



Newsletter

Issue 11
December 2018

Working
Together
We Can
Make a
Difference

New Park Lands Opening at Paulsell Ranch site

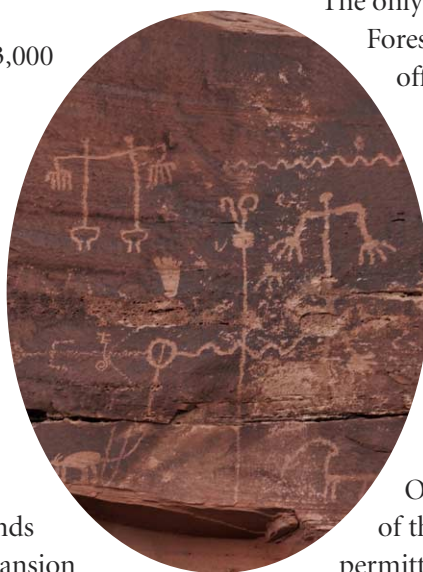
Petrified Forest National Park was authorized to more than double in size through the Petrified Forest Expansion Act of 2004.

Since that time, the park has acquired over 53,000 acres (41% of authorized expansion acreage) through transfer from BLM and purchase from willing private sellers. About 20,000 acres of these new lands were opened to the public in 2014.

Unfortunately, a big portion of the newly acquired lands are in checkerboard pattern with Arizona State Trust Lands, which are closed to the public without a special permit. Recently, the park received a permit from the Arizona State Land Department, which allows guided public access to these lands (covering another 20% of the authorized expansion acreage).

With permit in hand, the park can now open the former Paulsell Ranch to guided tours led by park-sanctioned guides.

The only guides sanctioned so far are with Petrified Forest Field Institute, which is expected to begin offering tours to the public in 2019.



The Paulsell Ranch was acquired because of its high value in both archeological and paleontological resources. It's also a picturesque place and a window into the ranching history of the area. A small group of people can feel very solitary in the broad expanse of high desert grasslands there, even with the freeway and railroad within sight.

Over the winter, in preparation for the opening of these lands, park staff will develop a process for permitting guided trips to camp on the Paulsell Ranch and enjoy multi-day trips and the dark night skies of this International Dark Sky Park.



Easy Holiday Shopping



Our Best BioBlitz Ever



Public Lands Day, 2018



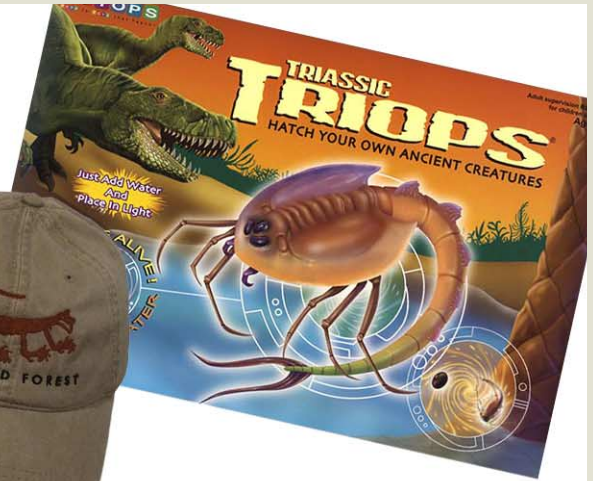
Your Support is Needed



Interns Make an Impact



Plan to Visit, Stay to Learn



It's Not Too Late to Order Your Holiday Gifts!

Petrified Forest apparel, books, ornaments, collectibles and more from www.petrifiedforestbookstore.com

Arizona Highways Collector's Edition

Petrified Forest National Park is featured in Part Two of *Arizona Highways* Magazine's "Explore Arizona" series, the February 2017 issue, and once again features a cover illustration by Tucson artist Chris Gall. This 56-page issue celebrates Petrified Forest National Park — featuring stunning photography and articles to help enrich your appreciation of this National Park or entice you to begin taking that journey of discovery.

When the February Collectors Issue of *Arizona Highways* Magazine hit shelves in January of 2017, the supplies were limited. A special run was done to provide an additional source of this particular issue for current and future visitors and fans of Petrified Forest National Park, at the park and online at the link above. Enjoy the diversity of articles, including from the view of someone enjoying the park.

\$4.99

Stonewashed Cotton Baseball Cap

Faded, stonewashed cotton caps with Petrified Forest's iconic mountain lion petroglyph embroidered in the front. Adjustable buckle makes it one-size-fits-all.

\$17.95

"So Much More Than Rocks" T-Shirt

Yes, we have petrified logs, but Petrified Forest is so much more than rocks! We also have fabulous Triassic fossils, fascinating rock art and wonderful historic architecture. Did you know that Petrified Forest National Park is the only park in the National Park System containing a section of Historic Route 66?

This t-shirt tells the story in photos. Available in Cream and Deep Red. Also available in a flattering ladies cut.

\$19.95—\$25.95

Triassic Triops

It's a classic gift for ALL ages!

Just fill the hatching dish with bottle spring water, add your gravel and eggs, and watch your Triops come alive. Transfer your growing Triops to the bean-shaped tank to observe them rapidly grow up to 2 inches long!

Kit includes: Bean-shaped tank, Hatching dish, 80 Triops eggs, Adult and Baby food, Thermo strip, Pipette, Gravel, Instructions, and Conditioner.

\$9.95



Park Bioblitz 2018 a Huge Success

On August 25 Petrified Forest hosted groups of citizen scientists led by subject matter experts to tally all the various living things they could encounter during a 24-hour period, much like the park did in 2014 and 2016. This was our biggest event so far with 118 people making 959 observations of 281 species from all over the park. Amazing!





Celebrating Public Lands Day, 2018

On September 22, 2018, Public Lands Day was celebrated at Petrified Forest with a well-organized volunteer project. Led by park staff, five stretches of remnant barbed wire were removed from the park by teams of park volunteers and Friends members.

The worksites were northeast of the Blue Mesa overlook in the vast grasslands. Wide open country, but within sight and earshot of the Burlington North railroad and not far from the Puerco River. The fence was once used in the grazing operation of the Paulsell Ranch and is now not needed for the park. It is also a hazard to wildlife, such as pronghorn.

The work consisted of removing the barbed wire from posts and staves. It was bundled together off to the side while leaving the posts in place. An Arizona Game & Fish Department Crew used a trailer with a gas engine hooked up to a spool that rolled up the barbed wire we had removed for easy transport out of the area.

After working until mid-afternoon, the 25 volunteers were treated to special backcountry stops to inspect fossils and petroglyphs normally not seen by park visitors.

Chinde Point Campground: Moving into Phase 2

The Park Service is working hard to create a much-needed campground inside Petrified Forest National Park, using entrance fee revenue during the next few years in hopes of it opening in 2021.

You may have seen the construction near Painted Desert Inn this summer. That was the first phase of constructing a campground at Chinde Point, located off the very north part of the road through the park, and not too far from Interstate 40.

Phase 1 is still underway but in a lull, awaiting a state permit to construct the sewer lift station. When complete, there will be electricity and sewer service at Chinde Point, and the existing leach field will be abandoned.

Phase 2 has been awarded to the same contractor — Marsh Development, Inc., of Tucson, Arizona — and will include detailed design of the campground and installation of the

remaining underground utilities. Design is underway now and construction is expected to follow on the completion of Phase 1.

Phase 3 is funded for 2019 and will include building shower additions to the existing restroom and creation of the main campground road.

Phase 4 is scheduled for 2020 and will include all the campsite amenities and landscaping. If all goes well, the campground will open for visitors by the summer of 2021.

The project is phased partly because it is funded by entrance fees. Petrified Forest, as with many parks across the country, is permitted to keep 80% of the receipts collected at the entrance stations for use in the park. Projects must support visitor services. Phasing the project allows the cost to be spread over several years of income.

Your Support is Needed and Greatly Appreciated

www.friendsofpetrifiedforest.org/donate/



We are currently raising money for 2019 science interns and to eventually return the endangered black-footed ferret to the park. **Your donation directly supports our Petrified Forest National Park.** Please consider a generous donation that supports these two programs, or the other needs listed below.

Science Interns

Every year, park scientists go into the field to learn more about the natural and cultural resources of Petrified Forest National Park. Summer science interns play an important role (*see article next page*), assisting these scientists while gaining valuable hands-on experience in their field of study. Support from you can help make these internships happen when other funds are not available. Your donation of \$1,800 will fund an intern.

Black-footed Ferret Reintroduction

Black-footed ferrets are a native Arizona species that was extinct in Arizona until reintroduction efforts in 1996. These ferrets are extreme specialists, relying on prairie dogs for food and prairie dog burrows for shelter. Efforts are underway to grow the population of prairie dogs to support future introductions of ferrets. These two species, prairie dogs and ferrets are an integral part of the grassland ecosystem. Foraging prairie dogs keep the vegetation at a healthy level and their borrowing activities improve soil

health by increasing water penetration and bringing soil nutrients to the surface. Ferrets will keep the prairie dog colonies in check.

The park is improving the health of our prairie dog colonies in the park by vaccinating the animals and translocating animals from areas where they are threatened into areas in the park where they were historically. Once we have a

healthy and robust prairie dog population, we'll work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Arizona Game and Fish to bring back ferrets, returning balance to the grassland and helping the survival prospects of an endangered species.

This is a long-term project with many moving parts before the ferrets can be placed in the park.

We're looking for donations of any size that could be used to purchase vaccines (\$2,150 per batch), ensure healthy prairie dogs are brought to the park (\$2,500 per transfer), construct or renovate collapsed burrows (\$1,200), conduct genomic testing to make sure colonies are viable (\$11,330), and conduct survey work (\$1,800 per intern).

Additional needs

Wildlife Monitoring Cameras — \$300 adds a trail camera to take photos and videos day and night.



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Our 2018 Interns Were Busy This Summer

We are grateful for the good work the park's science interns did at the park, and this year we heard about their work at a dinner held at the park. Park staff, volunteers, supporters, and the interns themselves enjoyed a delicious dinner provided by the Friends of Petrified Forest National Park and presentations from these young students and professionals. Petrified Forest National Park uses funding from several different sources to fund the expense of having these interns, including this year a \$10,000 donation from the Friends of Petrified Forest.

Raising money for next year's interns is a focus of our end-of-year fundraising efforts, and we hope you will join in supporting this wonderful program. The interns get real-life work experience and great educational opportunities, and the park gets some important work accomplished. Please consider being generous in giving to this program.

Many thanks to this year's science interns:

Paleontology — Ben Kligman, Bryan Gee, and Alexander Beyl

Museum Sciences — Maggie Rubin

Ecology — Andrea Colton, Emily Card, and Eva Herberg

Archeology — Hannah Elliott, Gabriella Schneider, Daniel Quintela, Alaina Wibberly, and Brian Beaty

To get a taste of the work they accomplished and why it's so important to the Park's future and their professional careers, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=137F-Cw5OR8 (shown in stills above) for a video of Paleontology intern Ben Kligman describing his work on tiny fossils from the late Triassic period.

Your Support is Needed and Greatly Appreciated *continued*

Digitization of Museum Collections — \$2,500 will improve studio lighting and imaging capacities at the park, and \$1,500 will fund two weeks of work.

Conservation of Triassic Diorama and Historic Mural — \$3,000 to \$6,000. A professional art curator will treat a WPA-created diorama of a Triassic scene and a mural painted in 1961.

Adopt a Rock Art Site — \$3,500 pays for supplies and two weeks of a technician working with volunteers.

Rock Art Documentation Equipment — \$2,500 will purchase a Photogrammetry setup for rock art recording, site mapping, and making displays.

Small Project Support — Any amount adds to a fund used to support studies at the park, paying for such items as intern travel and minor equipment.

Thank you. We appreciate any and all support!

www.friendsofpetrifiedforest.org/donate/



Plan to Visit... and Stay to Learn

Petrified Forest Field Institute (PFFI) was created in order to give anyone who has a deeper interest in exploring and learning about the resources of Petrified Forest National Park an opportunity to get out into the outdoor classroom and learn from some of the most knowledgeable people in their fields. Classes have included outdoor photography, recording rock art sites, and paleontological digs with park paleontologists, among many others. Custom tours are also available and can cover whatever you have in mind.

This year, for the first time, the resources of the former Paulsell Ranch will be available to PFFI classes. The ice

cream rocks, so named for their swirling brown and white coloring, several rock art panels, and the historic Paulsell Ranch headquarters buildings are only available to visitors through the Petrified Forest Field Institute. The hike to the top of Sorrel Horse Mesa is easy and the views are rewarding. This hike is only available through the Field Institute.

You can learn about and register for upcoming Field Institute opportunities on the PFFI website — www.petrifiedforestfieldinstitute.org — which will have the 2019 list available soon.

