

NEWS RELEASE

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION



Deschutes National Forest

63095 Deschutes Market Rd., Bend, OR, 97701
www.fs.usda.gov/centraloregon

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May 4, 2012

Lava Lands Visitor Center Now Open

Will Open on Weekends in May

BEND – Beginning tomorrow, the Deschutes National Forest's Newberry National Volcanic Monument Lava Lands Visitor Center will open on weekends in May.

On May 5, 2012 the Visitor Center, located on South Hwy 97, approximately 10 miles south of Bend, will open on weekends and the Memorial Day Holiday, May 28. Beginning on May 31 through June 30, 2012 the Visitor Center will be open Thursday to Monday and starting July 1, 2012 it will open daily. Hours for the Visitor Center are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Visitors will enjoy a new 3-D topographic model of Newberry National Volcanic Monument at the Visitor Center. In addition, upgrades are being done to the Trail of Molten Land and repairs are being made to the upper viewing platform at Lava Butte. Both the trail and the platform will be closed during May to allow for construction.

Parking at the Visitor Center requires a recreation pass and there is no accommodation for oversized vehicles when the Visitor Center is closed.

Visitors may access picnic sites, open trails and Lava Butte by foot or bike when the Visitor Center is not open.

For more information, visitors can call a new Newberry National Volcanic Monument Information line at 541-383-5700 or the Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District at 541-383-4000.

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More Information:

The 2012 edition of Volcanic Vistas is available for download on the Deschutes National Forest Website 'highlights' windows at www.fs.usda.gov/centraloregon.

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Directions:

From Bend, OR, travel south on Highway 97 approximately 6 miles south of Exit 143 Baker/Knott Rd. Turn right into pocket lane when you see the Lava Lands site sign.

From La Pine, OR, travel north on Highway 97. Take Exit 151/Cottonwood Rd. Turn right after exiting. Continue on Forest Service Road 9703 for about 2 miles passing Lava River Cave. Turn right after underpass to Lava Lands Visitor Center Welcome Station. If you miss Exit 151, proceed north to Exit 143 Baker/Knot Rd. and follow southbound directions.

Other Monument Sites and Services Anticipated Opening Dates:

LOCATION	Opening Information
Lava River Cave	Saturday, May 26
Forest Service Rd. 9720 to Lava Cast Forest	Road: open & snow free. Trail: snow patches
Forest Road 21 to Newberry Caldera	Gate opens Saturday, May 12
Paulina Lake Lodge	Saturday, May 12
East Lake Resort	Friday, May 25
Newberry Welcome Station	Saturday, May 26
Paulina Visitor Center	Weekends June 9-17, then Th-M starting 6/21
Caldera Campgrounds	Check Hoodoo.com for opening updates
Caldera Boat Ramps	Saturday, May 26
Paulina Falls and Big Obsidian Parking	TBD based on snowmelt, 541-383-5700
Forest Service Road 500 to Paulina Peak	TBD based on snowmelt, likely in June