

**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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**Lava Lands Visitor Center Open for Season Today**

*BEND* – Lava Lands Visitor Center opens to the public today, May 7, 2008 for five days a week from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. It will be open for seven days a week starting July 2nd through September 14th.

A full renovation of the Lava Lands Visitor Center building is near completion this year. Several phases of the project are needed to complete the entire upgrade. Phase 1 included a facelift of the exterior and interior of the Center. Construction started in the fall of 2006 and was completed spring 2008. A new 1,500 square foot addition to house the lobby, reception area, and gift shop was completed over the last year. The exterior of the building has also been upgraded. However, the exhibit hall and other areas of the interior will not be completed until Phase 2, which begins in autumn 2008.

Interpretive programs are offered June 25 to September 14 at Lava Lands Visitor Center, 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. The opening of Lava River Cave is dependent on snow and ice conditions that accumulate at the cave opening. Please call ahead to be sure that the cave is open prior to visiting.

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 after at 541-593-2421.

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 in over thirty 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 renovation are complete.