

OREGON PALEO LANDS CENTER

April 2021

Our Mission Statement

The Oregon Paleo Lands Center (OPLI) works with the Gateway Communities of the mid-John Day Basin (Condon, Antelope, Fossil, Service Creek, Spray, Mitchell, Kimberly, Dayville and Monument) to build social and economic vitality through efforts:

To conserve, interpret, and promote the natural and cultural history of the John Day Basin/Blue Mountains through time.

To develop and connect, with partners, the John Day Basin/Blue Mountains' visitor services, recreational services, natural and cultural history education opportunities.

To welcome, educate, and connect visitors, schools, area residents and businesses at the Oregon Paleo Lands Center (OPLC), and through other media.

Contact OPLI at:
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www.paleolands.org

Presidents Message

Hello supporters of the Oregon Paleo Lands Center.

Even in these challenging times, your Board continues to work to share the wonders of the John Day Basin and provide services for interested citizens.

We managed to weather limited 2020 operations pretty well with support from the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Oregon Community Foundation and the Wheeler County Cultural Coalition through the Oregon Cultural Trust.

It appears 2021 is not going to be quite as normal as we were hoping. When we open the Center this year, we will continue to utilize the most current safety protocols. Masking, spacing and cleaning will be the foundation for welcoming in-person visitors. We plan to reopen for six months, starting Memorial Day Weekend, May 28, just in time for the Spray Rodeo and to assist some exciting regional events like Cycle Oregon, in Fossil and Mitchell (Sept 11-18th). Our work continues to focus on maintaining our fine building, in a County with some of the least financial resources in Oregon. Securing \$4000 to re-stain the Center is our highest maintenance priority. We expect to apply again for federal payroll support as well as pursue additional support from charitable organizations such as the Oregon Community Foundation in the next few months.

I am pleased to report that we are expanding our Board volunteer base! We secured a new skilled communicator to our Board that has demonstrated a willingness to work with our small Board. Steve Lundgren is a self-proclaimed rock nerd with years of news reporting experience in Central Oregon.



Historic Wheeler Co Courthouse 1901, Fossil Oregon State Archives

Through an Oregon State Parks Heritage grant, your Board is working with, The Alchemy of Design, to produce A River Flows Free, a new video/exhibit that will showcase the past 10,000 years of life in the John Day River Basin. This new exhibit will show at the Center for visitors to enjoy and be offered up on our website.

Our website www.oregonpaleolandscenter.com continues to evolve, offering up new information to interested citizens. New features include a downloadable file highlighting the John Day River Food Trail, created by the John Day River Territory Group, informational files highlighting the Oregon 150 birthday exhibit created in 2009 by the State of Oregon, Bureau of Land Management links to maps of the proposed Sutton Mountain and existing Spring Basin Wilderness areas as well as the John Day River mainstem and North Fork regions, along with our Backcountry Cycling Guide to Wheeler Co.



Updating our Find Time (on our website) map and service guide, creating a virtual tour of the basin and updating our website are a priority for our Board over the next 9 months.

We would still like to secure an additional 3 Board members this year. Please contact us if you want to hear about leadership opportunities. jkee@hevanet.com
503-939-7939

Thanks again for your continued support of our mission!

Jeffrey Kee, President

Oregon Paleo Lands Institute and Certified Interpretive Guide
(National Association of Interpretation)

2020 Donors, Sponsors, and Grantors

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THANK YOU!

Oregon Paleo Lands Center Needs You!

You can support the Oregon Paleo Lands Center in a variety of ways. Your financial support now in 2021 is vital to continue our mission of exploring, teaching about, and protecting Oregon's paleo lands. Donor benefits include a 10% discount on retail merchandise at the Oregon Paleo Lands Center in Fossil, a regular newsletter with information about scientific discoveries, history, and news of the Paleo Lands, and advance notice of upcoming OPLI and partner organization events. All donations are tax deductible.

Interested in volunteering at the Center or serving on the Board?
Contact us at paleolands@gmail.com or www.paleolands.org or at PO
Box 104, Fossil, Oregon 97830 (541) 763-4480.