

CAVE PUBLIC ACCESS

Deschutes National Forest

July 2011



Lava River Cave

The Deschutes National Forest has more than 350 caves. To protect sensitive cave resources, below are most of the caves that have seasonal or year-round closures. All other caves are open unless posted closed or gated at the cave.

Please contact the Deschutes at 541-383-4785 if you have questions.

Closed October 1 through April 30

- **Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District**
 - Lava River Cave
 - South Ice Cave
- **Sisters Ranger District**
 - Skylight Cave

Closed year-round

- **Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District**
 - Skeleton Cave:
 - Private tour available (commercial), May 1-April 30
 - Wind Cave
 - Deg Cave
 - Charcoal Cave #1
 - Bat Cave
 - Charlie the Cave
 - Lavacicle Cave
 - Hidden Forest Cave is closed year-round to climbing and bouldering but access through the cave is permitted year-round

Climbing/Bouldering

- Skeleton Cave is open May 1 through September 30 to bouldering outside of gate at cave entrance
- Hidden Forest Cave is closed year-round to climbing/bouldering but access through the cave is permitted year-round
- Use of chalk, hand drying agents, installing fixed anchors is not permitted in caves or at cave entries.

Please see other side of page for more information

Cave with Care: Keep It Clean!

Central Oregon has the highest concentration of caves in the state. Almost all are lava tubes, formed by pahoehoe (pronounced puh **hoi** hoi), a type of extremely hot, smooth basaltic lava that streams quickly across the land. These lava tubes are unique and fragile resources. Help us keep caving safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Bring these with you into the cave:

- A conservation ethic
- 3 sources of light and extra batteries
- A friend or two. Do not cave alone.
- Knowledge of your personal limits
- Water and food
- Caving helmet, long pants, sturdy boots and gloves
- Layered clothing: cave temperatures are 33 to 50 degrees
- As little gear as possible but enough to still be safe
- Non-glass containers to pack out food and body waste

DON'T bring these. The following items/activities are prohibited in caves (per 36 CFR Chapter 261)

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove fire
- Camping
- Smoking
- Alcoholic beverages
- Glass containers
- Domestic animals with the exception of a certified service dog in Lava River Cave, provided service dog waste is promptly removed
- Depositing any body waste in cave
- Using any hand-drying agent (chalk or substances)
- Installing/using any permanent or temporary anchors (bolted hangars, quick draws, etc.)
- Possessing any paint
- Operating an internal combustion engine
- Mountain bike or motorized vehicle
- Leaving abandoned property inside a cave including geocached items
- Vandalizing, tampering with, or removing any cave resource or cave feature including cave gates.