

**Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests,
and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management
Office of Communications**

Working as One to Serve Central Oregon

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**Newberry National Volcanic Monument & Lava Lands Visitor Center Open for
Seven Days a Week for Summer Season**

BEND – On Wednesday July second, Newberry National Volcanic Monument recreation sites will open for 7 days a week service. This includes Lava Lands and Lava River Cave, which are open from 9 to 5 daily. Though the continuation of the remodel at Lava Lands, including a new water system, will close the Visitor Center on September 14, the other sites in Newberry will remain open until October 15th. They will go back to a 5 day a week schedule, Wednesday through Sunday after the Labor Day weekend.

Interpretive programs are offered June 25 to September 14 at Lava Lands Visitor Center, Lava River Cave and other satellite locations such as the High Desert Museum, Newberry Caldera and the Pine Marten Lodge on Mount Bachelor. Lava River Cave is a self-guided exploration of a mile-long lava tube. Lantern rentals are available for \$3. To fully enjoy the cave, expect to take at least an hour once you enter. Because of this time limitation, there are no lantern rentals or admittance into the cave after 4 p.m. The gate at Highway 97 is closed and locked at this time as well, so plan your trip accordingly.

Interpretive and educational program schedules will be posted at entrance stations, information desks, and campground bulletin boards. Please check the weekly schedule for times and locations throughout the summer. For more information call Lava Lands Visitor Center at 541-593-2421.

Also, as part of Phase 2, new exhibits will be fabricated over the summer and will be installed in the autumn after Lava Lands closes for the season. The High Desert Museum worked with the Deschutes to develop the temporary exhibits for summer 2008.

These exciting changes to the visitor center are the first of this magnitude in over 30 years. The interpretive themes of the new exhibits will showcase the interconnections between the geology, ecology, climate, and culture of central Oregon. The grand opening will be held during the summer of 2009 at Lava Lands Visitor Center when the new exhibits and remodel are fully complete.