



Featured Site: Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve



Lava tubes, cinder cones, and giant craters are a few of the volcanic features students can explore at Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve. Situated in the high desert of Idaho's Snake River Plain, the monument protects 750,000 acres and is co-managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Park Service (NPS). A seven-mile loop road provides access to a wide variety of lava features that over 3,000 students visit every year to learn about geologic processes and high desert ecology. Students can also learn about the monument's rich cultural history, including Shoshoni Indian culture and Oregon Trail history.

A variety of materials for teachers to use prior to and during their school's visit to Craters of the Moon are available through the monument's website, www.nps.gov/crmo. Teachers can download the Broken Top Loop Trail Guide, which offers a step-by-step introduction to the monument's youngest cinder cone over the course of a 2-mile hiking trail. Lava features, plant adaptations, and wildlife survival methods are discussed in the guide and illustrated along the trail. Information on Oregon Trail emigrants and early explorers are also available on the website. "Visit The Moon Without Leaving Idaho" provides background information on the differences between the monument's volcanic landscape and the lunar landscape of the Moon, along with exercises in reading geologic features. With these activities students experience much the same training the Apollo astronauts received at Craters of the Moon before visiting the moon in 1969.



A school bus takes excited students through the monument.



Students learn more about the monument through interactive Ranger talks.

The monument's SnowSchool program now allows school groups to experience Craters of the Moon in an entirely new way. In its second year, SnowSchool combines both indoor and outdoor activities at the monument during winter. A short lesson on winter ecology at the visitor center is followed by a one-mile snowshoe trek among the snow-covered lava terrain. Students learn how animals avoid or overcome the punishing winter conditions and identify tracks and sign during the snowshoe walk portion of their visit. Outside of the school year students can participate in the Junior Ranger program and earn a badge by completing several activities during a visit to the monument. No matter the season or time of year, students have a variety of ways to enjoy and learn more about this "unearthly" landscape.

To learn more about the education programs at Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve contact Ted Stout: 208-527-3257 or ted_stout@nps.gov.

HOL Awards

2006 Awardees

Thank you to all of the HOL sites that submitted a nomination for this year's Awards. With so many great sites from which to choose, the awards committee definitely had its work cut out!

Congratulations to the following 2006 Awardees!

**Community Collaboration ~ Alder Creek Children's Forest (BLM)
Canyonville, Oregon**

**Mentoring New Sites ~ Great Smoky Mountains (NPS)
Pisgah Forest, North Carolina**

**Web Resources ~ Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (NPS)
Mosca, Colorado**

Congratulations to the sites awarded Honorable Mentions:

Diamond Fork Youth Forest, Uintah National Forest, Utah
Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Kentucky
Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, Idaho

Member News

Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (UMRBNM) Interpretive Center

Through a partnership between the UMRBNM Interpretive Center and Fort Benton Schools, students are getting a chance to learn about the natural and cultural history of the Wild and Scenic Upper Missouri River. Staff is currently working on an interdisciplinary curriculum focusing on various locations along the river. The curriculum will then become part of the Center's Hands on the Land education trunk for teachers to use with students.

This past spring, Fort Benton 7th graders participated in a test-run of the education trunk. Students learned about the area's geology, Lewis and Clark history, botany, journal writing and art. Ultimately, the Center intends to make three-day trips on the Wild and Scenic Upper Missouri available to school groups through the education trunk.



Students learn about Native American cultures on a trip down the Wild and Scenic Missouri River.

Olympic National Park

Being the largest watershed in Olympic National Park, the Elwha River comprises 19% of the park's total land mass. The river originates on a snow finger in the park's mountainous core and flows north into the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Its icy, clear waters allow a diversity of plants and animals to flourish. The Elwha River Restoration Project exists to support the river's restoration as the dam is removed in 2007.

Staff at Olympic National Park is working closely with schools in the area to support self-directed learning about the project, the ecosystem and the people who live there. For additional information, visit: www.nps.gov/olym or call (360) 565-3146.

Upcoming Events

It isn't too late to sign up your site to participate in **National Public Lands Day**, September 30, 2006. For information on how to get involved visit www.npld.com or contact Robb Hampton 202-261-6462 or hampton@neetf.org.