



# Preserving the Past

## Tahoe National Forest

### Help Preserve Our Past

As you enjoy the scenic beauty and recreation activities of the forest, you're part of a continuing historical process. Like a great history book, the Tahoe National Forest holds the record of thousands of years of human history. Settlement by trappers, miners, ranchers and loggers and others dates back to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

Thousands of years of human life in this area left evidence of people who did not create a written history—the Washoe, Nisenan, and the Northern Maidu, the three native tribes indigenous to the Tahoe National Forest.



**Bedrock mortar at a Nisenan site.**

### Evidence of the Past

When the written record is incomplete or when no written record exists, we must look for other evidence of how people lived. Much of the evidence of how the indigenous people and the early emigrants encountered and solved the problems of survival exists on the ground as archaeological sites.

These records of the past may be recognized as a few “meaningless” flakes of stone, or an old miner’s bottle, or an arrowhead. Professional anthropologists, archaeologists, and historians can examine these undisturbed remains and interpret the past with great accuracy. But once a single object is removed from a site, the record is

damaged and incomplete—much like a book would be with a page or chapter missing.



Since 1906, explicit Federal

**Liquor bottle found in a mining camp.**

laws have been in place to protect our historic and national heritage from unnecessary destruction. Unfortunately, the loss of cultural resources continues.

Many sites on the Tahoe National Forest have been looted or irrevocably damaged. Please help us prevent further destruction of our national heritage.

If you discover an archaeological or historic object or site, enjoy what is there, but please do not disturb anything or remove artifacts from the site. Please contact the Tahoe National Forest with a report of your discovery, so it can be evaluated by our Heritage Resources staff.



Tahoe National Forest  
631 Coyote St  
Nevada City CA  
95959

**Door latch found at a townsite.**

(530) 265-4531  
TTY users dial 711 for relay service

Remember, the future of the past is the present!  
Thank you for protecting our common heritage.

