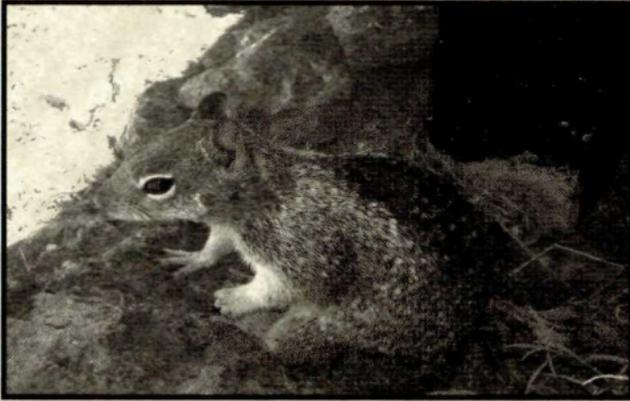




Lava Beds National Monument



Keep Wildlife Wild!

Lava Beds National Monument was established to protect its unique wildlife. Many of the wildlife species here are rare and need your help! **We all need to take responsibility for the wild animals whose habitat we share.** When humans are careless with food or garbage, wild animals pay the price.

A bag of garbage, bowl of pet food, handful of nuts, or unsecured food left on your picnic table can cause severe harm to wildlife. An animal can learn to equate people with food after being fed only once. This is called “food conditioning.” Food-conditioned animals will seek out human food any way they can. This behavior can put the animal, you, and other visitors at risk.



What problems do people cause by feeding wildlife?

- Food-conditioned animals will beg aggressively for food and may bite, causing serious injury and possible infection. Some animals carry diseases such as bubonic plague and rabies. Close contact with these animals can make you sick.
- Food-conditioned animals attract predators, and once these predators become used to humans, they may prey on people's pets and in rare instances, on people.
- Food-conditioned animals are at a high risk for being struck by a vehicle and may die as a result.
- Food-conditioned birds will stay in one area and prey on nearby wildlife.
- Animals store food to survive during winter months; human food does not store well. Animals that store human food may starve to death.
- **The park is taking efforts to stop wildlife feeding. If visitors are observed feeding wildlife or leaving food unsecured, they may be fined up to \$275 dollars.**

Here's what you can do:

- When using Indian Well Campground or picnic areas, always keep your site clean of food and garbage. Always store food, beverages, and toiletries inside your vehicle.
- Resist the temptation to feed wildlife.
- Keep a safe and respectful distance from wildlife. When visiting the Lava Beds Visitor Center, never feed the squirrels that may approach you; chase them away instead.
- Keep a clean campsite and pack out all food and garbage from the backcountry.
- Place all garbage inside an animal resistant or animal-proof garbage can or dumpster.
- When using trailhead parking lots, make sure food and garbage is not left behind.

Thank you for helping preserve and protect wildlife at your park!

*Feeding wildlife (36 CFR 2.2(a)(2))
and leaving food unsecured
(36 CFR 2.10(10)(d)) are park violations
and are subject to fines.*