

Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve Core Management Team

Walking the walk: How effective interagency communication can help get things done

Goal / Vision

- Develop a highly functioning BLM/NPS core management team to identify and access knowledge and other resources to accomplish work.
- Make significant progress toward accomplishing resource objectives outlined by the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve Management Plan.



Network Objectives

1. Analyze social networks – BLM/BLM, BLM/NPS
2. Provide opportunity for agencies to discuss mission and workload differences and similarities
3. Provide opportunities for staff to understand each others role in management of the Monument
4. Develop communication plan for Core Management Team
5. Complete implementation plan for Monument Management Plan to reflect both agencies' priorities and resource needs.
6. Develop integrated, interagency budget and project proposals for areas/programs where we can and should work collaboratively

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Network Partners

- **Partners : Vendors**
- Liz Madison Consulting

- **Potential Partners**
- Craters of the Moon Natural History Association

- **Intra/Inter Agency Partners**
- National Park Service



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When – Stage of Network Development

November 1, 2008:

Research and Development - I have been working with the NPS Superintendent on developing this network. We have been working collaboratively to set priorities for implementation of the Monument Management Plan. We have initiated a social network analysis and are working to set up a meeting to work on the following:

- Meet and greet – NPS and BLM
- Current state of communication between and within agencies
- Future steps to improve communication

July 1, 2009:

Active - BLM and NPS share goals (where applicable), objectives, and work plan and work has established channels of communication to address standard operating procedures, challenges, opportunities and recognition.

Where – Network Geography

Where does this network operate?

This is the type of network that needs hands-on nurturing. The missions and culture of the NPS and BLM are so different, that we will be “deprogramming” in a sense. It could take a couple of years of working face-to-face to establish the relationships that will allow for efficient communication and sharing of information and resources.

What communities and stakeholders will your network support, engage, reach?

Craters of the Moon NHA
Conservation partners
Science and education partners
Grazing permittees
Recreational users
Gateway communities
Local schools

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Bottom Line: Benefits of the Network

Present

- Alignment of management protocols (i.e. monitoring, vegetation treatments) – work toward improving baseline data and data collection to allow for better tracking of natural and heritage resource trends.
- Improved relationships within and between agencies – improve employee morale?

Future

- Leverage each agencies' funding and staff expertise – consistent and collaborative budget/project proposals resulting in getting more done for less?
- Institutionalize coordination/communication between agency staff – apparently “seamless” management to the public as per Proclamation 7373.
- Consistent management protocols – consistent baseline data to allow for adaptive management.
- Coordinated science and data needs for adaptive management– utilize NPS research portal to reach more educational institutions to promote science opportunities and needs for the Monument.



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	Evaluation Criteria	Comments
1	Advance strategic priorities	Improved communication will result in collaboratively identified strategic priorities and allow for development of projects and budget proposals that leverage each agencies' strengths and promote DOI strategic plan.
2	Leverage BLM funding	Improved communication will result in collaboratively identified strategic priorities and allow for development of budget proposals that may be more competitive. Projects such as weed control are critical funding needs for both agencies.
3	Demonstrate big-picture thinking	Improved communication will result in a better understanding amongst staff of both agencies of the other agencies' mission and culture which will contribute to the "seamless" management of the Monument.
4	Demonstrate entrepreneurship	Core Management Team relationship will result in greater opportunities to reach out to work with partners like Idaho Department of Fish and Game, OHV groups, grazing permittees, and The Nature Conservancy.
5	Management of volunteer and assistant agreements and contracts	Work by the Core Management Team could result in new shared positions and/or sharing existing staff to develop and maintain agreements that include both agencies.
6	Demonstrate effective external and internal communication	This project will hopefully result in observable effective internal communication. External communication can benefit from both agencies becoming more familiar with each other. One result would be accomplishing more on-the-ground work through a team effort instead of as individual agencies.
7	Actions promoting sustainability of the network	Improved communication will allow for consistency in information sharing regardless of staff turnover.
8	Potential as a network model	A communication network could result in a model for future NPS/BLM managed National Monuments.

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Lessons Learned in Network Management

- You need to be tenacious. If you're the only one pushing for this, you've got your work cut out for you (get other folks jazzed about it).
- Include as many parties as you can think of – people really like to know what's going on and why.
- Be patient, things usually don't change quickly.

Challenges to Network Management

- Getting other folks to buy-in to this project/process.
- This whole concept and the process is time consuming.