

Fossil Butte

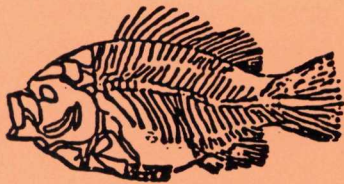
National Monument

U.S. Department of the Interior

Activities

The fossils found in the deposits of Fossil Basin are among the most nearly perfectly preserved in the world. The Green River Formation is famous for its fossil fish but the remains of other animals and plants are also found. Fossil Butte National Monument tells the story of that ancient subtropical lake and the life within and around it.

Visitor Center



Open daily year-round, except winter holidays.

Summer hours: June-August 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Winter hours: September-May 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The **Visitor Center** displays many fossil specimens from ancient Fossil Lake. A **full-color mural** depicts, according to the latest paleontological information, what life was like here 50 million years ago.

An orientation to the fossil resources of the area is presented in a **13-minute video** production. A **second video** presents the quarrying and preparation techniques used to prepare specimens for study or display.

Trails



The 2½ mile **Historic Quarry Trail** is available for those who wish a closer look at a high desert environment. Wayside exhibits provide information on the plants, animals and geology of the area. A short side loop leads to the site of a **historic fossil quarry**.

The 1½ mile **Fossil Lake Trail** takes visitors through a grove of Aspen trees where wildflowers and wildlife native to the area may be seen.

Hiking is allowed throughout the monument. Elevations range from 6600 ft. to over 8000 ft. Topographic maps are available for sale by the Dinosaur Nature Association at the Visitor Center.

Guided Hikes

On **Saturday and Sunday**, June through August, 1½ hour **guided hikes** begin at 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Discover the connection between modern and ancient ecosystems along the Fossil Lake Trail. The hike originates at the trailhead and follows an easy to moderate path.

Porch Programs

15-minute summer porch programs, offered daily, provide the visitor with an introduction to the area geology and fossil resources. Study-specimens demonstrate the diversity and detail of fossils and the sediments in which they are preserved.

Picnic Area

A shaded picnic area located in an aspen grove is available for day use. Charcoal fires are allowed in grates. There is a spectacular view of Fossil Butte atop Cundick Ridge, a short distance from the picnic area.

Evening Programs



Special evening campfire programs are presented throughout the summer at Fossil Butte National Monument Picnic Area. Programs highlight the geology, natural or cultural history of the area. Check at the Visitor Center for program dates.

The National Park Service encourages visitors to attend the summer Campfire Chats each Thursday evening at 7:00pm at Archie Neil Park in Kemmerer.

Junior Ranger



To become a Junior Ranger, children need only have a desire to learn and a sense of wonder. By talking with a Ranger, hiking a trail, touring the exhibits and helping to prepare a fossil, children will earn a Junior Ranger badge and their name will be entered in our permanent register.

Parents are invited to follow along. Brochures and pamphlets are available at the Visitor Center. For children ages 6-12.

Oregon Trail



In 1843 the flood of emigrants began along the Oregon Trail. The Sublette Cutoff was first used in 1844. This route bypassed Fort Bridger and saved the emigrants 85 miles as they continued on to Oregon. The Sublette Cutoff passes 10 miles north of Fossil Butte. Southwest Wyoming is rich in Oregon Trail history. Contact the Kemmerer Area Chamber of Commerce for more information.

The Area

Fossil Butte National Monument is located 14 miles west of Kemmerer, Wyoming, along US Hwy 30.

When traveling to Yellowstone or Grand Teton National Parks, or crossing Wyoming on Interstate 80, Fossil Butte National Monument is a pleasant side trip.

More Information

Special programs for organized groups may be arranged in advance. Please call (307) 877-4455 or write Superintendent, P.O. 592, Kemmerer, WY 83101 for further information.
