

What to Expect

The **Malheur Field Station (MFS)** is a nonprofit environmental education and research center, located in the Great Basin Desert of southeastern Oregon. It is dedicated to the concept that learning is a lifelong process- a philosophy implemented through a wide variety of program offerings and lodging opportunities to its guests and students interested in the cultural or natural history of the region.

MFS is located in the northern section of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, surrounded by a unique and diverse landscape of shrub-steppe uplands, wetlands, and mountains. Visitors have opportunities to witness a spectacular array of birds, plants, stunning geological features, and incredibly dark night skies (MFS is kept dark at night).

The pace here is set not by timetables and deadlines, but by the weather and visitors' desire to learn and explore. Instead of televisions or radios, you will find the evenings filled with the sounds of marshbirds and singing coyotes, and the nights ablaze with a dazzling array of celestial delights. We hope you find what you seek, be it gained knowledge of the local wildlife, solitude, or friendly company. Please stop by the office to ask for assistance, book a naturalist, or add to the daily sightings list.

Our expertise is at your disposal.

WEATHER: If visiting MFS (elev. 4100') during the spring (Mar-Jun), expect rain or snow in April and freezing nights in June. Daytime highs range from 40-65°F in March & April and 60-85°F in May & June. Highs can approach 100°F during late July or August. The weather becomes changeable in September and by mid-October cold spells can be severe. In any season a forty degree temperature difference between day and night is not uncommon.

CLOTHING: The secret to staying comfortable in this region of desert and mountain is to have available multiple layers of clothing

ACCOMMODATIONS: MFS offers trailers (single-wide mobile homes), kitchenettes and dormitories (for large groups) that are simple, clean, and comfortable. Full hookup RV spaces are also available for self-contained vehicles. **Bedding:** Beds are single (twin), with

an additional double (full) or queen bed in trailers and most kitchenettes. You will need to bring bath towels and full bedding. Sets of either are available for travelers unable to bring their own (\$6.00/set, limited quantity).

COOKING FACILITIES: Fully-equipped kitchens with all basic kitchenware and appliances (microwave, coffee maker, toaster) is provided in two cooking dorms and all kitchenettes and trailers.

MEALS: The MFS Dining Hall is open seasonally for its guests. We offer hot breakfasts, sack lunches and hot dinners. Please inform us of the number of vegetarians in your group. Meal reservations are required prior to arrival.

MFS BOOKSHOP: Our Bookshop carries a wide selection of educational books (children's, reference, field guides), clothing, sundries and beverages. Our line of exclusive merchandise includes handmade items, speciality notecards, wildlife photocards and artwork. Browsers welcome!

EXPLORING: If you choose to leave the paved roads or sidewalks, please use caution due to many foot hazards (burrows, uneven ground, disused infrastructure).

PROBLEMS: Please contact the Office if you encounter any problems. We want your stay to be as enjoyable and as trouble-free as possible.

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Clothing suited to season including sunhat and sturdy walking shoes
- Bed linens/sleeping bag and pillow
- Towel(s) and toiletries/soap
- Sunscreen and Insect repellent
- Canteen/water bottle
- Flashlight (min. outdoor lighting)

RECOMMENDED

- Binoculars, Telescope, Camera and Batteries
- Field ID Books, Writing/Sketching materials
- Chapstick, anti-itch ointment, hand lotion
- Specialized cooking equipment (garlic press, condiments)
- Drinking Water: Our water is regulated as a public water supply. Bring your own if you prefer water without a mineral taste.

Directions

The majority of travellers choose to pass through Burns, Oregon (groceries/gas selection) en route to MFS. Take route 78 east (signed to Winnemucca, NV) out of Burns. After a mile look for a right turn onto Highway 205 (signed to Frenchglen). Noting mile markers, travel south on Hwy 205 for just over 23 miles, then turn left (east) onto Sodhouse Lane. Proceed three miles and turn right (south) onto a gravel road at the MFS sign and mailbox. The Field Station is situated between two buttes about 1.5 miles down this road. Please drive slowly and watch out for children and wildlife. Welcome to MFS!

Arrival

ARRIVAL: Full payment is due upon arrival (if the office is not open when you arrive, please plan to remit asap the next day). Please verify your lodging assignment by checking the bulletin board next to the entrance to Malcolm Hall. Occasionally we need to make last minute changes, so be sure to double-check before moving in. A scale model map of the campus just inside the door can be used to locate your assigned building.

VISA/MC Cards are accepted, but not preferred. Personal checks are most welcome.

Recycling boxes are located in each building along with a posted list of recyclable items. It is vital that guests participate in our recycling program (or take items home). Your actions reduce garbage, keep disposal costs to a minimum, and make good ecological sense.

Departure

A FEW SIMPLE TASKS: We request that you leave your lodgings in the same condition as you found them. Please read and follow the task list prominently posted. For groups, good housekeeping will assure the return of your cleaning deposit.

Your contribution to general housekeeping is essential in keeping our costs down ensuring that our rates are affordable to the widest range of visitors. *Thank you -in advance!*

Have a safe journey!

P.S. When birding along roads, remember to pull over safely and use your 'flashers'. Non-birders often drive very fast on rural roads.