

Special Event for the Historic Preservation Conference 2010:

Get Your Kicks on Route 66: A Whirlwind Tour of the Kaibab National Forest's National Register Petroglyphs, Wagon Roads and the Mother Road of Them All!

Cost per person: \$0.00

Maximum: 20 guests / maximum 10 cars. We hope to have as many folks carpool to the meeting spot from Flagstaff. Since we will not be far from I-40, visitors can leave at any point on the trip.

Tour Description:

Our meeting place is located on Historic Route 66. At the pullout north of I-40 you will see an interpretive sign for the Route 66 Auto Tour. Developed nearly 20 years ago by Forest Historian Teri Cleeland, the Auto Tour brochure has been enjoyed by 1000s of Route 66 buffs. Later in the day, we will seek out other historic remnants of the "Mother Road". The next stop will highlight the southwest's precursor to Route 66.

Site 2 is the National Register site of Laws Spring. This is one of Arizona's only interpretive sites where visitors can learn about the significance of the Beale Wagon Road. In 1857, the United States government commissioned the southwest's first interstate road, setting aside \$210,000 for the survey and construction of a wagon road along the 35th Parallel. They commissioned Lieutenant Edward Fitzgerald Beale to survey a route from Fort Smith Arkansas to the Colorado River and into California. At Laws Spring, prehistoric petroglyphs signify its importance to the area's Native American inhabitants while historic engravings document Beale's trips, as well as an 1868 Union Pacific Railroad Survey. A historic photo from the 1868 party will serve as a photo point for viewing and discussing changes in the Forest's vegetation.

We will leave Laws Spring around 11 AM and retrace our path. Regrouping at Auto Tour, we will take a short 2 mile drive east on Route 66 to the Oak Hill Snow Play area. We will park here, bring our lunches, cross Route 66 and head back in time along the Keyhole Sink Interpretive Trail. Just like Laws Spring, Keyhole Sink is a natural water catchment where Native Americans left hundreds of petroglyphs. One stunning rare panel possibly depicts a hunting scene from at least 1000 years ago. Listed in numerous hiking guides, thousands of visitors tour Keyhole Sink each year. Because of the heavy snow pack, the seasonal waterfall may be flowing. The hike including lunch will take about 2-2.5 hours. We hope to leave Oak Hill at around 2 PM to complete our tour.

After Keyhole, we will get back on Route 66 and head east towards Parks. Here we will take a short walk on an abandoned section of Route 66. This 1930s segment of Route 66 is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, Kaibab Foresters have been conducting tree thinning restoration projects that have helped restore this segments historic condition and feel.

We will continue east, driving east towards Brannigan Park, ascending to the highest point along Route 66 at 7400 feet above sea level. We will make a quick stop, breathe in the cool air, then head toward our final destination of Bellemont. Once at Bellemont, Route 66 for the most part heads under I-40 until Flagstaff. We strongly encourage participants to spend one more night in Flagstaff and join us on the south side of the highway at the Route 66 Roadhouse Bar and Grill. Our goal is to be back to Bellemont between 3:00 - 4:00 PM.

Your Transportation: Saturday May 15th. 9 AM. Drive from Flagstaff, leaving no later than 8:30 AM in cars. Carpools strongly urged! We will meet at the pullout north of the Pitman Valley I-40 Exit 171 at 9 AM. From Flagstaff, simply drive 25 minutes west on I-40 and take Exit 171 (Make a right (north) at the off ramp and you will see the meeting spot). See details for directions to each site below. We hope to finish between 3 and 4 PM at Bellemont. Please consider spending the entire day with us and then winding down at the Route 66 Road House Bar and Grill in Bellemont.

Important General Information: Participants should bring LUNCH, hat, camera, sunblock, hiking boots, water, toilet paper, hand sanitizer and snacks. Archaeologists will provide Beale Wagon Road, Route 66 Auto and Bike Tour Brochures. We welcome all ages. Please consider joining us for the full day and social gathering at the Bellemont Route 66 Roadhouse Bar and Grill. Bathrooms will not be available. Trees will be! Please bring your own toilet paper, plastic bags to back out toilet paper and hand sanitizer. The forest's roads are suitable for any passenger vehicles.