



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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John Day Fossil Beds NM News Release

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John Day Fossil Beds National Monument Accepting Scoping Comments on Proposal for Clarno Ranger Station/Office

KIMBERLY – John Day Fossil Beds National Monument is preparing an environmental assessment for a proposed ranger station/office in the Clarno Unit of the monument. Public comments are invited to determine what concerns there may be about the proposal to ensure that these are included in the environmental impact analysis process.

The new facility is intended to serve the Clarno area as a place for park staff to work from and where visitors can obtain information. The facility is needed because the current shed housing the water treatment facility that is used for these purposes is substandard. It is too small for operational efficiency, does not meet building codes, has poor lighting and health and safety issues, and does not provide potable water or sanitary facilities. The building is also inadequate to serve visitor needs such as providing basic information/interpretive materials, and serving as a point of contact during emergencies. The existing building functions primarily as a water treatment facility.

The park is in the initial stages of project planning. The Clarno Unit is located in Wheeler County approximately 18 miles west of the town of Fossil, Oregon. Three potential locations for the proposed ranger station/office have been identified within the unit. These include the existing office location adjacent to Oregon State Highway 218, an area along the access road to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) Camp Hancock, and another location adjacent to the Clarno Picnic Area off Highway 218.

Superintendent Shelley Hall stated “We are excited to begin planning for this facility that will better serve park visitors to the Clarno Unit, as well as providing a more productive location for park staff to work”

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Those wishing to provide comments should submit them in writing as soon as possible, but no later than September 30, 2015 via the web, mail or e-mail as follows:

Web: NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/joda/56470>

Mail: Superintendent, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, 32651 Highway 19, Kimberly, OR 97848

Email: joda_superintendent@nps.gov

Please contact the park if you wish to be added to the mailing list for more information about this project.

Note: Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. Anonymous comments will not be accepted.

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