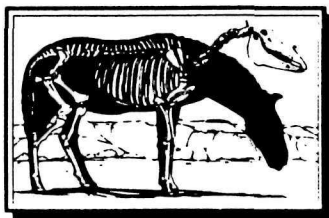


HAGERMAN FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

The FOSSIL



RECORD

APRIL 1994

SPECIAL ISSUE

AN IMPORTANT STEP IN MONUMENT PLANNING

We are about half way through the process for developing a **General Management Plan** for Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument. As you recall, we have agreed that we will work together to develop this long-range plan. Thus far, we have selected a site for the proposed Research Center and Museum, identified major issues and concerns, collected information and data, and drafted purpose and goals statements for the monument.

We are now considering a number of management options to address issues and topics that you told us were important.

We ask you to carefully review the options and goals in this newsletter now, before any decisions are made. If you feel an option is not reasonable, or if you like or dislike it, please tell us why on the enclosed form, or attend one of the meetings shown on the schedule below. If you would like more information or clarifications, please call us or drop by our office.

The next step will be to weigh the pros and cons of each option based upon your comments and our analysis of

how well each option helps to meet the purpose and goals of the monument. The more specific you can be about the reasons for your thoughts about the options, the more completely we will be able to evaluate their value for further consideration.

After that, we will develop detailed management objectives and alternative plans from groups of options. The alternative plans will then be analyzed in a Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, which is scheduled for another round of public review in spring 1995.

We are very excited about the opportunities available for the future of the monument! Your participation will help ensure that the plan provides the best means for managing the monument into the next century!

Sincerely,

Neil King
Superintendent

ANNOUNCING PUBLIC MEETINGS!

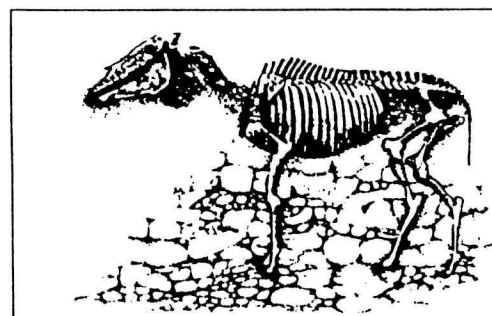
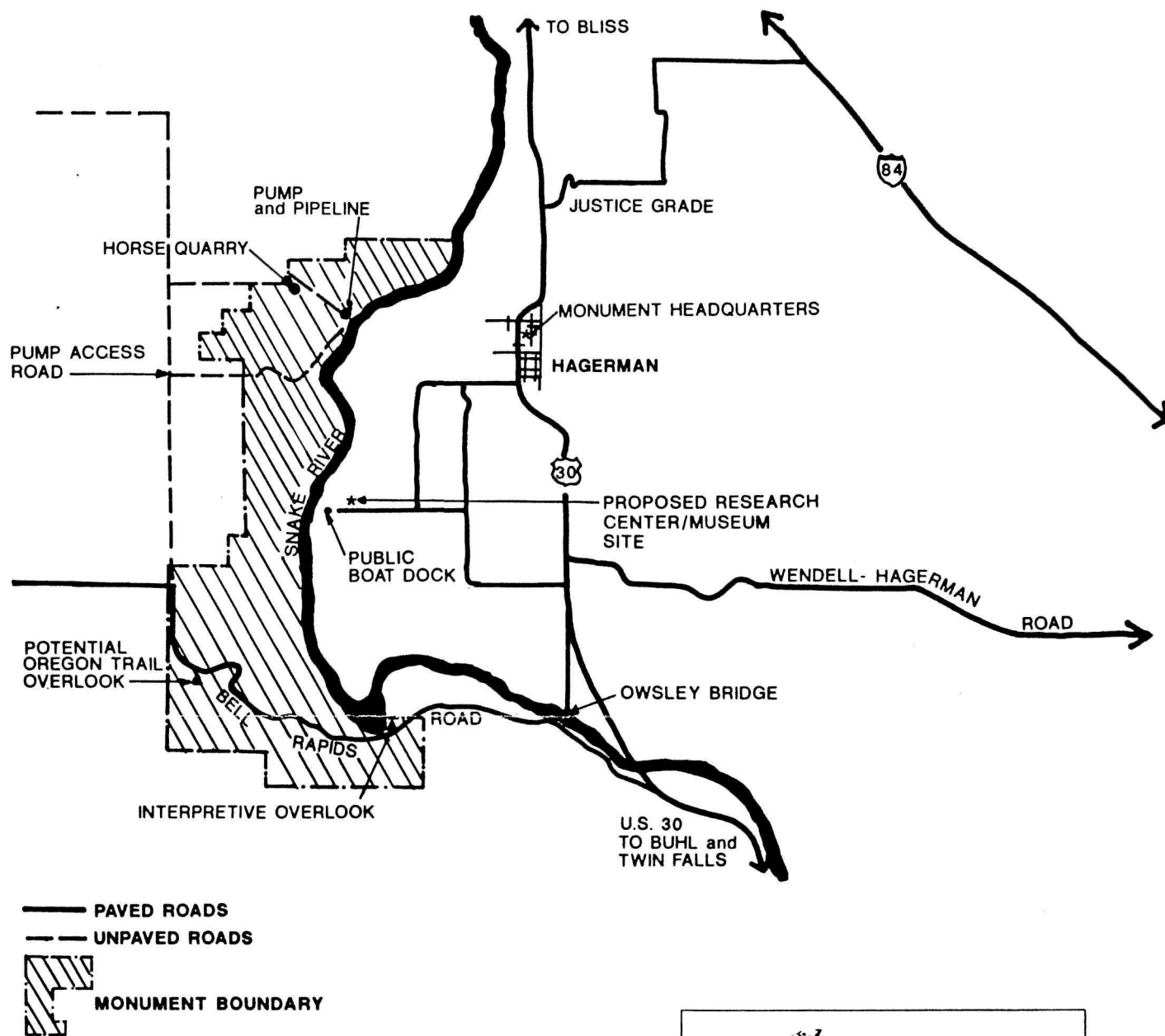
Please join us at one of the following public meetings to discuss the monument and the contents of this newsletter. Each meeting will begin with a short presentation by the National Park Service, followed by informal discussions and a chance to get your questions answered.

Tuesday, May 17, 1994	7:00 - 9:00pm	Gooding, Idaho	Library at 308 5th Ave. West
Wednesday, May 18, 1994	7:00 - 9:00pm	Hagerman, Idaho	Visitor Center at 221 State St.

Comments are due no later than May 31, 1994!



HAGERMAN FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT • 221 NORTH STATE STREET • P.O. BOX 570 • HAGERMAN, IDAHO 83332 • PHONE (208) 837-4793



VICINITY MAP

HAGERMAN FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

HOW TO USE THIS NEWSLETTER

Because purpose and goals statements will guide everything we do in the monument, this newsletter begins with them. They are derived from legislation that created the monument, as well as National Park Service laws and policies.

Next are a series of options grouped into major issues: Access and Transportation, Monument Resources, Visitor Experience and Education and Facilities. Within each major issue, related options are grouped together. Some of the options may represent part of a continuum, where only one of the options in the box could be chosen. Other options might be grouped into various combinations of workable alternatives. A map is also provided to orient you to the described locations.

A WORD ABOUT THE OPTIONS

Many of the options presented in this newsletter may not be under the direct jurisdiction of the National Park Service. Inclusion in this newsletter does not imply any endorsement or approval by any other agency or organization.

The options are simply listed here to see whether they deserve any further consideration. The National Park Service will meet with all interested persons and agencies to evaluate the feasibility and implications of any options that appear to warrant further consideration before any decision is made.

Some of the options may be more feasible or meet the purpose and goals of the monument better than others. Please give us your thoughts about these, too.

Use your imagination. What is your vision for Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument? Why? Are all of the options which make up your vision listed? Are there viable options which are not listed, or options listed which are not viable?

Again, please be as specific as you can about the reasons for your thoughts. While we would like to know what you like or dislike, the reasons for those likes and dislikes will be much more helpful.

WHAT IS A GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN?

The General Management Plan will be the primary guide for managing the monument. It establishes management goals and objectives and a role for the monument within the Hagerman region. It identifies strategies for resolving specific issues, and provides direction for all future action plans.

MONUMENT PURPOSE

Public Law 100-696 established Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in 1988:

"...to preserve for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations the outstanding paleontological sites known as the Hagerman Valley fossil sites, to provide a center for continuing paleontological research, and to provide for the display and interpretation of the scientific specimens uncovered at such sites..."



MANAGEMENT GOALS

Consistent with the monument's purpose and applicable laws and policies, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument will be managed for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations to:

- Preserve and protect the paleontological resources of Hagerman Valley.*
- Provide a center for continuing paleontological research, education and interpretation.*
- Encourage and support scientific inquiry associated with the period of Earth's history represented in the monument.*
- Provide a range of opportunities for visitors to experience and understand the present and past environmental interrelationships, resources and values of the monument.*

OPTIONS FOR POSSIBLE FURTHER CONSIDERATION

MONUMENT RESOURCES

Research			
Focus on Blancan age; Hagerman sites only; floodplain and marsh deposits.	Focus on Blancan age; Glenn's Ferry Formation; floodplain and marsh deposits.	Focus on Pliocene; region and North American sites; all habitats during the time period.	Focus on Cenozoic; worldwide, and global environmental changes.
Limited, narrowly focused research program.		Systematic, comprehensive research program, with a long term plan.	
Focus research program primarily on paleontological resources.		Research program would include paleontological as well as other natural and cultural resources.	
Actively seek and encourage outside scientists to perform research in the monument. NPS would primarily facilitate outside research.	NPS would conduct most research in the monument. Outside researchers would be brought in to assist NPS staff as needed.		Research would be the result of partnerships between NPS and others, such as universities or museums. Each group would focus on particular areas of expertise or interest.
Minimal facilities for field and lab research and curation. Rely mostly on outside facilities to analyze and store specimens.	Adequate field and lab research and curation facilities for a moderate-scale on-site program, supplemented by outside facilities for more extensive analysis.		First-rate facilities for field and lab research with extensive curatorial facilities. Almost all research conducted on-site.

Resource Management Program	
Conduct a reactive resource management program primarily to protect, document and salvage eroding fossils.	Conduct a systematic resource management program to provide inventory, monitoring, stabilization and protection of all monument resources.
Set priorities for resolving conflicts among resources, activities, or uses of the monument in the General Management Plan.	Deal with conflicts among resources, activities or uses of the monument on a case-by-case basis, and/or in action plans developed after the General Management Plan.

OPTIONS FOR POSSIBLE FURTHER CONSIDERATION

ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION

Access to Hagerman - Possible Routes			
U.S. Hwy. 30 from Bliss (to west) and I-84. Road is adequate, needs signing.	U.S. Hwy. 30 from Buhl and Twin Falls (to east). Road is adequate, needs signing.	Wendell-Hagerman Road from I-84. Minor to major improvements and signing needed to handle monument traffic.	Justice Grade (Tuttle-Hagerman Road) from I-84. Major improvements and signing needed.
Access to Proposed Research Center/Museum Site			
Shuttle bus from Hagerman during peak visitor season with parking in downtown Hagerman. Minor improvements to access roads needed.		Major improvements to access roads would be needed for visitor vehicles but traffic and parking in downtown Hagerman would be reduced. No shuttle provided.	
Monument Access via Bell Rapids Road			
Provide access to Bell Rapids Road via historic bridge and/or Highway 30.	Provide shuttle bus from Research Center/Museum or Hagerman to reduce traffic.	Designate for monument traffic only. Construct new road outside park boundary for non-monument traffic.	
Allow parking along side of road. Widen road on curves.		Prohibit parking except in designated areas constructed for overlooks or pullouts.	
River Access in Monument via Pump Access Road			
Hikers, bicycles and horses allowed to use road as a trail.		Construct a parking lot and/or shuttle stop at top of road.	
Maintain as primitive road with no restrictions on vehicle access.	Upgrade road to meet grade and width standards for full visitor use.	If road is not needed for pump access, or if damaged beyond repair by erosion, redesignate and maintain as a trail only.	
Construct a gate across top of road with no private vehicle access. Only pump operators and NPS vehicles allowed on road.	Construct a gate across top of road and allow seasonal private vehicle access, for example during hunting season.	Construct a gate across top of road with private vehicle access by permit.	
Access to Horse Quarry			
Construct parking lot and/or shuttle stop overlooking Horse Quarry.	Construct a gate across access road with vehicle access by permit or for ranger-guided activities.	Allow continued unrestricted vehicle access.	
Maintain dirt road access from Bell Rapids Road.		Improve access from Bell Rapids Road to gravel or paved.	
Monument Access via Snake River			
Restrict boat landing to designated zones and do not construct a boat dock on monument.		Require permits for landing on monument side of Snake River.	
Provide a water taxi/shuttle for access to monument from the Bell Rapids public boat dock.		Encourage tour boats on river.	
Expand existing Bell Rapids boat dock and facilities to accommodate monument operations. Existing use will not be displaced.		Construct a boat dock on monument side of Snake River.	

OPTIONS FOR POSSIBLE FURTHER CONSIDERATION

VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION

Recreation
Hunting and fishing would continue to be permitted in the monument within 50 feet elevation above Snake River. Hunting would be prohibited on Research Center/Museum site.
Motor vehicles, bicycles and horses would be permitted depending on options as presented in other sections.
Options for boat landings on monument are provided in Access and Transportation section.

Possible Trail Systems			
Along Snake River for river related activities including hunting and fishing.	Along top of bluffs.	Connected to trails outside of monument.	Along Oregon Trail.
Trails for horses, bicycles and hikers, or hikers only.	No constructed trails.	Trails to research areas.	Self-guided interpretive trails.

Camping		
Work with private sector or others to provide camping outside of the monument.	Allow public at-large camping in designated zone(s) in the monument.	Designate primitive campsites for public in the monument (no developed facilities).
Designate campsites for research/educational groups on Research Center/Museum site.		Allow only researchers to camp in monument.

Education/Interpretation Programs		
Provide few opportunities for visitors to observe or participate in research activities in lab or field.	Provide opportunities for visitors to observe most research activities, but limited opportunities to participate.	Provide opportunities for visitors to observe and participate in a wide variety of research activities.
Emphasize self-guided trails and wayside exhibits (on roadsides or trails).	Emphasize ranger guided activities.	
Focus on Research Center/Museum activities including classroom/lecture opportunities, with few programs in the monument.	Provide outreach programs taking monument activities to communities, schools, universities.	
Emphasize scheduled educational activities for organized groups, such as schools.	Emphasize educational activities for the general public.	
Emphasize a 1-2 hour visit and general overview at the Research Center/Museum.	Encourage longer visits with a variety of activities for various interests, at the Research Center/Museum and in the monument.	
Focus on certain themes in monument programs, and work with outside groups to provide additional education/interpretation opportunities for related themes.		

OPTIONS FOR POSSIBLE FURTHER CONSIDERATION

VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION (continued)

Social and Economic Issues			
Encourage private sector to provide visitor services outside the monument, such as lodging, food service, camping and housing for researchers and/or employees.	Participate in local and regional planning and coordination for compatible land uses near the monument, for visitor opportunities and information, for utilities and transportation, and for visitor services.	Participate in regional coordination of tourism, recreation, educational opportunities and events such as Fossil Days.	Participate in regional information and visitor centers.

Cooperating Group(s)		
No special new group(s) for outside support of park programs. Coordinate with and support existing groups in the area, such as historic societies, fossil councils, etc., for resource protection, education, research, and monitoring.	Encourage new narrowly focused group(s) to support some aspects of monument research, resource management and/or education programs.	Encourage private or non-profit institute(s) cooperating with NPS to provide such functions as support for monument programs (fund raising, staff, facilities, equipment, activities and/or expertise), educational programs, ecotourism programs and/or research.

FACILITIES

Picnic Sites (Possible parking, tables, trash, toilets).		
At potential Oregon Trail Overlook.	At potential Horse Quarry Overlook.	At potential dock area in monument.
At proposed Research Center/Museum site.	At potential parking area at top of Pump Access Road.	

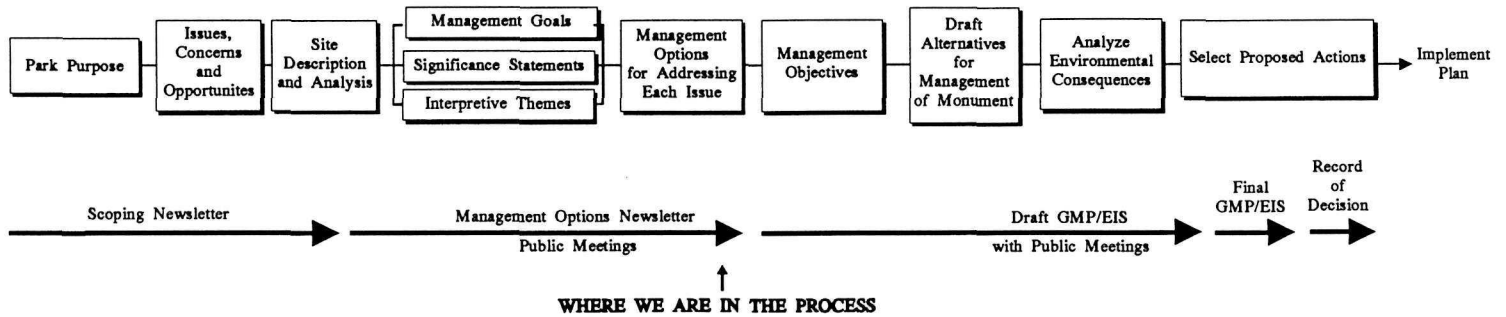
Overlooks (Possible pullout, parking, picnic sites, toilets, interpretive wayside exhibits, trash).		
Interpretive overlook off Bell Rapids Road.	At potential Oregon Trail Overlook.	At potential Horse Quarry Overlook.

Downtown Hagerman		
Move out of current monument Headquarters and Visitor Center when Research Center/Museum is built.	Provide parking, visitor contact station and restrooms.	Provide shuttle bus staging area.

Proposed Research Center/Museum Site		
Research Center/ Museum.	Monument headquarters and maintenance facilities.	Trails, picnic sites, restrooms.
Housing for researchers on-site (options: camping, bunkhouse, dorm) or off-site in community.	Housing for seasonal NPS employees on-site or off-site in community.	

HAGERMAN FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT PLANNING PROCESS FOR GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

SCOPING AND ANALYSIS OF ISSUES



SCHEDULE FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPING THE PLAN

Management Options: The comment period for the options in this newsletter closes May 31, 1994.

Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement: After analyzing public comments on the options, management objectives and draft alternatives will be developed and analyzed. The draft plan resulting from this analysis is scheduled for public review in spring 1995.

Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement: A final plan which responds to public comments on the draft plan is scheduled for public review in fall 1995. Plan implementation will begin immediately following a Record of Decision to complete the planning process scheduled for January 1996.

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument
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