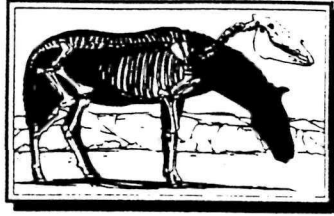


HAGERMAN FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

The FOSSIL



RECORD

FALL 2001

VOLUME 10, No. 3

THE BARE BONES OF THIS ISSUE:

Winter Hours

Summer Recap

New Staff

Resource Management

Archaeology Corner

Camp Pliocene

Educational Opportunities

WINTER HOURS

The Visitor Center, located on Highway 30 in the town of Hagerman, is open Thursday through Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. until Memorial Day weekend. Park brochures and the self-guided driving tour may be retrieved from the boxes outside the Visitor Center at all times. The Monument overlooks and trails remain open year 'round. Call (208) 837-4793 for further information or for road and trail conditions.

SUMMER RECAP

We would like to thank our visitors for a very successful summer season. We provided

"Indeed, when I go to the woods or the fields, or ascend to the hilltop, I do not seem to be gazing upon beauty at all, but to be breathing it like the air."

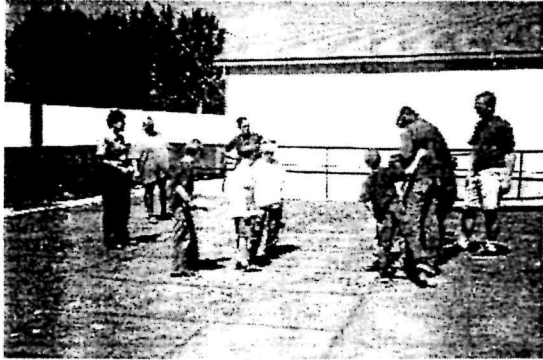
John Burroughs, from The Earth Speaks



Oregon Trail Hike



22 programs to over 500 visitors! Programs included: Children's Storytelling, Geology for Kids, Horse Quarry Tours,



Archaeology for Kids

Monument by Water, an Oregon Trail Hike, Archaeology for Kids, and a look at some of the local inhabitants – snakes!



Children's Storytelling

NEW STAFF

Park Guide

Jan Harper came on board in April. Jan has worked for the National Park Service at Glen Canyon NRA and Petroglyph

National Monument. She is a recent graduate of the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Besides working in the Visitor Center and giving programs out on the Monument, Jan will be working on an ethnographic study pertaining to the Bell Rapids fisheries site in the Monument. Jan also helped with the cultural resource survey at the new Minidoka Internment National Monument.

Natural Resource Specialist

Mike Wissenbach, began work in late August. Mike is responsible for preparing Environmental Assessments and other documents required for park plans and programs under NEPA, the nation's top environmental law agency. In addition to the Fossil Beds, Mike's responsibilities include City of Rocks National Reserve, Craters of the Moon National Monument, and the newly created Minidoka Internment National Monument.

Mike's professional background in biology includes forestry degrees from the University of Maine and the University of Idaho. He has been self-employed in the Boise area for the past eight years.

When asked about his new job, Mike said, "I am excited about working to better understand and protect some of our nation's premier natural and cultural resources embodied in the National Parks of southern Idaho. I look forward to meeting and working with the many friends of the parks!"

Mike, Pam, and their two daughters, Sarah and Brooke, are excited about their upcoming move to the Hagerman area.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Idaho has a New National Monument!

Minidoka Internment National Monument (NM), established on January 17, 2001, became the 385th unit of the National Park System on September 19, 2001, following the official transfer of the federal land from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to the National Park Service. Under the auspices of the National Park Service, the Minidoka Internment NM will protect the historic structures within the monument's 72.75 acres and provide opportunities for public education and interpretation of an important

chapter in American history – the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

The Minidoka Internment NM, located in Jerome County in south central Idaho, was established in August 1942 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the War Relocation Authority (WRA). The WRA oversaw the construction of ten relocation centers on federally owned lands to provide more permanent accommodations for the American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry who had been ordered to evacuate their homes located within designated military areas. The Minidoka Relocation Center, also known as the Hunt Site, operated until October 1945. During its operation, the population reached a peak of 9,397 Japanese Americans from Washington, Oregon, and Alaska. The Center included more than 33,000 acres of land, with administrative and residential facilities located on approximately 950 acres. The living conditions at Minidoka were harsh with internees housed in crude barracks and cramped quarters with shared communal facilities. Internees

engaged in irrigated agriculture, livestock production, and light manufacturing to produce food and garments for the camp.

Approximately 1,000 internees from Minidoka served in the United States military as part of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The 442nd was one of the most highly decorated units of WWII. 73 Japanese American servicemen from the Minidoka Internment Camp were killed in action.

Neil King, Superintendent, Hagerman Fossil Beds NM has been named Superintendent for Minidoka Internment NM also. Start up operations and the development of a General Management Plan (GMP) will be managed out of Park Service facilities in Hagerman for the next few years. Once the GMP is final, a decision will be made as to how Minidoka Internment NM will be managed for the long term and where the headquarters will be located. The GMP will determine how the monument will function and will include extensive public involvement.

ARCHAEOLOGY CORNER

How do Archaeologists Know Where to Look for Sites? Does “X” Mark the Spot?

By Jan Harper

One of the easiest ways to find sites is to ask the local people where they are. By asking the right questions, they often know where sites are. Another way to locate sites is to look in “likely” places, or places where there are resources which would have been used by native peoples, such as along rivers where fish were available. Once an area has been identified as a possible site, the good old “gumshoe” survey can be employed – that is, walking the area to see what’s there.

Another way to locate sites is to change your perspective. Have you ever heard the saying “You can’t see the forest for the trees?” In the 1920’s, the famous aviator Charles Lindbergh did a complete aerial survey of the extensive ruin sites at Chaco Canyon in New Mexico. However, not until 1971, did archaeologists looking at these early photographs, taken before grazing occurred, recognize the

nearly 400 miles of ancient roadways that radiate out from Chaco Canyon!

Luck also plays an important role in finding archaeological sites. Many sites are found purely by accident. Satellite imagery technology developed during the Gulf War, was responsible for the recent discovery of Cleopatra's Palace in Alexandria, Egypt.

Disasters such as fires and landslides, can also be responsible for the discovery of archaeological sites. On September 7th a fire started near Oster Lakes in Hagerman and spread quickly. Over the next few days the fire burned nearly 600 acres owned by the National Fish Hatchery, the State Wildlife Management Area/Hatchery, and private citizens. After the fire, an interagency Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team, which included an archaeologist, evaluated the damage. Prior to the fire, two prehistoric sites had been documented within the burn area, neither of which sustained damage. The archaeologist was also able to identify some previously unknown new sites.

Perhaps we will learn something new about the early peoples who inhabited these sites.

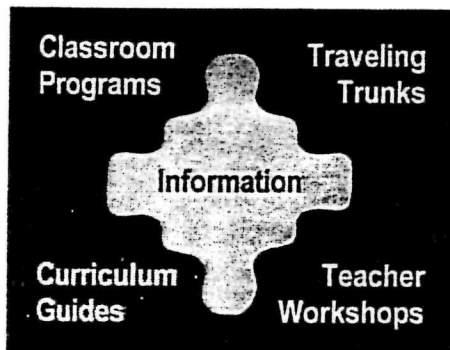
CAMP PLIOCENE 2001



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EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Call Judi Hart at (208) 837-4793 for more information.