

HAGERMAN FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

The
FOSSIL



RECORD

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VISITOR INFORMATION

SUMMER HOURS - The temporary visitor center is open seven days a week, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting May 25.

PARK BROCHURES - We're official now with our new glossy Park brochure that has a good map and descriptions about Monument services. If you would like one, stop by or call us at (208) 837-4793 to have one or more mailed to you or friends.

FOSSIL DAYS

HORSES OF A DIFFERENT COLOR? - This Valley is the home of many horse breeds, including the extinct, zebra-like Hagerman Horse,



the official State Fossil.

An OLD breed living in the Hagerman Valley is a direct descendant from the mounts of the Spanish Conquistadors. Only Noblemen rode in armor to battle the Inca natives. Descendants of these natives, now called Peruvians, kept the breed pure for the last four hundred years. This mountain horse has a uniquely smooth gait caused by the horse swinging its front feet out in a circular motion. They named this breed the Peruvian Paso. Those with bad dispositions were killed. This breed was not sold in the U.S. until the 1950's. Watch the Fossil Days parade for the National Park Service entry of the Spanish Conquistador returning the horse to North America; Chief Ranger Bob Willhite will be riding his Peruvian Paso, Chiripa del Sol (Lucky Event of the Sun).

MOUNTAIN MEN PROGRAM - Come hear emigrant Maudie Miller (portrayed by Mary Inman of Twin Falls) present an interpretive program on mountain men at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 25, 1996, at the new Oregon Trail Overlook at the top of the Bell Rapids Grade. Meet at the Visitor Center along Highway 30 and across from the Hagerman High School at 1:30 p.m. to car pool to the Trails Parking Lot. Bring a folding chair and listen to Maudie's stories!

HORSE QUARRY TOURS - Two **free** bus tours will again be provided on **SUNDAY ONLY**, May 26, 1996 by the National Park Service to the famous Smithsonian Horse Quarry. Space is limited on the 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. tours; first come-first served. Walk in and sign up at the Visitor Center on Sunday. The tour involves a hike down a moderately steep hill on loose dirt. Wear sturdy shoes, bring drinking water, and be prepared for changing weather conditions.

OREGON TRAIL

Wayside exhibits are now installed on the wheel-chair accessible Oregon Trail Overlook at the top of Bell Rapids grade. Hagerman Fossil Beds is one of three National Park Service units that has remnants of the Oregon Trail ruts. The hike is about ½ mile long. The wayside exhibits address the geologic features seen from the panoramic views, the Oregon Trail, and information about land uses. The parking lot and trail were constructed with a grant, and donations from Idaho Power Company and the Hagerman Fossil Council, Inc.

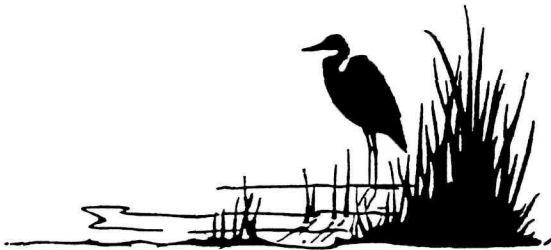


HISTORICAL STUDY

A graduate student, Mat Henbest, from Boise State University will commence his master's thesis work at Hagerman studying the history of the Fossil Beds. He will be interacting with the Hagerman Valley Historical Society, interviewing long-time residents, doing extensive research, and presenting some interpretive programs. His findings will eventually be published.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT -
Projects to clean up and rehabilitate damaged areas along the shoreline of the National Monument are proposed for this year. This will include continued pulling of the invasive purple-loosestrife weed. Plans are also underway to remove some of the non-native Russian olive trees to plant native cottonwoods. The taller trees would provide perch sites for the



golden eagles that hunt rodents on the Monument and nest sites for hawks and possibly bald eagles.

RANGER PATROL

Fences were repaired after a motorcyclist entered the monument illegally. The ranger on patrol nearly apprehended the cyclist and obtained a good description. Off-road vehicle trespass continues to occasionally damage fossil and archeological resources, as well as a new wheelchair accessible trail. If you see such trespass, please contact a Ranger immediately.



The entire south boundary was patrolled on foot with no other trespasses found. The problem area continues to be in the Yahoo creek drainage, southeast of the Snake River overlook.

A three day boat operating course was given to the staff in April and should increase the capabilities of getting at hard-to-reach sites on the monument.

SOUTH AMERICAN CONNECTION

Antonio Soares, from the Goeldi Museum of Natural History in Belem, Brazil will spend the month of May with our Paleontologist, Greg McDonald. Antonio specializes in public presentation of museum collections. This exchange should contribute to the research and educational goals of the monument, and emphasize the interaction and migration of animals between North and South America. Some of these animals include llamas and tapirs, porcupines, possums, armadillos and the giant ground sloth.



WELCOME

We are pleased that three seasonals are coming back to work at Hagerman this summer. Judi Hart will be giving tours and working in the Visitor Center, Jim Miller will be performing field and "lab" work, and Neal Farmer will be working with the GIS computer and fossil cataloging. Chelsea Neid, a new seasonal, will be performing restoration work along the river, and Mat Henbest will be working on the Historical study. Welcome to the staff!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed to assist the staff in operating the Visitor Center for the summer. Interested persons should have good people skills, be able to work with book sales and audio/visual equipment. Some training is required and a regular schedule will be established. It's a great way to meet people from all around the world and introduce them to the opportunities in the Hagerman area! For more information, call (208) 837-4793 or stop by the National Park Service temporary Visitor Center.

SCHEDULE OF SATURDAY SUMMER TOURS

All programs begin at the National Park Service Visitor Center, located along Highway 30 across from Hagerman High School. Programs are free and open to the public. Participants may need to bring their own transportation. Sturdy footwear, sunscreen, a windbreaker, and water are recommended for most programs. For more information, call the National Park Service at (208) 837-4793.

- MAY 18 ADAPTATION - Adapt or perish. Learn how plants and animals survive in the desert. Program begins at 9:00 am.
- MAY 25 & 26 FOSSIL DAYS - Festivities all weekend long!
- Saturday, 25 MOUNTAIN MEN - Maudie Miller (portrayed by Mary Inman) will provide a living history program depicting life of the mountainmen who opened up routes for the emigrants' wagons. Program begins at 1:30 pm. Participants are asked to bring folding chairs.
- Sunday, 26 BUS TOURS TO THE FOSSIL BEDS - Travel to the famous "Horse Quarry" where the now extinct Hagerman Horse was discovered. Two tours will be available: 1:00 and 3:00 pm. Sign up Sunday at the temporary Visitor Center.
- JUNE 1 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY HIKE - Support National Trails Day with a 3-mile hike along a primitive route that provides similar conditions and scenery the Oregon Trail emigrants would have endured. Program begins at 9:00 am.
- JUNE 8 WHERE DID ALL THE BIG ANIMALS GO? - Slide presentation and discussion on the extinction of camels, and ground sloths, and mastodons, oh my! Inside program begins at 2:00 pm.

- JUNE 15 OREGON TRAIL CLEAN-UP - Second annual clean-up of the Monument. Come show your community support! Scout troops, ecology clubs, community organizations, and any interested individuals are welcome. Program begins at 10:00 am.
- JUNE 29 FOSSIL BEDS - Travel to the famous "Horse Quarry" where the now extinct Hagerman Horse was discovered. Program begins at 9:00 am.
- JULY 6 MONUMENT BY WATER - Relax and enjoy the view of the Monument as you canoe along the Snake River. Look for wildlife, purple loosestrife, and learn about the geology. Participants will need to bring their own canoe or kayak. Rentals available from Riverwear and Idaho Guide Service in Twin Falls. Call 837- 4793 for tour reservation and details.