

The biggest skull known of *Rhinocerotidae* *Diceratherium armatum*, measuring almost 2 feet from nose to neck, has been discovered at John Day National Monument in Oregon. The rhino, who died nearly 25 million years ago, was covered by water-lain volcanic tuffs spewed from vents in Central Oregon or the early Cascades. He shared his tomb in the Oligocene tuffs of the Fossil Beds with oreodonts, early horses, giant pigs (Entelodonts), rodents, turtles, and a few fragments of *Ekgmowechshala* – a Lakota Sioux word meaning “cat that looks like a little man” – the last primate known in North America.

Ted Fremd, the monument’s paleontologist, describes the finding of fossils like this as “part dili-

gence, part luck.” The discovery of the rhino came on a fall day in 1989, when Ellen Stepleton – a graduate student working on other projects with Fremd, was on a cross country hike. The skull was so firmly embedded in surrounding rock that it was decided to let time help remove it. Preservatives and plaster were applied at once and again in 1990, and now the twice-postponed exhumation is about to occur.

Fremd says he hopes to learn an enormous amount from this skull – the largest ever found and complete, from nose to neck, including the rare “postcranial” area.