

## Table Rocks Hike Season — Spring 2012 BLM and Nature Conservancy Offer Free, Guided Hikes on Weekends

Wildflowers are beginning to show their color, vernal pools are buzzing with life, spring time is returning to Southern Oregon. It is once again time for the annual spring Table Rocks weekend hike series! The Nature Conservancy and the BLM are offering their annual guided, educational walks on the Table Rocks in April and May. This popular hike series promises a spectacular view of the valley, an abundance of wildflowers, 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 otherwise 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://nature.org/trhikes>

Participants should dress for the weather and bring a lunch and water (there's no drinking water at either Upper or Lower Table Rock). 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.

### 2012 Table Rocks Weekend Hike Season Spring Schedule:

Sunday, April 1 10:00 am at 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. Participation limited to 25 individuals.

Saturday, April 7 10:00 am at UPPER TABLE ROCK

**Bilingual General Family Hike:** BLM environmental interpretation specialist **Bridgette Cuffe**, will lead a general information hike suitable to the whole family. The hike will be lead in Spanish and English. Topics will include wildflower I.D., ethnobotany, geology, wildlife, ecology and cultural history.

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***Caminata Familiar Bilingüe: Bridgette Cuffe***, especialista de educación ambiental del BLM, será la guía para esa caminata naturalista familiar. Ella presentará información en ambos español e inglés acerca de las flores silvestres, plantas y animales, la ecología, geología e historia cultural de los Table Rocks.

Saturday, April 14 10:00 am at 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.

Sunday, April 15 10:00 am at LOWER TABLE ROCK

***Non-Coniferous Forests: The Landscape of Southern Oregon***: Join BLM Fire Ecologist, **Ed Reilly** on a hike to Table Rock to learn more and discuss the role of non-conifer plant communities. Conifer forests get a lot of attention when we think of Oregon’s natural resources but much of the southwest Oregon landscape is covered by grasslands, shrubs and woodlands. These plant communities create habitat for a variety of wildlife and botanical species.

Saturday April 21 8:00 am at LOWER TABLE ROCK

***For the Early Bird: 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. Bring binoculars and books if you desire. For more information about what birds are in the area, see Harry’s blog at: <http://atowhee.wordpress.com> Hike participation limited to 15 individuals.

Sunday, April 22 10:00 am at UPPER TABLE ROCK

***Layers of Time: Jad D'Allura***, Professor of Geology at Southern Oregon University, will talk about the formation of the Table Rocks and the unique geological features observed along a hike to the top of this ancient lava flow. Please bring something to drink, a lunch, comfortable hiking shoes, and an inquiring mind.

Saturday, April 28 7:30 PM at LOWER TABLE ROCK LOOP

***Night Owls: Steve Godwin***, wildlife biologist with the BLM, will listen for the sounds of the night from dusk ‘til dark on a jaunt around the Lower Table Rock Loop (1/2 mile, accessible trail). Steve will attempt to lure pygmy, great horned and screech owls. *But no guarantees!* A short presentation of the common owls in this area and their unique characteristics and adaptations will precede the hike. Bring your flashlights and good hiking shoes! Participation limited to 20 individuals.

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Sunday, April 29

10:00 am at LOWER TABLE ROCK

**Nature Rocks Scavenger Hunt:** led by Nature Conservancy AmeriCorps Member, **Teresa Fernandez**. Come learn about the remarkable diversity on the Rocks by awakening the detective and adventurer within. Explore your senses and the Table Rocks' special features during this interactive hike where there's something for everyone to discover. Optional items to bring: digital camera, binoculars, small notebook, magnifying glass.

Saturday, May 5

10:00 am at UPPER TABLE ROCK

**Spring in Bloom:** **Marcia Wineteer**, botanist at the BLM will lead a hike to explore and enjoy the valley's beautiful native flora and wildflowers of the Table Rocks. Bring water, lunch, and an inquiring mind.

Sunday, May 6

10:00 am at LOWER TABLE ROCK

**Nature Photography:** Join professional photographer and Rogue Valley resident **Jared Cruce**, on a creative adventure up Lower Table Rock. Jared is a talented professional specializing in commercial and editorial photography. He teaches workshops locally and across the country. Bring a digital camera, fresh batteries, and your questions. No need for tripods or fancy equipment. Jared will provide tips to improve your shots and to help you find a voice in your images. To see Jared's website visit: <http://jaredcruce.com/>.

Saturday, May 12

10:00am at UPPER TABLE ROCK

**Incredible Insects and Spiders!:** **Dr. Peter Schroeder**, Associate Professor of Biology and Entomologist at SOU will lead a hike to explore and discuss the amazing six and eight-legged animals found on and around the Table Rocks. Participation limited to 20 individuals.

Sunday, May 13 Mother's Day

10:00 am at LOWER TABLE ROCK

**Family General Hike:** Spend Mother's Day with **Derek Mauldin**, BLM environmental interpretation specialist, on a family hike to the top of the rock! This is a general information hike suitable for the whole family. Topics will include wildflower identification, ethnobotany, geology, wildlife, ecology and cultural history.

Saturday, May 19

7:30 PM at LOWER TABLE ROCK LOOP

**That's Batty!:** Join **Tony Kerwin**, wildlife biologist and district planning and environmental coordinator with the BLM, to learn more about the regional bats, their unique characteristics and the threats facing them. The group will use bat detectors to listen for bats on a short walk around the Lower Table Rock Loop (1/2 mile, accessible trail). Bring your flashlights and good hiking shoes! Participation limited to 20 individuals.

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Sunday, May 20

10:00am at LOWER TABLE ROCK

***Tribal History and Culture: Robert Kentta***, cultural resources director, member, and elected official of the Confederate Tribes of Siletz Indians, will discuss the history and culture of ancestral tribes who were moved from the Rogue Valley and other parts of Western Oregon to the Siletz Reservation. Weather permitting, a 45-minute presentation of traditional basketry and regalia at the trailhead will be followed by a stroll to the top.

The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. The Conservancy and its more than 1 million members have protected nearly 120 million acres worldwide. Visit The Nature Conservancy on the Web at [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org).

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land – the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

**Come join the Oregon/Washington BLM on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Flickr for the latest on outdoor opportunities, videos of your public lands, spectacular photos, and a whole lot more!**

 [www.youtube.com/user/blmoregon](http://www.youtube.com/user/blmoregon)

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