



Agate Fossil Beds

Fossil Discoveries

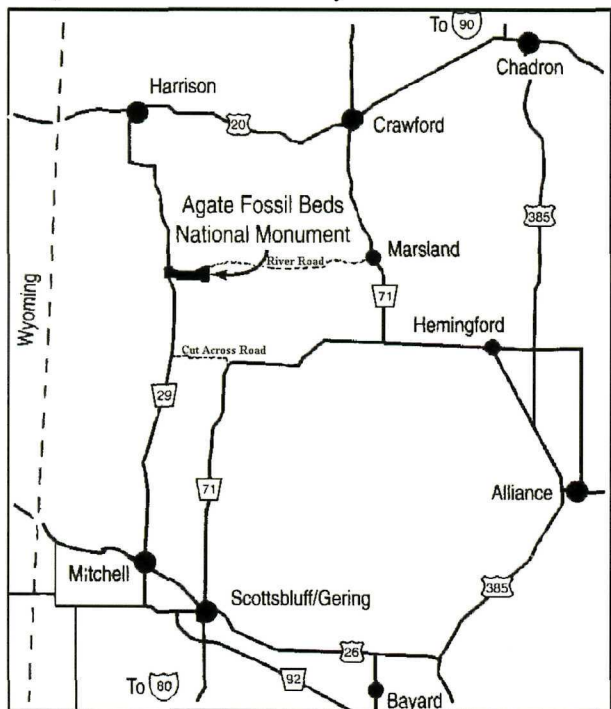
While riding across the prairie, James Cook and his fiancée, Kate Graham, spotted old bones sticking out of the ground. Years later, paleontologists unearthed the giant, ferocious-looking head of a *Dinohyus*.

This animal and others perished in a drought approximately 20 million years ago during the Miocene Epoch. Now this land is part of Agate Fossil Beds National Monument. Visitors can experience the past, as well as the current beauty of the mixed grass prairie, on one of the park's trails.

The visitor center, featuring two museums under one roof, is open year-round except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., with extended hours in the summer.



The land James Cook ranched and paleontologists excavated was also “home” to many tribal nations. Over the years, a unique friendship developed between James Cook and Red Cloud of the Oglala Sioux. Red Cloud and his people frequently visited Agate Springs Ranch and honored the Cook family with hand-crafted gifts. These items are exhibited in the James H. Cook Gallery.



Agate Fossil Beds National Monument

301 River Road, Harrison, NE 69346

Located 34 miles north of Mitchell or 22 miles south of Harrison on Hwy 29, east three miles on River Road.

Please contact us at 308-668-2211 or 308-436-9760;

<http://www.nps.gov/agfo>; or visit us on Facebook.