A QUICK glance at the numerous functions of the Bureau of Land Management provides a clue to the vast potential of our public lands. Certainly mineral, timber, and livestock forage production have long been recognized. More recently the value of public lands for wildlife habitat and recreational pursuits has come into focus. In addition, occasionally areas are of particular interest from a scientific point of view.

The Jordan Craters lava flow in the remote upland desert of southeastern Oregon is such an area. Due to the lack of suitable access roads and the inhospitable character of the surrounding sagebrush-covered desert, this fascinating geological