

HIGH DESERT VOICES

July 2017

News and Information published by and for Volunteers

High Desert Ranger Station Arrived at Museum Ten Years Ago

by Les Joslin, High Desert Ranger Station Team Lead



Toiyabe National Forest District Ranger's office

vice ranger station. He was interested in "a little old Forest Service building out in the middle of Nevada that might be available" for this purpose.

"Is it on the Toiyabe National Forest?" I asked.

"Yes."

"Is it south of Austin on the Reese River?" I asked.

"Yes."

"I know the building!" I exclaimed. It was the one-room 1933 Bridgeport Ranger Station office building in which I'd signed on for my first Forest Service job in June 1962. Later that year, it had been moved to the now-abandoned Reese River Ranger Station site forty miles south of Austin.

Bob and I had a project! I reconnoitered the structure in September 2004 and found it sound and moveable. Bob and I visited the structure again in March 2006 to further evaluate it and begin serious negotiations with the Forest Service for its acquisition. We began working with the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (the two national forests had been consolidated) and the Intermountain Region of the National Forest System to acquire the historic district forest ranger's office structure to serve as the centerpiece of the planned exhibit.



Bob Boyd, Western History Curator Emeritus, conferring with District Ranger Steve Williams



Preparing the Ranger Station for the move to the High Desert Museum.

Projects cost money. John Marker, a retired Forest Service senior official and a High Desert Museum member, solved that problem. He enlisted the funding assistance of the OldSmokeys, the retired Forest Service members who comprise the Pacific Northwest Forest Service Association, as both an organization and as individuals to sponsor the effort. It became an OldSmokey project!

By early 2008, with the assistance of many in the Forest Service and other concerned agencies, approval for transfer of the structure to the High Desert Museum on a "long-term loan" basis was secured. Bob and I spent four days in March 2008 making on-site preparations for moving it 550 miles north to the Museum. This led to a 10-day moving project and the structure's arrival at the Museum at 11:00 a.m. on June 26, 2008. Initial external restoration of the historic building was completed by early August.



The building loaded onto a lowboy for the 550-mile trip north to the Museum

Restoration—internal as well as external—continued through spring 2009 to prepare the building for a gala dedication on June 30. Beginning the next day, OldSmokeys George Chesley, Dick Connelly, Stan Kunzman, and I staffed what was named the High Desert Ranger Station every day through Labor Day. We welcomed hundreds of High Desert Museum visitors with whom we shared the story of forest rangers who worked out of stations such as this to manage the resources of the National Forest System for the benefit of the people of the United States.

So what does that story have to do with the stories told at the High Desert Museum? Just this: In addition to stories of the natural history of the Intermountain West, the High Desert Museum tells stories of the cultural history of the region. That's the story of the Old West and its econo-

my based on natural resource exploitation and how it became the New West with an economy based on sustainable use of natural resources.

All those cowboys, miners, loggers, and homesteaders whose stories are told at the High Desert Museum were making their livings by using natural resources: grazing lands for their cattle and sheep, minerals for many uses, timber for building homes and cities, water for irrigation, and so forth. When overuse and misuse and conflict over use of those natural resources began to threaten their resource-based economies and ways of life—as well as the very environment, the American people and their government moved to conserve those resources through wise use that would sustain those resource-based economies.

A big part of that story was the setting aside of forest reserves beginning in 1891 that became national forests in 1907. To do the conservation job on those national forests, President Theodore Roosevelt and his right-hand man—a forester named Gifford Pinchot—had established the U.S. Forest Service in 1905. Forest supervisors and their district



Reassembling the historic Ranger Station building at the Museum.



Restoration completed, the High Desert Ranger Station at the Museum, was dedicated on July 30, 2009

rangers have been caring for and managing the resources of the national forests ever since.

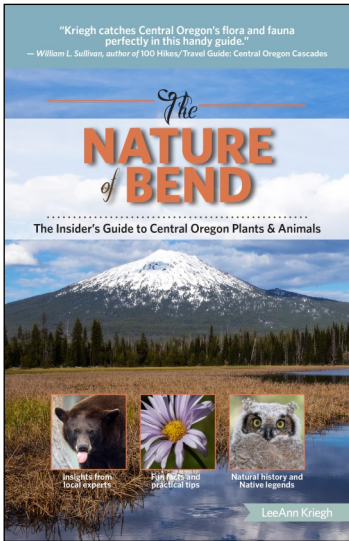
This restored ranger station office building—the High Desert Ranger Station at The High Desert Museum—is set up to look as a ranger station would have looked about 1945...in a very different time not too long ago.

The telling of this story has continued with stronger volunteer teams every summer since, and this summer of 2017 marks the ninth consecutive summer of such staffing and the tenth anniversary of the High Desert Ranger Station's arrival at the High Desert Museum.

To this day, every time we see each other at the High Desert Ranger Station, Bob and I share “We did it!” grins.

Author LeeAnn Kriegh on *The Nature of Bend*

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



If you're looking for a great field guide that focuses on the plants and animals of Central Oregon, look no further. *The Nature of Bend* covers many of the most common species in the local area. This book gives a good overview of the area and the information it contains will be helpful to long-time residents, new arrivals, and visitors. To find out more about the book, I spoke with its author, LeeAnn Kriegh.

Prior to moving here five years ago, LeeAnn was a frequent visitor to the Bend area. She moved here with the resolution to learn more about the natural environment. With the help of a patient naturalist friend, she started to learn tips and tricks to identify some of the local flora and fauna. She also heard many stories and learned interesting natural history facts. She knew others struggled with learning about the species living here and came up with the idea to summarize information in one field guide.

How did LeeAnn go from just having a great idea to publishing a book? LeeAnn earned a master's degree in English and has worked for many years as a writer. Her work has appeared in *The Oregonian* and several other newspapers and magazines. She also runs her own business, writing and editing for businesses and

non-profits. Her background helped her "write the book that I always wanted."

She decided to cover more than just the dry facts that fill some field guides. She wanted to be able to help readers "love the bird and remember it the next time" they see it. *The Nature of Bend* contains the basics related to species identification, as well as interesting and funny facts about the various species. Her goal was to engage readers in a way that would help them see the value in the natural world.

In the process of writing this book, LeeAnn learned some interesting things about local species. She developed a deeper appreciation of reptiles and amphibian species after learning about their remarkable adaptations to survive in harsh conditions. She also learned about the symbiotic relationship between Clark's nutcrackers and whitebark pine trees. Now, every time LeeAnn sees Clark's nutcrackers collecting whitebark pine seeds, she knows how that will help each species' survival.

LeeAnn has hiked most of the trails in central Oregon, and she included detailed information on twelve easily accessible sites in *The Nature of Bend*. For each location, there are checklists of 50 plants and animals that visitors can attempt to find there. These scavenger hunts are fun for adults and offer a great opportunity to teach young children about the natural world around them. The locations, such as Pilot Butte and Suttle Lake, are well known, but through her research, LeeAnn was amazed at the diversity of species that can be found at each. Though what you may see at each site varies by season, they all offer a unique opportunity to appreciate the environment.

If LeeAnn could take anyone out in the field with her book, she would choose to take along those who make decisions about the natural world. While on the trail, she would hope to "help them see and understand the living species their decisions may affect." *The Nature of Bend* can help us all appreciate the beauty and wonder of nature.



While writing this book, LeeAnn learned to notice nature in a different way. Before this project, she hiked mainly to get exercise and enjoy the views. She still enjoys the exercise but is now more engaged in the experience through her senses. She has also incorporated some of the things she learned into her own yard where she has planted drought-tolerant native species. She hopes that others who read her book learn to appreciate the local environment and want to do what they can to help take care of it.



The Nature of Bend took about three years to complete and it could never have been published without the help of many people. What started out as a personal quest, evolved into a community project. LeeAnn relied on more than 40 naturalists to give input on local plant and animal species. An additional 40 people provided beautiful images to help fill the book. Museum staff and volunteers that contributed to the book include Damian Fagan, Jon Nelson, and John Williams. LeeAnn is also thankful for the local

retailers, bookstores, and non-profits that offer her book for sale. *The Nature of Bend* is available at the High Desert Museum's *Silver Sage Trading Store*. It would make a great gift, and it's also an invaluable resource to share with your visitors.



Photos by Siobhan Sullivan & John Williams

Kudos Korner

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Several staff and volunteers were thanked for their work in June. **Nancy Horton** was thanked for leading a tour of the vaults for volunteers prior to the VAC meeting. Cyndi and Steve Magidson wanted to thank **Tyson Baird, Dana Whitelaw, Heather Vihstadt, Cathy Lang**, and all of the staff involved in hosting a large *Dinner at the Ranch* event. Cathy did an amazing job with the meal. **Thorn Hollow String Band** provided the entertainment for the event. **Facilities** and **Living History** staff ran the sawmill for the guests and they were very impressed. Staff members were amazing and the guests couldn't stop talking about what a great time they had. Thanks to everyone involved in the *Vulture Venture* 5K run. This was the second time the Museum has hosted this type of event. The first *Vulture Venture* event was in 1980. The vulture costumes some wore, and the Bloody Mary's provided at the end of the run, helped make this a memorable event. **Heather Vihstadt** was thanked for organizing *Vulture Venture*. It was good to see participants of all ages engaged in this event - everyone was in a great mood. **Abbott Schindler** was recognized for his contribution of a picture of the Museum's great horned owl that was featured on the cover of *Here and Now* magazine. **John Williams** and **Abbott Schindler** were thanked for helping out with the photography workshop led by George Lepp. Thanks to **Lee Schaefer** for videotaping the WWII exhibit to submit to the *Charles Redd Center for Western Studies Award for Excellence*. **John Williams** was thanked for taking pictures at a recent kid's program. The team responsible for creating the new Museum website were thanked. **Sandy Cummings, Damian Fagan, Diana Fischetti, Nicole Swarts**, and **Steve Tosi** were all involved in creating the new website. The new site is "astounding and wonderful." **Sigrid von Hurst** was thanked for organizing the recent three-day museum tour. She did a marvelous job! The tour leaders at the various museums the team visited were also thanked. **Tom Lyon** was recognized for being instrumental in organizing the weed pull on the Museum's grounds. Parents of children who are polite and interested while at the Museum were also thanked for teaching their children well. Kudos to all of you!



Reminder that all volunteers
are invited to attend the
Volunteer Advisory Council (VAC)
meetings every third
Tuesday of the month
at 2:00 pm



High Desert Voices

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Introducing the Northern Great Basin Redband Trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss newberrii*

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor



Redband trout. Illustration from U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service..

Have you ever wondered what kind of fish the High Desert Museum has in its outdoor streams and pond? Some of the fish you see are Northern Great Basin redband trout. Here's a little bit more about them.

Range: The Northern Great Basin subspecies of the redband trout lives in parts of southeastern Oregon, northeastern California, and northwestern Nevada. There are populations living in seven isolated watershed basins within their range. The Columbia River redband trout subspecies lives east of the Cascades in the Colum-

bia/Snake and Fraser river basins. The Sacramento redband trout, aka the McCloud River redband, is a subspecies found in tributaries of the Sacramento River.

Identification & unique characteristics: Redband trout are classified as being somewhere between cut-throat-like species and coastal rainbow trout. Redbands look like a coastal rainbow trout but they have redder coloring along their sides and gill covers. The coloring ranges from rosy red to brick red. Redbands have larger spots than rainbow trout. They have white tips on their dorsal, anal, and pectoral fins. Young trout have dark bands called *parr marks* on their sides. Redbands keep these markings into adulthood, unlike other trout species. Mature fish reach a length of about 10 inches.

Behavior & life history: Redband trout are mature at three years of age. They spawn from March to June, depending on the water conditions and temperature. The young fry emerge from their eggs in mid-July. Redbands migrate to over-wintering areas in the fall. This fish feeds on insects, crustaceans, and other fish. Animals that prey on trout include other trout, bald eagles, osprey, river otters, and bears.

Habitat needs: Redband trout live in lakes and streams in a wide variety of habitats ranging from montane forests to high desert environments. They can adapt to living in areas with fluctuating water levels, high alkalinity, high water temperatures (75-80°F), drought, and fire. Redbands are more tolerant of extreme conditions than other trout. Population levels may decrease in low water level years and increase during wet cycles. If a wide variety of habitats are available, they are more likely to migrate. Fish that regularly migrate between lake and stream habitats are referred to as *adfluvials*. They are generally much larger and more fertile than stream residents or *fluvials*, fish that move between large and small streams.

Like other fish, redband trout prefer areas with cover. Undercut banks, woody debris, and waterside vegetation provide good cover. Redbands live in areas with both high and low gradient streams. Pools provide habitat for resting, over-wintering, shelter from extreme weather conditions, and rearing of their young. Redband trout prefer to lay their eggs in loose gravelly substrates.

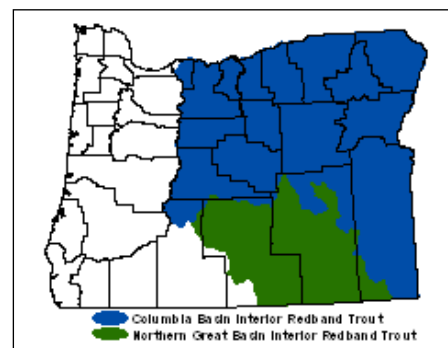
Status & conservation: All subspecies of this trout have had declining population levels across much of their range. Habitat loss and fragmentation and the introduction of non-native fish are some of the causes for those declines. The Northern Great Basin redband trout is considered to be a species of concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Though population levels have decreased by over 40% in parts of their range, they are still widely distributed. This trout is not currently considered threatened or endangered.



McCloud River redband trout. Photo by High Country Fly Fisher.com

In 2014, state and federal government agencies, tribal representatives, and private organizations worked together to develop a conservation agreement for redband trout. In 2016, a strategy to conserve this fish was implemented. Redband trout conservation strategies include preserving and restoring habitat, controlling non-native fish species, and establishing new populations in parts of their former range. Additional research is needed on hybridization of redbands with other trout species.

Interesting fact: When fishing for redband trout, be ready for them to put up a fight. They are prized as a game fish. To find out where to fish for them locally, see this publication [Fishing in Oregon - 50 Places to go fishing within 90 minutes of Bend](#).



Range of redband trout in Oregon. Map from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

High Desert Museum Area Updates from June 2017

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

By Hand Through Memory – The team took a three-day trip to visit museums in Washington and Oregon. They met Vivian Adams in Toppenish and she helped guide them through the Yakama Museum there. Guides at the other museums they visited provided lots of interesting information to the team. This was an educational trip and it was also a great opportunity to socialize.

Photography - The team was thanked for “shooting up a storm.” Their work is being featured on the new website and in marketing media. They have been busy helping out with photography workshops, photographing Museum programs, and videotaping exhibits.

High Desert Voices Newsletter - Past and present issues of the newsletter are now available on the new website. Click [here](#) to view them.

Birds of Prey - The last summer intern will begin working on June 24.

Admissions/Greeters – The Museum reached its goal for attendance one and half months prior to the end of the year.

Gallery Attendants - There are eight to nine guides now working at the Museum. Most days are covered. The team will meet in a couple months to see how it is going.

Naturalists – They have a surplus of volunteers. They are still waiting on funding for their display table but a welder has been hired to do some of the required work. The Pacific lampreys at the Museum have been returned to the Umatilla since they had matured. They will be getting new fish soon.

The Miller Ranch was full of activities during the Lazinka Sawmill demonstration



There were lots of participants at the Vulture Venture 5K Run!



Photos by Heather Duchow

July 2017



*High Desert
Museum, Inc.*
59800 S. Highway 97
Bend, OR 97702

2017



2017

July	August - Save the Date!
4 Fourth of July. Museum closed.	11 Museum Field Trip: Evening Bat Walk. 7:30 - 9:00 pm. Members \$5, Non-members \$10. Registration and pre-payment required.
8 Thorn Hollow String Band. 11:00 am - 2:00 pm. Join in the fun with Bend Community Contra Dancers and lessons from Dance Caller Ron Bell-Roemer.	12 Thorn Hollow String Band. 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.
11 Museum Event: Fish Tales: Traditions and Challenges of Seafood in Oregon. 6:00 pm. Free. RSVP.	12 Museum Workshop: Fish Printing Workshop: Kids ages 6-12. 11:00 am - 12:00 pm. Members \$25, Non-members \$30. Registration and pre-payment required.
15 Lazinka Sawmill Demonstration. 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.	12 Museum Workshop: Fish Printing Workshop: Teens and adults. 1:00 am - 4:00 pm. Members \$60, Non-members \$65. Registration and pre-payment required.
15 Off-site Event: Whole Foods 6th Annual Brewfest. 2:00—5:00 pm. Support the Museum while sampling brews and food. At Whole Foods, 2610 Highway 20, Bend, OR 97701.	16 Off-site Event: Why we Need Darkness. 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm). Bend Senior High School Auditorium. 230 NE 6th St., Bend, OR 97701. Ticket info at highdesertmuseum.org .
21 Museum Field Trip: Evening Bat Walk. 8:00 - 9:30 pm. Members \$5, Non-members \$10. Registration and pre-payment required.	20-21 Off-site Event: Orange and Black Eclipse Festival at Culver High School. Culver High School, 710 5th Ave., Culver, OR 97734. For more information, and to reserve a campsite, go to OSUcascades.edu/eclipse .
23 Exhibit closing. <i>Scat and Tracks.</i>	25 Museum Event: High Desert Rendezvous. 5:00 - 9:30 pm. To purchase tickets and tables go to highdesertmuseum.org/HDR .
27 Museum Event: Art in the West. Opening reception. 6:00 - 8:00 pm. RSVP.	
28 Exhibit opening. <i>Art in the West.</i>	

To RSVP: www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp or 541-382-4754
To pre-register: www.highdesertmuseum.org/program