

Programs for Educational Institutions

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, Oregon

- During the spring and fall, the Geologic Puzzle of Turtle Cove (2.5 hours) and Horse Family Tree (2.75 hours) programs are now offered to students from 5th to 8th grade, and 8th grade to undergraduate college level, respectively. The programs are designed to meet many Oregon Department of Education, 1994-95 science curriculum goals. (updating the programs to meet the new 1996-97 curriculum benchmark goals is in progress) Students will participate in classroom studies, visit the monument fossil museum, observe nearby valley formations, participate in demonstrations and discussions of geologic and/or paleontologic processes, and break into groups for group studies projects and final oral presentations.

These programs are conducted at the Sheep Rock Unit of the monument, *primarily outdoors*. Class size may range from 8 to 30 in number. Three weeks minimum (and up to three months) notice for reservations is advised, allowing time for the teacher packet (with classroom activities) to arrive and the necessary in-class preparation of students for their visit.

- HORSE FOSSIL KIT: New for 1997, this kit should be available starting the spring of 1997. It will contain several replica horse fossil skulls, covering the last 50 million years, for hands on study, as well as, lesson plans, and other activities addressing the new 1996 CIM & CAM, common curriculum goals and benchmarks for science, for 8th, 10th, and 12th grades. Schools will need to pay the shipping costs for this kit, or, pick-up and/or return the kit by hand. It may be borrowed for up to two weeks of classroom time.
- FOSSIL KIT: Available, on loan, is a kit containing over twenty actual fossil specimens (from a few million years to several hundred million years old), VHS videos, slide programs with scripts, and literature and activities addressing fossils and geologic time. Teachers can present the contents of this kit in class, adaptable for students from grades 3-12. Schools will need to pay the shipping costs for this kit, or, pick-up and/or return the kit by hand. It may be borrowed for up to two weeks of classroom time.
- TEACHER PACKET: A general packet of information and activities, adaptable for use by teachers, grades 3 through 8, will be sent upon request. This packet focuses on the geology and paleontology of the John Day Fossil Bed area.
- VHS VIDEO: Three orientation films (on one video) addressing the prehistory of the John Day Fossil Beds (16 min.), the work of the monument paleontologist and staff (12 min.), and the evolution of the horse (6 min.), may be borrowed for showings outside the monument. These films have been used effectively from grades 3 through 12.
- JUNIOR PARK RANGER PROGRAM: Designed for self-motivated students of all ages interested in geology and paleontology, this challenging program can be completed by either a visit to the three monument units, or specific projects for the classroom. Student rewards include a Junior Park Ranger badge, certificate, and photo recognition at our monument visitor center.
- RANGER CONDUCTED PROGRAMS: Ranger-conducted talks, and hikes into nearby (outdoor) fossil bed areas, can be scheduled that focus on the geology and paleontological story. These 60 to 90 minute programs are for students of all ages. Also, ranger-conducted fossil museum talks are offered at the monument's visitor center for students of all ages. These talks range from 10 to 30 minutes, dependent on the subject discussed. These programs should be scheduled in advance.

Specially designed programs for school groups are a challenge we look forward to, both on or off-site. Should you have special needs, please call our education program office at ... **(541) 987-2333**.