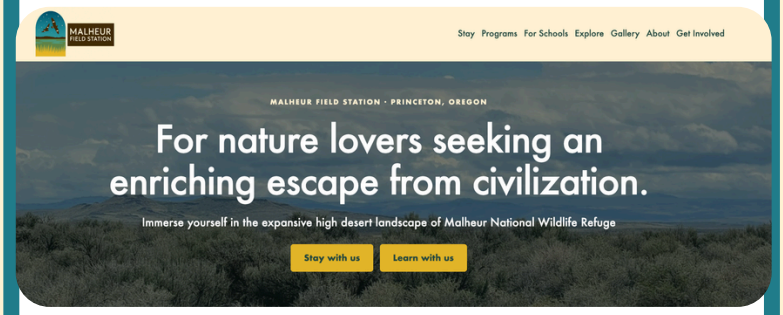
MALHEUR FIELD STATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

Check Out Our New WEBSITE!

Yes, you can now book online!



Check Out Our New WEBSITE!

We recently launched a new website for the field station!

What you can now do online:

→ **Book lodging**

→ **Explore dates the dining hall is open**

→ **Register for any of our programs**

→ **Read our newsletters**

We will continue to develop the information online, including more history, more photos, and more about our future vision!

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This month, a large squadron on Pelican have been observed at the Narrows. Seen here in formation.

GROUPS GALORE @ MFS

Wings & Yoga, Exploring Malheur & Geology Groups



Cliff Mitchell led a group of nine guests to the Steens and around Malheur. The weather was perfect, and the group shared tons of positive feedback!



Karen Jacobs and Susan Lamberson hosted Wings & Yoga. This relaxing program was enjoyed by all, so much so that 2027 Spring and Fall sessions are now on our calendar!



Dr. David Sherrod graciously volunteered to lead two area geology groups around Malheur in October!
Large groups from GSOC and COGS gathered at the field station to explore some of the spectacular geological features of the region.

Welcoming these groups to the station, enjoying meals in the dining hall, and making new connections have been a highlight of the season! As we add more programs, we look forward to making more MFS memories through our educational programs in this gorgeous region.



Thoughts from Our Director

This Remarkable Landscape

Since arriving almost exactly a year ago, I've been so focused on the field station itself that it wasn't until a family visit this month that I took the time to hike around Diamond Craters, seek out the Kiger horses, meander along the Steens Mountain Loop, and witness more than just a few minutes of sunset over the Narrows. Two of my three adult children joined me as we absorbed this place, witnessing not only its expansiveness, but the extraordinary detail held within it.There is something humbling about a landscape that invites you to consider time on so many different scales. Volcanic rock records an Earth still taking shape. The contours of Steens Mountain bear evidence of forces that lifted, fractured, and carved the land. Water gathers in a desert basin, sustaining life in a place where its presence feels especially consequential. A bird pauses here along a journey far greater than the stretch of sky we can see. And then the light changes, and all that rimmense history becomes an immediate, fleeting experience: a shadow across a ridge, a reflection on water, a color that disappears before we can quite name it. I found myself moving between wanting to understand what I was seeing and simply wanting to remain in its presence.

Perhaps that is one of Malheur's greatest gifts. Scientific curiosity, artistic expression, and emotional connection arise so naturally together here. The same formation that prompts a geologist to investigate its origins invites a painter to study its contours. The movement of birds becomes a question about migration, an exercise in photography, or a moment of unexpected joy. Beneath a dark sky, we can contemplate the physics of distant stars while feeling something deeply personal about our own place in the universe.

These ways of learning are written into the landscape itself. Each offers another way to pay attention, and each deepens what the others reveal. That understanding is helping bring the field station's future into clearer focus for me. As we develop opportunities in natural science, photography, painting, sound, dark sky exploration, and wellness, I see a common purpose: helping people build a meaningful relationship with this place. Some will enter through a scientific question. Others through a camera, a sketchbook, a quiet walk, or the simple need to breathe a little more freely. There is room here for all of those beginnings.

I am starting to truly understand why people come to Malheur—and why they return year after year. Familiarity seems to sharpen their attention. They notice a different bird, recognize a seasonal change, revisit a beloved view, or find that the same landscape meets them differently at another point in their lives. Over time, a destination becomes a relationship.

Experiencing this with my children made me think especially about the generations who have yet to find their way here. I want young people to have the time and opportunity to look closely, ask questions, make something, and discover how it feels to belong within a landscape this vast. Some may become scientists or artists. Others may carry Malheur into entirely different futures, returning to it as a source of perspective, inspiration, and well-being.

After a year spent learning how to care for the field station, I am beginning to understand more fully why this community endures. That realization leaves me both grateful and increasingly inspired: to care for what has been entrusted to us, to open new doors into learning, and to invite the next generation to feel the magic of Malheur—and become part of its future.

Elizabeth Basa

HARRY FULLER's All-Inclusive BIRDING PROGRAMS for 2027

OCTOBER 2026



Grab Your Spots for Harry's Popular Malheur Birding Trips!
Harry Fuller, author of "Birding Harney County" and other titles, leads several 5-night, 6-day birding trips from Malheur Field Station. He has deep knowledge of all Malheur bird species, where to find them and when. He will delight you with effective ways to identify each species, and keep the group moving for extensive days in the Malheur basin chasing down more incredible birds than you can possibly imagine!

All Inclusive!

All programs include:

- Lodging in Group Unit (1-2 people per bedroom)
- Fresh and delicious meals everyday!
- Transporation for the week
- Harry's leadership!

One price: $1100







Photos Courtesy of Bill Munk

Early Spring Migration Program
APRIL 20 - 25th

Mid Spring Migration Program
MAY 7th - 12th

Late Spring Migration Program
JUNE 4th - 9th

Fall Migration Program
SEPTEMBER 9th - 14th



MALHEUR FIELD STATION

A Brand New Program for Teens On the Spectrum

MALHEUR FIELD STATION

THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS

WINTER SCIENCE + PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE FOR TEENS ON THE SPECTRUM

Use photography to explore the natural world—and discover new ways of seeing patterns, relationships, scale, light and possibility.

LED BY NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORER

Jacob Saffarian

Photography, science and structured experiences designed to help teens explore the world through a different lens.

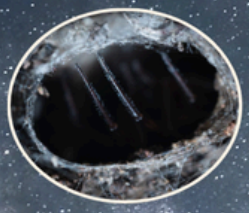
DEC. 27 - DEC. 31, 2026

Malheur Field Station
Malheur National Wildlife Refuge



PHOTOGRAPHY BASICS

Camera • composition • visual storytelling



MACRO

Close observation • detail • patterns



LANDSCAPE

Place • scale • perspective



NIGHT SKY

Darkness • stars • astrophotography

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Hands-on photography instruction
- Field experiences in the high desert ecosystem
- Night-sky photography under exceptionally dark skies
- Daily structured lessons & creative activities
- Capstone project and presentation

THEMES & LEARNING

CONNECTION
Seeing relationships in nature and our lives

FUTURES
Exploring possibility, choice and multiple paths

REFLECTION
Using images and observation to make meaning

PARENT PARTICIPATION

One or two parent(s) stay on station throughout the retreat. Parents will have some separate activities, share meals with the group, and join the teens for their final project presentations.

ALL-INCLUSIVE PROGRAM

Private-room lodging (shared restrooms) • Meals
Transportation during program • Expert leaders
Structured science + photography activities

PROGRAM COST

$1,700 • 1 teen + 1 parent
$2,100 • 1 teen + 2 parents

READY TO LEARN MORE OR REGISTER?

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Questions? malheurfieldstation@gmail.com • 541-493-2629

Want to bring additional siblings? Contact us to discuss options.
Please note: pets cannot stay on station.

Malheur Field Station is a nonprofit educational facility located on the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Princeton, Oregon. • malheurfieldstation.org

www.malheurfieldstation.org

MALHEUR FIELD STATION

A Relaxing Nature & Art Winter Program

MALHEUR FIELD STATION

Malheur Winter Views

An All Inclusive Photography and Painting Retreat

Pick Your Dates: DEC. 27–30, 2026 OR JAN. 28–31, 2027

Enjoy the magnificent beauty of the winter high desert. Take a landscape or wildlife photo, then turn your favorite image into a watercolor painting. Beginners and hobbyists welcome. No experience needed.



YOUR GUIDE

Cheryl McIntosh

Accomplished photographer and artist from Bend, Oregon





YOUR WINTER GETAWAY

DAY 1 — Arrive & explore
Check in 10–11 am, enjoy lunch, then head out by vehicle for landscape and wildlife photography with Cheryl's guidance. After dinner, choose your image to paint.

DAY 2 — Discover watercolor
Learn color selection, blending and brushstrokes, then begin your painting. Enjoy meals and nature walks between painting sessions.

DAY 3 — Paint & share
Spend a relaxed day painting, aiming to finish or nearly finish your piece. Gather for a final dinner and share your creations.

DAY 4 — Breakfast & farewell
Enjoy breakfast before departing by 11 am.

Questions? 541-493-2629 • malheurfieldstation@gmail.com

Weather dependent: If roads are unsafe for travel, we will provide full refunds and/or reschedule.

$900 / person

Lodging, fresh & delicious meals, photography & painting guidance, and transportation during the retreat included.

Register to Join

malheurfieldstation.org

www.malheurfieldstation.org

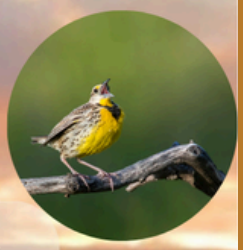
MALHEUR FIELD STATION

Have you ever wanted to take nature sounds home?

MALHEUR FIELD STATION

AN ALL-INCLUSIVE FIELD WORKSHOP

Malheur Field Station • Princeton, Oregon



Recording Nature Sounds

Learn how to capture and preserve the sounds of nature.

JUNE 10–14, 2027 • LIMITED TO 13 PARTICIPANTS

Listen to the dawn chorus, wetland birds and nighttime wildlife. Learn to capture the remarkable soundscapes of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and the surrounding high desert.

No recording experience needed. Equipment provided.

MEET YOUR INSTRUCTORS



Ron Larson, PhD

Retired biologist and ecoacoustics specialist with extensive natural-sound recording experience in eastern Oregon and internationally.



Nick McMahan

Nature sound recordist specializing in soundscapes and binaural recording. His "Searching for Quiet" project featured on OPB's Oregon Field Guide.

FIVE DAYS OF LISTENING & DISCOVERY

THU 10	**Arrive & tune in**	Late-afternoon arrival, shared dinner and orientation. Listen for evening wildlife around the field station and South Coyote Butte.
FRI 11	**Listen, learn & record**	Explore the dawn soundscape, learn microphones and recorders, practice in the refuge, and review recordings with the group.
SAT 12	**Explore Blitzen Valley**	Record in diverse wetland and high desert habitats along Center Patrol Road toward Buena Vista. Review your discoveries after dinner.
SUN 13	**Create your sound project**	Make additional recordings, learn editing with Audacity, and share a project for your own library and the field station's sound archive.
MON 14	**Depart or explore further**	Head home inspired, or independently continue exploring the region's natural soundscapes.

Bring your phone with Merlin installed. If you have them, bring headphones, a handheld recorder and a laptop. Specialized recording equipment is available to use.

$1100 / person

All-inclusive program at Malheur Field Station
541-493-2629 • malheurfieldstation@gmail.com

Register to join

malheurfieldstation.org

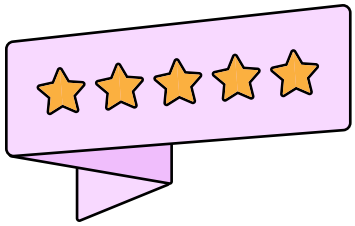
www.malheurfieldstation.org

MALHEUR FIELD STATION

MFS UPDATES & Announcements

Google & Facebook Reviews

Thank you to those who took the time to leave us thoughtful reviews online! We can't share enough what a difference your genuine reviews will have for MFS as we are launching into this new era of growth, inviting people who have never been here before to come feel the magic.



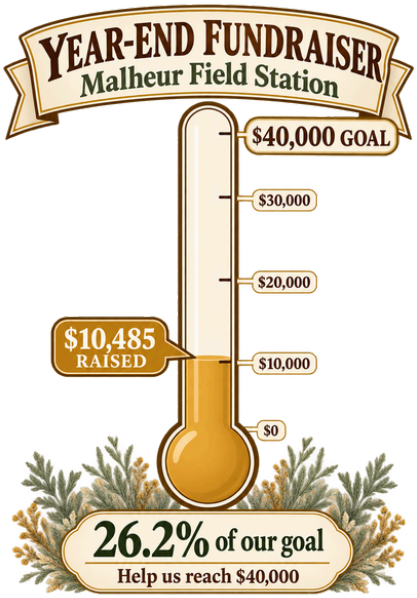
Online Gift Shop Coming Soon!

Get ready to grab your favorite MFS items from our website! Sometime this winter, we will be launching an online gift shop! From MFS merch to our unique collection of kids, decor, books, and artsy goodies! Sales from our gift shops will fuel our renovation goal



End of Year Fund-Raising Goal!

Last month we shared we'd like to raise $40,000 by the end of the year. We have many projects to pay for! An enormous thank you to our supporters who gave this month!



This month a donation was made in honor of Lynda Garner's 80th birthday! From Roberta Recken

MALHEUR FIELD STATION

Winter Construction Goals

Grab Your Tools and Pick a Project!

This winter, we are aiming to achieve many needed goals, which include renovating existence units, creating new ones, and opening up another dorm or two. We can only achieve these ambitious goals with your continued support, and invite any construction-leaning volunteers to join us! Here's a list of possible projects...

Conversion of Greasewood

We have a plan to turn the main building of Greasewood into two, 2-bedroom lodging units! A third unit will be developed in the side room.

Room Framing in A & F dorms

Conversion of quadrant sleeping areas into bedrooms, similar to E dorm.

Completion of Nighthawk

Complete the build out of our newest studio unit - it is almost done!

Pelican Improvements

Replacing flooring throughout, renovation of both bathrooms, expansion of kitchen

Owl East & West

Bathroom renovations, bedroom updates, addition of a new counter in Owl East kitchen

Gymnasium

Finish removal of wood floor, continue cleaning, repair of roof, electrical

Swimspa

Building an electrical line underground from west house to the playground

Malcolm Hall Museum /Art Demos

Removing old walls, offices, dark rooms to open up these new spaces.

