

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Entrance Sign Replacement

The National Park Service (NPS) has completed the environmental analysis process for Entrance Sign Replacement.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed project is to identify and mark the expanded boundary of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve (Monument) for travelers along U.S. Highway 20/26/93 and to allow visitors the opportunity to take a scenic photograph from either the west (near Carey) or east (near Arco) boundary of this unit of the National Park System and the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS).

On November 9, 2000, President Bill Clinton signed a proclamation expanding Craters of the Moon National Monument from 53,420 acres to 737,680 acres (not including state and private lands within the boundary). In addition, the proclamation directed the NPS and BLM to manage the monument "cooperatively." Federal legislation (PL 107-213, 116 Stat.1052), on August 21, 2002, designated the area within the expanded NPS boundaries of Craters of the Moon National Monument as a National Preserve and allowed hunting within those lands designated as the Preserve. (Unless referenced otherwise, the term *Monument* as used in this document refers generically to all NPS and BLM lands within Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve).

Shortly after the boundary expansion, small wood highway signs were erected near the new Monument boundary along U.S. Highway 20/26/93. In an attempt to develop a unified sign design that would provide a consistent, professional look across the whole Monument, the NPS and BLM undertook development of a sign plan beginning in 2004. Preliminary results from the sign plan include the design of monolithic signs for the major entrances to the Monument, as well as directional signage to the Monument's Visitor Center.

Selected Alternative

Alternative 2: Replace Existing Entrance Signs at Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve and Improve Visitor Access Opportunities

Under this Alternative, the NPS would remove the existing Craters of the Moon National Monument entrance signs and replace them with new Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve entrance signs (Figure 1). The signs would mark the new boundary on the west along U.S. Highway 20/26/93 near Carey, Idaho and near Arco, Idaho (Figure 2). The sign near Carey would be located in Blaine County (100 feet west of mile marker 235, UTM E0274886, N 4804992), while the sign near Arco would be located in Butte County (UTM E0297715, N 4822425 Zone 12 North).

The signs would be located at least 50 feet from the centerline of the road. In addition, gravel pullouts would be constructed between the road edge and the signs within the ITD right-of-way. The pullouts would be approximately 150 feet long and 30 feet wide. The proposed distance of the signs from the centerline and the size of the pullouts would meet Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) criteria for their establishment.

Figure 1
Entrance Sign

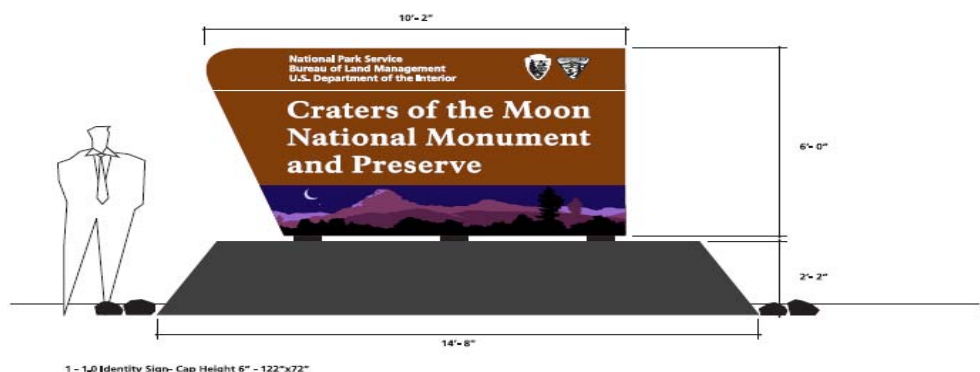
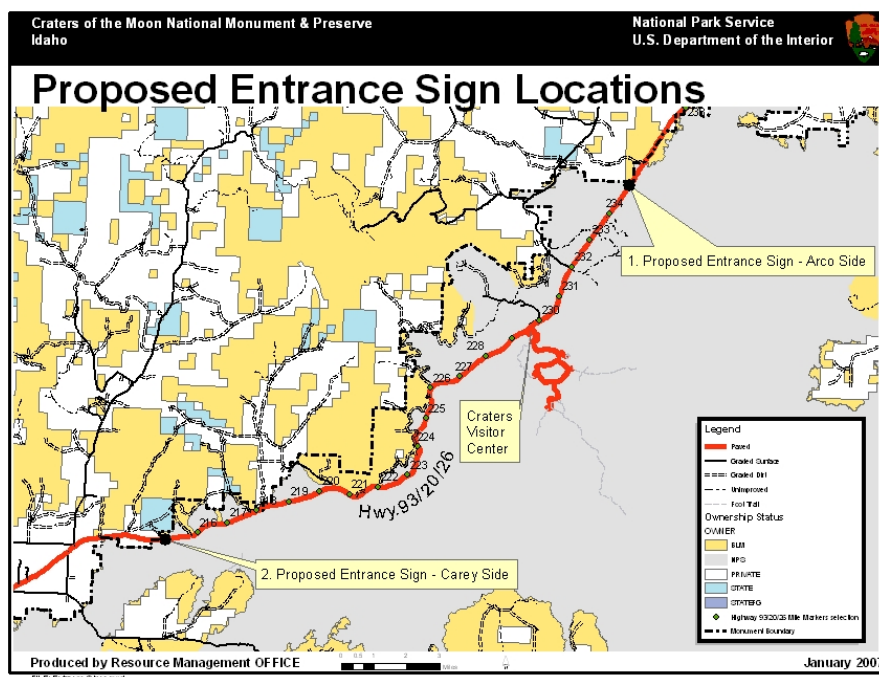


Figure 2
Entrance Sign Locations (Excerpted from Environmental Assessment)



Sign locations were selected based on the following key criteria: location on NPS or BLM land; location near the expanded Monument boundary; scenic view representative of the Monument in the sign background; available sight distance sufficient to establish a safe visitor use pullout; suitable size for both passenger, recreational and truck vehicles; high potential for developing

visitor access up to the sign; and recent disturbance evident (to minimize impacts on intact Monument resources).

Short trails would lead visitors to the signs to allow for a better photo-taking opportunity. (It is a common and time-honored tradition for many visitors to take a photograph at the entrance upon entering a new national park unit for the first time.) Access on both sides would be designed to be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The trail on the Blaine County side (near Carey) would be approximately 17 feet long and 40 inches wide. The trail on the Butte County side (closest to Arco) would be approximately 35 feet long and 40 inches wide. The trails may be hardened with concrete, or another suitable material, to enable the creation of a smooth, easily navigated trail surface that meets ADA standards.

The new signs were designed by the NPS Sign Program Manager in cooperation with the BLM. They combine NPS and BLM typefaces, the triangular edged BLM sign shape, shades of brown used by both agencies, as well as a color graphic developed for the BLM's designation of the area as part of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) (Figure 1).

Unlike the current painted wood signs, the new entrance signs would be constructed of iron in two colors of brown; would identify both NPS and BLM in symbols and words; would have screw mount lettering; and would contain an inset color graphic of porcelain enamel. The signs would be mounted on a stained concrete base surrounded by local lava rock.

The new signs would be slightly larger than the current signs, with the concrete base approximately 17 feet, 9 inches long and 8 feet 8 inches wide, including the concrete footing beneath the sign, but visible at the surface. The sign would be 10 feet 2 inches wide at the top (longest part) by approximately six feet high.

Existing entrance signs and the current boundary marker signs would be removed and the sites rehabilitated.

In addition to the replacement of the entrance signs, additional directional signs would be installed along U.S. Highway 20/26/93 to direct visitors to the visitor center and loop road entrance. These signs would notify travelers when vehicles were 5 miles in each direction (east or west) from the visitor center, and then again when they were ¼ mile away from either direction.

Summary of Other Alternatives Considered

Alternative 1: No Action (Continue Current Management)

Under this Alternative, existing large wood entrance signs at the original Craters of the Moon National Monument boundaries would remain and would be repaired or replaced as needed. In addition, the existing laminated wood entrance signs on posts marking the expanded Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve boundary would remain. No new directional signs or pullouts would be established by the NPS or BLM along U.S. Highway 20/26/93 to mark the boundary expansion area. As a result, some visitors would continue to be confused about the boundary of the Monument and its relationship to NPS and BLM management, especially if they did not notice the small laminated wood signs with both the BLM shield and the NPS arrowhead currently marking the expanded boundary.

Existing rectangular entrance signs at the original Monument boundaries are approximately 12 feet long by 5 feet wide and sit on a rock-faced concrete base approximately 20 feet by 6 feet. They require occasional repair and cyclic repainting. In addition, NPS staff regularly check the signs and nearby roadsides for vandalism and trash.

Preliminary Alternatives Considered But Rejected

Install Entrance Signs in Different Locations Along U.S. Highway 20/26/93

Five other locations were considered. All would have had similar or greater impacts than the sites selected due to location in more intact areas. One site was initially selected but then rejected when it was found to be not located on existing NPS or BLM property, a key criterion.

Construct Entrance Signs without associated Turnouts

This alternative did not meet the goals or purpose and need for the project. Although it would mark the boundary for visitors, it would not provide a safe place for visitors to take a photograph, particularly those visitors with large vehicles who needed not only adequate sight distance, but adequate space to stop along the high speed thoroughfare that is U.S. Highway 20/26/93.

Environmentally Preferred Alternative

In accordance with Director's Order-12, *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making* and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) requirements, the NPS is required to identify the "environmentally preferred alternative" in all environmental documents, including Environmental Assessments. The environmentally preferred alternative is determined by applying the criteria suggested in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, which is guided by the CEQ. The CEQ (46 FR 18026 - 46 FR 18038) provides direction that the "environmentally preferable alternative is the alternative that would promote the national environmental policy as expressed in NEPA's Section 101," including to:

- 1) Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
- 2) Assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
- 3) Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;
- 4) Preserve important historic, cultural and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice;
- 5) Achieve a balance between population and resource use which will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and
- 6) Enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources (NEPA Section 101(b)).

Generally, these criteria mean the environmentally preferable alternative is the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment and that best protects, preserves, and enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources (46 FR 18026 – 46 FR 18038).

Either Alternative 1 or 2 meets the criteria for the environmentally preferable alternative. Alternative 1 best meets the criteria because it would cause no additional impacts to Monument resources, while Alternative 2 best meets the criteria because it would increase visitor understanding of Monument resources while causing minimal impacts to Monument resources. Both Alternatives meet 1), 2), and 4) above, while Alternative 2 meets criterion 3) above more than Alternative 1. Criterion 4 is generally not applicable to the proposed project and Alternative 1 would best meet criterion 6 because it would not cause additional consumptive use of resources.

Why the Project will not have Significant Effect

As documented in the Environmental Assessment, the National Park Service has determined that the selected alternative can be implemented with no significant adverse effects on soils, water quality, vegetation, wildlife, special status species, prehistoric and historical archeology,

ethnographic resources, historic structures and cultural landscapes, visitor experience, or park operations.

The National Environmental Policy Act requires that decision-making regarding the analysis of significance be based on analysis of the proposed action with respect to the following factors:

Beneficial and Adverse Effects

The selected alternative has a wide range of beneficial and adverse effects (see Impact Mitigation Matrix below). As shown below in the impact mitigation matrix, these short- and long-term negligible to moderate effects would not result in impairment.

Degree of effect on public health or safety

The selected alternative will not adversely affect public health or safety.

Unique characteristics of the geographic area, such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas

The selected alternative will not impact the unique characteristics of the area, including prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers or ecologically critical areas. The proposed actions call for construction of entrance signs and turnouts and will not result in the loss of these characteristics because these characteristics are either not present or not affected by the selected alternative.

Degree to which effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial

There were no controversial impacts or aspects of the proposed project that surfaced during the environmental analysis process. The effects on the human environment are known and have been described in the Environmental Assessment.

Degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration

The selected alternative neither establishes a National Park Service precedent for future actions with significant effects nor represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

Degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures or objects listed on the National Register of Historic Places or may cause the loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural or historic resources

The selected alternative will have no adverse effect on cultural resources. It will not result in the loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural or historic resources.

Degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat

The proposed project would have no effect on any listed species from the actions proposed in the selected alternative.

- Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant effects;
- Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks; and
- Whether the action threatens a violation of federal, state or local environmental protection law.

No significant cumulative effects and no highly uncertain, unique or unknown risks were identified during preparation of the Environmental Assessment or during the public comment period. The selected alternative will not violate any federal, state or local environmental protection laws.

Measures to Minimize Environmental Harm

The following summary identifies the impacts and mitigation documented and discussed in the Environmental Assessment. This summary assigns responsibility for ensuring that the measures, which minimize these impacts, are implemented as part of the preferred alternative. There were no highly controversial effects or highly uncertain, unique or unknown risks identified during either preparation of the environmental assessment/assessment of effect or the public review period. The preferred alternative does not violate federal, state, or local environmental protection laws.

All mitigation measures described in this section will be implemented. Further mitigation measures may be developed in response to ongoing informal consultation on this project and may also augment the measures described below. The measures identified below are designed to ensure that impacts to park natural and cultural resources, visitor use/experience and park operations are avoided, minimized or mitigated.

Resource	Impact	Measures to Avoid, Minimize or Mitigate Impact	Responsible Staff
Soils and Geology	The disturbance of approximately 0.15 acre in each location (0.30 acre total) would comprise a negligible to moderate, localized, long-term adverse impact. Soils and rock would be affected wherever grading, excavation and/or fill is called for causing a minor, localized but long-term, adverse effect to the area's soil or rock profiles, with the greater degree of impact occurring in the limited areas (beyond the road edge) not previously disturbed by grading or construction. Effects associated with impervious surfacing would result in a minor, localized, long-term adverse effect.	<p>Locating the proposed project areas on previously disturbed sites and/or carefully selected sites with as small a footprint as possible (NPS 2005:74).</p> <p>Locating staging areas where they will minimize new disturbance of area soils and vegetation.</p> <p>Minimizing ground disturbance to the extent possible to retain the natural appearance of geologic materials and features.</p> <p>Minimizing soil erosion and associated water quality impacts by limiting the time that soil would be left exposed and by the use of erosion control measures (NPS 2005:74).</p> <p>Resurfacing materials, particularly at the site near Arco would be an appropriate mixture of large cobbles of basalt rock, soil, and excavated plant material.</p> <p>Salvaging topsoil, if any, and reusing it as close to the original location as possible. Where areas are to be revegetated, they would be resurfaced with appropriate amounts of salvaged basalt rock and soil and seeded or planted with species native to the immediate area in consultation with the Monument's Plant Ecologist (NPS 2005:74).</p> <p>Using only weed free fill and surfacing material.</p> <p>Directing contractor equipment access to reduce the overall footprint of disturbance.</p>	Integrated Resources Program Manager
Vegetation	Alternative 2 would result in localized, short- and long-term negligible to minor adverse effects, primarily from localized vegetation removal and the potential for trampling of vegetation near the proposed visitor use areas.	<p>Collecting seed from shrubs, grasses and forbs coupled with seeding these species upon project completion.</p> <p>Salvaging small plants from construction limits for later reuse, particularly in landscaping the proposed sign locations.</p>	Plant Ecologist

Resource	Impact	Measures to Avoid, Minimize or Mitigate Impact	Responsible Staff
		<p>Using only certified weed-free hay, straw or mulch to minimize the potential spread of exotic plants (NPS 2005:74).</p> <p>Inspecting and/or cleaning construction vehicles and equipment prior to entry into the Monument to ensure that they are free of weed seed (NPS 2005:75).</p> <p>Surveying project areas for sensitive species (NPS 2005:74) (none were found).</p> <p>Emulating the natural form, spacing, abundance and diversity of native plant communities and using native species in any revegetation (NPS 2005:75).</p> <p>Monitoring the new sign, trail and pullout areas for noxious weeds and treating them upon discovery.</p> <p>Monitoring reseeded and revegetated areas for successful plant re-establishment.</p> <p>Monitoring areas for effects from trampling and mitigating potential impacts as appropriate (including through signs, barriers or other means).</p>	
Wildlife	<p>There would be a variety of negligible to minor short- and long-term impacts to wildlife from the alteration of a small amount of generally poor quality wildlife habitat adjacent to the road edge. Overall, this project would have a very small footprint with negligible impact on most wildlife or wildlife habitat. Impacts would primarily be limited to increased human presence and its attendant effects on wildlife, including disturbance and occasional illegal feeding, a long-term negligible to minor impact.</p>	<p>Surveying the proposed project area for the presence of rare species (none were found).</p> <p>Selecting the proposed project area to avoid known sage-grouse lek sites.</p> <p>Checking the job site at the end of each day to remove trash, food, and food-related items remaining at the site and disposing of them in an appropriate receptacle.</p>	Wildlife Biologist
Prehistoric and Historic Archeology	<p>No archaeological evidence has been found in or near the proposed new entrance sign/pullout locations as described under Alternative 2. Although there is excavation involved in the construction of the base for the sign and the pullouts, this excavation is not expected to disturb any previously unidentified archaeological resources due to its proximity in and near a highly disturbed road corridor. As a result there would be no effect on known archaeological resources under Alternative 2.</p>	<p>Survey of project areas by a professional archaeologist for prehistoric and historic cultural remains (NPS 2005:75) (none were found).</p> <p>Immediate work stoppage and/or relocation to a non-sensitive area should unknown archeological resources be uncovered during construction to allow collection of soil samples and recordation. At this time, the Monument Cultural Resources Program Manager contacted, the site secured, and the Monument would consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and tribal representatives according to 36 CFR 800.11.</p> <p>Additional consultation would occur as appropriate, according to provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and</p>	Integrated Resources Program Manager

Resource	Impact	Measures to Avoid, Minimize or Mitigate Impact	Responsible Staff
		Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990. In compliance with this act, the National Park Service would also notify and consult concerned tribal representatives for the proper treatment of human remains, funerary, and sacred objects should these be discovered during the course of the project.	
Visitor Experience	Alternative 2 would result in some improvements to visitor experience with the placement of the new directional and Monument entrance signs, pullouts and accessible trails. Overall, the combined installation of the signs, pullouts and accessible trails would lead to increasing visitor understanding of the Monument area and give visitors increased access and therefore an introduction to the Monument, a long-term minor beneficial effect. The accessible trails would also give mobility impaired visitors and families with small children another way to experience Monument resources, an additional long-term minor beneficial effect.	Distributing press releases to local media, and state highway information recordings to inform visitors about the project. Monitoring the new trail segments for signs of native vegetation disturbance (NPS 2005:75). Locating sustainable, low-impact barriers, if needed, to discourage off-trail use and to protect intact areas from disturbance (NPS 2005:75).	Chief of Interpretation

Public Involvement Internal and External Scoping

Craters of the Moon conducted internal scoping on January 16, 2007. A variety of comments were received from Monument staff regarding planning, maintenance, vegetation and wildlife.

The public scoping period for this Environmental Assessment began on January 22, 2007 and ended on February 3, 2007. During this time, the public was encouraged to submit comments. During the public scoping period, no letters or emails were received. One phone call was received from an individual requesting to be on the mailing list for more information about the project. Comments were also solicited formally and informally from Monument, Harper's Ferry Center and other planning team members and from BLM and Idaho Transportation Department staff.

The public outreach called for in Section 106 of NHPA was integrated into the NEPA process in accordance with National Park Service Management Policies (NPS 2006).

Public Review

This Environmental Assessment was available for a thirty (30) day public review period from April 11, 2007 through May 11, 2007. During this time, the Environmental Assessment was available on the park's website, located at <http://www.nps.gov/crmo>. The press release distributed to individuals and organizations on the project and park mailing list as well as to a wide variety of news media. Hard copies of the Environmental Assessment were also available for review at local public libraries (Arco, Hailey, Bellevue, Twin Falls and Boise, and the Community Library in Ketchum). The press release was sent to twenty-two media outlets (newspapers and radio and television stations) and known to be published in the following newspapers: Arco Advertiser, The Idaho Statesman, Post Register in Idaho Falls, Mountain Express in Hailey. One copy of the EA was mailed to an individual who requested a copy during the scoping phase. No comments on the Environmental Assessment were received.

Agency Consultation

As required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), consultation with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer has occurred regarding the anticipated *no adverse effect* to historic properties. The action is considered to be a programmatic exclusion, falling under section IV. B in the Programmatic Agreement, among the National Park Service, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation. As a result, no further consultation is required.

No further consultation is required with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). There would be no effect on any species being considered for listing or listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Native American Consultation

Ongoing informal consultation with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes was initiated for this project on January 30, 2007 with a letter sent to the Tribal Chairman at Fort Hall. To date, no concerns have been brought forward by tribal members regarding the proposed implementation of the entrance sign and pullout project.

IMPAIRMENT DISCLOSURE

In addition to determining the environmental consequences of the preferred and other alternatives, NPS *Management Policies* (NPS 2006) and Director's Order-12, *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making* require analysis of potential effects to determine if actions would impair park resources. The following sections from *Management Policies* define impairment and highlight the difference between an impact and impairment.

1.4.3 The NPS Obligation to Conserve and Provide for Enjoyment of Park Resources and Values

The fundamental purpose of the national park system, established by the Organic Act and reaffirmed by the General Authorities Act, as amended, begins with a mandate to conserve park resources and values. This mandate is independent of the separate prohibition on impairment and applies all the time with respect to all park resources and values, even when there is no risk that any park resources or values may be impaired. NPS managers must always seek ways to avoid, or to minimize to the greatest extent practicable, adverse impacts on park resources and values. However, the laws do give the Service the management discretion to allow impacts to park resources and values when necessary and appropriate to fulfill the purposes of a park, so long as the impact does not constitute impairment of the affected resources and values.

The fundamental purpose of all parks also includes providing for the enjoyment of park resources and values by the people of the United States. The enjoyment that is contemplated by the statute is broad; it is the enjoyment of all the people of the United States and includes enjoyment both by people who visit parks and by those who appreciate them from afar. It also includes deriving benefit (including scientific knowledge) and inspiration from parks, as well as other forms of enjoyment and inspiration. Congress, recognizing that the enjoyment by future generations of the national parks can be ensured only if the superb quality of park resources and values is left unimpaired, has provided that when there is a conflict between conserving resources and values and providing for enjoyment of them, conservation is to be predominant. This is how courts have consistently interpreted the Organic Act.

1.4.4 The Prohibition on Impairment of Park Resources and Values

While Congress has given the Service the management discretion to allow impacts within parks, that discretion is limited by the statutory requirement (generally enforceable by the

federal courts) that the Park Service must leave park resources and values unimpaired unless a particular law directly and specifically provides otherwise. This, the cornerstone of the Organic Act, establishes the primary responsibility of the National Park Service. It ensures that park resources and values will continue to exist in a condition that will allow the American people to have present and future opportunities for enjoyment of them.

The impairment of park resources and values may not be allowed by the Service unless directly and specifically provided for by legislation or by the proclamation establishing the park. The relevant legislation or proclamation must provide explicitly (not by implication or inference) for the activity, in terms that keep the Service from having the authority to manage the activity so as to avoid the impairment.

1.4.5 What Constitutes Impairment of Park Resources and Values

The impairment that is prohibited by the Organic Act and the General Authorities Act is an impact that, in the professional judgment of the responsible NPS manager, would harm the integrity of park resources or values, including the opportunities that otherwise would be present for the enjoyment of those resources or values. Whether an impact meets this definition depends on the particular resources and values that would be affected; the severity, duration, and timing of the impact; the direct and indirect effects of the impact; and the cumulative effects of the impact in question and other impacts.

An impact to any park resource or value may, but does not necessarily, constitute an impairment. An impact would be more likely to constitute impairment to the extent that it affects a resource or value whose conservation is

- necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park, or
- key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities for enjoyment of the park, or
- identified in the park's general management plan or other relevant NPS planning documents as being of significance.

An impact would be less likely to constitute an impairment if it is an unavoidable result of an action necessary to preserve or restore the integrity of park resources or values and it cannot be further mitigated. An impact that may, but would not necessarily, lead to impairment may result from visitor activities; NPS administrative activities; or activities undertaken by concessioners, contractors, and others operating in the park. Impairment may also result from sources or activities outside the park. . .

1.4.6 What Constitutes Park Resources and Values

The "park resources and values" that are subject to the no-impairment standard include:

- the park's scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife, and the processes and conditions that sustain them, including, to the extent present in the park: the ecological, biological, and physical processes that created the park and continue to act upon it; scenic features; natural visibility, both in daytime and at night; natural landscapes; natural soundscapes and smells; water and air resources; soils; geological resources; paleontological resources; archeological resources; cultural landscapes; ethnographic resources; historic and prehistoric sites, structures, and objects; museum collections; and native plants and animals;
- appropriate opportunities to experience enjoyment of the above resources, to the extent that can be done without impairing them;
- the park's role in contributing to the national dignity, the high public value and integrity, and the superlative environmental quality of the national park system, and the benefit and inspiration provided to the American people by the national park system; and
- any additional attributes encompassed by the specific values and purposes for which the park was established.

1.4.7 Decision-making Requirements to Identify and Avoid Impairments

Before considering a proposed action that could lead to an impairment of park resources and values, an NPS decision-maker must evaluate the impacts of the proposed action and determine, in writing, that the activity will not lead to an impairment of park resources and values. If there would be impairment, the action must not be approved.

The Environmental Assessment identified and evaluated impacts to a host of park resources and values, an analysis that considered the severity, duration, and timing of direct and indirect impacts. The impacts disclosed herein occur in areas that have long been cornerstones of visitor use. The Environmental Assessment found that there will be no major adverse impacts to a resource or value whose conservation is 1) necessary to fulfill the specific purposes identified in the park's enabling legislation; 2) key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities for enjoyment of the park; or 3) identified as a goal in the park's General Management Plan or other relevant planning documents. Consequently, the selected alternative will not result in impairment of park resources or values.

The selected alternative was chosen because it best accomplishes the legislated purposes of the park and the statutory mission of the National Park Service and the purpose and need for the plan. Upon approval, some portions of the selected alternative will be implemented immediately, while others will be implemented as soon as practicable.

FINDING

On the basis of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment as summarized above, it is the determination of the National Park Service that the project is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Nor is it an action without precedent or similar to an action that normally requires an Environmental Impact Statement. The conclusions of non-significance are supported by the conservation planning and environmental impact analysis completed and the capability of listed mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate impacts. No adverse effects to cultural or historical resources will occur; there are no unacceptable impacts, nor will any impairment of cultural or natural resources or park values occur. This determination also included due consideration of the absence of public comments. Therefore an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared, and portions of the selected plan will be implemented immediately, while others will be implemented as soon as practicable, pending other requirements, funding and staffing.

Recommended:

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

Date

Approved:

Jonathan B. Jarvis, Regional Director
Pacific West Region

Date