ICE AGE (MISSOULA) FLOODS THROUGH THE MID-COLUMBIA REGION

Day/Time: Saturday, April 4, 2015; 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Pick-Up Location: Columbia Basin College (CBC), North Parking lot
Cost: $25 includes transportation, snacks, and a printed field guide
Trip leader: Bruce Bjornstad,
Author of two “On the Trail of the Ice Age Floods” geologic guidebooks

Geologist-Author Bruce Bjornstad will lead a day-long, 150-mile field trip to observe many of the Ice Age floods’ features unique to the Pasco Basin. These include the Lake Lewis Isles, slackwater-flood rhythmites, ice-rafted erratics and bergmounds, giant flood bars and coulees, as well as, the diversion of the Yakima River, which was created by multiple outburst floods as recently as 13,000 years ago. A number of stops and short walks, like that at the White Bluffs Overlook within the Hanford Reach National Monument, will provide exceptional overviews of Ice-Age flood features as well as the Columbia River and Hanford operations.

Chinese travel writers stand at the maximum-flood level on Kennewick’s Badger Mountain – one of the Lake Lewis Isles. The Tri Cities was temporarily inundated with up to 900 ft of glacial meltwater during dozens of ice-dam failures from Lake Missoula in western Montana.