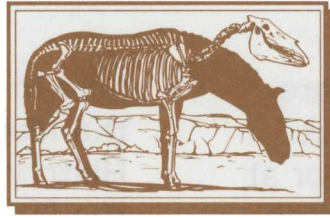


HAGERMAN FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

The
FOSSIL



RECORD

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* SPECIAL ISSUE *

ANNOUNCING A GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN!

The National Park Service invites you to help prepare a General Management Plan for Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument. If you live in southern Idaho, or visit southern Idaho as a tourist, or are interested in the monument for any reason, **the General Management Plan will affect you!** Please help us to develop the best plan possible! This newsletter will tell you how.

The **General Management Plan** will shape the future of the monument by:

- setting forth concepts and objectives for managing the entire monument as well as specific areas;
- establishing a role for the monument within the Hagerman region, considering regional and local issues; and
- identifying strategies for resolving issues, such as resource management and visitor use, and achieving management objectives for the entire monument.

Many of you may remember the start of planning for a General Management Plan in 1990. The General Management Plan came to a halt in 1991, when it was decided to first complete a Site Selection Study for a Research Center/Museum for the monument. The public review period for that study just ended in mid-May.

The Site Selection Study and its accompanying Environmental Assessment only analyzes alternatives for selecting a site for a Research Center/Museum, along with enough details of how the facility would function to aid in choosing the best site.

In contrast, the General Management Plan will provide direction for all future action plans for the monument, as well as detailed direction for some specific issues. The General Management Plan will incorporate the Site Selection Study and will also provide additional detail on the Research Center/Museum.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD BEGINS FOR THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The first step in preparing a General Management Plan is to be sure that the important issues for the monument are identified and analyzed. This is called "scoping". The official start of scoping for this plan was May 21, 1993, when a **Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement** was published in the *Federal Register*. Scoping will officially end July 20, after a 60-day comment period, but we encourage you to contact us at any time.



PLEASE PROVIDE COMMENTS!

This is where you come in. Please give us your thoughts on the issues the General Management Plan should address. A list of potential issues is provided later in this newsletter.

Please call or write or come in to one of the following offices during the comment period for further information, clarification, or to provide comments:

Neil King, Unit Manager
Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument
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Hagerman, Idaho 83332
(208) 837-4793

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Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument
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963 Blue Lakes Blvd., Suite 1
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301-6601
(208) 733-8398

Also, watch your local newspaper for updates on any special events at the monument in conjunction with the scoping period.

After scoping is completed, the planning team will consider all the comments and information received and decide which issues are best addressed in the General Management Plan, and which are best addressed in other ways. We will then begin to draft and analyze a full range of alternative management strategies for the monument. The alternatives and analysis will be presented for public review and comment in a Draft General Management Plan and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement scheduled for spring 1994. Between now and then, we will keep you informed of our progress through

newsletters. We expect to finish the plan with a final decision by summer 1995.

ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

Below is a list of those issues we plan to consider in the planning process, based upon our experience and information and the results of scoping meetings conducted in 1990. Please review the list and tell us what you think. Are there additional issues, now or in the foreseeable future, which we should consider? Is there specific information or clarification you would like to provide or receive about an issue? Have any issues recently changed or become non-issues? How do you feel about each issue?

Many of these issues have not been analyzed in sufficient detail to determine whether, or how, the General Management Plan will address them.

- **Paleontological (fossil) resource** management, protection, and research strategies; research management and support; collections and data management; field collection and excavation activities.
- **Landslides** and erosion, as they affect monument resources and visitor safety.
- **Access** to the monument for visitors, researchers, and park staff, as well as access to utility and irrigation facilities. The use and maintenance of existing roads, trails, and watercraft access. Whether access should be facilitated or restricted in specific areas.
- **Safety** of visitors, staff, and researchers.

- **Protection and management strategies for cultural resources** (e.g., Oregon Trail, prehistoric and historic archeological sites, placer mining and salmon fishing sites, and Native American concerns), and non-paleontological **natural resources** (e.g., plants, animals, geology, and water).

- **Appropriate staffing levels** to administer the monument.

- **Development issues** such as National Park Service administrative, housing, and maintenance facility needs, as well as visitor or research facilities (though research facilities were addressed to a large extent in the Site Selection Study).

- **Interpretation and education programs, facilities, exhibits and displays.**

- **Recreational uses**, such as camping, hiking, boating, picnicking, and horseback riding. Also, **hunting and fishing**, and the use and maintenance of hunting blinds which are allowed in the monument in conformance with Public Law 101-512.

- **Socioeconomic influences** on the region and surrounding communities, as well as regional influences on the monument, in terms of tourism, infrastructure, lodging, food service, recreation, and transportation.

- **Boundary issues**, including additional fossil sites outside the monument, scenic vistas, and effects on monument resources from activities outside the monument. Also, issues regarding state-owned lands within the monument which contain the Horse Quarry site, irrigation and electrical facilities and access roads.

DIRECTION FROM CONGRESS

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument was established by Title III of Public Law 100-696, dated November 18, 1988. Significant elements of this legislation to consider during the scoping period are:

Section 301 - *(a) ... to preserve for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations ..., to provide a center for continuing paleontological research, and to provide for the display and interpretation of the scientific specimens uncovered ...*

Section 305 - *Nothing ... shall affect electrical ... and irrigation ... facilities in existence within the boundaries of the monument ...*

Section 306 - *To provide for continuing paleontological research, the Secretary shall incorporate in the general management plan provisions for the orderly and regulated use of and research in the monument ...*

Public Law 101-512 further states:

... the Secretary shall hereafter permit hunting and fishing as well as maintenance of structures necessary to undertake such activities, including but not limited to duck and goose blinds ...

STEPS IN THE PROCESS

The major steps in developing the General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the monument, along with a schedule to accomplish those steps, are shown below. We hope you will plan to be an active participant in helping us to develop the best plan possible!

- Gather public comments on knowledge, issues, concerns, desires, and interests about the monument.

Scoping to be completed by July, 1993.

- Gather information about all of the resources at the monument, including their significance, condition, location, and factors that might affect them.

Ongoing throughout the planning process.

- Gather information needed to interpret the monument "story".

Ongoing throughout the planning process.

- Decide which issues raised in scoping and analysis will be addressed in the General Management Plan. Prepare alternative management strategies for the monument, addressing those issues.

Scheduled for summer and fall, 1993.

- Gather public comments on the draft alternative management strategies.

Newsletter scheduled for fall, 1993.

- Analyze comments and information, then prepare a draft General Management Plan and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement, analyzing all alternatives and selecting one as the proposed plan.

Scheduled for completion by spring, 1994.

- Gather public comments on the draft plan and environmental impact statement.

Scheduled for spring and summer, 1994.

- Analyze and address comments, and prepare a final plan.

Scheduled for completion by spring, 1995.

- Obtain approval for the plan by appropriate National Park Service officials, notify the public, provide a final public comment period, and file a Record of Decision.

Scheduled for completion by summer, 1995.

- Obtain funding, and put the General Management Plan into action.