

OREGON PALEO LANDS CENTER

Fall 2022

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

Board Volunteers Open Paleo Center for Cycle Oregon Sept 12th and 13th

Board: Jeffrey Kee, Bonnie Lofton, Steve Lundgren, Richard Ross, Carol Hardman, Jason Mc Laughrey

In mid-September over 1000 spandex-clad visitors descended on Fossil for the annual, Cycle Oregon Classic ride. Electric bikes were the rage this year. Swarms of cyclists also explored the backcountry between Mitchell, Spray, Kimberly, John Day and Monument, stimulating local communities and testing support systems. Cycle Oregon, for the first time, used the spectacular Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway. For route information SEE www.paleolands.org.

A shortage of volunteer visitor hosts has closed the Center to walk in visitors for most of 2022. In response, four Center Board members greeted Cycle Oregon visitors and shared the wonders of the John Day River Basin. Bonnie Lofton, Carol Hardman, Jeffrey Kee, and Steve Lundgren pitched in. The Center welcomed over 200 visitors on Tuesday the 13th during a cyclist layover day. Our new online video exhibit A River Flows Free was a hit, with cyclists. They sat with rapt attention for over 30 minutes to learn about the region's 10,000-year record of human settlement and the ancient geological history of Oregon.

SEE it online at www.paleolands.org.

OPLI also hosted Jason Mc Laughrey (our newest Board member) from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) Jason engaged 45 cyclists on the lawn of the Center about his passion, mapping of Central Oregon's ancient calderas. Jason worked on a 2005 study of the Wheeler High fossil beds, and is interested in updating that original work, done at OPLI's request.

See our website www.paleolands.org for the DOGAMI study.



Visitor feedback over the 2-day event reminded board members about why they are engaged with the Center. We have a great building with some fine exhibits, that showcase the unique cultural and natural character of this corner of the Northwest.

Presidents Message. Oct 21 2022

Your Board is pleased to report some progress in financial and leadership challenges:

-Oregon Solutions facilitated a work session with Center partners on Sept 28 in Fossil.

-In 2005, the Oregon Paleo Project was the first rural Oregon Solutions project.

-We also recruited two geologist Board members who know the area well.

-We secured a needed \$4000 grant from the Autzen Foundation.

-We are working this year with the Fossil School District and Wheeler County to create and revise long term operating agreements.

We will also be working with the local community early next year to create a new business plan for the Center. The Plan will enable us to support our community and regional services more consistently year-round. The Center normally costs \$2,000 a month to operate. The Board wants to work into 2023 with a sustainable business plan that provides natural and cultural inspiration for another decade.

Please continue to support our work with your donation.

Thanks again.

Jeffrey Kee

Board President

Oregon Paleo Lands Center

Fossil, Oregon



Andrew & Rebecca Dennis
Arthur Rabinowitz
Bette J Andrew
Bonnie Lofton
Bruce Sorte
Carmen Almodovar
Carol Flo Hausafus
Carol Williams
Charlotte & David Corkran
David Griffith
Dean Fialka
Donald & Sherry Podrabsky
Eli Ross
Gary Bengel
Genevieve Walker
Jay Bowerman
Jeffrey Kee
Jenny Young
Jessica Keys
Keanette B. Kloos
Laura Hammond
Lawrence Hulsey
Lawrence Larsen
Lee Walker
Lisa Rabinowitz
Lowell Smith
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Stephen Carlson
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Susan Fry
Susan Jette
Sylvia Broderick
William Symms
Autzen Foundation
Oregon Community Foundation
Shelk Foundation
Jan McGowan Nonprofit
Consulting
Ward Family Fund
The Fossil Cartel

Oregon Paleo Lands Center Needs You!

You can support the Oregon Paleo Lands Center in a variety of ways. Your financial support now in 2022 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.