

## TRAIL INFORMATION

A primary goal in developing this trail system was to minimize impacts to resources while providing visitor access through the Research Subzone otherwise closed to the public. Paleontological and cultural resource surveys were conducted and an Environmental Analysis prepared for public comment. Previously disturbed lands were used where feasible.

The **Rim Trail** starts at the **Regional Trail Head**. This trail provides panoramic views of the Hagerman Valley and steep canyons of the Monument below as you pass through the high desert vegetation, which includes sagebrush, rabbit brush, spiny hopsage, four-winged salt brush, and bitter brush.

Along the plateau rim you will see white colored rock locally called caliche. It is a "hard pan" of calcium carbonate common to desert soils that is undercut here by erosion in the soft sediments and can collapse. Sometimes hawks and golden eagles roost under the ledges or on top of power poles.

The **Rim to River Trail** follows a ridge with a power line. It provides close up views of two deep canyons where you can see the layers of sediments deposited from subsequent floods in the ancient environment more than three million years ago. The sediments from these successive floods buried the animals whose bones became fossils. The "horse quarry" can be viewed on a distant ridge to your left (north).

At the lower portion of this trail, you will see yellow fiberglass stakes that mark the game hunting zone extending from the shoreline. Hunting was established on that portion of the Monument by Congressional legislation. If you are using the trails in this subzone during hunting

season, **wear orange**. This trail crosses the irrigation pump station road about two miles from the **Regional Trail Head** and continues to the river.

The **River Trail** starts in a grove of trees that were not there forty years ago as shown by historic photos. The irrigation project to the west introduced an unnatural source of water. This caused conditions for Russian olive, a species introduced in windbreaks, to invade the site. Sediments washing down the canyon deposited soil as did the periodic flooding along the Snake River that occurred prior to dam construction. This allowed native black cottonwood trees to germinate and grow along with two species of willow. Because such groves have tremendous wildlife benefit, Monument staff undertook a project to remove some of the Russian olive to plant more black cottonwood trees. Enjoy the shade, the rustle of leaves, and the aroma of the river environment.

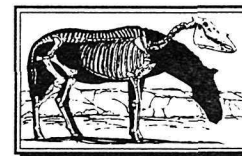
The trail returns to the road and crosses it, going around the pumping facilities. The trail crosses two creeks as it continues north along the river. You will likely see a variety of waterfowl and possibly quail or pheasant. The River Trail ties into an abandoned dirt road and ends at the north boundary gate. The only return route is along the same trail, a round trip distance of 8 miles. From the north gate, hardy individuals or horses can continue north along a Bureau of Land Management dirt road for another six miles to the Shoestring Road Bridge south of Bliss. The total round trip would be about 20 miles.

The **Grand View Trail** near the north gate is under construction and goes westerly up to the rim. It will end at the Smithsonian Horse Quarry parking area and will eventually loop back to the **Regional Trail Head**.

Service staff and volunteers with assistance from the High Desert Back Country Horsemen and the Boy Scouts, Troop 65 in Twin Falls and Troop 72 in Filer.

## SPECIAL THANKS

This trail system was developed consistent with the approved General Management Plan for the Monument. The construction was done by a contractor, National Park



For additional information contact:  
**Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument**  
221 North State Street • Hagerman, Idaho 83332  
Phone (208) 837-4793

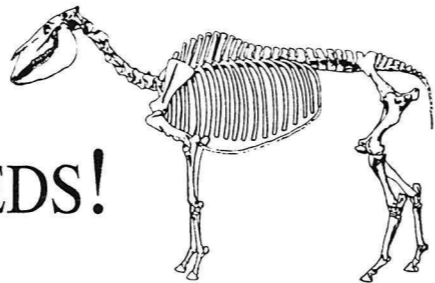


## Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument

# TRAIL GUIDE



# WELCOME TO HAGERMAN FOSSIL BEDS!



## RULES OF THE ROAD

This information serves as a guide for the trail system at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument. For your safety and comfort, be sure to obey these **rules**, and signs on the trails.



### PLEASE STAY ON THE TRAIL

To protect the fossils and fragile soils, remain on the trail. Much of the Monument has been designated as a Research Subzone closed to public use except for designated trails. Violators will be issued a citation and subject to fines. Also, staying on the trail will minimize your risk of encountering rattlesnakes, scorpions, and ticks.



### DO NOT GO TO EDGE OF RIM

Ledges are weak and can collapse.



### DO NOT COLLECT

This is a National Monument for the enjoyment of this and future generations. **Do not gather, pick, or disturb** rocks, animals, plants, or fossils.



### HORSES

Please be sure your horses have been eating Certified Weed Free hay or cubes, as required by all of the National lands in Idaho. This will help prevent the introduction of noxious weeds in the Monument.



### PETS ON LEASH

Pets must be constrained on a leash. Hunting dogs are permitted in the game hunting zone during state-designated seasons.



### BE PREPARED

Wear appropriate gear and expect rapid changes in weather, including high winds. Carry and drink water. There are two creeks flowing from unnatural sources and **this water is not recommended for human consumption**. The trails are remote and there are no toilet facilities along the trails. **Do not exceed your fitness levels**. It is a long way for help.



### BE AWARE

An effort has been made to accommodate a variety of users. Bicycles need to keep speed at a level where stopping for hikers or horses is feasible. Horses may be able to pause where bicycles or hikers can safely pass. Courteous interaction by all users is always appreciated.

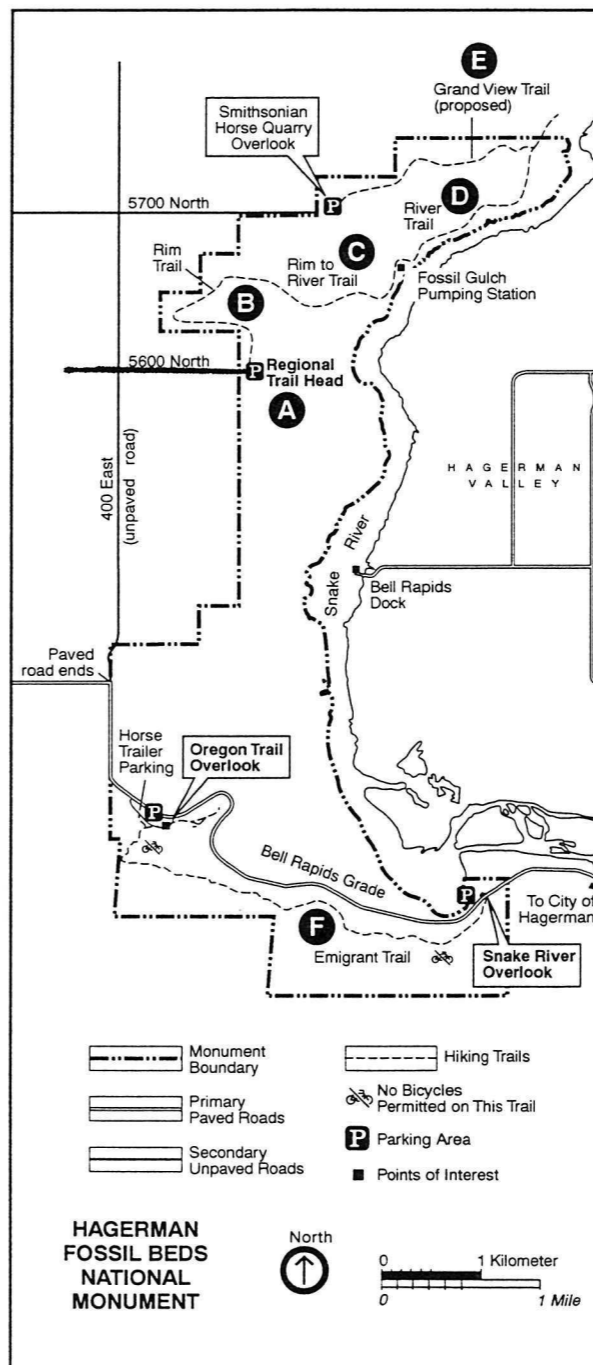


### REPORT VIOLATORS

Please tell a Ranger or contact the office in Hagerman (837-4793) if you see any cross-country travel, collecting, or motorized vehicles on a trail. Hunters and fishermen are allowed off the River Trail during state-designated seasons.

*We hope your experience in the Monument is safe, enjoyable, and memorable!*

## MONUMENT TRAIL MAP



## TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

### A REGIONAL TRAIL HEAD

Is located at the west entrance to the Monument along 5600 North, providing a gravel parking lot and a dirt area for horse trailers. The trail system starts at the northeast corner of the parking area.

### B RIM TRAIL

Extends across the plateau from the **Trail Head** and reaches the edge of the rim at about 0.3 miles and continues along the rim to the power line poles.

Distance . . . . . 1.2 miles one way  
Elevation Change . . 50 feet  
Rated . . . . . Easy

### C RIM TO RIVER TRAIL

Extends from the current end of the Rim Trail and goes down the long ridge with the power line poles to the Snake River to connect with the River Trail.

Distance . . . . . 0.9 mile one way  
Elevation Change . . 500 feet, up to 30% slope  
Rated . . . . . Moderate downhill, Difficult on uphill return (steep portion at top).

### D RIVER TRAIL

Extends through a grove of trees and crosses the road to bypass the pump station, and then continues north along the river to the north boundary gate.

Distance . . . . . 1.9 miles one way  
Elevation Change . . 150 feet  
Rated . . . . . Moderate, with Easy to Difficult segments.

Total Round Trip is 8 miles

### E GRAND VIEW TRAIL

Is under construction, and will be rated moderate.

### F EMIGRANT TRAIL

Allows hikers and horseback riders to experience the Oregon Trail, and is described in a separate brochure available at the trail head across from the Snake River Overlook.