

OREGON PALEO LANDS CENTER

July 2016

Our Mission Statement

The Oregon Paleo Lands Institute works with the Gateway Communities of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument to build social and economic vitality through efforts:

To conserve and promote the region's ancient and living landscapes, including the Earth's most complete record of the Age of Mammals (past 65 million years).

To develop and connect, with partners, the region's visitor services, recreational services, and natural history education, that support Eastern Oregon's top destination.

To welcome visitors and area residents at the Oregon Paleo Lands Center.

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Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway Celebrated

by: Richard Ross

Designated by Oregon State Parks in February, the Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway loops through the multi-colored John Day Fossil Beds for 130 miles, connecting the communities of Fossil, Service Creek, Spray, Kimberly and Mitchell. Viewed from a bicycle seat, riders can see millions of years of history revealed in the layers of earth, one color at a time. Oregon's 15th Scenic Bikeway connects to Grant County's Old West Bikeway at Kimberly Junction. Bikeway supporters celebrated at the April 20 dedication in Fossil, Oregon. Route signs will follow in the next year.

This bikeway also connects all three units of the John Day Fossil Beds, which holds the world's best fossil record of the Age of Mammals (the last 65 million years) and tells a dramatic story of past climate change. The Bikeway features a hub-and-spoke design that offers a series of rides and loops, which easily connect for longer tours on largely low-traffic roads. The official map and cue sheet details several shorter segments, as well as the entire Scenic Bikeway. You can start and end your ride in any of the communities on the Bikeway; each has the amenities and supplies you need, plus a small town to explore. Beyond each town there are just the sounds of birds and the quiet sense of nature. Bicyclists can plan their ride on RideOregonRide.com/PaintedHills, including a printable map, GPS data, camping and other accommodations and amenities along the route. The "Bike-Friendly" Oregon Paleo Lands Center www.paleolands.org offers its \$5 Backcountry Cycling Guide, that features 14 breathtaking local rides.



Memorial Day Weekend Book Sale

by: Emily Fernandes

Oregon Paleo Lands Institute hosted a book sale at the visitor center over Memorial Day weekend. Volunteers, board members, and staff posted flyers around the area in preparation for the event.

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Photo (left) shows visitors browsing books during our Memorial Day Weekend book sale at our visitor center while learning about the area from public educator Karen Masshoff.

Memorial Day Weekend Book Sale (continued)

In addition to our typical selection of books focusing on geology and history, board members and volunteers donated some general books to help raise money for the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute's visitor center.

Visitors got some great deals on used books for as low as 50 cents, and many purchased overstock books for \$1.00. About 100 people came in to browse through books and learn about the area over the holiday weekend; making it a huge success. We plan to continue to have a bargain book table at the center throughout the summer season.

An Increase in Visitors & School Groups



(Above) Public educator Karen Masshoff instructs the Portland Audubon Society on how to break apart rock in hopes of finding fossils. The group was wowed when Karen was able to reveal a fern inside this rock. May 05, 2016

by: Emily Fernandes

The weather is getting warmer, and more people are out adventuring. OPLI has had quite a few school groups and independent learning groups visit the Oregon Paleo Lands center the last few months. Although grants help pay for schools K-12 to visit the Oregon Paleo Lands visitor center and learn more about the region, adult groups are typically not covered by grants, so OPLI desperately needs your continued support in order for us to be successful with our mission to protect and promote the region's ancient and living landscapes. The process of learning is one that never ends, and we are excited to educate groups of all ages.

(left) A Women's rockhounding group from Wild Craft Studio School, which consisted of adults from Vancouver, WA, Portland, OR and San Francisco, CA visited and posed for a picture after learning about the area from Volunteer Lee Bouchard and Public Educator Karen Masshoff. May 29, 2016



March 2016 to June 2016 Donors, Sponsors & Grantors

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Thank you for your continued support!

Oregon Paleo Lands Center Needs You!

You can support the Oregon Paleo Lands Center in a variety of ways. Your financial support now in 2016 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
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