THE DEBITAGE

Say it in French…and it's more scientific!

The Official Newsletter of the Modoc National Forest Heritage Program

Volume 1, Issue 2 February 2012

Special points of interest:

- Student Volunteer program since 1978.
- Passport in Time since 1991. Three PIT projects planned for Summer 2012.
- International Volunteer Program inaugurated in 1992.
- During the FY-11 field season 2,384 volunteer hours were contributed to the Heritage Program.
- During the FY-11 field season MDF crews discovered over 80 new archaeological and historic sites.
- During the FY-11 field season MDF crews re-recorded, updated or monitored 147 archaeological and historic sites.
- During FY-11 over 340 site records were sent to CSU-Chico for trinomial assignments.

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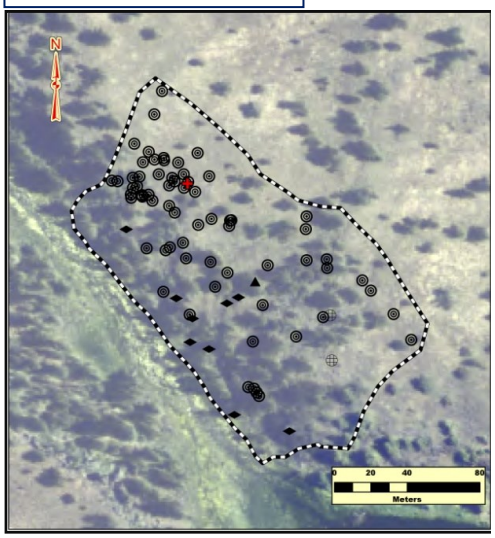
Heritage GIS and Heritage Infra Database Management

The Modoc National Forest has been collecting spatial and tabular data for archaeological sites and surveys since the early 1970's. Quality of both data types has changed over the years, evolving from one page site records with hand drawn site maps and location information plotted on 15 minute USGS Quad maps, to professional standard records including GIS generated sub-meter accuracy site maps for complex sites and resource locations.

GIS GENERATED SITE MAP



The Modoc NF has been compiling spatial data in GIS since before it was a regional and national requirement. Heritage Database Manager Debbie Zolnay has been experimenting with GIS applications for archaeology since the 1990's, while the District Archaeologist on the Big Valley Ranger District. The Modoc NF historically records about 20% of the cultural resources in Region 5, with an average of over 100 sites recorded or updated annually, and currently has GIS information on over 7000 resources and 1500 surveys. Field crews are provided project level maps identifying prior survey coverage and known site locations on USGS Quad maps superimposed on aerial overlays. All new sites are GPS'd and added to the electronic Master Atlas and previously recorded sites are GPS'd to verify locational information and the Atlas updated as warranted.

Archaeological Survey Report (ASR) maps are produced utilizing GIS tools and project proponents are provided maps similar to those given the crews, identifying areas of survey coverage and site locations within their respective projects, at a scale usable in the field.

On the tabular side, INFRA, the Forest has a database of over 7000 sites, 1500 surveys and about 1000 isolate/localities. The isolate/locality data is still being entered in INFRA and we expect the total to be around 3500 when complete, at which time they will be added to the spatial layer. With only about 35% of the Forest inventoried to date, we expect there will be over 35,000 sites in the database when the Forest has been completely inventoried!

- Deb Zolnay, Heritage Database Manager

REMEMBER!
NOW IS THE TIME TO ENROLL IN THE 2012 *PASSPORT IN TIME*
BOLES CREEK ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT III
PROJECT BY GOING TO www.passportintime.com

MODOC NF PRIORITY HERITAGE ASSETS

The Modoc National Forest has a total of 106 archaeological sites "Priority Heritage Assets" at present. These are also known as PHAs, and in the Forest Service are assets of distinct public value that are or should be actively maintained and meet one or more of the following criteria:

- *Listed on the National Register of Historic Places or similar State register.*
- *Their significance is recognized through prior investment in preservation, interpretation and use.*
- *Their significance is recognized in an agency-approved management plan.*
- *The property exhibits critical needs due to imminent threat of loss to significant resources.*

After five years of monitoring our PHAs we have 102 out of the 106 properties monitored for condition. PHAs are supposed to be monitored every five years to assess current condition and any management needs. In 2012 we anticipate to monitor the last four, plus nearly 20% of the others so that we may meet the condition monitoring goals.

Our PHAs include historic sites associated with the Modoc War of 1872-1873, the Applegate (1846) and Lassen (1848) Emigrant Trails (National Historic Trails – Oregon Trail and California Trail systems), late 19th Century homesteader cabins and Carr's Wall (1875-1882), and early 20th Century cabins associated with the High Grade Mining District. Prehistoric sites include a wide range of archaeological sites within NRHP eligible districts, and other locations. These sites contain house remains evidenced by pit house depressions and rock rings and "midden" deposits, a cave site, and numerous associated features, such as rock stacks, rock alignments, and tall rock cairns. One major site location is the vast obsidian quarry complex associated with the Glass Mountain Obsidian Flow.

It is hoped that some of these locations may be successfully developed into interpretive opportunities for the Public. These sites will help to tell the story of the past 10,000 years of human use and occupation of this corner of northeastern California. In 2012 three interpretive signs will be installed along portions of the Applegate Trail and the Lassen Trail to help tell a part of this story.

Passport In Time projects in the 1990s investigated and recorded three main sites related to the Modoc War of 1872-1873 – Mason's Camp, Hasbrouck's Camp, and the Battle of Scorpion Point. Utilizing metal detectors numerous artifacts related to these sites, dating to May of 1873, were recovered and plotted. They are safely housed in our curation facility.

"Arms of the US"

Unfired cartridges from the US military encampments. The cartridge of the left has been hand-carved with a pen knife (enlargement on the right) in a "swirl pattern" like on today's soft serve ice cream cones.

Who We Are

Larry Shippen

Archaeological Crew Chief

The Swami

The Rev. Dr. Lawrence Shippen (aka Swami Kutali Murugum Teyumanvar) has just completed his 22nd season as a "temporary" archaeological technician. Born in Surprise Valley in 1940, he was educated in Cedarville, San Francisco, Switzerland, India and Sri Lanka. He received a doctoral equivalent (Swami) at Wailua University of Contemplative Arts in Kapaa Hawaii and Dandauthapanasaminiliam in Polni, Adivarum, South India.

He joined the MDF archaeology program in 1990 on the WMRD as a crew member (GS-0102-05) when the RDs had their own District archaeologist. After 20 plus years working in the Warner Mountains (where he grew up in his grandfather's sheep camps) and the Devil's Garden, his greatest joy is still getting out and hiking miles away from the known roads. His second greatest joy is mentoring the bright young people with their shiny new degrees who don't know much about getting on in the wilderness. He is currently a GS-0102-06 Archaeological Technician.

The swami looks forward to many more years of the same. As a matter of fact one of his ambitions is to be the longest serving archaeological technician on the Modoc NF (…and actually he is already the longest, and the oldest, too! - grg).

Vi Riley

Archaeological Crew Chief

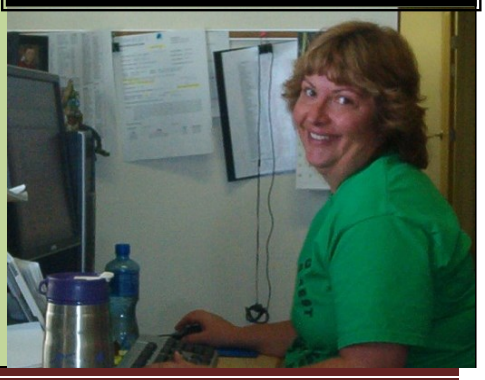
Vi Riley started working for the Heritage Resource program in archaeology in 1991 as a GS-0102-03 Archaeological Aide and after 20 years is still learning and loving the work outdoors. Vi was born and raised in Modoc County in the Warner Mountains on Lassen Creek. She went to school at the now historic site of Willow Ranch on the eastern shore of Goose Lake.

Vi worked in the education system for 36 years and retired from the Arlington School in Canby. She installed in her students a love for the past and respect for the land.

Because of her background Native American heritage she has a vast knowledge of the Warner Mountains and the Devil's Garden as well as food plants, medicinal plants, animals, and the old ways. Vi is now a GS-0102-06 Archaeological Technician.

Michelle Fuller

INFRA Support/Site Records



Michelle Fuller began working for the Modoc in the Archaeology shop in August of 2001 as a local temporary hire. The 2011 season marked her 11th year of temporary employment. She started as a GS-03 Archaeological Aide and has advanced to a GS-06 Archaeological Technician.

When she started, Michelle was an entry level crew member, assisting with survey and site relocation and recording. Over the years, she has served as a crew member and crew leader, but has found her niche in the organization in data entry. Michelle processes the majority of the site and isolate records generated by the Modoc field crews, in excess of 150 documents each season. She is also responsible for entering these records in the Infra Database. Michelle has been involved with Infra since its inception, has attended several regional level trainings and has provided assistance to a number of forests regarding data entry requirements. Michelle also detailed to the Humboldt-Toiyabe for a portion of a season to assist in post-fire archaeological survey and site recording. (continued on next page.)

WHO WE ARE (con't.) Michelle has attended Shasta College pursuing an AA degree in Transferable Studies, with a goal of a BA in Anthropology/Archaeology from California State University-Chico. She has also completed numerous computer classes through both Shasta and Lassen Community Colleges.

Michelle also enjoys being part of the Forest's fire militia, serving both on and off forest in dispatch and logistic functions. When not at work, Michelle enjoys outdoor activities with her family, including camping, fishing and skiing. She is also a "die-hard" Atlanta Braves fan and pet lover. She and her husband Philip, have two grown children and four dogs, including two miniature Australian Shepherds, which keep them quite busy.

INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT VISITOR PLACEMENT - 2012

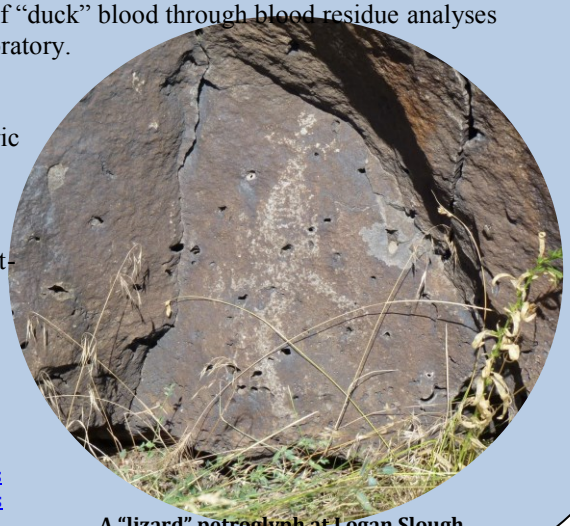
We are currently working with the Washington Office "International Programs" personnel to complete the paperwork to bring over a "Government Visitor" from New Zealand. Maria Butcher, 28, has earned three degrees from the University of Otago (Dunedin, New Zealand) – BSc in Anatomy and Structural Biology, BA (Hons I) in Anthropology, and in 2009 a MA (with Distinction) in Anthropology (archaeology emphasis). At present she is a fulltime employee of the Department of Conservation (New Zealand) as a ranger, historic specialist/archaeologist. This role includes archaeological assessments, site recording, monitoring and mitigation for small-scale development projects, managing historic visitor sites, working with *tanta whenua* (indigenous groups), research, and assorted other tasks.

Her placement on the Modoc NF, from June to October, will be with our Section 110 archaeological crew undertaking continuing archaeological survey in the proposed Boles Creek Archaeological District. As part of this project Maria will work with *Passport In Time* volunteers during our three 2012 *PIT* projects in Boles Creek. We have found that the American *PIT* volunteers always enjoy interacting with our International visitors. Maria will also participate in the monitoring of our "Priority Heritage Assets" in 2012, including relocating and monitoring our seven archaeological sites that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. She will be our first international placement since 2005. We look forward to working with her and her delightful "Kiwi" accent!

REPORT ON THE LOGAN SLOUGH EXCAVATIONS COMPLETED

The *Report on the Archaeological Test Excavations at the Logan Slough Site* (*FS-05-09-55-1807/H; CA-Mod-6807/H): A Village Site on the Devil's Garden Lava Plateau in Northeastern California* (Gates 2012) has been completed and will be sent shortly to the California State Historic Preservation Office for review and comment. The site appears to be a village site occupied by members of the *Hewise Band* of the Pit River Tribe. The site contains several rock ring structures, hunting blinds, and other rock features, along with several petroglyph panels. Based on obsidian sourcing and hydration readings (*Northwest Research Obsidian Studies Laboratory)* the site appears to have been occupied for several thousand years and up to the Historic contact period. A 19th century blue glass trade bead was found within one of the rock ring house structures along with two metal fragments believed to be from harness O- or D-rings. Two carbon-14 dates yielded readings of circa 600+/-40 BP (c. 1290 – 1420 AD) and circa 370+/-40 BP (c. 1440 – 1640 AD) by *Beta Analytical, Inc.*; and one bifacial knife fragment yielded traces of "duck" blood through blood residue analyses undertaken at the *Archaeological Investigations Northwest* laboratory.

The Logan Slough Site is one of our "Priority Heritage Assets" and is proposed to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It is also proposed to be eventually developed for public interpretation to illustrate the occupation and use of the Devil's Garden by the Pit River peoples. Many areas of the Devil's Garden are still used by Pit River folks for the traditional harvesting of epos (*ba'ha)*, an edible root crop (see page 6) and other resources, and traditional cultural activities.



A "lizard" petroglyph at Logan Slough.

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Deb Zolnay, Heritage Database Manager dzolnay@fs.fed.us

HERITAGE RESOURCES on the Modoc National Forest: A "Blast from the Past" Photo Gallery – the 70's

1971: First "Regional Archaeologist", Don Miller (l) and Dewey Risconi (r), DHRD-TMO, at a Modoc War site.

1973: Amy Foster hired as a "Forestry Aide" to work with Richard Hughes, GS-0193-05 summer archaeological temp.

1976: First "Forest Archaeologist" Michael Boynton with his son examining an archaeological site on the DHRD.

1979: Summer arch crew (l-r) Kathy Miller (Sprowl), Gerry Gates (Forest Archaeologist), June Wilburn, Neal Neuenschwander (CSU-Chico volunteer); kneeling (l-r) Terri Caruso and John Foster.

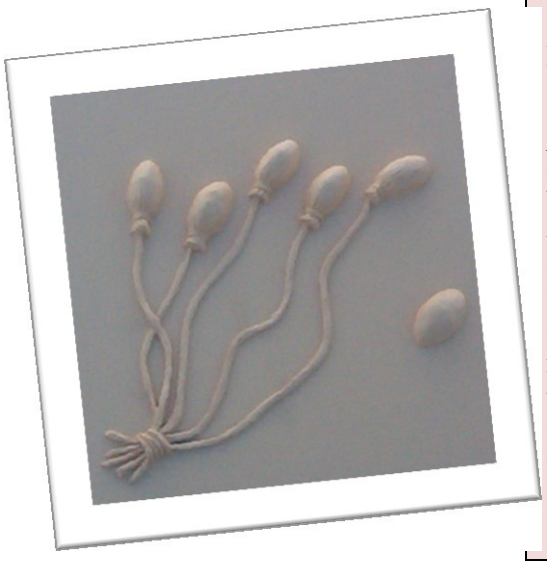
1977: Scarface Fire Arch Survey (l-r) Gerry Gates (brand new Forest Archaeologist), George Toren and Leslie Schupp-Wessel.

HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE PANEL PART OF HIGHWAY 139 AUTO TOUR

One of six panels on the recently dedicated auto tour of the Howard's Gulch area emphasized Native American uses of local resources local resources – waterfowl, epos, and Black Oak. At each site special interpretive signs called tactile *bas-relief* sculptures that were designed to make information accessible to individuals of varying abilities. The interpretive sites offer many opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Bolas (left and below) were used in this area to entangle waterfowl, such as various kinds of ducks and geese. Ipos or epos (*Perideridia sp.*), known as *ba'ha* by the Pit River (Achomawi), is a nutrious tuber that was a staple food resource in this area. Black Oak (*Quercus kelloggi*) yielded acorns that were edible after a lengthy leaching process to remove its bitter tannic acid.

Numerous partners helped make this project possible including the Modoc National Forest Resource Advisory Committee, Alturas Chamber of Commerce, California Department of Fish and Game, Modoc County Economic Vitality Group, The River Center, Modoc County Early Headstart, Modoc County Special Quest, Far Northern Regional Center, Rowell Family Empowerment Center, Boy Scouts of America, the Klamath Bird Observatory, North Cal Neva Resource Conservation and Development Council, Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Wild Turkey Federation.



Over 30 people attended the November 18th dedication at the Modoc NF-SO and a few brave souls ventured out in a snow storm to view the signs located in Howard's Gulch about 24 miles west of Alturas.

Please enjoy, but do not destroy your American heritage!

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