations, and policy. For example, at the Monument, approximately 70 percent of the planning area is designated as Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas. Existing designations like wilderness constrain the type of actions the agencies can propose in this planning effort.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural Resources — General

Desired Future Conditions:

- Resource inventories and surveys documenting the condition and extent of natural resources (including geologic features) and processes, kipukas, and sensitive species are given sufficient emphasis to enable completion during the life of the plan.
- Monitoring programs are developed and implemented to track changes in the condition of key resources serving as “vital signs” of ecosystem health or to fulfill other purposes of enabling proclamations and laws.

Management Actions:

- Resource inventories, surveys, and monitoring programs would be provided for and implemented.
- ☐ Information gained would be disseminated to the public and used in management decisions.
- ☐ Proactive management activities would be undertaken to mitigate potential effects of public use.

Geological Resources

Desired Future Conditions:

- Natural processes remain the dominant agents of change to geologic resources within the Primitive and Pristine zones.
- Resource inventories and surveys that document the condition and extent of geologic features (including caves and paleontological resources) and also the geologic processes are sufficiently completed to provide scientifically defensible management decisions.
- Unique or representative geologic features within Frontcountry and Passage zones are identified, documented, and have protective strategies implemented to minimize any adverse effects from improved access to the areas.
- Knowledge and understanding of the geologic resources and processes are sufficient to interpret the interrelationships between the geology and biotic communities.
- Geologic knowledge and understanding are effectively shared with the public in order to stimulate appreciation and protection of the geologic resources.

Management Actions:

- ☐ Geologic features, including caves determined not to be significant according to the Federal Cave Resources and Protection Act (FCRPA), could be modified to facilitate recreational access within Frontcountry and Passage zones. A cave management plan would be developed to meet FCRPA requirements.
- Steps would be taken to protect geological features from damage presently occurring as a result of unrestricted public access and/or poorly designed or constructed public facilities.
- Prior to authorizing surface-disturbing activities, areas would be surveyed for unique, rare, or special geologic resources including fossils.
- Threats to unique or outstanding examples of geologic features, including paleontological and cave resources, would be identified and mitigated as appropriate.



Soils

Desired Future Conditions:

- Soils are stable and functional. The amount of bare mineral soil and cover of perennial vegetation, litter, and biological soil crust are within 10 percent of that expected for the ecological site.

Management Actions:

- Soils would be protected from accelerated or unnatural erosion from ground disturbing activities. For example, post-fire stabilization efforts would protect erosion-prone soils through natural and assisted revegetation.
- The potential for, or presence, extent, and condition of, biological soil crusts would be investigated to provide specific management guidance.
- Biological soil crusts would be considered in management decisions where appropriate.

Vegetation, Including Special Status Species, and Fire Management

Desired Future Conditions:

- Native plant communities sustain biodiversity and provide habitat for native wildlife.
- There is no net loss of sagebrush steppe communities over the life of the plan.
- Woodland communities (e.g., limber pine, aspen, and juniper) are maintained as healthy mixed-age communities within their natural range and distribution.
- Natural ecological processes are the dominant factor in determining the composition and distribution of plant communities in the Monument and wilderness areas.
- The areas dominated by invasive annual species (cheatgrass and other similar plants) are minimized.
- All plant communities are in or making progress towards Fire Condition Class (FCC) 1 (see Chapter 3).
- Preventing or limiting the spread of noxious weeds using Integrated Weed Management perpetuates the natural condition and biodiversity of the planning area.
- Kipukas in the Pristine Zone are free of noxious weeds.
- Sustainable forage is available for livestock and wildlife.
- Special status species (those listed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS], BLM, and/or the Idaho Department of Fish and Game [IDFG]) remain at viable population levels.

Management Actions:

- Wildland fire would be suppressed to protect life and property, recent rehabilitation and restoration projects, and the Little Cottonwood Creek Watershed.
- Existing sagebrush steppe communities would be protected to prevent loss of shrub cover and managed to promote a diverse, desirable grass, and forb understory.
- Annual grasslands and highly degraded sagebrush steppe communities would be restored to achieve a mosaic of shrubs, forbs, and grasses capable of sustaining native animal populations.
- In the event of wildland fire, burned areas would be rehabilitated when necessary to restore the appropriate mosaic of sagebrush species and subspecies, along with a diverse perennial understory, and suppression of invasive and noxious weeds.
- National and Idaho state habitat guidelines for sage grouse and sagebrush steppe obligates developed by interagency working groups regarding composition and structure of sagebrush habitats on a landscape scale would be adopted to guide sagebrush steppe management.
- Only certified weed free hay, straw, and mulch would be permitted within the Monument.
- Use of native plants would be emphasized in rehabilitation and restoration projects, and only native plants would be used for rehabilitation or restoration projects within the Pristine Zone.
- Integrated Weed Management principles would be used to:
 - Detect and eradicate all new infestations of noxious weeds;
 - Control existing infestations; and
 - Prevent the establishment and spread of weeds within and adjacent to the planning area.
- Weed infestations in wilderness areas would be controlled by methods consistent with minimum tool requirements and Integrated Weed Management principles, including prevention of disturbance activities; use of cultural and mechanical methods to control or physically remove noxious weeds; and application of herbicides and possibly biological controls.
- BLM and NPS would develop a joint fire management implementation plan for the Monument based on the Upper Snake River District Fire Management Direction Amendments (FMDAs) (USDI 2004).
- The cooperative arrangement between BLM and NPS related to fire management would continue, including cooperative agreements with local fire departments and rural fire districts.

Vegetation, Including Special Status Species, and Fire Management (cont.)

- All special status species in the Monument would be inventoried with monitoring plans established, particularly when and where adverse impacts may occur.
- Actions and stipulations necessary to protect special status species and their habitats would be made part of land use authorizations (e.g., limiting fragmentation of special status species populations when considering development of road network) and fire planning.

Water Resources

Desired Future Conditions:

- Riparian areas and wetlands within the planning area are maintained, restored, or enhanced, so that they provide diverse and healthy habitat and water quality conditions for riparian and wetland obligates and other wildlife species.
- Little Cottonwood Watershed yields sufficient safe drinking water for current public and administrative uses in the visitor center complex.

Management Actions:

- No additional playas would be modified or developed.
- The agencies would work with appropriate State of Idaho authorities to obtain water resources needed for Monument purposes.

Wildlife, Including Special Status Species

Desired Future Conditions:

- Habitat within the planning area supports a diverse range of native wildlife species and gives the public high-quality opportunities for wildlife-based recreation.
- Habitat for migratory birds, including forage, water, cover, structure, and security is available within the planning area to support healthy populations of resident and migrant species.
- Special status species (those listed by USFWS, BLM, and/or the IDFG) remain at viable population levels.
- High-quality habitats for sagebrush obligate species are provided.
- Breeding and winter sage grouse habitats are conserved.

Management Actions:

- ☐ Inventory and monitoring of wildlife would identify species that are regionally or nationally important.
- ☐ Monitoring would identify declining species before they become rare.
- ☐ NPS, in consultation with the state, would designate areas within the Preserve and periods of time when no hunting would be permitted for protection of the area's resources.
- ☐ BLM would continue to coordinate with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services as provided for under existing national agreements and BLM Idaho State policy to control predators.
- ☐ On all NPS-administered lands, predator control using preemptive strategies would not be authorized except on a case-by-case basis.
- ☐ Native animal species identified as pests would be managed in accordance with the applicable BLM or NPS agency management policies depending upon the administrative area in which the pest occurs.
- ☐ All special status species in the Monument would be inventoried with monitoring plans established, particularly when and where adverse impacts may occur.
- ☐ Actions and stipulations necessary to protect special status species and their habitats would be made part of land use authorizations (e.g., limiting fragmentation of special status species populations when considering development of road network) and fire planning.

Air Quality

Desired Future Conditions:

- Air quality related values, particularly visibility, within the Class I Craters of the Moon Wilderness Area are not degraded and adverse impacts do not occur.
- Air quality parameters negatively affecting human health, visibility or biological diversity remain at or below current levels.

Management Actions:

- The agencies would work proactively with surrounding communities, land management agencies, and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to limit increases of particulate matter and sulfur dioxide, which could reduce visibility, throughout the entire Monument.



CULTURAL RESOURCES

Archaeological And Historical Resources

Desired Future Conditions:

- The extent and condition of cultural resources are documented and adverse effects are avoided.
- The agencies maintain a single, consolidated cultural resource database.
- Archaeological resources either listed in or eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are protected in an undisturbed condition unless it is determined through appropriate consultation that disturbance or natural deterioration is unavoidable.
- The qualities that contribute to the eligibility for listing or listing of prehistoric/historic structures and historic trails in the NRHP are preserved and protected in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, unless it is determined through appropriate consultation that disturbance or natural deterioration is unavoidable.

Management Actions:

- The significance of known archaeological and historic resources, structures, and landscapes would be inventoried, evaluated, and documented, in conjunction with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), for listing in the NRHP.
- Through consultation with the Idaho SHPO, areas for Section 110 cultural resource inventories would be prioritized.
- Measures such as access limitations and periodic monitoring would be identified to proactively manage and protect cultural resources, including traditional cultural properties.
- A proactive Section 110 inventory would be conducted as funding allows expanding the cultural resource database for the Monument.
- At-risk NRHP-eligible sites would be monitored for vandalism or other disturbances and protected/ stabilized as necessary.
- A comprehensive Archaeological Overview and Assessment of known and potential archaeological resources (baseline research report) within the planning area would be completed.
- A Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) that describes how specific sites would be managed, defines what areas need additional inventory, and designates potential use categories for sites would be completed for the Monument.
- Eligible properties would be monitored periodically and steps would be taken to stabilize any property found to be deteriorating and to limit access as needed.
- Projects would be planned and designed so as to avoid adversely impacting cultural resources where possible. In situations where adverse impacts could occur, BLM and NPS would consult with the Idaho SHPO and other parties, including Native American tribes, to develop alternatives to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effects.
- Activities that may affect the Goodale's Cutoff of the Oregon Trail, the NPS headquarters/Visitor Center Mission 66-era area, or other properties listed or eligible for the NRHP would be undertaken in consultation with the Idaho SHPO.

Museum Collections

Desired Future Conditions:

- Museum collections (objects, works of art, historic documents, and natural history specimens) are maintained according to NPS museum management program requirements.

Management Actions:

- Monument collections would be accessible for legitimate scientific research and educational purposes.
- All resource management records that would be directly associated with museum objects would be managed as museum property. These and other resource management records would be preserved as part of the archival and manuscript collection because they document and provide an information base for the continuing management of the Monument's resources.

AMERICAN INDIAN RIGHTS AND INTERESTS (RESOURCES, RESOURCE AND PUBLIC LAND VALUES, TREATY RIGHTS)

Desired Future Conditions:

- Traditional cultural properties of Native American tribes and access to those properties are preserved within the Monument for the use and benefit of current and future tribal members.
- For Native American tribes that have ties to this land as part of their ancestral homeland, the Monument holds meaning and value and is a place where treaty rights and religious/sacred traditions may be practiced in a manner supportive of the purpose of the Monument.

Management Actions:

- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and any other Native American tribes that have expressed an interest in traditional cultural properties within the Monument would be consulted with on a regular basis regarding the management of those properties.
- Handling of Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) materials would be addressed as a component of a Cultural Resources Management Plan.
- Should any Native American-affiliated NAGPRA materials ever be inadvertently discovered within the Monument, the agencies would follow the tribal consultation procedures outlined in the NAGPRA of 1990 regarding their treatment.
- Appropriate protection measures would be identified for places of traditional cultural importance to Native Americans to preserve the integrity and use of these areas.
- Agencies would consult with associated Native American tribes to develop and accomplish the programs of the Monument in a way that respects the beliefs, traditions, and other cultural values of the Native American tribes who have ancestral ties to Monument lands.
- Agencies would consult with associated Native American tribes prior to taking actions that would affect natural and cultural resources that are of interest and concern to them.
- Hunting, gathering, and use of certain natural resources as sacred objects for religious use would continue on the Preserve and expanded areas of the Monument. (See Chapter 3 for additional discussion.)

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

Access and Travel

Desired Future Conditions:

- There is no net increase in road mileage within the Monument.
- The road system within the planning area provides access for visitors, permittees, non-federal landowners and administrative needs without adversely affecting those resources and values the Monument was established to preserve.
- The agencies coordinate road management inside and outside of the Monument in a cooperative fashion with local government agencies so that the transportation system is managed in a comprehensive, logical manner.
- The agencies also work cooperatively with local government agencies to provide appropriate access to the Monument and private land within the Monument.

Management Actions:

- The agencies would prepare an implementation-level Comprehensive Travel Management Plan, showing road and trail classifications, standards and restrictions.
- The agencies would prepare a travel map showing allowable uses, road and trail classifications, and standards and restrictions.
- No new motorized vehicle roads or trails would be developed or designated within the Pristine Zone.
- The agencies would close and rehabilitate all routes established in Wilderness Study Areas that were not identified in the wilderness inventory as "existing ways."
- The agencies would prepare guidelines and procedures for authorization of emergency and administrative off-road travel.
- All roads and trails within the Monument would be designated "Limited" for off-highway vehicle (OHV) use (see Glossary).
- All land within the Monument other than designated roads and trails would be designated "Closed" for OHV use.
- All authorized roads located on NPS-administered portions of the Monument and Preserve would be open only to licensed motorized vehicle travel and would be designated as "Park Roads."
- The agencies may close individual roads and trails temporarily or permanently (NPS) to protect resources on a case-by-case basis.



Livestock Grazing

Desired Future Conditions:

- Sustainable rangeland ecosystems are healthy; public rangelands are maintained or restored to meet Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health.
- Livestock forage is provided on a sustainable basis for the life of the plan, consistent with other resource objectives and with public land use allocations.
- Livestock developments are consistent with the desired future conditions for natural, cultural, and visual resources.

Management Actions:

- ☐ Eight allotment boundaries would be altered to accurately reflect the NPS/BLM boundary. There would be no change in animal unit month (AUM) preferences or acres actually available for grazing. See Appendix F for additional details.
- ☐ BLM acres of land available for livestock use: total 284,000. BLM acres of land not available for livestock use: total 5,000. NPS acres of land not available for livestock use: total 466,000.
- ☐ Permitted livestock use: totals 36,693 AUMs. The current livestock use authorizations would be maintained until evaluations identify the need for adjustments in livestock use to meet Idaho Standards for Rangeland Health.
- ☐ Use of existing livestock developments in Primitive and Pristine zones may continue. BLM may remove developments if they are no longer serving a useful purpose or resource objectives warrant their removal. Sites would be restored.
- ☐ The Brigham Point and Paddelford Flat sheep trails across NPS land would be evaluated for future use. See Appendix F.

Facilities

Desired Future Conditions:

- Existing visitor and administrative facilities within the Frontcountry Zone associated with the original NPS Monument meet visitors' needs.
- The agencies cooperate with gateway communities in providing information and services to visitors at sites outside the Monument.
- Location of agency facilities and staffing levels promotes efficiency of operations and public needs.
- Principles of sustainable and universal design are incorporated into all facilities and operations.

Management Actions:

- ☐ The existing visitor center/administrative building would be enlarged and undergo reconstruction, as approved.
- ☐ Existing paved road system and parking areas would be modified to address safety and maintenance concerns.
- ☐ Fire stations at Carey and Kimama would include Monument information. There would be informational kiosks located along roads leading into the Monument.
- ☐ Opportunities for sharing BLM and NPS facilities and staff would be evaluated.
- ☐ Signs and wayside exhibits previously approved for visitor safety and resources protection would be installed at Kings Bowl.

Lands and Realty

Desired Future Conditions:

- Existing access to private lands is maintained, consistent with applicable laws, while minimizing environmental impacts.
- Valid existing rights are protected (see Glossary).

Management Actions:

- The agencies would pursue acquisition or exchange for private inholdings within the Monument based on initiation by willing seller.
- The agencies would pursue an exchange with Idaho Department of Lands for state lands located in and near the Monument.
- Action on applications for new discretionary land use authorizations would be guided by existing NPS and BLM policies.
- BLM would perform an inventory of all rights of way, easements, land use permits, and other authorizations in effect as of the date of the Proclamation.

Mineral Materials

Desired Future Conditions:

- Material sites (sites excavated for gravel, cinder, and other materials) are reclaimed and restored where feasible when no longer in use.

Management Actions:

- Existing authorization for material sites within the Monument would continue for the term of the authorization.
- New materials sites would not be developed except for Monument administrative purposes.
- Information would be provided on BLM areas outside the Monument where casual collection is appropriate and permitted for materials similar to those found in the Monument.
- Agencies would consult with Idaho Transportation Department on relinquishment of three right-of-way grants for material sites along U.S. Highway 93.

Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)

Desired Future Conditions:

- □ Natural conditions in Wilderness and WSA, including air quality, dark night skies and natural quiet, are substantially free of human influences.
- □ Air quality degradation and adverse impacts to air quality related values, particularly visibility, within the Class I Air Quality Craters of the Moon Wilderness Area do not occur.
- □ Future generations enjoy the enduring wilderness resources of the Craters of the Moon wilderness, including its conservation, scientific, cultural, educational, and recreational benefits.
- □ WSAs retain the wilderness values identified in the Wilderness Inventory and Study process.

Management Actions:

- NPS and BLM would develop a joint Wilderness/WSA management plan following completion of this plan.
- No additional wildlife water developments or other habitat manipulations would be undertaken to manage wildlife populations in Wilderness, WSAs, or the Preserve.
- Use of aircraft to survey and monitor wildlife populations could be continued, but flights would be scheduled to avoid high visitor use periods. Any landing of aircraft or dropping of supplies from aircraft in wilderness or WSA would be consistent with a minimum requirement and minimum tool analysis.
- Ways or travel routes within WSAs not identified during WSA inventories would be closed to motorized vehicles and rehabilitated.
- Minimum requirement analysis would precede all management activities within wilderness and WSAs.
- Should those portions of the Great Rift WSA adjacent to the original Monument be designated as wilderness, the 660-foot strip of non-wilderness between the Craters of the Moon Wilderness boundary and the original Monument boundary should be designated as Wilderness as well.
- Should Congress designate any WSA as Wilderness, then a separate Wilderness Management Plan will be prepared for that area.
- Should Congress release any WSA from WSA status, then the area would be managed under the direction of this land use plan.



VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Interpretation / Visitor Understanding

Desired Future Conditions:

- The Monument builds and maintains positive relationships with visitor user groups and educational organizations.
- The public perceives the Monument as a single entity and its management as a model of public service.
- The public understands and appreciates the area's natural and cultural resources, including its history and uses.
- The public has access to Monument information and learning opportunities, both on and off site.
- Information/orientation materials such as travel maps, safety bulletins, resource information and recreation information are conveniently available.

Management Actions:

- A Comprehensive Interpretative Plan for the Monument would be developed.
- Educational programs for schools would focus on programs on site in the original NPS-administered Monument. A number of programs (summer and winter) aimed at special users would be presented each year.
- Both agencies would coordinate services to meet the needs of permittees, visitors, students, educators, interest groups and the general public.
- Developed facilities such as the visitor center at the original NPS Monument would continue to be provided.
- Informational/orientation materials dealing with recreation, maps, safety, and resource concerns would be posted on kiosks located at all primary backcountry access points surrounding the Monument and at proposed fire stations at Carey and Kimama.
- A variety of interpretive media for on- and off-site use would continue to be developed. Interpretive programs and the maintenance of exhibits and waysides would continue.
- Monument staff would continue to promote visitor safety and resource protection.

Recreation

Desired Future Conditions:

- Opportunities are available for diverse recreation experiences, consistent with the intent of Monument proclamations and applicable laws.
- Public awareness of responsible low impact recreational use reduces or eliminates the need for restrictive management policies.
- Public awareness of area hazards, along with an attitude of self-reliance and personal safety, substantially reduces the need for restrictive management policies.
- Impacts associated with recreational uses do not adversely affect the physical and visual integrity of geologic features.
- NPS, BLM, and external partners provide the public accurate and consistent information on recreational opportunities throughout the Monument.
- The area continues to offer a range of opportunities for discovery.
- Responsible low impact recreational use allows for relatively unrestricted recreational opportunities throughout much of the Monument.
- Within the Pristine Zone, public opportunities to experience solitude, natural quiet/night sky, and views of landscapes remain substantially free of human influence.

Management Actions:

- Idaho's State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Plan (SCORTP) (2003) and the Idaho Outdoor Recreation Demand Assessment would be utilized in implementation-level planning to assist managers in understanding the recreational use patterns, trends, and recreation facilities needed for the area.
- Resources and areas most vulnerable to vandalism, theft, and/or recreation use impacts would be inventoried. *Leave No Trace* and *Tread Lightly!* programs would be promoted with staff and the public.
- Programs would promote wilderness and backcountry ethics. Information/orientation materials such as travel maps, safety bulletins, resource information and recreation information would be conveniently available.
- The agencies, in consultation with the State of Idaho, could designate areas within the Preserve and periods of time when no hunting and/or use of firearms would be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, and/or public use and enjoyment.
- Permits would be required for overnight camping in the Wilderness and/or biking or hiking in the original Monument area north of U.S. Highway 20/26/93.
- No wood fires would be permitted within the original Monument (campground sites provide grills for charcoal cooking only; wood fires permitted at group campsites).
- No hunting would be allowed in the original Monument.

Visual Resources

Desired Future Conditions:

- Existing opportunities to experience solitude, dark night sky, and views of landscapes remain substantially free of human intrusions.
- A primitive and natural visual setting is retained.
- The visual integrity of the Goodale's Cutoff historic trail corridor remains protected.
- Management activities meet or exceed adopted Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes.

Management Actions:

- BLM and NPS managers should seek the cooperation of visitors, neighbors, and local government agencies to prevent or minimize impacts and prevent the loss of western landscape vistas and natural dark conditions.

Soundscapes

Desired Future Conditions:

- Aircraft noise impacts are minimized through coordination with the Department of Defense, Federal Aviation Administration, and the Idaho Department of Aeronautics.
- Existing opportunities to experience solitude and natural quiet remain substantially free of human intrusions.

Management Actions:

- ☐ Aircraft landings associated with commercial air tours would not be authorized within the Pristine Zone.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Desired Future Conditions:

- ☐ Gateway and other nearby communities benefit economically and socially from the presence of the Monument.

Management Actions:

- ☐ An intergovernmental coordinating group would be considered to ensure consistency of this plan with other state and local plans.

RESEARCH

Desired Future Conditions:

- The findings of scientific research enhance management decisions and increase public appreciation, and understanding of Monument resources.
- The research community and the Monument staff view the Monument as a productive outdoor laboratory.

Management Actions:

- In order to maintain a complete record of research activities, research and specimen collecting permits would be required for all projects. Standard Operating Procedures for the NPS permit process would be incorporated for the entire Monument.
- ☐ Varying means, including interdisciplinary and interagency research projects would emphasize the use of the Monument as an outdoor laboratory for understanding the Great Rift ecosystem.
- BLM and NPS would facilitate the transfer of research information to the public.
- To the extent they are available, NPS and BLM facilities and staff assistance may be made available to qualified researchers and educational institutions conducting authorized studies or field classes.
- The agencies would coordinate the review and approval of research applications to confirm adherence to each agency policy, to assure compatibility with the purposes for the Monument.



ALTERNATIVE A (NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE)

ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT

The No Action Alternative (Alternative A) is required by the NEPA and provides the baseline against which to compare the other alternatives. Under this alternative, current management practices would continue as funding allows. Existing visitor facilities would be maintained to support current activities.

Following the expansion of the Monument, the agencies were directed to follow the directives of Proclamation 7373 and the Interim Management Guidelines issued pursuant to the Proclamation. Alternative A (No Action Alternative) would continue the current management direction, guided by the Proclamation, and Interim Management Guidelines (see Appendix B), as well as existing laws and policy. Current direction includes the five existing land use plans that were in place prior to Proclamation 7373: the Sun Valley Management Framework Plan (1981), the Monument Resource Management Plan (1985), the Big Desert Management Framework Plan (1981), the Craters of the Moon General Management Plan-NPS (1992), and the Big Lost Management Framework Plan (1983).

The key components of Alternative A (No Action Alternative) are as follows:

- Depicts current management under the five existing management plans as modified by Proclamation 7373, Public Law 107-213, and the agencies' Interim Management Guidelines.
- Serves as a baseline for comparison with the other three conceptual alternatives.
- Responds to those public comments favoring keeping things as they are.

MANAGEMENT ZONES

Although the Monument is not currently zoned as depicted, management zones were established for the purposes of this planning process. Figure 4 depicts the zones based on the agencies' best understanding of where the zone boundaries would be located under Alternative A (No Action Alternative). Figure 4 also shows the zone allocations that would occur under Alternative A (No Action Alternative).

As can be seen on Figure 4, the Frontcountry Zone coincides with the high-use visitor areas: the Visitor Center/Loop Road area and U.S. Highway (US) 20/26/93 along the northern boundary of the

Monument. The Passage Zone includes a few other main access roads in Laidlaw Park, the portion of the Carey-Kimama Road that goes through the Monument, the southern portion of the Arco-Minidoka Road within the Monument, and a small area at Kings Bowl. The Passage Zone designation is appropriate for these areas since they are the primary travel and access routes within the Monument. They have some signs and facilities used by visitors who are sightseeing, hiking, or accessing camping or day-use areas and they contain many livestock-oriented facilities such as sheep bed grounds, fences, water troughs, and corrals.

The Pristine Zone under Alternative A (No Action Alternative) appropriately includes the undisturbed lava flows, while the Primitive Zone was appropriate for the remainder of the Monument and Preserve, which consists of relatively large expanses with few facilities located between the lava flows and travel corridors. The Primitive Zone includes lands currently used for dispersed recreation and primitive camping only, with mostly two-track dirt roads.

MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE FOR ALTERNATIVE A

Alternative A (No Action Alternative) would incorporate all of the "Management Guidance Common to All" previously described, plus the alternative-specific guidance on page 35.











A series of standard classifications for roads and trails was developed for the purpose of identifying and defining roads and trails at Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. These classifications are defined below and further explained in Chapter 3.

Class A Roads generally are paved and have a surface of asphalt, concrete, or similar continuous material. In addition to U.S. Highway 20/26/93, the only Class A roads are the loop drive, spur roads and associated parking areas in the original NPS Monument. Class A roads are only found in the Frontcountry Zone.

Class B Roads are improved roads constructed with a natural or aggregate surface, and they may have berms, ditches, or culverts. Regular maintenance allows passage by standard passenger and commercial vehicles such as cars, light trucks, and some heavy trucks. Within the Monument, seasonal conditions and lack of snow removal may render these roads impassable. Class B roads are found primarily in the Passage Zone.

Zone Allocation:

Frontcountry Zone	2,300 acres	(0.3% of Monument)
Passage Zone	4,800 acres	(0.6% of Monument)
Primitive Zone	291,100 acres	(38.6% of Monument)
Pristine Zone	450,200 acres	(59.6% of Monument)

-  Original Monument Boundary
-  Frontcountry
-  Passage
-  Primitive
-  Pristine
-  Private
-  A Road
-  B Road
-  C Road
-  D Road
-  Trail
-  Town

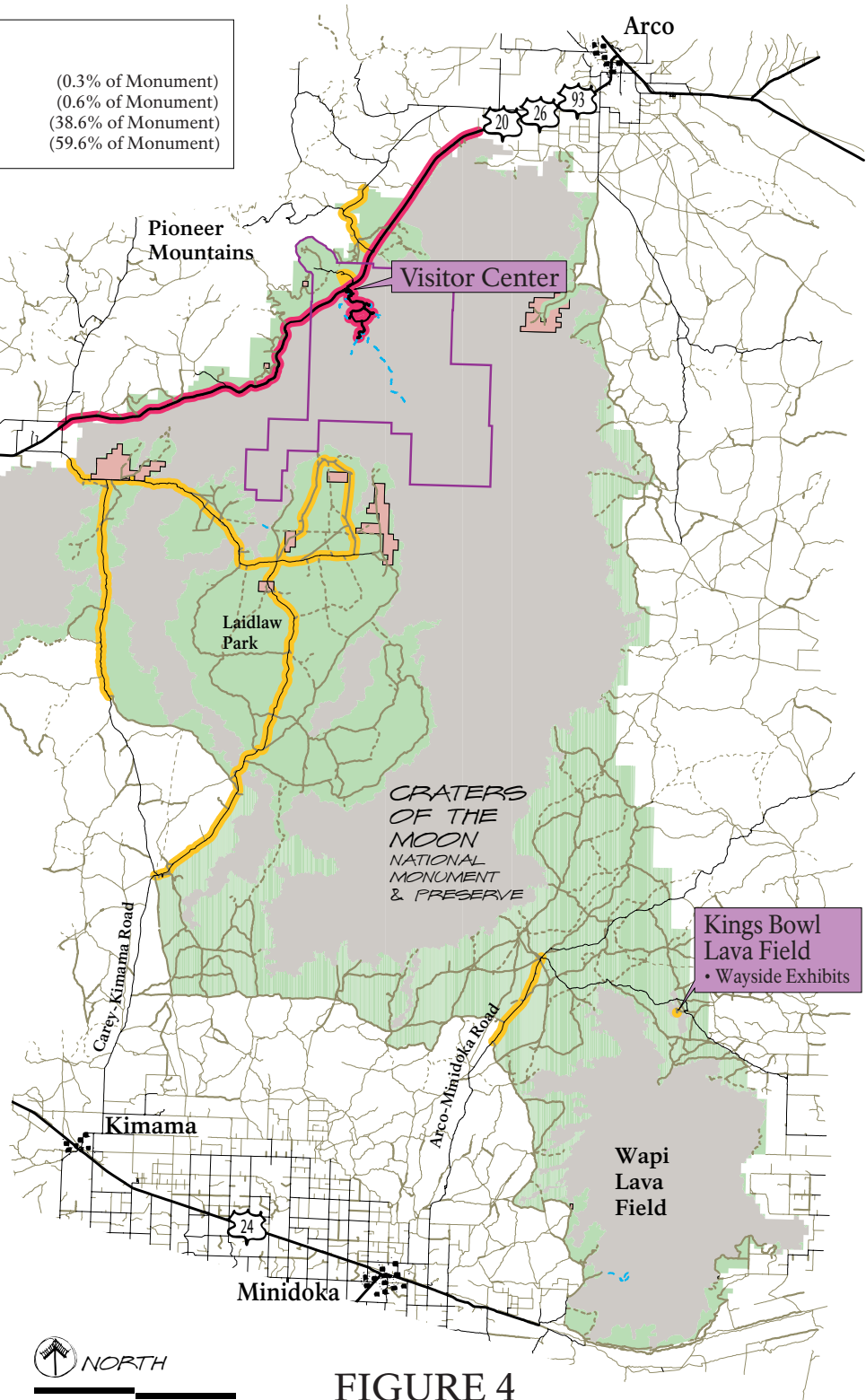
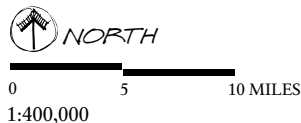


FIGURE 4 Alternative A (No Action Alternative)

Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve
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VEGETATION, INCLUDING SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES, AND FIRE MANAGEMENT

Desired Future Conditions:

- Existing and potential sagebrush steppe communities within the Monument are protected and restored, with an emphasis on key sage grouse habitat in Laidlaw Park, Little Park, and Paddelford Flat (direction from the Monument RMP).

Management Actions:

- Approximately 40,000 acres would be identified for proactive restoration and/or post-fire rehabilitation (5 percent of the entire Monument, 15 percent of BLM-administered land). This assumes a current rate of restoration, approximately 2,500 to 4,000 acres annually over the 15- to 20-year life of the plan. Approximately 31,000 acres of annual grassland and 9,000 acres of highly degraded low elevation sagebrush steppe would be treated to control cheatgrass and restore big sagebrush cover with a perennial understory.
- All wildland fires within the Preserve and BLM portion of the Monument would be managed in accordance with current BLM land use plans.
- Wildland fire within the original Monument would be managed according to the NPS Wildland Fire Management Plan (2000) that permits use of naturally ignited wildland fires for resource benefit (wildland fire use) in the Wilderness area under specific conditions.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Desired Future Conditions:

- Same as "Common to All."

Management Actions:

- A minimum of 5 percent of the Monument would be intensively inventoried (Section 110 National Historic Preservation Act [NHPA]) for cultural resources over the life of the plan.
- Some interpretation of archaeological and historic sites would continue (e.g., Goodale's Cutoff, Baker Cave, and Indian Tunnel).

ACCESS AND TRAVEL

Desired Future Conditions:

- Same as "Common to All." (Most management direction for the desired condition for Alternative A (No Action Alternative) is reflected in the management zone depiction – see Table 2.

Management Actions:

- Roads and trails would continue to be maintained to current standards.
- New trails could be developed within the NPS-administered portion of the Monument and within the area presently zoned as "park and interpretive development" in the 1992 General Management Plan.
- Trails in the Kings Bowl area would be maintained or rehabilitated to prevent further resource damage.
- All existing roads and trails within the Monument that were open to vehicle travel prior to Proclamation 7373 would remain open, although the agencies may close individual roads and trails temporarily to protect resources on a case-by-case basis.

FACILITIES

Desired Future Conditions:

- Administrative and visitor facilities continue to be restricted to an area of approximately 92 acres in the north end of the Monument adjacent to U.S. Highway 20/26/93. This area includes lands adjacent to the seven-mile paved loop drive.

Management Actions:

- The kiosks located along roads leading into the Monument and a few information and directional signs in the interior would continue to be maintained and replaced as necessary.
- Visitor safety and information signs would be provided in the Kings Bowl area.

RECREATION

Desired Future Conditions:

- Same as "Common to All."

Management Actions:

- Existing roads in the Pristine Zone would remain open to motorized and mechanical vehicle travel.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Desired Future Conditions:

- Same as "Common to All."

Management Actions:

- VRM inventory classes would be designated as management classes as shown on Figure 5

Class C Roads have an unimproved natural surface and may be either constructed or established over time by repeated passage of vehicles. The natural surface may be dirt, sand, or rock. A minimal amount of maintenance, if any at all, is limited primarily to spot surface grading to allow vehicle passage within the original road corridor. Class C roads accommodate a much smaller range of vehicles than Class B roads, usually high clearance two-wheel drive and four-wheel drive vehicles. Seasonal conditions or wet weather may render these roads impassable at any time. Class C roads are found primarily in the Passage and Primitive zones.

Class D Roads are primitive roads that were not constructed, but established over time by the passage of motorized vehicles. These roads receive no maintenance or grading. Occasional emergency repairs or limited maintenance may be performed for resource protection and administrative purposes. These roads are generally referred to as "two-tracks." The condition of these roads varies from sometimes passable by a passenger car, to only suitable for high clearance four-wheel drive vehicles. Seasonal conditions or wet weather may render these roads impassable at any time. Class D roads are found primarily in the Primitive Zone.

Class 1 Trails are restricted to non-motorized/non-mechanized travel (wheelchairs are allowed). Examples of permitted forms of travel include foot travel, pack animal, and horseback. Examples of prohibited forms of travel on Class 1 trails include mountain bikes and all motorized vehicles. Class 1 trails may be further restricted, for example, to foot travel only.

Class 2 Trails are open to motorized/mechanized travel in addition to foot travel, pack animal, horseback, and other forms of passage. Examples of prohibited forms of travel include any vehicle with a footprint wider than an 18-inch tread (all-terrain vehicles, four-wheelers, and four-wheel-drive vehicles).

The following table summarizes where the various types of roads and trails that currently exist would fall within the management zones as they have been located under Alternative A. Road and trail classification is based on the inventoried condition and maintenance standards for roads and trails as of 2003. Because management zones are a prescription for desired future conditions, road classification would be expected to change over the life of the management plan to match the management zone prescription. Under Alternative A, the intent is to maintain the road network in its current condition and road classification.

Table 2
Alternative A (No Action Alternative) – Road and Trail Distribution by Management Zone

Road Classification	MANAGEMENT ZONES*				Total Miles
	Frontcountry	Passage	Primitive	Pristine	
Class A	30	0	0	0	30
Class B	0	45	24	0	69
Class C	2	14	332	1	349
Class D	0	2	166	2	170
Class I Trails	7	0	0	13	20
Total Miles	39	61	522	16	638

*Approximate miles of existing roads and trails within each zone rounded to the nearest whole number.

Definitions of Classes of Visual Resource Management

- **Class I** – The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. Any contrast created within the characteristic landscape must not attract attention. This classification is applied to Visual ACECs, wilderness and WSAs, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and other similar situations.
- **Class II** – The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. Changes in any of the basic visual elements caused by management activity should not be evident in the landscape. A contrast may be seen but should not attract attention.
- **Class III** – The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. Contrasts to the basic elements caused by a management activity may be evident and begin to attract attention in the landscape. The changes, however, should remain subordinate in the existing landscape.
- **Class IV** – The objective of this class is to provide for management activities that require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. Contrasts may attract attention and be a dominant feature in the landscape in terms of scale. However, the change should repeat the basic element of the landscape.



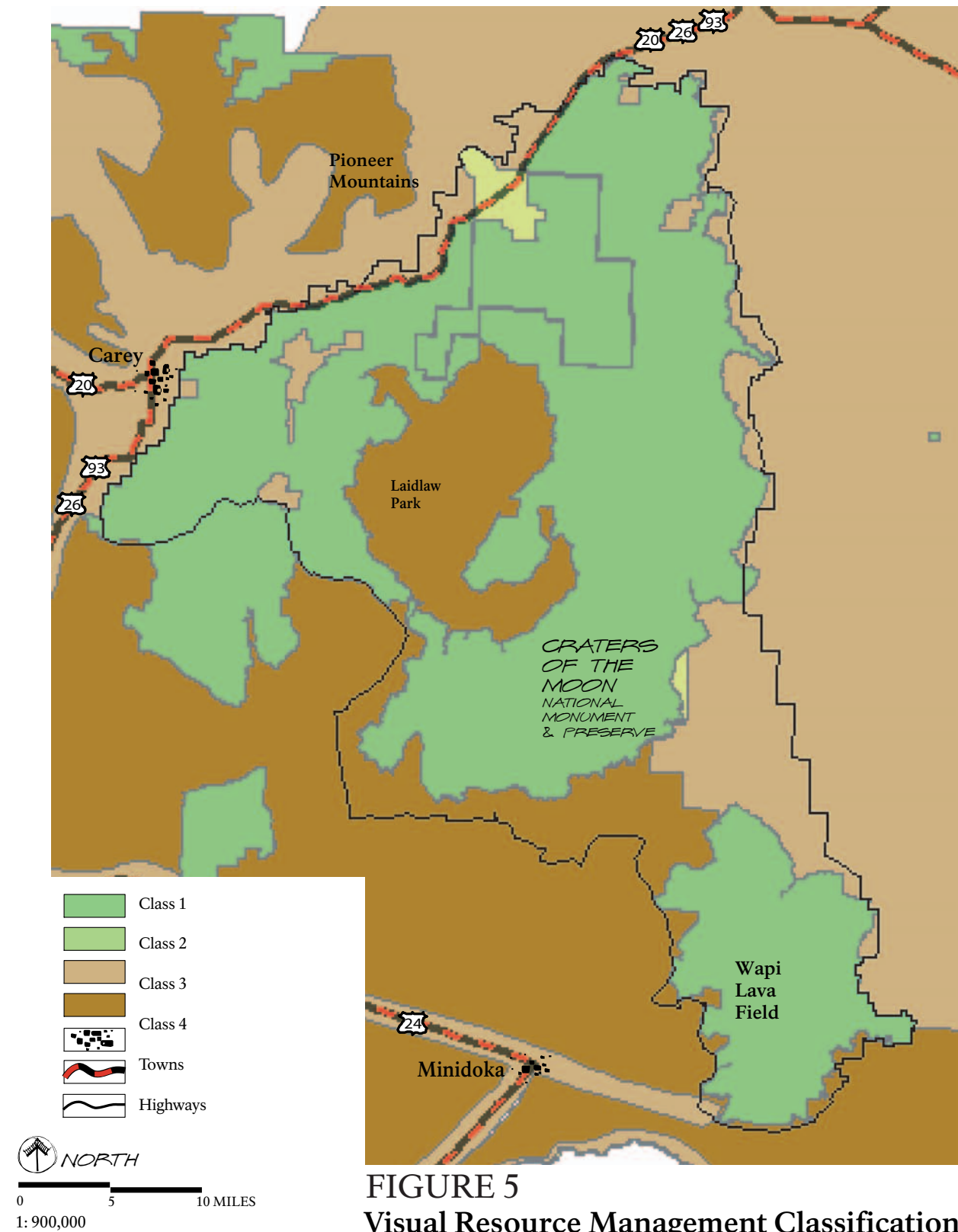


FIGURE 5
Visual Resource Management Classification –
Alternative A (No Action Alternative)

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ALTERNATIVE B

ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT

This alternative would optimize opportunities to experience the Monument, offer a wide range of recreational opportunities and experiences, and perpetuate historic use patterns. It would promote more travel and access within the Monument and provide for more extensive educational and directional signage throughout the Monument. One emphasis would be on maintaining a strong interpretation and education program for visitors within the Monument to help protect resources, maintain a safe visitor experience, and minimize conflicts with traditional uses. This alternative represents the highest accommodation of visitor access to, and within, the Monument.

The key components of Alternative B are as follows:

- Provides the greatest number of multiple-use trail opportunities.
- Provides extensive educational and directional signs throughout the Monument.
- Allocates large areas in the Passage Zone instead of only narrow corridors.
- Proposes travel corridors outside the Monument boundary to provide consistent road standards and access, to and through the Monument, including the Carey-Kimama, Arco-Minidoka, and American Falls-Kings Bowl roads.

MANAGEMENT ZONES

Figure 6 depicts the zones based on the agencies' best understanding of where the zone boundaries would be located under Alternative B. Figure 6 shows the zone allocations that would occur under Alternative B.

As Figure 6 indicates, under Alternative B the Frontcountry Zone would remain primarily the same as under Alternative A (No Action Alternative). A small area immediately surrounding the existing facilities at the Crystal Ice Caves/Kings Bowl area would be added to the Frontcountry Zone. However, the biggest emphasis would be on the Passage Zone, which would be greatly expanded to include an area north of US Highway 20/26/93, all of the Carey-Kimama and Arco-Minidoka roads (approximately 9,000 acres outside of the

Monument), a network of roads leading to and through Laidlaw Park, and two relatively large areas in Laidlaw Park and between the Craters of Moon and Wapi lava flows. These areas were designated as Passage Zone to facilitate access to several areas of the Monument, thereby providing for a broad range of visitor experience and recreation opportunities within the Monument. These roads would be designated Backcountry By-Ways and upgraded to a consistent Class B standard. This would require collaboration with adjacent county governments. Passage Zone designation in these areas also allows for more new facilities including wayside exhibits, trail heads, parking areas, trail systems, day-use facilities, and designated campsites.

With the increase in Passage Zone provided in Alternative B, there would be a corresponding decrease in Primitive Zone areas, with the Pristine Zone allocation remaining about the same as under Alternative A (No Action Alternative). Essentially, Alternative B trades Primitive Zone and associated primitive-type visitor uses for the opportunity to provide an expanded Passage Zone that would allow for increased and/or improved access for visitors to many more areas within the Monument.

MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE FOR ALTERNATIVE B

Alternative B would incorporate all of the "Management Guidance Common to All" previously described, plus the alternative specific guidance on pages 41 and 42.

Table 3 summarizes where the various types of roads that currently exist would fall within the management zones as they would be located under Alternative B. Road and trail classification is based on the inventoried condition and maintenance standards for roads and trails as of 2003. Because management zones are a prescription for desired future conditions, road classification would be expected to change over the life of the management plan to match the management zone prescription. Note that there is an increase in Passage Zone mileage and a corresponding decrease in Primitive Zone road mileage compared to Alternative A (No Action Alternative). Some of the Class C and D roads now located within the Passage Zone areas could be improved to facilitate access and/or converted to Class I and II trails.



Zone Allocation:

Frontcountry Zone	2,300 acres	(0.3% of Monument)
Passage Zone	78,000 acres	
	69,000 acres	(9.1% of Monument)
	+ 9,000 acres	(outside of Monument)
Primitive Zone	227,400 acres	(30.1% of Monument)
Pristine Zone	449,500 acres	(59.6% of Monument)

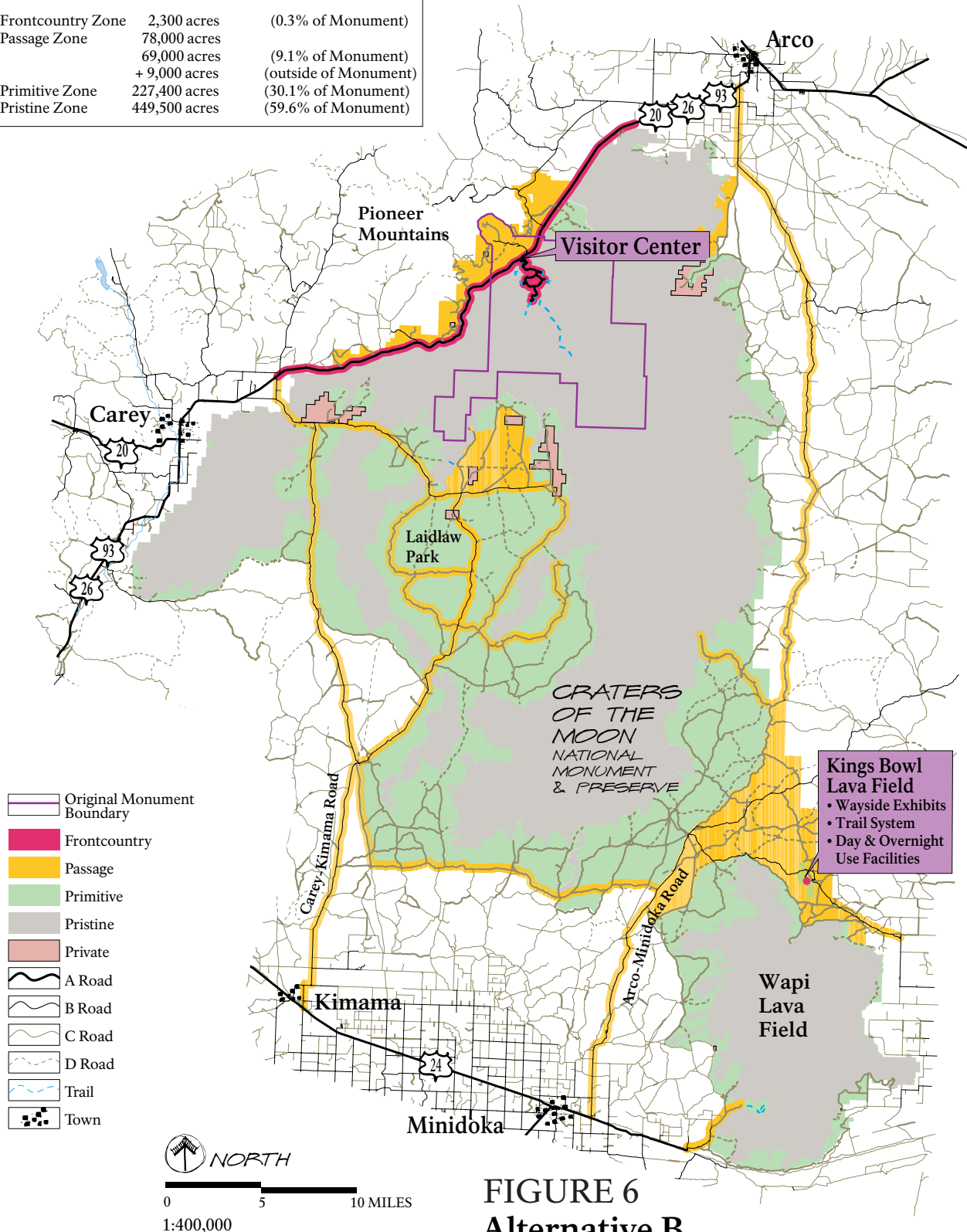


FIGURE 6
Alternative B

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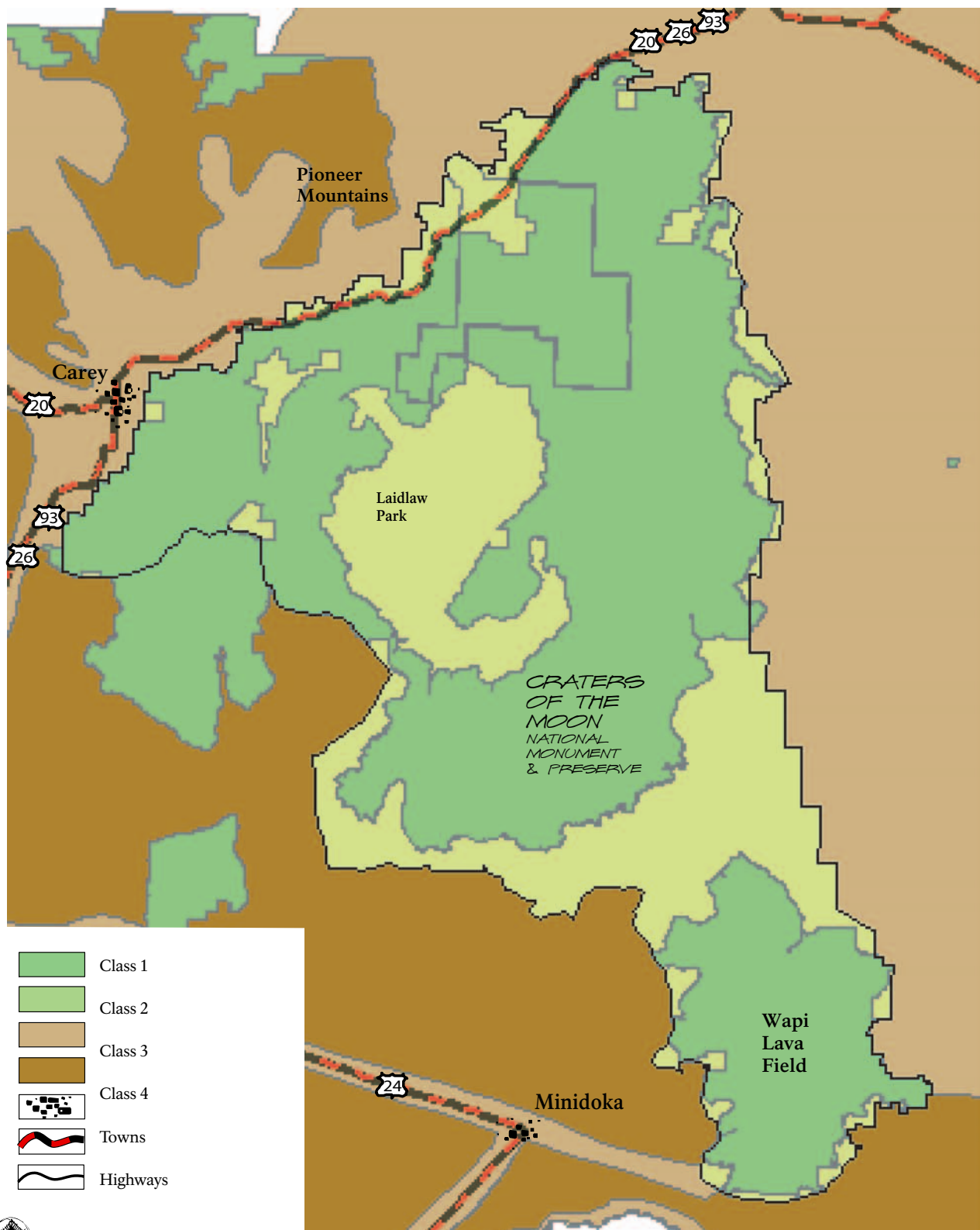


FIGURE 7
Visual Resource Management Classification –
Alternative B, C & D

Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve
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GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Desired Future Conditions:

- Same as "Common to All."

Management Actions:

- A restoration program would be initiated to remove graffiti from caves and foster public understanding of the need for cave resource protection.
- Trails to key geological features would be considered to mitigate resource impacts from user-created trails.

VEGETATION, INCLUDING SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES, AND FIRE MANAGEMENT

Desired Future Conditions:

- Fire is allowed to function as a natural process in the Wilderness and Preserve.

Management Actions:

- Approximately 45,000 acres would be planned for restoration and/or post-fire rehabilitation treatment (6 percent of the entire Monument, 16 percent of BLM-administered). Approximately 31,000 acres of annual grassland and 14,000 acres of highly degraded low elevation sagebrush steppe would be treated to control cheatgrass and restore big sagebrush cover with a perennial understory.
- Restoration projects would be an opportunity for interpretation on the decline of sagebrush steppe and efforts to restore this dwindling resource.
- Proactive fuels management activities would be undertaken to offset the potential effects of increased public use as a result of improvements to roads and facilities.
- Integrated Weed Management would have a heightened emphasis on treatment/containment, prevention and education, particularly in Frontcountry and Passage zones.
- Wildland fire use would be allowed in the Wilderness and Preserve except when incompatible with resource management objectives or when there would be danger to life or property.
- Limited prescribed fire (<500 acres) would be used in the aspen, conifer, and mountain shrub vegetation types to improve wildlife habitat and invigorate plant communities while protecting the Little Cottonwood Watershed.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Desired Future Conditions:

- Same as "Common to All."

Management Actions:

- In response to increased access, public education and interpretation of cultural resources would be emphasized and provided at various dispersed recreation sites.
- Emphasis would be on increased Section 110 inventory in the Passage Zone.
- A minimum of 10 percent of the Monument would be intensively inventoried (Section 110 NHPA) for cultural resources over the life of the plan.
- Site monitoring and site protection measures, such as physical barriers, would be emphasized at various dispersed recreation sites.

Definitions of Classes of Visual Resource Management

- **Class I** – The objective of this class is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. Any contrast created within the characteristic landscape must not attract attention. This classification is applied to Visual ACECs, wilderness and WSAs, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and other similar situations.
- **Class II** – The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. Changes in any of the basic visual elements caused by management activity should not be evident in the landscape. A contrast may be seen but should not attract attention.
- **Class III** – The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. Contrasts to the basic elements caused by a management activity may be evident and begin to attract attention in the landscape. The changes, however, should remain subordinate in the existing landscape.
- **Class IV** – The objective of this class is to provide for management activities that require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. Contrasts may attract attention and be a dominant feature in the landscape in terms of scale. However, the change should repeat the basic element of the landscape.

ACCESS AND TRAVEL

Desired Future Conditions:

- The road and trail system within the planning area provides a high level of access to a wide variety of destinations, recreational activities, and both Class 1 and Class 2 trails.
- Within the four Passage Zone areas, multiple-use trail systems and associated educational and directional signs/waysides are established.
- The desired condition for Alternative B is reflected in the management zone allocation (see Table 3).

Management Actions:

- The Carey-Kimama and Arco-Minodoka roads would be designated as Backcountry By-Ways over their entire length including portions outside the Monument.
- ☐ The Carey-Kimama and Arco-Minodoka roads would be upgraded and maintained to a consistent Class B Standard over their entire length including portions outside the Monument.
- A trail system would be improved at the Kings Bowl area and to additional points of interest.
- ☐ Multiuse and single-use (e.g., ATV, equestrian, bicycling, walking) trail routes would be designated.

Table 3
Alternative B – Road and Trail Inventory by Management Zone

Road Classification	MANAGEMENT ZONES*				Total Miles ¹ <i>Inside / Outside</i>
	Frontcountry	Passage ¹ (Inside / Outside)	Primitive	Pristine	
Class A	30	0 / 0	0	0	30 / 0
Class B	0	68 / 87	0	0	68 / 87
Class C	2	162 / 59	183	1	348 / 59
Class D	0	42 / 2	126	2	170 / 2
Class I Trails	7	0 / 0	0	13	20 / 0
Total Miles	39	272 / 148	309	16	636 / 148

*Approximate miles of existing roads and trails within each zone rounded to the nearest whole number.

¹Under Alternative B, portions of the Carey-Kimama and Arco-Minidoka roads that lie outside the Monument boundaries and provide key Monument access are included in the Passage Zone. This would require coordination with the surrounding county governments.

