



PACIFIC NORTHWEST SECTION

Geothermal Resources Council

On February 24th and 25th, 1987 in Portland, Oregon, the Pacific Northwest Section of the Geothermal Resources Council is sponsoring a technical workshop on the geochemistry and hydrology of Crater Lake.

A hypothesis has been put forth that thermal springs are active on the floor of Crater Lake and that these springs are critical to its limnology. The concern has been expressed that potential geothermal development on the flanks of Mount Mazama could possibly affect these suspected springs and therefore the lake itself. There is currently a moratorium on geothermal leasing until the National Park Service identifies thermal features within the National Park which could potentially be damaged by geothermal development outside of the park boundaries.

A brief window of time (February 15 to March 15) has been provided for public comment to the U.S. Department of the Interior on this issue. To facilitate informed comment and to increase understanding of the issue by all parties involved, a technical workshop is being convened. The workshop is intended to provide a forum for evaluation and discussion of relevant research and its implications. The convening of this workshop has received encouraging support from numerous interested parties including the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Department of Energy.

Scientists who have conducted relevant research on Crater Lake are invited to give informal presentations of their work and entertain discussion. We would appreciate researchers presenting work providing a n extended abstract or written summary. In addition to those who have conducted research, the workshop is open to any persons interested in this issue, or who wish to become involved in technical discussions. Policy makers and environmental organizations involved in this issue are particularly encouraged to participate.

Some of the pertinent questions to be addressed include:

What lines of evidence support the existence of thermal springs in Crater Lake? Is any of the evidence conclusive?

Are active hot springs the only possible explanation for the anomalous chemistry of Crater Lake? Has the chemical evolution of the lake been adequately modeled?

What is known about the hydrogeology of the Crater Lake area? What is the nature of the local and regional ground water systems around the lake. Given the above, what is a reasonable model for a hydrothermal systems. Under what hydrogeologic conditions would thermal springs be able to discharge from the floor of the lake? Are such springs likely to be in direct hydraulic communication with any hydrothermal systems outside the park?

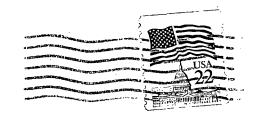
If thermal springs do exist in Crater Lake, what would be their anticipated effect on the limnology, optical properties and hydrology of the lake. What are the mechanisms by which any effects occur? Would such springs influence any possible convection in the lake?

The Workshop will be held February 24th and 25th at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Portland. The Price of the workshop is \$20.00, which will include lunch the first day.

If you would like to present your research or just attend, please contact Al Waibel, Columbia Geoscience, 22495 N.W. Quatama Rd. Hillsboro, OR 97124 (503) 640-9877

We would like to express our appreciation to those key researchers and agencies who have indicated an intent to participate.





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