



Dear Table Rocks Guided Hike Participant:

It is time for the 2009 Table Rocks guided hike season!

The 2008 season once again was the most successful season in our program's history, with over 4,700 participants signed up. With spring rapidly approaching, it is already time to sign up to take part in the 2009 season. Hikes begin April 1st and continue through June 5th, Tuesday through Friday, with occasional weekend hikes.

After four years in the making and numerous requests from schools, we are pleased to announce we have completed our school standards based Table Rocks curriculum. The curriculum is designed to help you and your students prepare for and review your guided hike experience. The curriculum binders are housed in your school libraries. Subjects addressed include botany, fire ecology, geology, ecology, wildlife, land management, with a variety of activities including coloring sheets, word searches, and more. They contain a wealth of information designed for all age groups including chapter introductions, background information, and school standards. Stay tuned for future updates in the years to come, including a chapter on Native Americans of our region.

In addition to the new Table Rocks Curriculum, we encourage you and your group to explore the Table Rocks website. This educational, interactive website is a user friendly resource, filled with useful information about the natural and cultural history of the Table Rocks.

We continue offering preparatory classroom visits prior to your scheduled Table Rocks hike. Classroom visits include a PowerPoint presentation and other fun, interactive activities that help prepare you and your group for your Table Rocks experience. Classroom presentations will take place the third week in March and on Mondays and Wednesdays during April and May. If you would like your class to receive a classroom presentation, make sure to indicate so on your registration form.

During the 2009 season we again are able to offer Spanish speaking hike leaders to lead bilingual hikes. If you would like a Spanish/English bilingual guide, let us know on the Hike Registration form.

Oregon Public Schools who schedule field trips with the Table Rocks Environmental Education Program are eligible to receive 70% of bus transportation costs from the State of Oregon. We are working on obtaining

grant funds to reimburse all or a portion of the remaining 30%. To take part in this program, please save your school bus receipts and contact the business manager in your district.

What BLM Needs From You:

To secure a reservation for your group, please print and complete the “Table Rocks Hike Registration Form” located on the website. Mail or fax your registration form to:

Bureau of Land Management
Table Rocks Environmental Education Program
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504
FAX: (541) 734-4578 Attn: Leah Schrodt

For questions you may e-mail Leah at lschrodt@or.blm.gov. Please indicate Table Rocks on the subject line. **You cannot reserve a hike by phone or e-mail.** We must receive your completed registration form before we will schedule your hike. Hikes are scheduled on a first come, first serve basis. Space is limited and our schedule fills quickly. It is to your advantage to return the form as soon as possible to reserve the date you want.

If you plan on leading your own hike, we still need you to fill out the Table Rocks Hike Registration Form and check the applicable box. The Table Rocks are an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). To protect the rich natural history of this site, we must keep the numbers of visitors to a manageable limit and avoid scheduling conflicts. Both trails are located just outside of Medford. The Lower Table Rock hike is 3.5 miles. The Upper Table Rock hike is 2.5 miles and better suited for younger children and shorter time frames. If you cannot allow **at least four hours** for your hike, we cannot accommodate your group.

All tours emphasize trail safety, low impact ethics, and environmental education. Hike leaders’ interpretive information covers the unique natural and cultural history of the Table Rocks. If you have a specific topic that you would like us to emphasize on your hike (such as geology, Native Americans, botany, wildlife, etc.), directly relating to the Table Rocks, please describe in detail on the Registration Form. This information allows the hike leaders to successfully prepare and modify the hiking experience to fit your group’s educational needs.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please call Leah Schrodt, the Table Rocks Environmental Education Program Lead, at (541) 618-2468. BLM appreciates your participation. We look forward to another fantastic hiking season on the Table Rocks.