

# Agate Fossil Beds National Monument



*The Carnegie Hill Fossil Quarry*

## Agate Fossil Beds

At the turn of the 20th Century, the rolling hills along Nebraska's Niobrara River were a hotbed of scientific discovery. Thousands of fossilized bones from mammals that had lived during the Miocene Era were found at Agate Springs Ranch.

Expeditions from the American Museum of Natural History, the Carnegie Museum, and the University of Nebraska unearthed fossils that reveal much about a time when Nebraska was very different than it is today.

Paved hiking trails allow visitors to see the quarries where the digs were conducted and observe fossils that have been left in place. The visitor center offers a life-size diorama of the ancient landscape, and other informative interactive exhibits.

The Agate Fossil Beds Visitor Center is open year-round, except for Christmas Day. The visitor center/museum is open from 8 to 5 daily, with extended hours during the summer months.

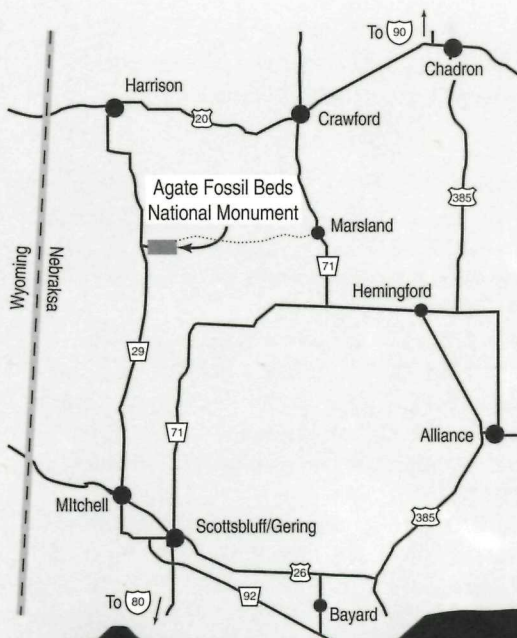


## The Cook Collection

Agate Fossil Beds National Monument also tells the story of "Captain" James Cook—a former professional hunter, guide and Army scout, and owner of Agate Springs Ranch.

For fifty years, the Agate Springs Ranch was a haven for Indian visitors, such as Red Cloud. Cook welcomed and fed his guests, and the Indians gave Cook presents.

In time, these gifts became a sizable and important collection of Native American artifacts. Beginning in 1997, this collection will go on permanent display in the Agate Fossil Beds Visitor Center.



*Agate Fossil Beds National Monument is located 34 miles north of Mitchell, Nebraska, on Highway 29. Agate Fossil Beds can also be reached by driving 22 miles south of Harrison, Nebraska. For more information contact the Unit Manager at the address below.*

**Agate Fossil Beds  
National Monument**

**301 River Road  
Harrison, NE  
69346-2734  
308-668-2211**

agfo\_ranger\_activities@nps.gov  
<http://www.nps.gov/agfo/>