

## **Whiskey Creek Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **Q: Where do we meet?**

A: This can change, but in the past we meet in the morning in the Boots Bar & Grill parking lot. Exact time and location will be sent out closer to the dig date.

### **Q: Can I take pictures?**

A: Please do! We would love if you would be willing to share them with us as well.

### **Q: How strenuous is this dig?**

A: Whiskey Creek is about a 25 minute drive from Medora, and another 10-15 minute hike from where we park the vehicles. Be prepared for moderate hiking, and exposure to the elements.

### **Q: If I get too hot, is there any shade?**

A: There is a single juniper tree near the site, which offers minimal shade. Your best bet is to stay hydrated and wear a good hat.

### **Q: What should I bring?**

A: Please bring more water than you think you will need – it tends to get hot, and we don't want people becoming dehydrated. You will also need to pack your own lunch. Hat, sunglasses, and of course a camera. We will provide all the tools you will be using throughout the day. We ask that you not bring a giant cooler along, since you would need to haul it all the way to the site and back. We pack out what we pack in, so please take all garbage back with you. No littering!

### **Q: What types of fossils are we finding?**

A: Whiskey Creek was a very swamp-like environment 60 million years ago. We find anything from crocodile bones, fish, salamanders, turtles, champsosaurs, bald cypress branches and cones, snails, clams, mammals, and birds. There is a high concentration of crocodile scutes (dermal armor) at this site – always fun to find.

### **Q: Wow! We can find a whole crocodile?!**

A: While it's possible to find a whole animal, most of what we are finding are parts and pieces. Imagine creatures dying in a swamp, sinking down, being eaten, walked by, disturbed - we find lots of single elements. A crocodile tooth here. A gar-pike jaw there. A rib from a turtle.

### **Q: Can we keep the fossils we find?**

A: No – all fossils found will return to the State Fossil Collection in Bismarck, ND. Most of the land we search on is State, Federal, or Foundation land (US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Teddy Roosevelt Medora Foundation, etc.), and the NDGS curates whatever is found. Feel free to take photos of whatever you find however!

### **Q: Is there a restroom?**

A: No – we will be removed from any modern conveniences. Our standard is to hike a distance away from others, and find a comfortable spot.

### **Q: Will my cell phone work?**

A: Maybe – the signal varies in the area, but we ask that as courtesy to the other diggers, if you are going to use your phone to chat, please head off site. It tends to get very distracting.

### **Q: Can I smoke?**

A: Yes, but just like the cell phone use, as courtesy to the other diggers, we ask that you smoke off site. Please take your cigarette butts with you as well – we want to make sure we keep the area clean.

### **Q: I'm from out of town – where's a good place to stay?**

A: There are numerous places in Medora. Some of them include:

- Campground
- Roughrider Hotel
- Red Trail RV campground
- AmericInn
- Bunkhouse

Also available is a Bed & Breakfast at the nearby Diamond Bar Ranch. If you stay here, we will meet you on the way to the site, rather than in Medora.

### **Q: Where can I find some grub around here?**

A: There are numerous places in Medora to eat. Some of them include:

- Boots Bar & Grill
- Elkhorn Café
- Cowboy Café
- Roughrider
- Missouri River Saloon & Dining Room

### **Q: So the fee I'm paying will be reimbursed?**

A: Yes - the fees we are charging are simply to hold your spot. If you attend the dig, or the dig is cancelled, you will be refunded at the end of the season. If you cancel at least a week in advance of the start of the dig (not your actual dig day, since we will be unavailable during the dig), you will be refunded. If you do not show up to dig, or cancel with shorter than a weeks notice of the start of the dig, you will not be refunded.