

The Newspaper of Crater Lake National Park



NEW FUEL SYSTEM WILL PROTECT CRATER LAKE'S FUTURE

Welcome to Crater Lake National Park. For over 100 years, visitors have come to marvel at the lakes's beautiful blue color and its magnificent mountain setting. Many have made their way down to the shoreline at Cleetwood Cove. During recent years, visitors have taken boat tours with ranger guides. These gasoline-powered boats have provided thousands with the unique learning experience of being on a pristine lake, isolated within the caldera of a dormant volcano.

This summer, the boat tours are suspended while the National Park Service upgrades the boat's fuel delivery system. The construction will also require the closure of the Cleetwood Cove Trail to all public access to avoid jeopardizing the safety of visitors. Summer provides the only snow-free period during which this important work can take place. New gasoline tanks, pipelines, and a dispensing system will employ the latest technology to provide the caldera with maximum protection against leakage and spills. The project is essential for the long term protection of Crater Lake.

We are sorry for any inconvenience caused by suspending the boat tours and closing the trail. However, there are many other ways to experience the park. Please stop by either of our two visitor centers at Rim Village or

Park Information

(541) 594-2211 Ext. 402 www.nps.gov/crla Park Headquarters where rangers can suggest other activities that will help you learn about and enjoy Crater Lake National Park. Photo by Jim Phelan

Summer 1998

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VISITOR ACTIVITIES



William G. Steel Visitor Center

Good Places to Start Your Park Visit!

There are two visitor information centers at Crater Lake National Park. Both are fully accessible to visitors with mobility impairments. A park ranger or volunteer will be on duty to assist you with park information, trip planning, weather forecasts and backcountry camping permits. Books, maps, posters, and other educational materials are available for purchase from the Crater Lake Natural History Association at these locations. The **Steel Visitor Center** is located at park headquarters on the south side of the park. It is open all year from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm daily. The **Rim Village Visitor Center** is open daily during the summer months from 8:30 am - 6:00 pm.



Rim Village Visitor Center

RANGER LED PROGRAM SCHEDULE



Programs offered from June 28 - September 7, 1998	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	· Sat.
Discovering Crater Lake - The formation of the "Jewel of the Cascades" is a fascinating story. Learn about the special qualities of the lake and the features found within the caldera. Talks presented hourly at the Sinnott Memorial Overlook. (20 minutes)	10am-5pm Hourly	10am-5pm Hourly	10am-5pm Hourly		10am-5pm Hourly	10am-5pm Hourly	10am-5pr Hourly
The Rim Village Story - Rim Village has been a gathering place for visitors to Crater Lake for over 100 years. Learn about the past, present and future of this popular place. Meet at the Rim Visitor Center flagpole for an easy walk. (half hour)	3:30pm						
 Jr. Rangers - Visitors between the ages of 6 through 12 are encouraged to participate in the park's Jr. Ranger Program. (one hour) *Meet at Rim Village Visitor Center flagpole for morning program. *Meet at Mazama Campground ampitheatre for afternoon program. 	11:00am 5:00pm	11:00am 5:00pm	11:00am 5:00pm	11:00am 5:00pm	11:00am 5:00pm	11:00am . 5:00pm	, 11:00am 5:00pm
Who Lives Here? - Many animals make their home in Crater Lake National Park. Take a look at one group of park residents. Animals featured will vary. Meet at Rim Village Visitor Center flagpole. (half hour)	1:30pm			1:30pm	1:30pm	1:30pm	ኘ:30pm
An Evening at the Rim - Join a ranger to discover what makes Crater Lake National Park a place worth preserving. Program topics will vary. Meet at the Rim Visitor Center flagpole. (one hour)	8:00pm	P. C. C.		- 24	8:00pm	8:00pm	8:00pm
Evening Campfire Program - Sit and relax under the stars to learn more about Crater Lake National Park during these one hour slide presentations. Programs held at Mazama Campground ampitheatre.	9:00pm 8:30 in August						
Beyond the Pavement				Terman des	A ANY		. Terry
Discovery Point Hike - Hike to the place where Crater Lake was first discovered by European Americans in 1853. Meet at Rim Village Visitor Center flagpole. 2 miles (2 hours)	2:00pm	e Many have rai	2:00pm	nicom ni ocní jest	2:00pm	sti bina w	2:00pm
Wildflower Wanderings - The summer wildflowers at Crater Lake are spectacular. Join a ranger to discover where the peak bloom is today! Check at either visitor center for hike location and distance. (2 hours)	2:00pm	spann au	2:00pm	pion train	2:00pm	to calder	2:00pm
Mt. Scott Hike - Climb Crater Lake's highest peak where breath-taking views await you! Meet at the Mt. Scott trailhead. 5 miles (4 hours)	1:00pm	ile che Ni				adr. pseu	1:00pm
The Nature of Fire - Visit the site of an actual fire to learn more about the critical role fire plays in forest ecology. Meet at the Steel Information Center and be ready to caravan to the hike location. 2 mile (2 hours)		2:00pm		2:00pm		2:00pm	
Sunset at Sun Notch - Twilight is a magical time at Crater Lake. Take a pleasant evening stroll with a park ranger to this favorite Crater Lake viewpoint. Meet at Sun Notch parking area. 1/2 mile (1 hour)		d techego		8:00pm		the culde	
Godfrey Glen Hike - Take a soothing walk through an ancient forest. Meet at the Godfrey Glen parking area for this short hike. 1 mile (1 hour)	2:30pm		2:30pm		2:30pm	a rái vor	2:30pm
Watchman Peak Hike - Hike to a historic fire lookout tower with fantastic views of the surrounding area. Meet at the Watchman Peak parking area. 1.5 miles (1 1/2 hours)		Tease stor		erience ti		w catter w	10:30pm
Annie Creek Canyon Hike - Walk along a cool mountain stream and learn another piece of Crater Lake's story. Meet at the Mazama Campground ampitheatre (between D and E Loops). 1.7 miles (1 1/2 hours)		2:30pm		2:30pm		2:30pm	
Garfield Peak Hike - Enjoy spectacular views and wildflowers as you travel up Garfield Peak. Meet at the Rim Village Visitor Center flagpole. 3.4 miles (2 hours)		2:00pm		2:00pm	and the second	2:00pm	

SUPPORTING THE PARK

Crater Lake Natural History Association



Established in 1942, the Crater Lake Natural History Association (CLNHA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing educational and scientific activities within Crater Lake National Park. The funds generated from NHA sales of items purchased

at our park visitor centers are invested directly back into the park, providing services such as publishing park related books and maps, printing this news-paper, and purchasing equipment and materials for educational and scientific research programs. The Crater Lake NHA also supports Oregon Caves National Monument in Cave Junction, OR.

Park visitors are invited to become members of the Crater Lake Natural History Association to learn more about the park's natural and cultural resources. Yearly memberships can be purchased at park visitor centers or by mailing in the coupon below. Members receive a number of benefits including:

- * A 15% discount on books, videos, maps, and other sales items.
- * Discounts from most other park associations including Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Yosemite, and Mt. Rainier.
- * A subscription to our park's semi-annual newspaper Reflections.
- * The satisfaction of assisting the important educational and scientific programs of Crater Lake National Park.





Nature Notes from Crater Lake

Nature Notes from Crater Lake is an annual publication produced by our park staff as an aid to visitors. This publication contains original research or observations that should be of interest to anyone wanting more than a fleeting glimpse of the park area. Authors include employees of the National Park Service, Volunteers-in-Parks, and members of the Friends of Crater Lake. Sponsored by the Crater Lake Natural History Association, Nature Notes can be purchased for \$1.50 at either park visitor center.



Friends of Crater Lake volunteer Lloyd Smith ready to assist park visitors.



Spending Time With Friends

Founded in 1993, the Friends of Crater Lake is a non-profit organization cooperating with the National Park Service in the stewardship of Crater Lake National Park's natural and cultural resources. Activities have included volunteer work inside the park and regional meetings held in nearby communities. 1998 program activities will include:

Planting Collomia Mazama - Scheduled for late June/early July (depending upon snowmelt). For information contact: Greg Reddell (541)882-6257.

Fire Lookouts - A workshop will be offered to train volunteers for duties associated with fire surveillance at the Watchman Peak and Mt. Scott fire lookout towers. Those interested must be able to hike over steep, exposed terrain. Training is currently scheduled for July 24. For more information contact: Bev or Jim Glassner (541)793-3205.

Trail Project Weekend - Lost Creek Campground will be the base camp on July 24, 25, and 26 for various trail improvement projects. Participants can attend one, two, or all three days. For more information contact: Greg Hartell (541) 882-1134 or Greg Reddell (541) 882-6257.

Hosting Cycle Oregon - Scheduled to be in the Crater Lake area Sept. 16. Contact Judy Buckingham (541)783-3136 for further information.

Winter Information Desk Volunteers - A workshop will be offered in November to train volunteers to assist with operation of the Rim Village Information Desk. Volunteers are needed on weekends throughout the winter season. For more information contact: Sally Wells (541) 783-2866.

Membership brochures for the

Friends of Crater Lake are available at either park visitor center or by writing to the address at right. Friends of Crater Lake P.O. Box 88 Crater Lake, OR 97604

PRESERVING THE PARK

The Division of Natural Resource Preservation and Research at Crater Lake National Park will be continuing work on a wide variety of terrestrial and aquatic projects this summer. Park scientists will focus their efforts on lake research, fisheries restoration, sensitive species surveys, and habitat restoration. In addition to these ongoing projects, several new projects will begin and proposals for others will be finalized this year. These monitoring and research studies provide valuable information about park resources and are critical in the park-wide effort to understand and preserve the ecosystems of the Crater Lake area.



Lake research and monitoring program



Native plant restoration project

Research Efforts Continue for Aquatic Resources

In 1982 the park began an in-depth study of the Crater Lake ecosystem. The park will continue the long-term research and monitoring program to better understand the complex processes that occur in the lake. The program is a cooperative effort between scientists from Crater Lake National Park and Oregon State University.

Throughout the year, researchers collect samples and gather data to analyze the lake's physical, chemical and biological characteristics. On June 25, 1997, a record clarity reading of 43.3 meters (142 feet) was recorded using an 8 inch secchi disk. The significance of the lake's clarity cannot be understated, for the spectacular blue color of Crater Lake is directly related to its clear water and great depth.

The greatest human related impact to the lake continues to be the self-sustaining population of rainbow trout and kokanee salmon introduced to the lake in the early 1900s. The fish have caused significant changes to the zooplankton community and food web in the lake.

The long-term monitoring program will continue this year. Weather data is collected from stations on the caldera rim and in the lake itself in order to monitor climate variability. Sediment traps are situated in the water column to investigate particles and nutrients entering and mixing in the lake. Water temperature changes and mixing are studied using a thermistor chain located throughout the water column. These studies help refine our understanding of the interaction of climate and lake ecology.

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Terrestrial Resources Program Takes Flight

1998 marks the seventh year of survey efforts for the threatened northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*). After five years of inventorying all of the old growth forest for possible nest sites, efforts now focus on monitoring the known suitable habitat for site occupancy and reproductive status. The park has suitable habitat for 20-30 spotted owls. In 1997, only 16 owls were observed.

Biologists continue to monitor activity at the park's only peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) aerie (nest site). This historical site has been studied off and on since the late 1800s. Because of successful worldwide conservation efforts, the endangered peregrine falcon has recently been proposed for delisting by the USFWS along with the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*).

Restoration ecologists are continuing their efforts to "heal" construction wounds by replanting disturbed areas with native plant species. The process includes collecting seeds, cultivating plants and replanting in a manner that mimics the natural distribution of species. The primary areas of concern this year are in the vicinity of the Crater Lake Lodge, the new Mazama concession dormitory, and the roadside between headquarters and the rim. In addition, this year marks the beginning of a program to survey and develop restoration plans for areas of historical human impact including old roads, rock quarries, and administrative use sites. This multi-phase project will begin with the identification and field mapping of disturbed sites using GIS/GPS technology. Priority sites will be identified this winter, and individual, site-specific restoration plans will then be developed.

Wildlife biologists are developing proposals to survey and monitor sensitive avian and amphibian species within the park. The park is home to three species of woodpeckers and seven species of frogs subject to listing under the Endangered Species Act. Very little is known about their current abundances and distribution. All of this work will aid park management in understanding and ultimately maintaining biodiversity within Crater Lake National Park.



Efforts to stabilize and restore the native bull trout population of Sun Creek will enter into a seventh summer in 1998. The project is intended to stabilize and improve a remnant population of bull trout (Salvelinus confluentus). Bull trout were once prevalent in several park streams, but are now proposed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The small remaining population is being threatened by non-native brook trout introduced in the past. The fisheries restoration project involves removal of the non-native fish using fish toxin and extensive and repeated electroshocking. The project appears to be successful, however more field work and monitoring will be required. The information gained from the fisheries program will aid bull trout conservation efforts throughout the Northwest.



New Policy Reflects Changes in Fire Management

The challenge of managing wildland fire has increased in both complexity and magnitude. Catastrophic fires from previous land management practices that emphasized suppression of all fires has resulted in an altered vegetation pattern on our public lands. Ecological deterioration due to excessive fuel loads and forest structure changes pose a serious threat for permanent damage to a variety of ecosystems that encompass these areas.

In response to the values at risk on both public and private managed lands, the National Park Service

will implement the new Federal Wildland Fire Policy during 1998. Crater Lake will be one of many units in the National Park Service to begin the process of integrating wildland fire, prescribed fire, and wildfire into the fire management program that currently exists in the park. This new policy will be implemented in several ways to protect human life, meet vegetation management goals, and reintroduce fire back into fire dependent ecosystems.

After a fire is located, the surrounding area will be evaluated for ecological, social, and political considerations before determining the specific strategy to be used by fire management.



Low intensity surface fire burning under ponderosa pine

The use of wildland fire recognizes that fire is a natural occurring process that played a critical role in the evolution of ecosystems. As a tool for resource management objectives, the use of this strategy is based upon the best available scientific research and will be used to protect, enhance, and maintain resources in different ecosystems throughout the park. Fire used in this method will require an approved fire management plan and a formal prescription to ensure that the fire is meeting all land management objectives. Allowing fire to function in its natural ecological role is a critical component of maintaining healthy ecosystems.

Another strategy that will be used in selected fire management units is called prescribed fire. The use of this tool is designed to meet vegetation management objectives in units where wildland fire cannot be safely introduced because of hazardous fuel accumulations and structurally altered ecosystems. Prior to the exclusion of fire, ponderosa pine forests in Crater Lake National Park have had a five to fifteen year fire return interval. With the introduction of intense fire suppression policies in the twentieth century, former open pine forests are much more likely to experience high intensity fires due to the increases in fuel loads, density of trees, and disease occurrences beyond normal cycles.

The use of prescribed fire must be skillfully applied under an approved burn plan in a safe, controlled and cost effective manner. These fires will be the first step towards the rehabilitation of forests such as ponderosa pine which have been significantly affected by fire exclusion.

In recognizing that human life is the first priority in wildland fire management, wildfires that occur in

By Chris Chiverton and John Cataldo

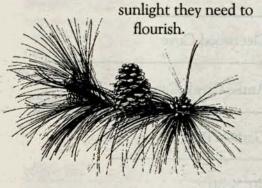
the park that do not meet management objectives or threaten values at risk will be suppressed. Suppression techniques will be used that minimize damage to the landscape while protecting life, property, and resources. All human caused fires that

occur in the park will be suppressed.

Beginning with the Goodbye Fire in 1978, Crater Lake National Park has historically been at the forefront of utilizing fire as a tool to meet vegetation management objectives. The new wildland fire policy will again give the park the opportunity to allow fire to play its role as a critical natural process in the future.

Did You Know?

Many trees are adapted to fire effects and some even depend upon fire for germination and growth. Fires help some species compete against faster growing but less fire resistant species that could take over their habitat. Crater Lake's ponderosa pines are an example of trees that depend upon fire to clear the understory of brush and small trees. Regular fire intervals provide seedlings with the



EXPLORING PARK TRAILS

y Ches Chiverton and John Cauldo

Getting Away From it All ...

Crater Lake National Park has over 90 miles of maintained hiking trails for you to explore! Excellent views of the lake and surrounding area can be found from various peaks throughout the park. For trail suggestions, current conditions, regulations, and other hiking information, stop in and talk with a park ranger at one of our two visitor centers. While enjoying the park trails, **please keep the following park regulations in mind:**

- Climbing inside the caldera is strictly prohibited. Please see trail closure note for Cleetwood Cove hiking trail.
- Dogs and other pets are not allowed on park trails.

Free backcountry permits are required for anyone wishing to overnight in the backcountry. Permits are available at both park visitor centers during regular hours of operation.

- Bicycles are not allowed on park trails. Bicycling is allowed on paved roads and the Grayback nature road.
- Shortcutting on trails is prohibited. Please help us protect the vegetation and prevent erosion by obeying this regulation.
- All park resources (rocks, plants, artifacts, etc.) are to be left undisturbed for other visitors to enjoy in the future.

5 miles round trip

Smoking is not permitted on any trail.

Note: Cleetwood Cove Trail Closure

The Cleetwood Cove hiking trail will be **closed** to all public access during the summer of 1998 while construction of the new fuel delivery system is in progress. Closure of the trail is the only way to avoid jeopardizing the safety of visitors while this important project is being completed. We would like to remind visitors that it will not be possible to reach the lakeshore while this work is underway - the Cleetwood trail is the only legal and safe access route to the lake.

Leave No Trace

The Leave No Trace (LNT) program is a multi-agency effort established to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation. We hope you will carefully consider the six principles of Leave No Trace whenever you are participating in an outdoor experience.

Leave No Trace Principles:

- 1. Plan ahead and prepare .
- 2. Camp and travel on durable surfaces.
- 3. Pack it in, pack it out!
- 4. Properly dispose of what you can't pack out.
- 5. Leave what you find.
- 6. Minimize use and impact of fires.



views; Historic fire tower

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Destination/Trail Name	Distance	Difficulty	Trail Highlights Overlook of Crater Lake and Phantom Ship		
Sun Notch Viewpoint	1/2 mile round trip	Short stroll Allow 30 minutes .			
Castle Crest Wildflower Garden	1/2 mile loop trail	Short stroll Allow 30 minutes	Beautiful brook; Display of wild- flowers July - August		
Godfrey Glen	1 mile loop trail	Gentle level hike Allow 45 minutes	Overlook of Annie Creek Canyon Old growth forest		
Watchman Peak	1.4 miles round trip	Moderate climb; 500 ft. elev.gain Allow 1 hour	Historic fire tower; Overlook of Wizard Island		
Cleetwood Cove	2.2 miles round trip	Strenuous climb; 700 ft. elev. gain • Allow 2 hours; See article above	Note: trail closed during 1998 construction project		
Annie Creek Canyon	1.7 mile loop trail	Moderate climb out of canyon Allow 1 1/2 hours	Deep stream cut canyon; Wild- flower and wildlife sightings		
Garfield Peak	3.4 miles round trip	Strenuous; 1,000 ft. elev. gain Allow 2 to 3 hours	Panoramic views; Overlook of Phantom Ship		
Mt Scott	5 miles round trip	Strenuous; 1,500 ft. elev. gain	Highest peak in park, Outstandin		

Allow 3 hours

CRATER LAKE HIKING GUIDE

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Mt. Scott

PARK PLANNING

Camping

A New Plan for an Old Park...

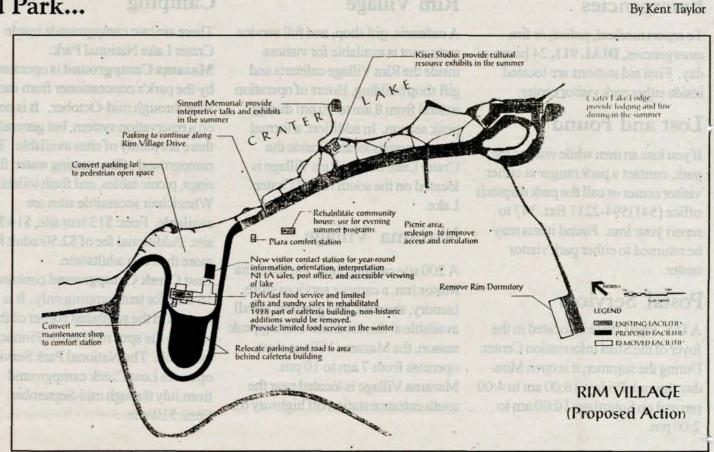
During the past two years, the National Park Service developed a Visitors Services Plan for Crater Lake National Park. It sought to define appropriate levels and kinds of interpretive and commercial services which enhance visitor enjoyment of the park. The plan addresses issues and concerns raised by the National Park Service, and identified by the public during scoping meetings and in response to newsletters. The plan will set direction for a new concession contract that replaces one which expired in October 1997. The park has requested the existing .concessioner to continue providing services through October 1998, while a new contract is developed.

The National Park Service's "Proposed Action" is intended to

improve the protection of the park's resources and provide visitors with more interpretive and informational services. A new visitor contact station, with year round, handicapped-accessible viewing of the lake, would be located in Rim Village near the cafeteria. The relocation of some commercial and support services from Rim Village to Mazama Village or outside the park would reduce congestion and parking needs. The parking lot in front of the cafeteria would be removed away from the caldera. Currently, while clearing snow from this parking lot, prevailing winds force us to plow and blow snow toward the caldera along with debris and drippings from vehicles that park there. A new and smaller parking lot would be located behind the cafeteria.

Rim Village is a historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The plan would help preserve and protect the cultural resources, while providing facilities for interpretive presentations and exhibits about the park's resources. The "Proposed Action" calls for rehabilitation or restoration of several historic structures and the associated landscape. For example, the non-historic additions to the cafeteria would be removed, and its exterior features rehabilitated to its 1928 appearance. This and other facilities would be returned to their traditional uses and reopened to visitors.

Viewing Crater Lake is the key part of the visitor experience. Boat tours would be reduced from nine scheduled tours per day to seven, thus allowing more visitors to view the lake without the appearance of boats and their wakes. Boat tour schedule changes and a new reservation system should provide a more efficient operation and permit as many visitors to experience the interpretive boat tours as have in the past. Risk of petro-



leum spills from the gasoline-powered tour boats, and impact on the lake's water quality from exhausts would be slightly reduced because of fewer boat tours. A pilot program to use electric boats or alternative fuels could be implemented when those technologies become feasible.

Mazama Village, located more than three miles away from the lake, would become the focal point for most commercial visitor services in the park. A new full-service restaurant would be located there, replacing the Watchman restaurant in Rim Village. Retail sales would be expanded in the Mazama Village Store, partly offsetting the loss of retail space at the rehabilitated Rim Village cafeteria. The current campground, amphitheater, gas station, 40 lodging units, and concession employee housing at Mazama Village would remain.

Five alternatives were considered in the planning process, including a "No Action" alternative. The "Proposed Action", as summarized above, was deemed optimal in providing resource protection and adequate visitor services. For further information about the Visitor Services Plan, please contact the Park Superintendent, Crater Lake National Park, Box 7, Crater Lake, Oregon 97604, or call (541) 594-2211 ext. 101.



VISITOR SERVICES

Emergencies

To report medical, police; or fire emergencies, **DIAL 911**, 24 hours-aday. First aid stations are located inside either park visitor center.

Lost and Found

If you lose an item while visiting the park, contact a park ranger at either visitor center or call the park dispatch office (541)594-2211 Ext. 347 to report your loss. Found items may be returned to either park visitor center.

Postal Services

A U.S. Post Office is located in the foyer of the Steel Information Center. During the summer, it is open Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and on Saturdays 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Rim Village

A cafeteria, gift shop, and full service restaurant is available for visitors inside the Rim Village cafeteria and gift shop building. Hours of operation extend from 8 am to 10 pm during peak season. In addition, a formal dining room is located inside the Crater Lake Lodge. Rim Village is located on the south rim of Crater Lake.

Mazama Village

A 200 site campground, the Mazama Motor Inn, a camper services-store, laundry, showers, and gasoline are all available at this location. During peak season, the Mazama Village store operates from 7 am to 10 pm. Mazama Village is located near the south entrance station off highway 62.

Camping

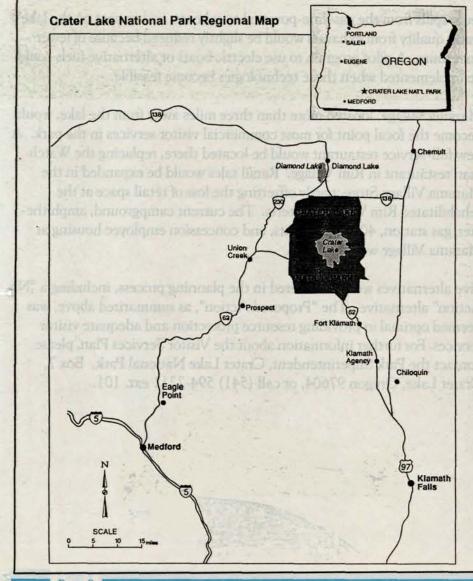
There are two campgrounds inside Crater Lake National Park: **Mazama Campground** is operated by the park's concessioner from early June through mid-October. It is not on a reservation system, but generally there are plenty of sites available. The campground offers running water, fire rings, picnic tables, and flush toilets. Wheelchair accessible sites are

available. Fees: \$13/tent site, \$14/RV site. Additional fee of \$2.50/adult for more than two adults/site.

Lost Creek Campground contains 16 sites for tent camping only. It is located in the southeast corner of the park on the spur road to the Pinnacles overlook. The National Park Service operates Lost Creek campground from July through mid-September. Fees: \$10/site.

Lodging

Inside the park, there are two facilities for overnight lodging: The 71 room Crater Lake Lodge overlooking the lake is located at Rim Village. It will be open for the summer season May 20 through October 20, 1998. Reservations are highly recommended well in advance. The 40 unit Mazama Village Motor Inn is located seven miles south of the lake in the Mazama Village complex. It will be open for summer guests from June 5 through October 10, 1998. To make reservations for either of these accommodations, contact the Crater Lake Lodge, Inc. (541) 830-8700, FAX (541) 830-8514, or by writing Crater Lake Lodge, Inc; P.O. Box 2704, White City, OR 97503.



Getting to the Park

During the summer, Crater Lake National Park may be entered either from the north via Highway 138 or from the south via Highway 62. Spring and Fall travellers need to note that during an average snowfall year, the north entrance to the park opens for the season in mid-June and may close in early October when the next winter's snowfall begins.

Travelling Crater Lake's Rim Drive

Inside the park, the 33 mile Rim Drive circles the lake. There are more than 30 overlooks located along this scenic two lane road. On average, allow two hours to travel completely around Crater Lake. There is one spur road departing from the Rim Drive on the east side of the lake. This seven mile road provides access to the Pinnacles Overlook and Lost Creek Campground. While enjoying the spectacular views found along Rim Drive, be on the lookout for deer and other wildlife crossing the road. Also be aware that icy road conditions may be present at any time of the year. Please obey the posted speed limits at all times.

Driving Distances in Summer:

80 miles 60 miles

105 miles

140 miles

250 miles

425 miles 450 miles

Medford Klamath Falls Bend Eugene Portland Seattle San Francisco