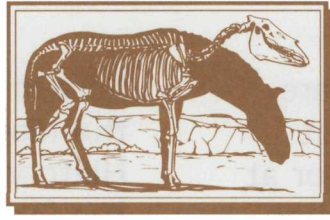

HAGERMAN FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

The
FOSSIL



RECORD

MAY, 1998

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 2

THE BARE BONES OF THIS ISSUE:

Visitor Center Schedule

Fossil Days

Summer Tours

Ranger Patrol

Trail System Opens

Resource Management

Monumental Science

Guest Speakers

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Visitor Center will begin its summer schedule on Memorial Day weekend, May 23. Hours will be 9:00 am to 5:00 p.m., seven days a week. The Visitor Center is located on Highway 30 in Hagerman, across from the High School.

FOSSIL DAYS - Bones, bones, uncovering bones. Come see the fossil excavation site on Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24. Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument is offering **free** bus tours, provided by the Hagerman Fossil Council, to the Summer 1997 "Horse Quarry" excavation site.

The tours are offered on a first-come,



first-serve basis. Visitors should meet at the Amalgamated Sugar L.L.C. Beet Dump at the top of Bell Rapids Grade at the intersection of 5400 North and 400 East.

Tours will last approximately one hour and fifteen minutes and will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m., followed at 10:30 a.m., noon, 1:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and the last tour will be 4:30 p.m. Stop in our Visitor Center for directions and to view our slide program.

Canoe tours are also available on Saturday by signing up at the Visitor Center.

SUMMER TOURS - If you miss the tours to the famous "Horse Quarry" on Fossil Days, don't despair. Just trot over to the Visitor Center this summer for a Ranger-guided tour of the excavation project. See the tour schedule enclosed for more details. Special group tours may be reserved for groups of 10 or more when park staff is available.

RANGER PATROL - Please remember the Horse Quarry is located within the Paleontological Research Zone. Visitors must be accompanied by a ranger to view the excavation.

This spring, motorcyclists rode over the south boundary fence in two areas, leaving deep ruts on the hillsides. This has a cumulative effect on the fragile desert soil, which may take years to recuperate. This is the second year in a row during spring break that this has occurred. One set of ruts went through a paleontological site containing small animal fossils which are easily damaged. The paleontologist will conduct a damage assessment and determine if any other fossil sites were affected. The public is asked to report any illegal activities in the park.

CELEBRATE

NEW TRAIL SYSTEM - Celebrate National Trails day on Saturday, June 6 with the Grand Opening of the first trail network on the Monument.

The system will consist of three separate but connected trails: Rim Trail, Rim to River Trail, and River Trail, that provide a four mile route (eight miles round trip).

The public is invited to participate in the celebration of this opening at 9:00

a.m. The trail is open to hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. The trailhead parking lot includes an area for horse trailers. The celebration will be held at the new trailhead, located at the western boundary of the Monument along the 5600 North road.

From the trailhead parking lot, the Rim Trail provides magnificent panoramic views of the Smokey and Albion Mountains, the Jarbidge Mountains in Nevada, the Hagerman Valley, and the Snake River, as well as the Hagerman bluffs and fossil beds.

The Rim to River Trail has an elevation drop of 500 feet from the plateau to the River Trail. It provides great views of several canyons in the Monument where one can see the layers of sediments formed by ancient Lake Idaho, millions of years ago.

The River Trail goes through one of the few cottonwood groves along the mid-Snake River and continues to the northern boundary. This trail also provides access for fishing and hunting during state-established seasons.

From the north boundary, the more adventurous can continue down river for another six miles on a Bureau of Land Management dirt road to the Shoestring Road above the Bliss bridge. This would make the one-way

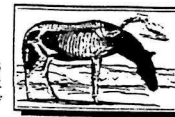
route a total of ten miles, or 20 miles round trip. Hope you or your horses are in shape!

There are no toilet facilities or drinking water along the route. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and be prepared for rapid changes in the weather.

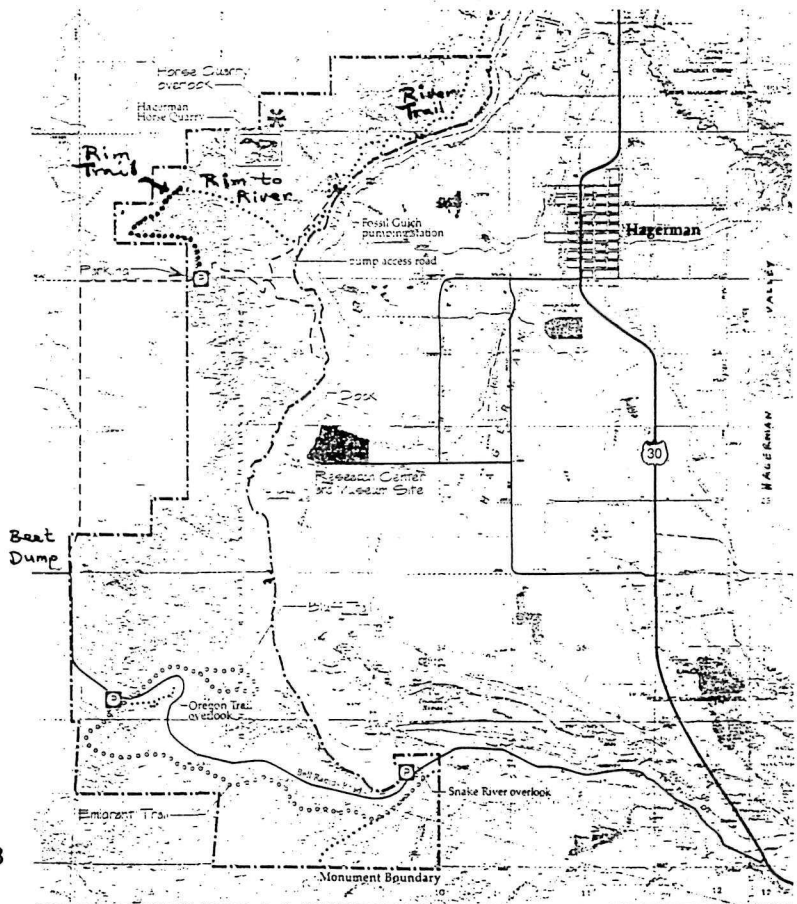
The National Park Service gratefully acknowledges the volunteer work of the High Desert Back Country Horsemen and Boy Scout Troop 65 from Twin Falls in helping complete this trail system. Thank you!

The Monument

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument
U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service



- Existing trails
- Proposed trails (conceptual)
- - - - - Dirt roads
- — — — — Paved roads
- ⊠ Parking



Cooperative efforts are being evaluated to expand this existing trail system into a future regional system with nearly 40 miles of trail with options for various length loops. This system was identified as a need by the Mid-Snake River Recreation Work Group in their publication: Recreation Opportunities at Risk.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

COTTONWOODS - Another 100 native black cottonwood cuttings were planted this spring. You can walk through this riverside grove along the new trail system. Efforts will continue to expand this grove to re-establish this native plant community, making it one of the largest in this reach of the mid-Snake River.

MONUMENTAL SCIENCE

This summer, work will continue on the Smithsonian Institution Horse Quarry that was reopened last year. The project was possible because of a \$50,000 grant from Canon U.S.A. in partnership with the National Park Foundation. This grant program "Expedition into the Parks" is designed to help conserve and protect natural resources in our National Parks.

FOSSIL FIND: B.J. Mountford, a volunteer at the park, discovered the fossilized leg bone of a camel this spring. The place it was deposited was documented for elevation, the material around the bone, and its direction. This information helps determine the nature of the water flow that deposited the bone in an ancient flood. The bone was removed for study and preservation as part of the Monument's fossil collection.



GUEST SPEAKERS - Two special guest speakers will present programs at the Hagerman Fossil Beds on behalf of the Idaho Humanities Council.

Mary Inman will present a slide show and "Oregon Bound in 1843" as Grandma Maudie Miller in the Visitor Center Auditorium at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 13. Her story is taken from diaries, journals, and letters written in that year and encompasses conditions, personalities, the status of women and men, the good times and terrible hardships of the journey west.

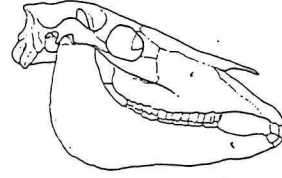
James Woods is the Director of the Herrett Center for Arts and Science at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. He will present "Ancient Stone Tools of the Northern Great Basin: A Demonstration and Mini-Exhibit" on Saturday, July 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the Visitor Center Auditorium. Woods will demonstrate techniques used to make scrapers, knives, drills, and projectile points, as well as discuss the people and their artifacts, trade networks and their ancient relationships to the environment.

To provide a unique visitor experience, the National Park Service is cooperating with local outfitters and guides to provide guided boat tours of the Monument along the Snake River. To make a reservation, phone:



Thousand Springs Tours - 837-4822
Idaho Guide Service - 734-4998
High Adventure River Tours -
733-0123
Hagerman Valley Outfitters
DBA Adventure Outfitters
837-6100

CAMP



Hagerman Fossil Beds
PLIOCENE

Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument presents a solution to the summertime blahs. Beginning in June, children between the ages of 10-12 will have a one-time opportunity to come to Camp Pliocene. The day camp is for kids only! For one day, students can have fun learning about the science of paleontology, geology, and ecology. Activities will include a look at the present excavation site, studying plants and animals in the Monument and what our role should be as stewards of the land. Interested participants need to write a one-paragraph letter expressing why they want to come to Camp Pliocene. For more information, call the park at (208) 837-4793. Ask for Judi Hart.

SUMMER SCHEDULE OF TOURS

All tours will begin at the Visitor Center, located along Highway 30, at 9:30, unless otherwise noted. Participants should have sturdy hiking boots, sunscreen, and water. Be prepared for variable weather. You will need your own vehicle which should be able to travel along gravel roads. There are no facilities on the Monument. Arrangements should be made in advance for large groups. Please call (208) 837-4793.

Saturday, May 23

FOSSIL DAYS CELEBRATION - Horse Quarry Excavation Tours - Here is your chance to see the actual excavation site that was opened in the Summer of 1997! Bus tours begin at 9:00, and continue at 10:30, noon, 1:30, 3:00, and 4:30 from the Amalgamated Sugar L.L.C. Beet Dump.

CANOE TRIPS on the Snake River will tour the Monument shoreline. Idaho Guide Service will provide all equipment. Participants must sign up at the Visitor Center on Saturday.

Sunday, May 24

FOSSIL DAYS CELEBRATION - Horse Quarry Excavation Tours - Bus tours begin at 9:00, and continue at 10:30, noon, 1:30, 3:00, and 4:30 from the Amalgamated Sugar L.L.C. Beet Dump.

Saturday, May 30

WILDFLOWER WALK - Stop and smell the...sage? Learn about the fragile desert ecosystem as you walk among the wildflowers. Program begins at 9:30 at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, June 6

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY HIKE - Program begins at 9:00 at the new trailhead for the Rim Trail. Celebrate the "Grand Opening" of our first trail on the Monument. Open to hikers, equestrians, and cyclists. There are no facilities on the trail. Come prepared.

- Saturday, June 13 **LECTURE SERIES** - "Oregon Bound in 1843" - Mary Inman as Grandma Maudie Miller will present a Living History program in the Visitor Center auditorium at 1:00 pm.
- Saturday, June 20 **HORSE QUARRY EXCAVATION TOUR** - Here is your chance to see an actual dig! Field crews will be returning to the Summer 1997 excavation site.
- Sunday, June 21 **HORSE QUARRY EXCAVATION TOUR**
- Saturday, June 27 **HORSE QUARRY EXCAVATION TOUR**
- Sunday, June 28 **HORSE QUARRY EXCAVATION TOUR**
- Saturday, July 4 **HORSE QUARRY EXCAVATION TOUR**
- Sunday, July 5 **HORSE QUARRY EXCAVATION TOUR**
- Saturday, July 11 **LECTURE SERIES** - "Ancient Stone Tools of the Northern Great Basin: A Demonstration and Mini Exhibit" - James Woods, Director of the Herrett Center for Arts and Science, will present a program in the Visitor Center auditorium at 1:00 pm.
- Sunday, July 12 **HORSE QUARRY EXCAVATION TOUR**

The National Park Service will be offering additional interpretive programs during the latter part of the summer. A new schedule will be printed in the next issue of the Fossil Record. These will include indoor programs, trail hikes, a canoe tour, and more!