

AGS Spring Field Trip | Oak Creek – Mormon Lake Graben

Date/Time: Saturday, 2 May / 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Starting Location: Parking lot at the High Country Conference Center, 201 West Butler Ave., Flagstaff, AZ 86001 (about 1/2 block east of the intersection of Milton Rd. and Butler Ave.)



Trip Leader: Paul Lindberg, Geologist

Level of Difficulty: Most stops along the field trip route will be short and close to the vehicles. However, there will be one short rock scramble along Oak Creek. Comfortable, supportive footwear is recommended. Check weather forecast in advance and dress accordingly; it is spring and we will be at a relatively high elevation (3,800 to 7,000 feet).

Guidebook and Lunch Costs: \$50 (members and guests), Student members are free.

Field trip guidebooks will be provided to trip participants. Additional guidebooks will be produced by the AGS following the trip, which can be purchased at our dinner meetings. A sack lunch and bottled water will be provided. Participants should bring snacks and other beverages to suit their needs.

Car pooling Arrangements: Carpooling is strongly encouraged to reduce travel costs and number of cars at each stop for safety and logistical reasons. Participants names/contact information will be circulated to registered attendees for participants to make arrangements, as needed.

Additional Transportation Costs: Rental vans may be required depending on the group size and need to reduce the number of caravan vehicles at field trip stops. An additional fee to cover these costs will be evaluated once trip registration begins.

Motel Accommodations:

Participants will be responsible for their own motel accommodations.

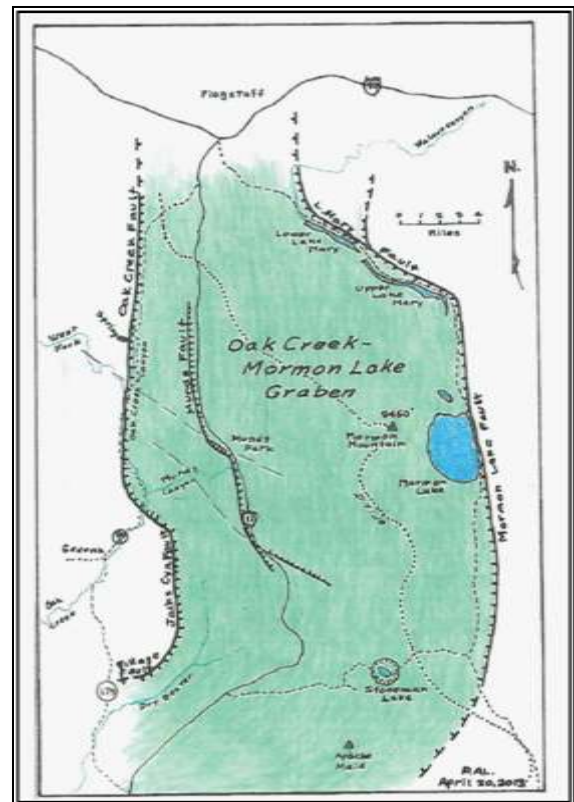
Tour Description: Paul Lindberg has graciously agreed to lead an AGS field trip to the Oak Creek – Mormon Lake area south of Flagstaff.



The May 2, 2015 field trip will examine the Oak Creek-Mormon Lake Graben by circumnavigating key locations around its perimeter. The age of the new graben cutting into the Colorado Plateau is estimated to be only 2-3 million years old and its subsidence may be contemporaneous with the start of the eruption cycle of the San Francisco Peaks. Flagstaff lies within the northern end of the graben and the I-17 freeway corridor extends south toward Camp Verde where the rift valley merges into the older Verde Graben that is estimated to be ~10 million years old. As such, Interstate 17 traverses from Flagstaff to Camp Verde entirely on the surface of Miocene basalt lava flows with no Paleozoic Mogollon Rim sedimentary rocks exposed along its length. Mogollon Rim exposures lie to the west and east of the young graben.

For a detailed description of the geology of Oak Creek and the nearby Mormon Mountain Graben see Paul Lindberg's 31-page paper in the Oak Creek Watershed book, which is available at the AZGS's Arizona Experience Store.

There may be an opportunity for an informal tour of the San Francisco volcanic field on Sunday, 3 May. We'll circulate information as it becomes available.



Motel Accommodations

Participants arrive in Flagstaff on Friday night. Field trip Saturday. Return home on Sunday.

There are lots of hotel options; we can leave it to people to find their spot, but they have to meet on early on Saturday at a location to be announced.

Name	Daily Rates	Address	Phone
Travel Lodge Flagstaff University West**	\$75, 2 king size beds	990 West Route 66 I-40 and Hwy 66 Exit 195 Flagstaff, AZ 86001	(928) 213-5800
Fairfield Inn	59, 1 king or 2 double beds	2005 S. Milton Road Flagstaff, AZ 86001	(928) 773-1300
Budget Inn	\$96, 2 queen beds	913 S. Milton Road Flagstaff AZ 86001	(928) 774-5038
Quality Inn	\$100	2000 S. Milton Road Flagstaff AZ 86001	(928) 774-8771
Ramada Inn West	\$110	2755 S. Woodlands Village Blvd. Flagstaff, AZ 86001	(928) 773-1111
Baymont Inn & Suites	\$99	2005 S. Milton Road Flagstaff, AZ 86001	(866) 451-4882
Highland Country Inn	\$96	233 S. Milton Road Flagstaff, AZ 86001	(928) 774-5041
Comfort Inn	\$120, 2 queen beds	2355 S Beulah Road Flagstaff, AZ 86001	(928) 774-2225

** (M. Conway has tentatively reserved 9 rooms, 2 king size beds each, for two nights – 1 and 2 May, for \$75/night at the Travelodge Flagstaff University West, 990 W R66, Flagstaff. For more information, contact Mike at Michael.conway@azgs.az.gov).