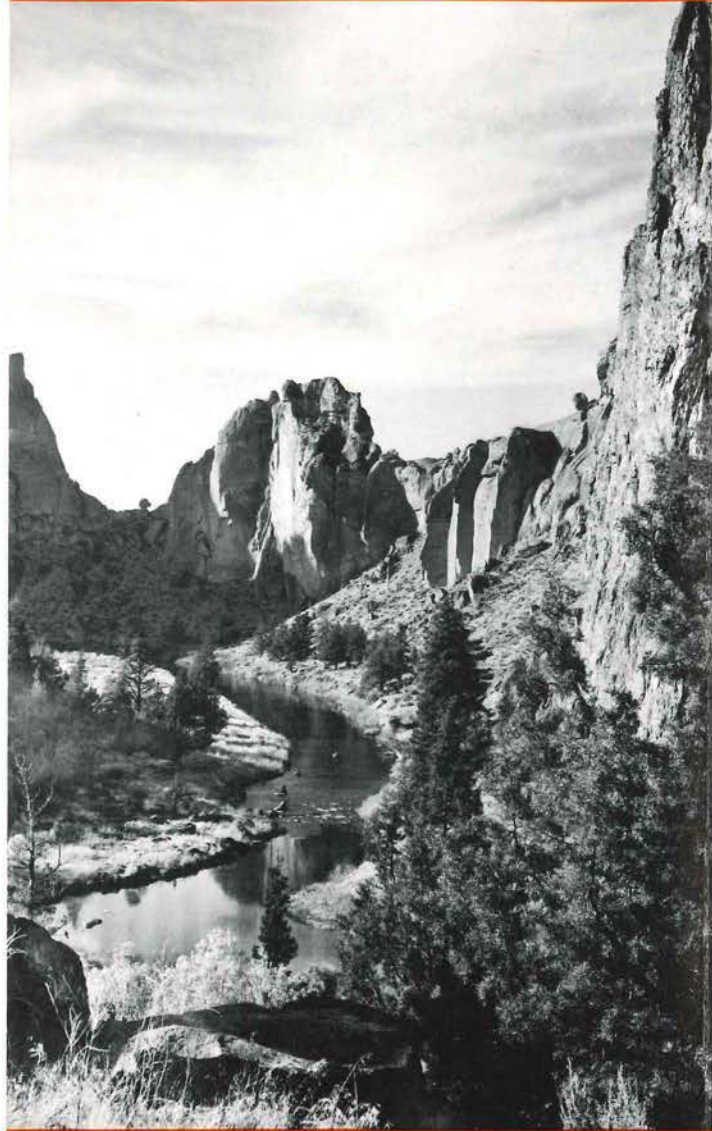


Oregon's Heritage: GEOLOGIC TREASURES

Fossils



Finding fossils in Oregon is not so much a question of where to look for them as where not to look. Fossils are rare in the High Lava Plains and High Cascades, but even there, some of the lakes are famous for their fossils. Many of the sedimentary rocks in eastern Oregon contain fossil leaves or bones. Leaf fossils are especially abundant in the rocks at the far side of the athletic field at Wheeler High School in the town of Fossil.

Although it is rare to find a complete animal fossil, a search of river beds may turn up chips or even teeth. In western Oregon, the sedimentary rocks that are primarily marine in origin often contain fossil clams and snails. An occasional shark's tooth or crab can also be found. Marine fossils are also abundant near the town of Vernonia and along the central to south-central Oregon coast.

Collecting is permitted within the highway right-of-way, unless excavation is destructive to the roadcut, and on private land with the owner's approval. Collecting is prohibited or a collecting permit is necessary to collect fossils on state and federal lands and in parks. Collecting is prohibited in the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument.



Above: Fossil ammonite, east-central Oregon.

Photo: David G. Taylor

Places to see fossils:

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

Contains a 40-million-year record of plant and animal life in the John Day Basin in central Oregon near the towns of Dayville, Fossil, and Mitchell. The Cant Ranch Visitor Center at Sheep Rock on Highway 19 includes museum exhibits of fossils. Open every day 8:30-5. For general information, contact John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, 420 West Main St., John Day, OR 97845, phone (503) 575-0721.

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry

1945 SE Water Ave., Portland, OR 97214. Open Thurs. & Fri. 9:30-9; Sat. through Wed. 9:30-7 (summer hours); 9:30-5 (rest of year), phone (503) 797-4000.

Condon Museum, University of Oregon

Pacific Hall, Eugene, OR 97403. Open only by appointment, phone (503) 346-4577.

Douglas County Museum of History and Natural History

off I-5 at exit 123 at Roseburg (PO Box 1550, Roseburg, OR 97470). Open Tues.-Sat. 10-4, Sun. noon-4, closed Mon., phone (503) 440-4507.

Hornor Museum

Oregon State University, Gill Coliseum, Corvallis, OR 97331. Open June-Aug., Mon.-Fri. 10-5, Sun. 2-5. Rest of year, Tues.-Fri. 10-5, Sat. 12-4, Sun. 2-5, phone (503) 737-2951.

High Desert Museum

59800 S. Hwy. 97, Bend, OR 97702. Open 9-5 every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day, phone (503) 382-4754.

Rock Shops

Throughout the state.

Opening Soon - Northwest Museum of Natural History

SW 6th and Hall, downtown Portland, expected opening date 1994. The new museum will include exhibits with natural historical themes of local, regional, and global interest. For information, contact Dr. David Taylor, PO Box 1493, Portland, OR 97207, phone (503) 725-3374.



Fossil leaves from the Clarno Nut Beds.

Photos: Steven R. Manchester

Oregon's Heritage Brochure 4



Rocks and Gold



Obsidian flow at Newberry Crater.
Photo: Ellen Morris Bishop.

Cover Photo: Smith Rock State Park, located in central Oregon on Highway 97 near Terrebonne. The steep cliffs of this volcanic tuff cone formed when rising magma encountered ground water and exploded as fine ash. This area is famous for its superb rock climbing.

Cover photo and those otherwise not credited: Oregon Dept. of Transportation

Publications related to the geology and other natural history features of Oregon, topographic maps, a 1:500,000-scale full-color geologic map of Oregon (\$11.50 for map plus \$3 for mailing), and a soft cover book, *Geology of Oregon*, by Orr, Orr, and Baldwin (\$25 for book plus \$3 for mailing) are available from:

The Nature of Oregon Information Center
Suite 177, 800 NE Oregon Street #5
Portland, OR 97232
Phone (503) 731-4444

Located near the Convention Center and Lloyd Center in Portland, the Center is open 10-5, Monday through Friday. Call or write the Nature of Oregon Information Center for free publication lists from the Oregon Depts. of Geology and Mineral Industries, Agriculture, Water Resources, and Economic Development. The U.S. Dept. of Interior Bureau of Land Management also provides information and sells its publications at its Public Room, 1300 NE 44th Avenue, PO Box 2965, Portland, OR 97208, phone (503) 280-7001.

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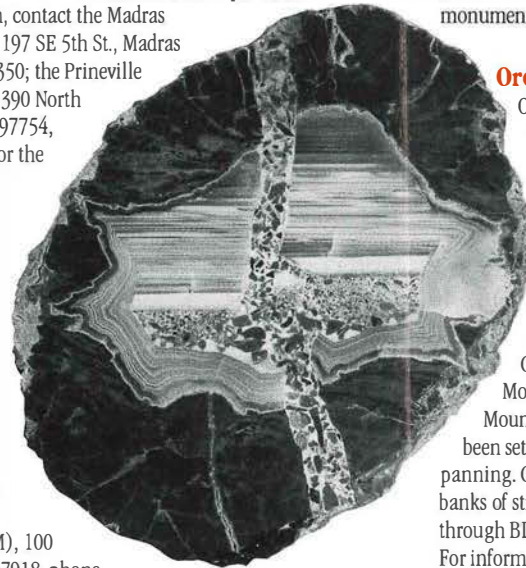


Oregon. Things Look Different Here



Thundereggs

Oregon's state rock can be collected at fee and free sites in central and southeastern Oregon. Unimpressive on the outside, these spherical rocks contain colorful silicic material and, when sliced and polished, make beautiful collector's items. For information on places to collect in central Oregon, contact the Madras Chamber of Commerce, 197 SE 5th St., Madras OR 97741, phone 475-2350; the Prineville Chamber of Commerce, 390 North Fairview, Prineville, OR 97754, phone (503) 447-6304; or the following fee sites: Richardson's Recreational Ranch, Gateway Route, Box 440, Madras, OR 97741, phone (503) 475-2680 or 475-2839; or Hay Creek Ranch, Ashwood Star Route, Madras, OR 97741, phone (503) 475-7237. In southeastern Oregon, contact the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 100 Oregon Street, Vale OR 97918, phone (503) 473-3144; or Emil Wohlcke, chairman, Thunderegg Days (held for five days around the first Wed. in June), 707 Emison Ave., Nyssa, OR 97913, phone (503) 372-3715.



Thunderegg, central Oregon.
Photo: John E. Allen.

Agates and Jasper

These semiprecious gemstones can be collected at many sites along the Oregon coast, including Agate Beach at Newport, in some of the streams draining the Western Cascades, near the town of Antelope and around Prineville in central Oregon, near Hart Mountain and Lakeview in south-central Oregon, and at Succor Creek in southeastern Oregon.

Obsidian

This volcanic glass can be collected in central Oregon at Glass Buttes on Highway 20 between Bend and Burns. An enormous flow of obsidian can also be seen at Newberry Crater, south and east of Bend, but no collecting is permitted in this national monument.

Oregon Sunstone

Oregon's state gemstone is a feldspar crystal that weathers out of certain lava flows in south-central Oregon. It may be collected on BLM land near Lakeview. Collecting on mining claims is prohibited. For information, contact BLM, 1000 South Ninth, PO Box 151, Lakeview, OR 97630, phone (503) 947-2177.

Gold

Gold has been mined for many years in the Blue Mountains, the Western Cascades, and the Klamath Mountains. Most areas have been staked, but some have been set aside as fee or free sites for recreational gold panning. Gold panning is also usually permitted on nearly all banks of streams and rivers running through state lands and through BLM and USDA Forest Service campgrounds in Oregon. For information about gold panning in specific areas in the Western Cascades, contact BLM, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, OR 97306, phone (503) 375-5646. For the Klamath Mountains, contact the Medford District Office, BLM, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504, phone (503) 770-2200; or the Applegate Ranger District of the USDA Forest Service, 6941 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530, phone (503) 899-1812. For the Blue Mountains, contact the Wallowa Whitman National Forest, PO Box 907, or BLM, PO Box 987, both at 1550 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR 97814, phone (503) 523-6391. The US Bank in Baker City, eastern Oregon, has a fabulous collection of gold nuggets that were found in eastern Oregon. The display is in the bank lobby and may be seen during normal bank hours.

**The thunderegg is Oregon's state rock.
The sunstone is the state's gemstone.**