

Volcanic Feature	Simplified Diagram		Examples	Characteristics
Shield Volcano			Laidlaw Volcano, Pillar Butte (Wapi Volcano), Hawaiian volcanoes	Liquid lava emitted from a central vent; large; sometimes has a caldera or a crater; broad, low-angle profile
Cinder Cone			Craters of the Moon, Mount Tabor, Mount Zion, Chamberlain Hill, Pilot Butte, Lava Butte	Explosive liquid lava; small; emitted from a central vent; if continued long enough, may build up a shield volcano
Volcanic Dome			Big Southern Butte, Mount St. Helens Lava Dome	Very viscous lava; relatively small; can be explosive; commonly occurs adjacent to craters of composite volcanoes.
Caldera			Yellowstone Lake, Crater Lake	Very large composite volcano collapsed after an explosive period.

Modified from:Topnika, USGS/CVO, 1997, Allen, Volcanoes of the Portland Area, Ore-Bin, v. 37, no. 9

What Are The Types of Volcanoes?

Craters of the Moon has three kinds of volcanoes to see. Laidlaw Volcano and Pillar Butte are **Shield Volcanoes** that form when liquid rock oozes and flows out of a central vent. Pilot Butte and Lava Butte are **Cinder Cone Volcanoes** that formed when liquid rocks spatters and spits up from of a central vent. Big Southern Butte, like Oregon's Mount St. Helens, is a **Volcanic Dome** which forms when liquid rock is at hotter temperatures and can be explosive.

What Did Native Americans See?

"The area now known as Craters of the Moon is important to the Shoshone-Bannock because it represents both a place of sacred power and an ancestral ground crossed during seasonal migrations. The lava rock was heated in our sweat lodges and it was the rock that sent our prayers up to the creator. In the landscape of the lava flows, harmony was found."

-Laverne Broncho, Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Member

How Old Are The Lava Flows?

Southern Idaho has 12 volcanic fields that range from 0.5 million years old near its eastern border with Yellowstone National Park to 15 million years old near its western border with Oregon. Craters of the Moon is part of a volcanic field in south-central Idaho that formed 11 million years ago. At Craters of the Moon, the most recent series of lava flowed from volcanoes as recent as 2,100 years ago. [Learn more.](#)



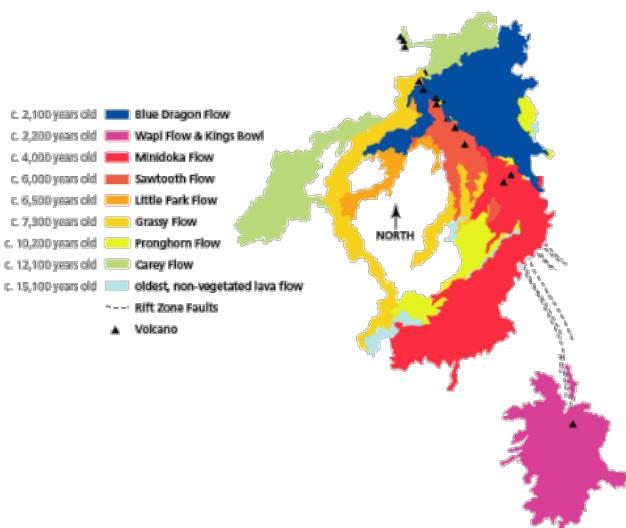
Shoshone legend speaks of a serpent on a mountain who, angered by lightning, coiled around it and squeezed until liquid rock flowed, fire shot from cracks, and the mountain exploded. As the rock cooled, the snake was caught in the lava where it remains today.

DID YOU KNOW?

This region of Idaho was inhabited by humans 10,000-12,000 years ago. [More Information](#)

Words Rock!

Volcanic rock types at Craters of the Moon:



`A`a

is a Hawaiian term for “hard on the feet” lava flows that have incredibly spiny surfaces when solidified. Walking on `a`a is very difficult and slow.

Basalt

a fine grained, dark-colored rock rich in iron and magnesium and relatively poor in silica; the common lava of Hawaii and Craters of the Moon

Cinder

frothy rock ejected from a volcano

Crater

a bowl-shaped depression, generally in the top of a volcanic cone, often the vent for volcanic material

Fissure

a crack in the earth's surface from which volcanic material may erupt

Kipuka

is a Hawaiian term for an “island” of land. It forms when lava encircles a hill or rise as it moves downslope. [More Information](#)

Lava

magma which has reached the earth's surface [More Information](#)

Lava Tubes

hollow tunnels formed when the outer part of a flow has hardened and the inner, still molten material subsequently drains out

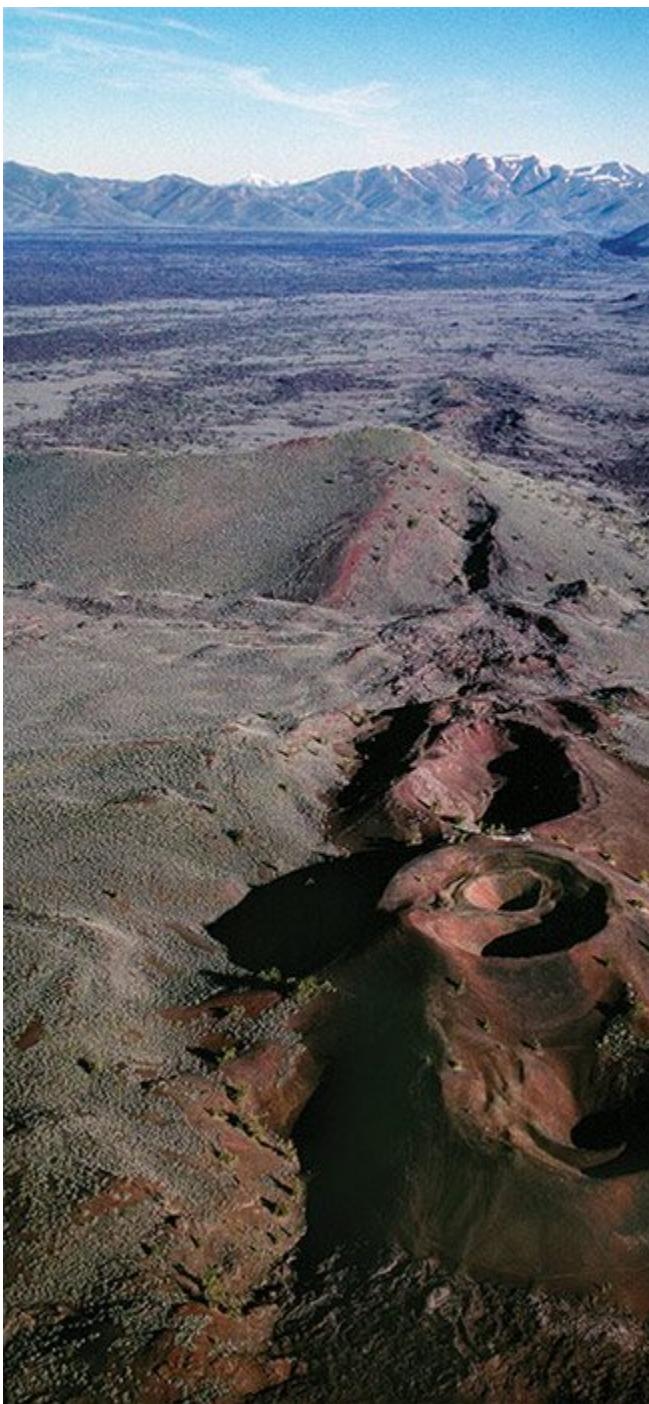
Magma

molten rock beneath the earth's surface

Pahoehoe

is a Hawaiian term for basaltic lava that has a smooth, hummocky, or ropy surface. A pahoehoe flow typically advances as a series of small lobes and toes that continually break

Volcanoes along the Great Rift © Glenn Oakley



out from a cooled crust.

Rafted Block or Monolith

large piece of a crater wall carried to a new location by a lava flow

Rift Zone

array of volcanic fissures along which repeated eruptions occur

Shield Volcano

broad, low profile volcano built up by repeated flows of very fluid lava

Spatter Cone

small, steep-sided cone built of blobs of sticky lava that have piled up around a vent

Tree Mold

impression left in the lava of the charred surface of a tree

Vents

conduits in the earth's surface from which volcanic material erupts

Volcano

vent in the surface of the earth through which magma, gases or ash erupt