

OREGON PALEO LANDS CENTER

Spring 2015

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.

**Contact OPLI at:
Post Office Box 104
333 Fourth Street
Fossil, Oregon 97830**

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

Oregon Paleo Lands Institute (OPLI) Partner Project Update

The Board is pleased to launch our 2015-16 Partner Project this spring. Stan Foster of Public Affairs Research Consultants is working with the Board to find Operating Partners to share the Paleo Lands Center. The Meyer Memorial Trust and the Oregon Community Foundation are funding this special project. Please contact the Board at 541-763-4480 or richardnross@earthlink.net if you can assist in this effort.

While the Partner Project is critical to the future, regular donors and new Sponsors, about \$1600-2000/month, are essential to keep the doors open more days this year. With your support Center hours can expand to three days a week this summer, starting May 14, as well as serve visitors and schools year round by appointment. For great travel information every day, check out the Center's new outdoor visitor kiosk and www.paleolands.org. Keep an eye out this spring on Highway 19 for the Center's new Tourist Oriented Directional signs as you enter Fossil.

With OPLI's new Sponsor Policy, financial supporters can get their website and marketing promoted by the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute. Find out how on the website and consider a donation by PayPal. Thank you for helping us spread the Seven Wonders of the John Day Basin.

Jeffrey Kee, Board President

THE 2014 SEVEN WONDERS CAMPAIGN

Travel Oregon's 2014 Seven Wonders of Oregon campaign has attracted record numbers of John Day Fossil Beds visitors. Painted Hills visitors surged by 49% last year, thanks to the Seven Wonders campaign. The Painted Hills, the John Day Basin's biggest attraction, hosted 68,340 visitors last year. Total John Day Fossil Beds visits grew by 17% to 184,260 in 2014. Watch out for 2015 Seven Wonders promotions in biking, culinary attractions, and golfing. Wheeler County is planning a new Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway, which connects all units of the National Monument (Clarno, Thomas Condon Visitor Center, and Painted Hills).



It will join the Old West Scenic Bikeway in Grant County. Check out all the Seven Wonders on the Paleo Lands home page and our new John Day Basin Hike, Bike, and Road Tours page: www.paleolands.org

DONORS & GRANTORS KEEP THE DOORS OPEN 2013-2014

Oregon Paleo Lands Center reopened in 2013 and 2014 only because of donor and grantor support. Donors contributed \$33,365 and grantors awarded \$43,000 in 2013-14 to make this happen. Oregon Paleo Lands Institute (OPLI) thanks all of the donors and grantors who have supported the Center's seasonal reopening. Generous, ongoing support has come through several funds of the Oregon Community Foundation: Van and Janet Bailey Fund, the Barbara Bowerman Fund, the Katherine Diack Fund, the Haldorson Fund, The James and Marion Miller Fund, and the Shelk Fund. Two Meyer Trust Grassroots grants helped OPLI renew and restart operations.

The Ford Institute helped OPLI develop its new Strategic Plan. The Juan Young Trust is assisting this year's school education programs. The Wheeler County Cultural Coalition has provided regular operating grants. The best is yet to come with your support!



SPRING FLOWERS



Spring Flowers decorate the John Day Basin from February to June, in a brilliant succession of colors and blooms in canyons, fields and mountain slopes. At times grassy hillsides are carpeted with yellow Buttercups, Desert Parsley, Balsamroot Sunflowers and blue Lupine. In rocky areas you can find bright red Indian Paintbrush, the purple Sage, Blanket Flower, and the elusive Hedgehog cactus. Along creeks there are yellow Monkey Flowers and Milkweed, the favorite of Monarch Butterflies. There is always a new bouquet coming up. See the Paleo Lands "Gallery" webpage for some favorites at: paleolands.org.

OPLI Center Open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays Starting May 14!

Starting May 14, 2015, Oregon Paleo Lands Institute's Visitor Center will be open Fridays and Saturdays from 9:00-4:30. The center will continue to be open on Thursdays from 1:30-5:00. Come in and see us!

December 2014 - April 2015 Donors

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Thank you for your 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 2013 is vital to continue our mission of exploring, teaching about, and protecting Oregon's paleolands. 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.

Office hours are Mondays and Thursdays, 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.