



## DECLARATION OF COOPERATION

### **PALEO PROJECT January 2005**

**Partners:**

**Oregon Paleo Lands Institute  
Fossil School District  
Wheeler County  
City of Fossil  
USDA Forest Service and USDA Rural Development  
Bureau of Land Management  
John Day Fossil Beds National Monument  
Oregon Museum of Science and Industry  
Governor's Economic Revitalization Team  
Oregon Solutions  
North Central Education Service District  
Fossil Community School  
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs  
Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries**

*This Agreement summarizes the cooperative roles and responsibilities among the Paleo Partners for the initial phases of the Paleo Project.*

#### **Implementation Plan 2005-2007**

This agreement covers the initial implementation of the Paleo Project. Individual partners may amend or update their described roles and responsibilities as needed. The full agreement will be reviewed and updated by the OPLI Board on or before June 30, 2007.  
(See Attachment A)

#### **I. Preface**

The Paleo Project was the first project in Oregon to be designated by former Governor John Kitzhaber as a highest priority state sustainability project under Oregon Solutions. It won the prestigious Governor's Sustainability Award in 2001. It has won acclaim in local, regional, state and national media through articles that have been circulated far and wide by national news wire services. The Paleo Project played a strong



role in the recent designation of Fossil as a 2003 All America City Finalist in a national competition.

## **Oregon Solutions**

The mission of Oregon Solutions is to develop sustainable solutions to community based problems or opportunities that support economic, environmental, and community objectives simultaneously through partnerships between government, business, and non-profit organizations. Oregon Solutions utilizes a collaborative approach to develop integrated, community-based solutions, bringing all stakeholders to the table, including permitting agencies, funders, and organizations offering technical assistance. In other communities, this approach has helped to leverage investments, expedite the project, break through barriers, identify valuable partners, and elevate the visibility of the project. The final step of the Oregon Solutions process is for all partners to sign a declaration of cooperation or agreement that commits their time and/or resources to the project. The agreement then becomes the mechanism of governance for the project.

## **II. Project Description**

Largely undiscovered to a mainstream audience and not yet heralded as a major Pacific Northwest attraction, the fossil basin of north central Oregon holds a special place on the planet and a special place across time. The region's rock palisades, colorfully-striped hills, fossilized flora and fauna, petrified mudslides, and ancient timelines preserved in rock strata are all of global importance.

Over the past century these ancient findings have been studied by scientists from around the world who recognize the region's resources as among the world's most clustered, visible geologic history of the age of mammals. To bring these resources to the attention of a much wider audience and to gently stimulate a struggling rural economy by doing so has been the focus of the Paleo Project.

This strategy would begin at the community of Fossil with its public fossil digging beds and, aptly, would radiate out from there. As promotion and understanding of the resources increased, so too would public interest. Increased awareness would trigger more visitors. Increased tourism would benefit local and regional businesses. Oregon itself would have one more message to flaunt: *World-class fossils, just three hours from Portland!*

As visitor dollars circulate, a stagnant economy begins to improve, and a region that has been languishing for too long takes a definitive step forward.

Over the past three years, nearly \$2 million has been invested in local projects that are based on the Paleo Project. These include a summer programs, a three-year community-school education program, architectural planning for a paleo-based facility and infrastructure improvements to the City of Fossil.

National recognition for this region would reflect the direct objectives of the Paleo Project – to draw attention to this region and to benefit from that attention.

To ensure the development of the Paleo Project a series of collaborative agreements are outlined below. These volunteer agreements are intended to demonstrate commitment to the project and delineate to some degree the areas of cooperation among the various parties interest in seeing the Paleo Project become a reality.

Those who sign this agreement and/or the entity they represent will become instrumental in assisting with the planning and implementation of an economic strategy that is clearly part of the revitalization of the economy in a special place in eastern Oregon.

### **III. Partners, Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **Oregon Paleo Lands Institute Board**

Oregon Paleo Lands Institute is nonprofit established to provide and coordinated public education and related economic development for the unique natural history found in north central Oregon. Board members are well experienced in public process, project development, similar projects and who are knowledgeable about scientific resources in the region and experienced in collaborative efforts.

The Oregon Paleo Lands Institute (OPLI) will assume responsibility for the following:

- Coordinate the efforts of the Paleo Partners in the development, operations, and programs of the Paleo Project.
- Promote the Paleo Project as a viable economic and community development project for the region and State of Oregon, and as a Pacific Northwest destination;

- When appropriate and in conjunction with Wheeler County, the City of Fossil and the Fossil School Board, and other partners, the Board will provide direct oversight and pursue fund development for operations and implementation of the various facets of the project, including staffing programs, facilities and outreach;
- At the appropriate time own and manage the learning center facility;
- Manage and/or contract the learning center's outreach efforts and program development across the region;
- Develop and maintain adequate budgets for operations and programs;
- Assure representation on regional and statewide educational, economic development, sustainability and tourism organizations;
- Serve as one of the voices for natural resource partners of the region and as a strong partner on statewide natural resource needs and issues; and,
- Serve as a centralized educational clearinghouse, repository, and distributor for natural history information for north central Oregon and for state, federal and private partners who desire a presence in eastern Oregon.

Richard N. Ross
January 25, 2005

---

Oregon Paleo Lands Institute
Date

**Fossil School District**

The Fossil School District and its Board of Directors represent the interests of the Fossil School District and the taxpayers who support the school district. Fossil School District presently owns the land occupied by the Wheeler High fossil bed site in the City of Fossil and the facilities located on the school grounds.

Fossil School District Board will assume responsibility for the following:

- Represent the Fossil School District in all discussions and negotiations related to the use and development of the district's properties and facilities contained on these properties for the development of the Paleo Project;



- Represent the interests of the School District on the development of an alternative athletic field that will be pursued because of the development of the Paleo Project on the present Wheeler High site;
- When appropriate, represent the school district in develop and or implementation of programs related to the Paleo Project that utilize facilities or properties owned by the Fossil School District;
- Provide representation on the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute Board of Directors; and,
- Assist where possible in the development of funding alternatives that support the Paleo Project and future use of the site and facilities owned by the school district.

*Bob Hughes / Superintendent*      *1/20/05*

Fossil School District

Date

### **Wheeler County**

Wheeler County, along with other visionaries, has been a key participant in the conceptual development of the Paleo Project and has represented the Paleo Project in securing funds to develop the initial planning efforts that have initiated the project. The intent of Wheeler County is to increasingly divest itself from the operation of the Paleo Project and transfer the development and implementation of the project to those entities responsibility for its development and sustainable operations.

Wheeler County will assume responsibility for the following:

- Continue, when appropriate, to be an entity to assist in securing funds to develop the Paleo Project both in terms of facility and program planning and implementation;
- When it may be required, act as the fiscal agent for those fund resources that require a public entity or an entity with a proven track record to manage funds;
- Promote the Paleo Project as a viable economic and community development project for the region and State of Oregon, and as a Pacific Northwest destination;

- Provide, when available, staff support to assist in the development and implementation of the project and other in-kind support as appropriate;
- Support requests for federal funding of the Paleo Project; and,
- Provide representation on the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute Board of Directors.

*James E. Bunch* \_\_\_\_\_ *1-20-2004*

Wheeler County

Date

**City of Fossil**

The City of Fossil has and continues to be a strong supporter of the Paleo Project as the community successfully develops a broad economic agenda to create a sustainable economy.

The City of Fossil will assume responsibility for the following:

- When appropriate, to be an entity to assist in securing funds to develop the Paleo Project both in terms of facility and program planning and implementation;
- When it may be required, act as the fiscal agent for those fund resources that require a public entity or an entity with a proven track record to manage funds;
- Promote the Paleo Project as a viable economic and community development project for the region and State of Oregon, and as a Pacific Northwest destination;
- Provide, when available, staff support to assist in the development and implementation of the project;
- Support requests for federal funding of the Paleo Project; and,
- Provide representation on the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute Board of Directors.

*Ronald L. Stupley* \_\_\_\_\_ *2-15-05*

City of Fossil

Date

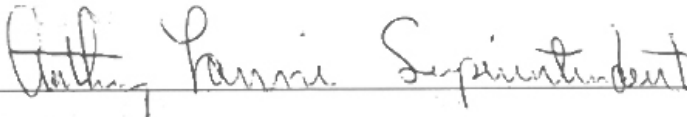


## North Central Education Service District

The North Central Education Service District (NCESD) has provided substantial support in developing, promoting and implementing the Paleo Academy. The Paleo Academy has been and is a series of courses offered by Paleo Project that offers quality programs in the area of natural resources. The NCESD is also the manager of the distance learning network that serves the region and provides connectivity to audiences outside of Wheeler County.

The North Central Education Service District will assume responsibility for the following:

- Continue, when feasible, to provide assistance in the development and implementation of programs that support and enhance the educational offerings of the Paleo Project;
- Provide consultation, support and, when appropriate, management of telecommunications and distance learning to enhance the development of markets to utilize and support the program offerings of the project;
- When it may be required, to act as the fiscal agent for those fund resources that require a public entity or an entity with a proven track record to manage funds;
- Promote the Paleo Project as a viable economic and community development project for the region and State of Oregon, and as a Pacific Northwest destination;
- Provide, when available, staff support to assist in the development and implementation of project programs;
- Support requests for federal funding of the Paleo Project; and,
- Provide representation on the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute Board of Directors.

 Superintendent 1-19-05

---

North Central Education Service District

Date

## **Fossil Community School**

Fossil Community School provides the people of Fossil and vicinity with opportunities for lifelong learning and supports a collaborative relationship between the community and our schools.

The Fossil Community School will assume responsibility for the following:

- Work collaboratively with the Paleo Project and other programs to capitalize on our existing resources: school facilities (e.g. woodshop, computer lab, gym equipment), the area's natural resources (e.g. geologic and paleontologic significance of the area) and the talents, skills and energies of the local and area population;
- Continue, when feasible, to provide assistance in the development and implementation of programs that support and enhance the educational offerings of the Paleo Project;
- Provide consultation, support and, when appropriate, management of telecommunications and distance learning, as it relates to the Fossil Community School efforts, to enhance the development of markets to utilize and support the program offerings of the project;
- When it may be appropriate as the Fossil Community School, to act as the fiscal agent for those fund resources that require a public entity or an entity with a proven track record to manage funds;
- Promote the Paleo Project as a viable economic and community development project for the region and State of Oregon, and as a Pacific Northwest destination, and
- Provide, when available, staff support to assist in the development and implementation of project programs.

*Chris Blankenship, Director* \_\_\_\_\_ *2/8/05*

---

Fossil Community School

Date

## **United States Forest Service/USDA Rural Development**

The U.S. Forest Service and USDA Rural Development have been consistent supporters of the Paleo Project and instrumental partners in the development of the conceptual design and program implementation.





Continue support from the USFS/USDA is considered a key element in realizing the goals and economic development potential of the project.

The United States Forest Service/USDA will assume responsibility for the following:

- Continue to provide support and participate in the evolution of the project.
- When appropriate and through the application process, consider grant requests to further develop the project;
- Provide technical assistance as needed;
- When appropriate, work with the OPLIB to provide access to natural resource opportunities that may exist on USFS public lands; and,
- When appropriate, participate in program development and provide access to resources that may further enhance the program offerings.
- Provide representation on the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute Board of Directors.

---

USDA Forest Service

Date

 1-24-05

---

USDA Rural Development

Date

### **Bureau of Land Management**

The BLM, like the USFS, is the manager of thousands of acres of public lands in the region of the Paleo Project. Its responsibility to manage and protect the natural resources of these public lands is important in terms of safe guarding the geologic and paleontologic resources in the area. The staff of the BLM represents a wealth of knowledge regarding the resources of the region and brings a perspective to the public regarding the value of these natural resources.

The Bureau of Land Management will assume responsibility for the following:



- Continue to provide technical assistance in developing the educational opportunities that may be related to the natural resources found on land managed by the BLM;
- Provide technical assistance on the program offerings of the Paleo Project;
- When and if appropriate, loan for display examples of natural resources that may represent the geologic and paleontologic history of the region;
- When appropriate, provide support to secure funding for facility development and program development; and,
- Support the Paleo Project as a viable economic and community development project for the region and State of Oregon, and as a Pacific Northwest destination;
- Provide representation on the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute Board of Directors.

Christina M. Welch                      FEBRUARY 16, 2005

---

Bureau of Land Management

Date

**John Day Fossil Beds National Monument**

The John Day Fossil Beds National Monument encompasses a world class region of dramatic representation of the geologic and paleontologic past. With visible strata dramatically revealing 54 million years of land formation, the fossil beds provide the world with research opportunities found in few places in the world. The knowledgeable staff of the Monument has provided excellent technical assistance and program instruction during the initial development of the Paleo Project. The collaborative opportunities between the Monument and the evolving Paleo Project will enhance the agenda of both programs and bring new economic opportunities to the region.

The John Day Fossil Beds National Monument will assume responsibility for the following:

- When appropriate, work collaboratively with the OPLIB to develop the natural history educational opportunities in the region;



- When appropriate, work collaboratively to offer programs that benefit the educational mission of both organizations;
- Continue to provide technical assistance in developing the educational opportunities, that may relate to the natural resources found on land managed by the National Park Service, resources permitting;
- Provide technical assistance on the program offerings of the Paleo Project, resources permitting;
- Continue to coordinate long range plans of both the Monument and and the Paleo Project.
- Promote the Paleo Project as a viable economic and community development project for the region and State of Oregon, and as a Pacific Northwest destination; and,
- Provide ex-officio/advisory representation on the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute Board of Directors.

*James F. Hemmelt*                      *3/10/2005*

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

Date

**Oregon Museum of Science and Industry**

The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) is a nationally recognized organization that has been operating science camps and field adventures for more than 50 years throughout the northwest. The organization has gained a national reputation as a pioneer and innovator of educational and outdoor programs. One of OMSI’s 13 residential camps is located at Hancock Field Station, just ten miles from the Paleo Project site in Fossil.

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry will assume responsibility for the following:

- When appropriate, work collaboratively with the OPLIB to develop the natural history educational opportunities in the region;
- When appropriate, work collaboratively to offer programs that benefit the educational mission of both organizations;



- When appropriate, support the distance learning efforts of the NCESD;
- Support the Paleo Project as a viable economic and community development project for the region and State of Oregon, and as a Pacific Northwest destination; and,
- Provide advisory support.

*Nancy Amber*

*1/17/05*

---

Oregon Museum of Science and Industry

Date

### **The Lower John Day Regional Economic Revitalization Team**

The Lower John Day Regional Economic Revitalization Team has been a valuable asset during the conceptual planning phase and program implementation. They have been instrumental in being a “sounding board” in the design and phasing of the Paleo Project and in identifying and providing valued funding to initiate the project.

The Lower John Day Regional Economic Revitalization Team will assume responsibility for the following:

- Continue, when feasible, to provide assistance in the development and implementation of programs and facilities that support and enhance the educational offerings of the Paleo Project;
- Promote the Paleo Project as a viable economic and community development project for the region and State of Oregon, and as a Pacific Northwest destination;
- Assist in identifying state funding resources that will contribute to the development of the project;
- Support requests for federal funding of the Paleo Project, as appropriate; and,
- Support the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute Board in an advisory capacity.

*Meredith Carlson*

*January 15, 2005*

---

The Lower John Day Regional Economic Revitalization Team

Date

## **Confederated Tribes of Warm Spring**

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs have been an active in the Lower John Day Partnership and are a key landowner in Wheeler County. Through funding from the BPA the Tribes have acquired and manage over 40,000 acres of land in the John Day Basin for habitat and salmon restoration of former tribal lands. These lands offer an excellent opportunity to be a living laboratory for studying sustainable land management practices and salmon recovery. The Tribes have offered, under supervision, access to these lands to demonstrate environmental practices to restore natural resources over a large contiguous landscape.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs will assume responsibility for the following:

- When appropriate, participate with the Paleo Project curriculum development by offering or cooperating on programs related to land restoration, salmon recovery and other natural resources on lands managed in the John Day Basin (including the Pine Creek Conservation Area);
- Promote the Paleo Project as a viable economic and community development venture for the region and State of Oregon, and as a Pacific Northwest destination;
- Support requests for federal funding of the Paleo Project; and,
- Provide representation on the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute Board of Directors.



1-26-05

---

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Date

## **Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries**

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries produces maps and reports that can be used by the public and by government to reduce the loss of life and property due to geologic hazards and to manage geologic resources, including water. It helps Oregonians understand and prepare for earthquakes, tsunamis, coastal erosion, landslides, floods, and other geologic hazards. It is lead regulator for geologic resources (oil; gas; geothermal energy; metallic and industrial



minerals; and sand, gravel, and crushed stone), with attention paid to environmental, reclamation, conservation, and related economic, engineering, and technical issues. The department provides geologic data to assist in policy development through publications and release of electronic data, and through department participation in and coordination with state, federal, and local governmental natural resource agencies as well as with industry and other private sector groups. The Department has been involved in the planning phase of the Paleo Project and provides information regarding the geology resources in the region.

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries will assume responsibility for the following:

- Continue to provide technical assistance in the development and implementation of the Paleo Project;
- When appropriate, provide access in North Central Oregon through the Paleo Project to the department's wide range of public information and education materials on natural history and cooperate in the dissemination of such materials. Cooperate in research projects in the John Day Basin as appropriate.
- Make available information or samples as may be of value in the department's archives.
- Promote the Paleo Project as a viable economic and community development venture for the region and State of Oregon, and as a Pacific Northwest destination;
- Support requests for federal funding of the Paleo Project; and,
- Provide representation on the Oregon Paleo Lands Institute Board of Directors.



**January 13, 2005**

---

Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Date

## Oregon Solutions Team Member Contact Information

Richard Ross

2041 SE Elliot Ave.  
Portland, OR 97214  
503.235.8194

[richardross@earthlink.net](mailto:richardross@earthlink.net)

Mike Hughes, Superintendent

Fossil School district

P. O. Box 206

Fossil, OR 97830

541.763.4303

[mhughes@fossil.k12.or.us](mailto:mhughes@fossil.k12.or.us)

Jeanne Burch, Judge

Wheeler County

P. O. Box 447

Fossil, OR 97830

541.763.3460

[jburch@ncesd.k12.or.us](mailto:jburch@ncesd.k12.or.us)

Don Shipley, Mayor

City of Fossil

PO Box 467

Fossil, OR 97830

(541) 763-2698

[fossilhardware@centuryte.net](mailto:fossilhardware@centuryte.net)

Lynn Schoessler, Director

USDA Rural Development

101 S Main

Portland, OR 97302

[Lynn.Schoessler@or.usda.gov](mailto:Lynn.Schoessler@or.usda.gov)

Eric Herst

USDA Rural Development

101 S Main

Portland, OR 97302

[Eric.Herst@or.usda.gov](mailto:Eric.Herst@or.usda.gov)

Jim Hammett, Superintendent

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

32651 Highway 19

Kimberly, OR 97848-9701

[Jim\\_Hammett@nps.gov](mailto:Jim_Hammett@nps.gov)

Nancy Stueber, President

Oregon Museum of Science & Industry

1975 Water St. SE

Portland, OR 97214

503.797.4513

[Nancy.Stueber@omsi.edu](mailto:Nancy.Stueber@omsi.edu)

MerrieSue Carlson

Governor's Economic

Revitalization Team

2146 NE 4<sup>th</sup>

Bend, OR 97701

541.388.6146 x 252

[MerrieSue.Carlson@state.or.us](mailto:MerrieSue.Carlson@state.or.us)

Anthony Lanni, Superintendent

North Central Education Service District

P. O. Box 203

Condon, OR 97823

541.384.2732

[alanni@ncesd.k12.or.us](mailto:alanni@ncesd.k12.or.us)

Lari Hankins

Fossil Community School

P. O. Box 206

Fossil, OR 97830

[lhankins@fossil.k12.or.us](mailto:lhankins@fossil.k12.or.us)

Terry Luther

Fish and Wildlife Biologist

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

P. O. Box C

Warm Springs, OR 97761

541.553.1161

[tluther@wstribes.org](mailto:tluther@wstribes.org)

Vicki McConnell, Director

DOGAMI

800 NE Oregon St, #28, Ste.965

Portland, OR 97232

[Vicki.McConnell@dogami.state.or.us](mailto:Vicki.McConnell@dogami.state.or.us)

