

IDAHO MUSEUM OF MINING AND GEOLOGY



Field Trip Road Log

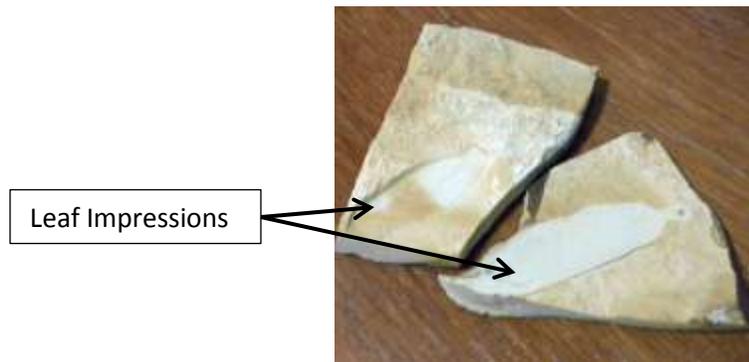
June 9, 2012: Succor Creek Fossils

Leader: Clyde Stroup

Note: odometers vary, mileages are approximate.

The map shows both stops and the route back to U.S. 95.

To Stop 1: Travel to Marsing via I-84 and Highway 55; at the ION truck stop west of Marsing, turn south on U.S. 95. Approximately 2.3 miles beyond the Idaho-Oregon border, turn right at the signed turnoff to Succor Creek Road; zero odometer here. Follow Succor Creek Road for approximately 5.7 miles to a T-junction (GPS 43.3861N, 117.1064W), take the turn to the right and look for a “Dead End” sign on the ground on the right. Follow this road approximately 1.1 miles to a light-colored shale scree slope on the left (GPS 43.2904N, 117.0815W). The broken shale contains many plant leaf fossils (impressions), but they are subtle, as shown in the photo.



On top of the slope, you can find more leaf impressions and there are numerous pits dug by fossil hunters. Rarely, this shale contains insect or fish fossils.

To Stop 2: Retrace the route back to the T-intersection and turn right to continue on Succor Creek Road; zero odometer here. In about 2.3 miles, turn left just beyond the Rockville School, then take the first right in 0.3 miles to continue on Succor Creek Road. Zero odometer and follow Succor Creek Road for approximately 5.6 miles to a two-track road on the right (GPS 43.3838, 117.1294W); you can park here or follow the two-track for another 0.2 miles and find a convenient place to park. Look to the northeast for a white bald knob on the near horizon and walk toward it; your target is at GPS 43.3975N, 117.1244W. The two-track road winds up a draw toward this petrified wood site; look for white outcrops along the draw. At the target, light-colored petrified wood is scattered all over the ground (see photo) and there are some petrified stumps uphill on the right hand slope (to the NE).



The shortest route back to U.S. 95 is to return to Rockville and take the left turn at the junction (McBride Ranch Road) and follow it all the way to the highway, approximately 8.6 miles, as shown on the map.



Succor Creek Plant Fossils and Petrified Wood