

HAGERMAN FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

The
FOSSIL



RECORD

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THE BARE BONES OF THIS ISSUE:

Ranger Patrol

Resource Management

Monumental Science

Education

"There is nothing so American as our national parks. The scenery and wildlife are native. The fundamental idea behind the parks is native. It is, in brief, that the country belongs to the people, that it is in process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us. The parks stand as the outward symbol of this great human principle."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt

VISITOR CENTER - Our winter hours are Thursday through Sunday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Brochures and self-guided tour maps are available outside the Visitor Center for your convenience.

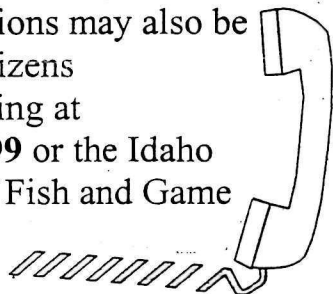
RANGER PATROL - Visitors boating this summer risked their lives by camping beneath a landslide area near the Snake River. These landslides are still active, moving regularly and are extremely dangerous. Furthermore, camping on the Monument has been prohibited since the approval of the General Management Plan in 1996.

Hunting - State-controlled seasons for waterfowl, deer, and upland game are underway and visitors to the Monument should be aware of the



hunting area as shown on the Monument's brochure. The hunting zone begins at the river level and extends 50 feet in elevation above the Snake River. The upper portion of the hunting zone is marked with yellow fiberglass stakes. Hunting is permitted from these stakes down slope to the river. Hikers, bicyclists, and horseback riders along the Rim to River Trail and the River Trail should be aware that portions of those trails are within the hunting zone.

Any visitors witnessing an unlawful act, such as vandalism, spotlighting, poaching, motorized vehicles on trails, or illegal collection of Monument resources are encouraged to contact a Park Ranger at **837-4793**. Hunting violations may also be reported to Citizens Against Poaching at **1-800-632-5999** or the Idaho Department of Fish and Game at **324-4359**.



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Fossil Survey - When the Fossil Beds became a National Monument in 1988, there were approximately 300 fossil sites recorded by universities. For the first time, funding was provided this year by the National Park Service to relocate and document the condition of these sites.

About 1,500 acres of the Monument was inspected this summer. Because the wide range of weather conditions rapidly break down fossils, any exposed specimens were collected. Some sites are more "rich" in fossils than others. The Monument will use the data collected to establish a cyclic schedule to ensure the fossils continuously being exposed at the sites are protected. In the process of relocating the previously recorded sites, many more new locations were discovered. Some were significant. The jaw of a lake cat (*Felis lacustris*) was found with the teeth intact. A marmot skeleton (*Paenemarmota barbouri*) was found that is twice the size of the modern species (locally called a rock chuck). Bones of swans, llamas, peccaries (pig-like creatures), mastadonts, and others were also discovered. Funding to continue this important work is anticipated for next summer.

Trail System - An intra-agency Agreement with the bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Jarbidge Resource Area was approved regarding future analysis and possible extension of the Regional Trail System. The Monument's River Trail at the north boundary currently ties into a BLM dirt road which leads to the Bliss Bridge. An Environmental Analysis is being prepared for public comment.

An old abandoned car close to the proposed trail was removed as a public service by U.S. Cellular. The car had been an eye-sore for years. Mike Jensen, Network Operations Manager for U.S. Cellular, arranged for the removal. The company recently constructed a new digital phone tower north of the Monument on BLM land which links to other towers in Jerome, Rupert, and Filer.

River Trail Rerouted - A portion of the River Trail in the grove of trees was rerouted this summer by Student Conservation Association volunteers to avoid a seasonally muddy area. This should improve year-round usability of this trail.

Cottonwoods - A few more of the black cottonwood cuttings planted this spring survived the summer heat. This habitat improvement project will continue each spring. Earlier plantings have reached a height of two to fifteen feet.

MONUMENTAL SCIENCE

Preparation Lab - A National Park Service building was remodeled this summer to house the Monument's growing number of fossils. The large "blocks" of fossils removed intact from the Smithsonian Institution Horse Quarry in 1997 and 1998 are still being "prepared." This requires

tedious removal with dental tools and air scribes to pick away the hardened sediments. One Hagerman Horse skull required almost 200 hours to complete the removal so it can now be studied and curated.

EDUCATION

Is it live? Or, is it Virtual?

The Elmer Cook

Classroom, dedicated in 1998 from a generous grant from the Parks As Resources for Knowledge in Science (P.A.R.K.S.) and the EXXON Corporation, is underway! Previously known as the Laboratory and Collections Area for the Monument's paleontology and archaeology specimens, this room has been remodeled and will be refurbished to provide hands-on opportunities to teachers and students from Hagerman, Jerome, and Kimberly High School science classes. The students will be taking other students on a "virtual" tour of the Fossil Beds by developing a webpage. The virtual will be accomplished by using a special camera that will follow the students and their activities around the Monument. Students will be able to interact and ask questions of the Monument staff and others via the Internet.