

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument - (541)987-2333

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, is divided into three widely separated units; the Sheep Rock Unit, Painted Hills Unit, and Clarno Unit.

SHEEP ROCK UNIT

This unit is located at the intersection of routes 26 and 19, near the town of Dayville, Oregon. The visitor center is open daily, 8:30 am to 6:00 pm. A bookstore, fossil museum, and shaded picnic area are located here. Several short trails with interpretive exhibits are located within the Sheep Rock Unit. For your enjoyment the monument offers the following programs:

Daily Fossil Museum Talks ... 10-15 minutes long; talks about the fossil exhibits are given periodically.

Orientation Films ... 17 & 12 minute orientation videos are presented upon request at the visitor center; open-captioned.

Daily Sheep Rock Talks ... 40 minutes long, 1:00 pm start, beginning on the visitor center grounds; this ranger talk focuses on various topics, from volcanic events to the fossil record.

Friday, Saturday & Sunday Blue Basin Trail Walks ... 90 minutes long, 10:30 am start, 1 mile walk, begins at Blue Basin three miles north of the visitor center; this hike leads into a spectacular fossil bed area to discuss the geologic make-up and fossil record.

Saturday & Sunday Fossil Lab Demonstration ... 10 - 11:30 am and 2 - 4 pm; staff demonstrate preparation of fossils in the lab.

PAINTED HILLS UNIT

This unit is located 9 miles west of the town of Mitchell. A picnic area, restrooms, water, trails and drive-to overlooks are located here. Forty-minute ranger-hikes are offered Saturdays and Sundays, at 3:00 pm, starting from the Painted Hills Overlook. *Hint: This scenic area is best photographed in the afternoon, with the setting sun.*

CLARNO UNIT

Located 18 miles west of Fossil, Oregon, on route 218, this unit has a picnic area, restrooms, water, trails and exhibits. Park ranger programs are offered between 12 noon and 2:00 pm, Saturdays and Sundays.