



Table Rocks Hike Season Spring 2009

BLM and Nature Conservancy Offer Two Separate Interpretive Hiking Opportunities

Wildflowers are beginning to show their color, vernal pools are buzzing with life, spring time is returning to the southern Oregon landscape, and it is once again time for the annual spring Table Rocks guided hike season. From April 1st through June 5th, the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and The Nature Conservancy are offering the public two separate interpretive hiking opportunities, one on the weekdays and one on the weekends.

In addition to the spring hikes this year, a special event is planned for Saturday May 16 to celebrate thirty years of conservation at the Table Rocks and Take Care of Oregon Day. The public is invited to join a volunteer work party, participate in interpretive activities and honor the cultural heritage of the Table Rocks through a Native American ceremony. Details will be released in a future announcement.

Group, weekday hikes:

Various school and community groups have been guided by the Table Rocks Environmental Education Program to the tops of Upper and Lower Table Rocks for over 20 years. Groups of 10 individuals or more and of any age are welcome to sign up for these free, interpretive hikes. Participants enjoy spectacular views of the Rogue Valley and surrounding mountain ranges while learning about the unique natural and cultural history of the Table Rocks. Guides are available Tuesday through Friday. Hikes begin around 9:00 a.m. and last about four hours. The schedule is already quite full so please reserve a day as soon as possible.

For more information visit our website:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/tablerock/index.php>

or contact:

Leah Schrodt, Program Coordinator, at (541) 618-2468.

Weekend Spring Hike Series:

The Nature Conservancy and the BLM are offering their annual weekend series of guided, educational walks on the Table Rocks in April and May. This popular hike series promises a spectacular view of the valley, a natural wildflower display, and expert interpretation from specialists on the natural and cultural history of the area. Anyone from the community is welcome to sign up. There is no fee to participate, but **reservations are required**. To reserve a space on a hike call the **BLM Medford District Office at (541) 618-2200**. Participation is limited to 30 individuals per hike, unless other wise noted. The weekend hike schedule can be viewed on the BLM's Table Rocks website and The Nature Conservancy website:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/tablerock/index.php>

<http://www.nature.org/oregon/preserves/>

Participants in both the weekday and weekend hikes should dress for the weather and should bring a lunch and something to drink. There is no drinking water at either Upper or Lower Table Rocks. Restrooms are available at both trailheads. To help protect this special place and its inhabitants, dogs are not allowed on the trail. The hikes range from three to five miles roundtrip along a moderate grade trail, and last three to five hours.

2009 Table Rocks Weekend Hike Season Spring Schedule:

- Saturday, April 4 10:00 am: UPPER TABLE ROCK *Moss and Lichen*
Join certified Lichenologist **John Villella**, a botanist with the Siskiyou Boisurvey and member of the American Bryological and Lichenological Society, on a hike to explore the unique variety of important non-vascular plants that live on the Table Rocks.
- Sunday, April 5 8:00 am: LOWER TABLE ROCK *Wonderful Wildlife*
Come learn about life in the wild for our furry and feathered friends with **Marylou Schnoes**, a Wildlife Biologist for the BLM, on a hike investigating the biology and ecology of animals found on and around the Table Rocks. Bring your binoculars and bird books to help observe and identify Table Rocks bird in!
- Saturday, April 11 10:00 am: UPPER TABLE ROCK *Living with "Titanakh"*
Come discover the unique cultural history, ethnobotany, and ecology of the Table Rocks with BLM Naturalist **Leah Schrodt**.
- Saturday, April 18 9:30 am: UPPER TABLE ROCK *Spring in Bloom*
Marcia Wineteer, BLM Botanist and Native Plant Society of Oregon member, will lead a hike that focuses on the spring wildflowers and native plant communities of the Table Rocks.
- Sunday, April 19 10:00am: LOWER TABLE ROCK *Wildflowers Abound*
Barbara Mumblo, Botanist with the U.S. Forest Service, Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District and member of the Native Plant Society of Oregon will lead a hike to discover the dazzling array of wildflowers found on the Table Rocks.

- Saturday, April 25 10:00 am: LOWER TABLE ROCK *Legacy of a Landmark*
Jeff Lalande, retired archaeologist and historian for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, will discuss the role of the Table Rocks in the culture and legends of the Takelma Indians, as well as some history of the Table Rocks area during the “Indian Wars” of the 1850s.
- Saturday, April 25 1:00 pm: LOWER TABLE ROCK *Nature Photography*
Join **Terry Tuttle**, retired forester and professional photographer on a nature photography hike. Wildflowers, landscape, and wildlife photography will be covered. Bring your camera with a cover (in case of rain) and a light tri pod if you have one. Terry will be joined by members of the Southern Oregon Photo Association Club to help as well. For more information, visit www.sopacameraclub.org. Participation will be limited to 20 individuals.
- Sunday, April 26 10:00 am: UPPER TABLE ROCK *Layers of Time*
Bill Elliott, Associate Professor of Geology in the Department of Environmental Studies at Southern Oregon University, will describe the formation of the Table Rocks and the unique geological features observed along a hike to the top of this ancient lava flow.
- Saturday, May 2 10:00 am UPPER TABLE ROCK *For the Beginning Naturalist*. Join BLM naturalist **Bucky Dennerlein** on a discovery of the unique natural and cultural history of the Table Rocks. This hike is suited for all ages and is designed to offer identification tips and techniques for discovering the rich natural resources in our backyard!

- Sunday, May 3 8:30 am LOWER TABLE ROCK *For the Early Birds*
Harry Fuller, A Klamath Bird Observatory volunteer and experienced field trip leader, will take you to view the spring birds of Table Rocks. Learn identification tips and conservation information. Highlights may include Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Western Bluebirds, California Towhee, and migrating warblers. Buckbrush should be in bloom attracting hummingbirds. Bring binoculars and identification books if you desire. Participation will be limited to 15 individuals.
- Saturday May 9 10:00 am: UPPER TABLE ROCK *Conservation History*
Learn about the remarkable efforts that protected the Table Rocks from development and ensured public access to this amazing natural landmark as you hike with **Molly Sullivan**, Stewardship Coordinator for The Nature Conservancy. Enjoy the flowers, wildlife and views that make the Table Rocks a community treasure.
- Sunday, May 10 10:00 am: **Mothers Day**
LOWER TABLE ROCK *Family Hike*
Spend Mother's Day with **Heather Armstrong**, a BLM environmental educator, on a family hike to the top of the rock! This is a general information hike suitable for the whole family and is guaranteed to spark everyone's curiosity about the natural world. Topics will include wildflower identification, geology, wildlife, ecology and cultural history.
- Saturday, May 16 10:00am: UPPER TABLE ROCK *Incredible Insects!*
Dr. Peter Schroeder, Associate Professor of Biology and Entomologist at Southern Oregon University will lead a hike to explore and discuss the amazing natural history and ecology of the 6 and 8-legged animals found on and around the Table Rocks.

Sunday, May 17 10:00 am:

UPPER TABLE ROCK

"Ethnobotany is the science of people's relationship with plants." Nancy Turner, Ethnobotanist
Come learn the various uses of the plants on the Table Rocks! Join **Donn Todt**, ethnobotanist and horticulturist for the Ashland Parks Department, on an exploration of local ethnobotany. Donn has published several articles on regional ethnobotany that have appeared in the *Journal of California, Great Basin Anthropology, the Journal of Ethnobiology, and Southern Oregon Heritage Today*. Participation will be limited to 25 individuals.