

# OREGON PALEO LANDS CENTER

December 2020

## **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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Post Office Box 104  
Fossil, Oregon 97830**

**(541) 763-4480  
paleolands@gmail.com  
www.paleolands.org**

## **Presidents Message: 2020 Progress and challenges**

Hello all. We hope this letter finds your family safe and sane. What a year!

The Paleo Lands Center has been closed to visitors for a couple of months now. But this does not mean we have nothing to do. We are pleased that we have secured critical operations support this year from the Bank of Eastern Oregon, the Oregon Community Foundation and the Oregon Cultural Trust. Avoiding any unforeseen challenges, it looks like we will make it through the nightmare of 2020, ready to welcome visitors with a new John Day Basin history exhibit in 2021 and to respond to inquiries about what to do and learn in the region.



Spray Rodeo 1997

## **PROJECT NEWS John Day Basin Virtual Tour and History Exhibit**

We continue to work toward creating a Virtual Tour of the John Day Basin that folks can access from their couches at home. If you would like to help this project let me know. [jkee@hevanet.com](mailto:jkee@hevanet.com) We have developed a strong template but need to run sections by our regional partners to make sure we are representing their message properly.



Thanks to an Oregon Heritage grant, we are working hard this winter on a new cultural exhibit. [A River Flows Free](#). This project will tell the story of the John Day Basin's past 10,000 years of settlement through a series of eight historic "Frontiers": Native American, Explorer, Mining-Military, Bone Hunter/Fossils, Transportation (Trails, rails, highways), Ranching/Settler, Big Timber, to Conservation (today). The project is led by Alchemy of Design, skilled contractors who have developed dynamic exhibits in several Oregon State Parks including Kam Wah Chung Center, Silver Falls, Tryon Creek and at The Oregon Garden. This is big step for the Center to better interpret both the Cultural and Natural heritage of the John Day Basin.

A River Flows Free will tell the Basin's story using new A/V equipment and an exhibit, which we will celebrate at the Center and online next Spring. If you are interested in this project please feel free to contact Project Mgr. Richard Ross, [richardross@earthlink.net](mailto:richardross@earthlink.net).



### **John Day River at Twickenham**

**BOARD NEWS** The Board is sorry to share that 25 percent of our small Board leadership team is leaving this year. Yann Gavillot, OSU research geologist, who has been with the Board for 3 years, announced he was taking a new position with the State of Montana last month. We will miss Yann's professional expertise, enthusiasm, and his international knowledge of geo heritage sites, like the John Day Basin.

If you love the John Day Basin, I would encourage you to consider joining our dedicated Board team to support our mission of sharing the wonders of the region. Monthly board meetings have all been remote conference calls this year, but we cover lots of Board and staff projects every month. If you are interested in helping the Board, we ask that you submit a letter to me ( [jkee@hevanet.com](mailto:jkee@hevanet.com)) stating your interest in joining our working board, a resume and 3 personal references.



## Wheeler Co Rodeo 1997

### **GETTING BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS**

Even in this difficult year, we have made progress in developing programs and exhibits. In addition to our donors and the Oregon Heritage Grant, our Board is thankful for support this year from a number of partners.

- Oregon State Parks assisted a new Center exhibit plan and helped recruit the Center's Park Hosts, through their volunteer system, for the third year.
- Oregon Community and the Shelk Foundations supported basic operations
- The Bank of Eastern Oregon and Congress provided three months of funds for our part time staffing through the federal Paycheck Protection Program
- Oregon Cultural Trust supported basic operations in an October Cultural Relief grant

Our local Wheeler County Cultural Coalition, co-sponsored the Cultural grant.



**2020 Donors,  
Sponsors, and  
Grantors**

Equally important are the contributions from individual donors that also allow us to pay for the basics. To put this in practical terms, here's what you can support with your year-end donations:

- \$2000-3000 Re- Stain the Center's decks and walls
- \$1000 one month of staffing,
- \$1000 Maintenance for full year
- \$400 one month of Park Host expense
- \$300 one month of insurance including Workers Comp
- \$200 one month of all utilities
- \$150 one moth of internet, phone
- \$100 one month of sewer and water

With your continued support we will roll into 2021 more focused and stronger. Please consider a tax-deductible Year End donation or sponsorship now, to help the Center tell the story of the Basin's natural wonders and its outback communities. You can Donate with a check or online at the Center's Home Page: [www.paleolands.org](http://www.paleolands.org) or by using the Center's Sponsor page at: <https://www.oregonpaleolandscenter.com/sponsor-benefits> All donations to the Center are tax deductible and matching gifts up to \$1000 to the Oregon Cultural Trust qualify donors for an Oregon tax credit.

Thank you.

Jeffrey Kee, President Oregon Paleo Lands Center  
Bonnie Lofton, Secretary  
Richard Ross, Treasurer  
Yann Gavillot, Board Member

*Wheeler County  
Richard Ross  
Jeanette Kloos  
Stephen Carlson  
State of Oregon  
Nancy McCormick  
Steve Prince  
Chris Baker  
Jeffrey Kee  
Kathrine Kee  
Donald Leethem  
David Corkran  
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Lisa Rabinowitz  
Peter Fry  
Susan Fry  
Carmen Almodovar  
Jan McGowan  
Nonprofit Consulting  
Bonnie Lofton  
Lisa Blackburn*

*Thank you for your  
ongoing 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 2020 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](mailto:paleolands@gmail.com) or [www.paleolands.org](http://www.paleolands.org) or at PO  
Box 104, Fossil, Oregon 97830 (541) 763-4480.