

## **Table Rocks Hike Season Spring 2007**

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> through June 8<sup>th</sup>, the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Nature Conservancy are offering to the public two separate interpretive hiking opportunities, one on the weekdays and one on the weekends.

#### **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 filling up fast 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, Project Coordinator, at (541) 618-2468.

#### **Weekend Spring Hike Series:**

The Nature Conservancy and the BLM are offering their annual 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.

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.

## Weekend Hike Schedule:

- Saturday, April 7 10:00 am: UPPER 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 and, if you have one, a light tripod. Participation will be limited to 15 individuals.
- Sunday, April 8 10:00 am: **Easter Holiday**-No hikes scheduled for this day
- Saturday, April 14 10:00 am: LOWER TABLE ROCK *Living with "Titanakh"*  
Come discover the unique cultural history, ethnobotany, and general ecology of the Table Rocks with BLM naturalist **Leah Schrodt**.
- Sunday, April 15 10:00 am: UPPER TABLE ROCK *Caminando con la familia*  
Join **Damiana Thompson**, BLM interpretative staff, on a Family hike in Spanish to the top of Upper Table Rock. This is a general, information hike that will help participants explore the natural and cultural history of the Table Rocks. Bring water, your lunch, and your curiosity!
- Sunday, April 15 10:00 am: (Spanish Translation)  
UPPER TABLE ROCK *Caminando con la familia*  
Reunirse con **Damiana Thompson**, especialista de la educación con el Bureau of Land Management, en una caminata para toda la familia. El tema incluirá la historia de la naturaleza y la cultura. Esta caminata será adecuada para toda la familia. Es necesario traer agua, almuerzo y su curiosidad. ¡Ven a disfrutar de la naturaleza abundante de Table Rock!
- Saturday, April 21 10:00am: LOWER TABLE ROCK *Wildflowers Abound*  
**Barbara Mumblo**, Botanist with the USFS 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.
- Sunday, April 22 9:00 am: LOWER TABLE ROCK *Up with the Birds*  
**Ashley Dayer**, Education and Outreach Director at Klamath Bird Observatory, will guide you in viewing the spring birds of Table Rocks. Learn identification tips and conservation information. Highlights may include Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Western Bluebirds, Lazuli Buntings, and migrating warblers. Participation will be limited to 18 individuals.

- Saturday, April 28 10:00am: LOWER TABLE ROCK *Spring in Bloom*  
Join **Alex Maksymowicz** with the Siskiyou Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, to study and enjoy the valley's beautiful native flora.
- Sunday, April 29 10:00 am: 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. A presentation of traditional basketry and regalia in the parking lot will be followed by a stroll up to the top.
- Saturday, May 5 10:00 am: LOWER TABLE ROCK *Legacy of a Landmark*  
**Jeff Lalande**, 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 Rock area during the "Indian Wars" of the 1850's.
- Sunday, May 6 10:00 am: UPPER TABLE ROCK *Fire Ecology*  
Come explore the important role of fire in the Rogue Valley with the Bureau of Land Management's fire ecologist, **Charley Martin**. Learn how our landscape has adapted to survive and thrive with fire.
- Saturday, May 12 10:00 am: UPPER TABLE ROCK *All About Bugs!*  
**Dr. Peter Schroeder**, Entomologist and Associate Professor of Biology at Southern Oregon University, will lead a hike in this unique geological area to explore and discuss the natural history and ecology of insects.
- Sunday, May 13 10:00 am: LOWER TABLE ROCK *Biodiversity in our Backyard*  
**Molly Sullivan**, SW Oregon Stewardship Coordinator with The Nature Conservancy, will describe the remarkable features that make this preserve a botanical treasure. Molly will be joined by **Lyndia Hammer**, The Nature Conservancy staff, and **Joe Madden**, BLM interpretive staff, who will provide information on reptile and bird identification.
- Saturday, May 19 10:00 am: UPPER TABLE ROCK *Layers of Time*  
**Bill Elliott**, Assistant Professor of Geology at Southern Oregon University, will describe the geological features observed along a hike to the wildflower-covered top of this ancient lava flow.

Sunday, May 20 10:00 am:

UPPER TABLE ROCK *Wildflower Sketching*

Join illustrator and naturalist **Irene Brady** on a nature sketching trip. Bring a small unlined sketchpad, pencil, eraser, and waterproof sitting pad. Get advice from a skilled professional as you recreate the beauty of the Table Rocks. Bring a camera if you wish to add color to your drawings later. Participation will be limited to 12 individuals.

Sunday, May 20 8:00 am:

LOWER TABLE ROCK *Look, Listen and Learn...*

Rise and shine early and join **Tom Phillips**, of the Audubon Society, on a birding hike. Hike participants will also learn general natural history and some wildflower identification. Bring your binoculars!