

# THE DEBITAGE

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

The Official Newsletter of the Modoc National Forest Heritage Program

Volume 2, Issue 1

October 2012

## Special points of interest:

- Student Volunteer program since 1978. Hosted one student in 2012.
- Passport in Time since 1991. Three PIT projects completed in Summer 2012.
- International Volunteer Program inaugurated in 1992. One IV hosted in 2012.
- During the FY-12 field season 2,028 volunteer hours were contributed to the Heritage Program.
- During the FY-12 field season MDF crews recorded 127 new archaeological and historic sites.
- During the FY-12 field season MDF crews re-recorded, updated, monitored or re-flagged 312 archaeological and historic sites.
- During FY-12 over 200 site records were sent to CSU-Chico for trinomial assignments (including backlog site records).

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## BOLES CREEK ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT III *PASSPORT IN TIME*

The Modoc NF Heritage Resource Management Program offered three *Passport In Time* opportunities this past field season. This continued our archaeological survey of the Boles Creek riparian corridor through the Devil's Garden area of the forest of the Doublehead RD and the Devil's Garden RD. A total of 27 PIT volunteers participated in the three sessions over June and July contributing a total of 918 volunteer hours. The Section 110 crew worked with these folks under the supervision of the Forest Archaeologist. There were participants from California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Texas, and Minnesota. Ages of participants ranged from 16 to the mid-seventies. Most participants had a great time in the very rocky Devil's Garden environment, with most of Session 3's folks camping out near the project area – hearing the coyotes howl against the star-studded clear night skies; and temperatures ranging from 42° in the morning to the mid-90s in the afternoon.

There were 23 sites newly discovered and recorded during Section 110 inventory and the PIT sessions – and as promised there were “rock rings, rock stacks, rock alignments, and rock art” features encountered and recorded as portions of some of these sites. Additionally, there were three “pit house” depressions discovered. One of these may be less than 500 years old, while two others may be about 2,000 years old based upon their state of preservation and associated diagnostic artifacts.



Forest Archaeologist Gerry Gates talks to *Passport In Time* volunteers about a small “rock ring” feature that could have served as a hunting blind. Photo by John Crawford, PIT.

During Session 1, in June, two rather large site prehistoric site complexes were encountered and recorded – with over 200 rock stack features recorded and photographed. These

ranged from simple single rocks placed upon a bedrock outcropping or boulder to two and three-course stacks. Several “alignments” were noted, with up to a dozen stacks in a line. Temporal control will be a key to verifying that what we see are actually real “alignments” – that is were they actually all put place at the same time to specifically create the alignments, or were the rock stacks created at different points in time and have artificially created the alignments we see today?

Continued....

## **BOLES CREEK ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT III (con't.)**

The Klamath Tribes have received funding from the Ruby Pipeline Project to undertake some investigations into rock stacks, and other types of rock “features”, as a partial mitigation for affects to the Tribes archaeological and cultural heritage. Portions of the funding will be allocated to Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc., to undertake a scientific study of these rock features. Hopefully, FWARF will be able to construct a “typology” of these rock features and investigate methods to enable a way of “dating” the construction of these rock stacks and other rock features. As suggested in our first newsletter (Vol. 1, Issue 1, October 2011) two possible approaches to dating may deal with the lichen growth around the contact zone between the base rock and the placed rock, or with the “bleaching” that occurs in the contact zone. We hope that this study will help in our interpretation of these features and guide us in their long-term protection and management.

Boles Creek Archaeological District IV *PIT* sessions will take place in June/July 2013. You can register for the 2013 *Passport in Time* sessions at [www.passportintime.com](http://www.passportintime.com) and other projects across the country.



A sea of pin flags marking the location of obsidian flakes and artifacts.

Jannet White, from Oregon writes: *PIT programs are definitely worthy of funding and support. The volunteers are able to assist the USFS with identification and documentation of archeological sites at a level not possible with paid staff alone. PIT also provides a means of educating in a way that is rich with meaningful experiences that assist laypeople with understanding more about our country's heritage. The PIT experience is useful for young people considering a career in archeology and/or the USFS. It is also useful for teachers wanting to provide their students with knowledge that goes far beyond the typical textbook.*

Margaret Allen and John Crawford, from Washington write: *The program also makes sense as a means of public outreach and education regarding public lands and a heritage that belong to all of us. There are numerous projects across the United States each year appealing to a wide range of abilities and interests, and to families as well as adults. The program creates an environment where volunteers can learn about a particular interest (e.g., some aspect of archaeology, how to excavate a fossil, or how to repair a historic structure) and in the process develop a depth of appreciation for our public lands and heritage that camping alone would unlikely instill. I believe the PIT program creates new stewards of public resources.*

*Finally, the United States has a large and diverse population. PIT projects are places where people of different ages, backgrounds, philosophies, and political beliefs can come together and enjoy getting to know one another while working toward a common goal. The importance of this point shouldn't be underestimated. There are public lands and an interesting heritage in every one of the states and U.S. territories. I hope the plan is to increase rather than shrink the PIT program.*

## Our Section 110 Crew for 2012:

Left to Right:

Michelle Fuller, Crew Chief,  
GS-0102-06 Arch Technician

Timothy Crabtree, GS-0102-04  
Archaeological Technician

Jin Lin, GS-0102-04 Arch Tech

See below for Maria Butcher, Int'l  
Volunteer from New Zealand.

Photos by Ron Wright, PIT Volunteer

## WHO WE ARE:



The Section 110 Crew, in addition to continuing the archaeological inventory of the Boles Creek area, undertook the monitoring of several "Priority Heritage Assets" along the edge of the Glass Mountain Obsidian Flow in the Medicine Lake Highland and relocated and recorded portions of the 1848 Burnett Road. The Burnett Road connected the Applegate Trail, going to Oregon, with the Lassen Trail going into California. Richard Silva, of the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) and Bob Black of Trails West, who have been working with the National Park Service's Long Distance Trail Office, helped greatly by utilizing General Land Office survey notes and plats, coupled with emigrant diaries, to help locate the probable route on the ground. He provided very useful maps and satellite photos of the routes that were utilized by the Section 110 crew to field verify the route using metal detectors to locate 19<sup>th</sup> century artifacts within the old road traces. Portions of the 1848 route are still in use today crossing Forest Service and private lands. The Modoc NF has worked with Richard Silva and OCTA/Trails West since 1996 when the Forest began its efforts to relocate and record the 1846 Applegate Trail, the 1848 Lassen Trail and the connecting 1848 Burnett Road. These emigrant trails are Congressionally designated "National Historic Trails" and the Modoc NF intends to relocate, record, and manage these National historic resources. We greatly appreciate the partnerships with OCTA and Trails West! American student volunteer, Paul Smith, from San Diego, worked both with the Section 110 crew and our Section 106 inventory crews.



Maria Butcher, International  
Volunteer, New Zealand

*I've been very lucky to have the opportunity to work as an International Volunteer on the Modoc National Forest for the 2012 field season. After working as an archaeologist in New Zealand for several years, I wanted to gain some experience in another country. The opportunity to volunteer on the Modoc was exactly what I was looking for.*

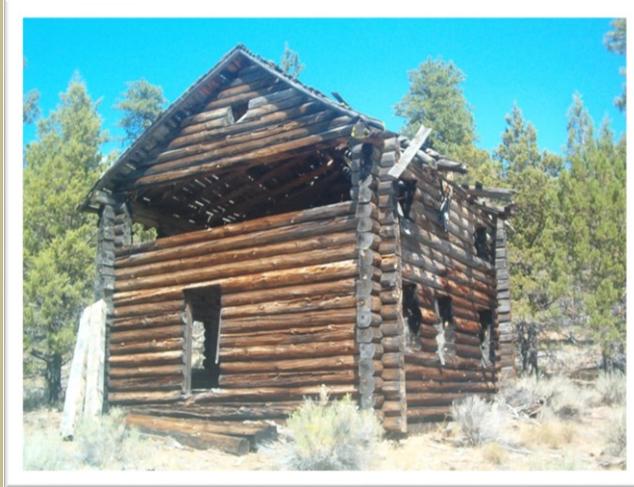
*Modoc archaeological sites are very different to those in New Zealand. In the area where I work at home, shell middens are by far the most common type of site. We do have obsidian in New Zealand, but I'd never seen anything like the huge, concentrated lithic scatters which are characteristic of Modoc archaeology. The field technicians on my crew soon taught me about the different varieties of obsidian which are found on the Modoc National Forest.*

*A highlight was recording "rock art" sites at Boles Creek, again something I had not experienced before. I also have a real soft spot for historic-period archaeology. I confess that sitting amidst a pile of old bottles and cans, measuring, describing and sketching, makes me very happy!*

*I'd like to say a big thank you to Gerry, Vicki and Debbie for hosting me on the Modoc NF. Thanks also to Larry and Michelle, the crew leaders who taught me how things are done on the Modoc. Cheers!*

## Two Building Stabilization and Restoration Plans Completed!

MOUNTAIN HERITAGE ENTERPRISE UNIT has completed and submitted two reports to help in our management of historic properties. These are for the Triangle Ranch Schoolhouse, constructed about 1912 and the Weed Valley Cabin,



constructed c. 1895. The report citations are as follows:

STEPHENS, Douglas.

2012 Triangle Ranch Schoolhouse (CA-Mod-0935H) Restoration Plan, Modoc National Forest. USDA Forest Service, Mountain Heritage Enterprise Unit, Golden, CO.

STEPHENS, Douglas and Gene Wheaton

2012 Weed Valley Cabin (CA-Mod-0902/H) Stabilization and Restoration Plan, Modoc National Forest. USDA Forest Service, Mountain Heritage Enterprise Unit, Golden, CO.

Weed Valley Cabin in 2007.

The cost estimate for the restoration of the schoolhouse is about \$17,000 and will be put into INFRA-Deferred Maintenance to try and secure the funds as the property has been designated as a Priority Heritage Asset (PHA). It also has good public access and great potential for development into an interpretive site. It represents an old fashioned “one-room schoolhouse” from the very early 20<sup>th</sup> Century in a remote rural location.

The estimated cost for the stabilization of the Weed Valley Cabin, also designated as a PHA, is about \$15,000. The cabin was never officially completed or lived in according to local stories. The builder of the cabin, a Mr. H. C. Hendricks, constructed it for his “mail-order bride” who subsequently refused to live in such a remote location. Thus, the cabin was not completed. It is said that the interior floor boards and other materials were salvaged and taken to the Avanzino Ranch for use in the buildings there. If a decision is made to go ahead with the stabilization, then this cabin may also be developed into an interpretive site emphasizing the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century homesteading and the difficulties of making a living in such a remote location.

Both of these building assessments and plans were funded through Section 110 Deferred Maintenance funding. This very valuable component of the USFS Heritage Program helps our National Forests to better “manage” our heritage resources and helps to provide opportunities for more Public interpretation of our Nation’s Heritage and History as contained within National Forests.

**WWII Era Plane Crash Recorded!** During one of our archaeological surveys for Sage Grouse Habitat Restoration our DHRD crew discovered the debris from a November 1946 plane crash – and, of course, it was on top of a prehistoric archaeological site! The wreckage is the result of a mid-air collision between two aircraft. Observed were small metal, glass, plastic and rubber pieces including portions of the fuselage and the internal mechanics; most were too crushed for easy identification. Ryan Bartholomew, Historian at Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon, provided a copy of a letter written by Barney Weaver, the pilot of one of the airplanes. The letter is to Herman Vowell, of Tulelake, and is dated January 13, 1999:

*“The first I knew of the collision was a thud behind me and my plane went into a spin. I think the 13’ prop of McGees plane hit about 6’ behind me, striking my ball turret gunner severing my control cables, and crushing my tail control surfaces. I vividly remember trying to slide my hatch back, undo my shoulder and seat belt, and call the crewmen. It was pure reaction and training that allowed me to get out”.....Barney Weaver*



## HERITAGE RESOURCES on the Modoc National Forest: A "Blast from the Past" Photo Gallery – the early 90's



**July 1990** – MDF Heritage Resource Management permanent staff and summer temporaries and volunteers: 1 – Dee Green, WMRD District Archaeologist; 2 – Russel Bevell, Arch Temp (now with URS); 3 – Curt Fair, DGRD District Archaeologist; 4 – Larry Shippen, Arch Temp (his 1<sup>st</sup> season); 5 – Lex Palmer, Forest Historian; 6 – Gerry Gates, Forest Archaeologist; 7 – Deb Zolnay (1<sup>st</sup> row), BVRD District Archaeologist; 8 – Nennekah Forrest, Student Arch Aide (Pit River Tribe); 9 – Floyd Buckskin, Arch Temp (Pit River Tribe); 10 – Kathy Pitts, Historian Temp. Not shown – Arlene Benson, DHRD District Archaeologist. Photograph by Nancy North-Gates.



**November 1991:** Vicki Adkison, GS-0193-05 Archaeologist (temp).



**November 1991:**  
Dee Green, PhD, District Archaeologist, WMRD

In **August 1994** the Supervisor's Office was relocated from Main Street to 800 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street – with a designated "Curation Facility & History Archive."



**May 1993:** Gerry Gates at the Modoc County Children's Fair showing 4<sup>th</sup> graders how our "Video-microscopy" equipment works.

**August 1993:**  
Gina Griffith and Carolyn Dillian collecting pollen samples in the WMRD.



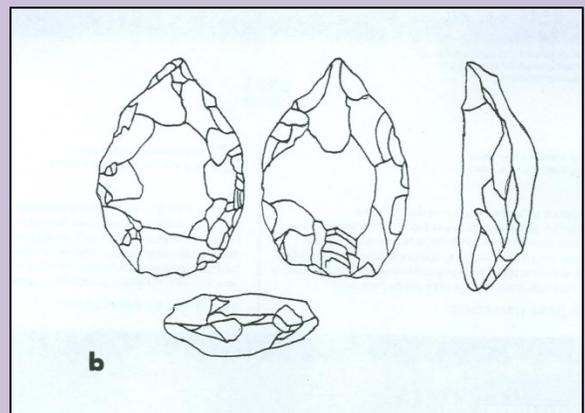
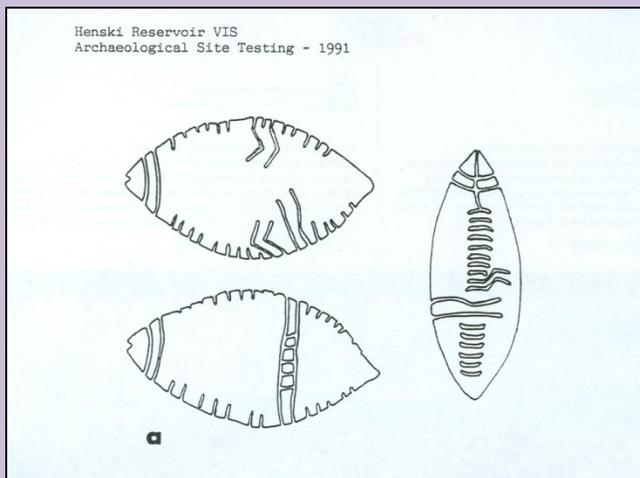
(Gina is the Assistant Forest Archaeologist on the San Berdu!)

## SUPPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

This past fiscal year our Heritage Resource Management program has facilitated four different research efforts in the archaeology of the Modoc National Forest area. Two of these involve working with the Klamath Tribes – one with the issuance of a Special Use Permit to undertake the site recording of archaeological sites associated with the Ruby Pipeline Project that were recorded in Oregon up to the California state line. The SUP will allow the Klamath Tribes archaeologists to record those portions in California on the Modoc National Forest. Several of these sites have rock features, such as “rock stacks” and alignments of these stacks. The second related research effort involves the Klamath Tribes contracting with Far Western Anthropological Research Group to undertake a “scientific study” of rock stack features and related features. As part of this effort members of FWARG were taken out into the field in the Boles Creek area to show them the range of types of these feature common in that area and to help identify such feature that may have been constructed by Mother Nature over the centuries.

We have also loaned a curated collection to Niles Reynolds, a graduate student in Museum Studies at California State University-Chico, to use for his Master’s Thesis. The archaeological collection from our Fender Flat Archaeological District primarily consists of materials collected as part of our evaluation of the Upper Ross Quarry (FS-05-09-53-0051; CA-Mod-0413) – a major obsidian quarry/workshop of Sugar Hill geochemical obsidian. The thesis will center on the use of curated archaeological collections and how those collections may be used for research purposes. Interestingly, Niles was a student at Modoc High School in 2004-2005 when he helped with the archaeological investigations for the original project. It has now come full circle and the data he helped to collect will now be used for his Master’s degree. His thesis is expected to be completed by June of 2013.

Lastly, in September visiting archaeologists Robert York and Gigi York were provided access to a collection of curated “bipointed stones” in our facility. The York’s are the authors of *Slings & Slingstones: The Forgotten Weapons of Oceania and the Americas* (Kent State University Press, 2011). The bipointed stones in our collection were very similar to those illustrated in their book and do look like slingstones from elsewhere. These stones have been variously called lemon-shaped stones, football shaped stones, gaming stones, charm stones, and even bolas stones. The Modoc NF collection contains stones that were chipped into shape and nicely ground into shape, plus some that were primarily natural in shape but enhanced through grinding to bring them into the appropriate form. One of the more interesting ground stones was also incised and could be seen as a “fish effigy” of sorts. It appears to be made out of a greenstone, possibly a serpentine a non-local material.



Above: A “chipped” bipointed stone of basalt.

Left: The bipointed stone with incising – possible “fish effigy” of serpentine.

Other collections from the Modoc National Forest Curation Facility remain on loan to the University of California-Merced and are used as a teaching collection in the Lithic Technology classes taught by Dr. Kathleen Hull, and now, too, a collection at University of California, Berkeley under Dr. Robert David (a Klamath Tribal member).

We hope to be able to continue our collaboration with college and university students to provide opportunities for research that may be useful for thesis and dissertation topics. As noted in the previous article on the Boles Creek Archaeological District we are establishing collections for research into utilized flakes or “expedient tools” and rock features and rock art. A presentation on this topic will be presented at the Great Basin Anthropological Association Conference in October at South Lake Tahoe/Stateline, Nevada.

**35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Forest Archaeologist  
Gerry Gates on the Modoc National Forest!  
August 16, 1977 – August 16<sup>th</sup> 2012**



**September 1977  
Scarface Fire**



**June 2012  
Boles Creek PIT**

....35 years and still going!

**BARRY POINT FIRE DESTROYS  
TOURNQUIST CABIN!**

The Barry Point Fire started by lightning in Oregon on the Winema-Fremont NF burned southward into California onto the Modoc NF and consumed over 93,000 acres of FS and Private lands.

One of the heritage resources lost as a result of the fire was the little Tournquist Cabin, recorded as FS-05-09-55-1640H (CA-Mod-####H). The cabin site was monitored and re-recorded in June 2012 as part monitoring the Beaver Dam Range Allotment and described as “collapsed and no remaining roof. The logs appear to be hand-hewn, with the base log whole. The east wall is 4 logs in height and 11 ft. 7 in. long (minus the door frame). The west wall is 3 logs in height and 12 ft. long. The south wall is 3 logs in height and 11 ft. 11 in. long. The north wall is 4 logs in height and 10 ft. 1 in. long. The tallest wall is 4 ft. 6 in in height, at the northeast corner of the cabin. Measuring diagonally from the NE to the SW corners is 14 ft. 9 in. and from the SE to the NW corners is 15 ft. 7 in. At the south and west end the wall logs have tumbled down. Eighteen round nails were found in the milled lumber door frame; 6 in. length and 2 in. length. One square nail was found embedded in a wall log. There are two land claims not far from the cabin location. Alfred Tournquist filed a State Patent for two parcels in May 23, 1903; the claim was patented December 17, 1913. Tournquist Spring is named for him. J.H. Stewart filed a State Patent claim on November 8, 1906; the claim was patented March 16, 1919. This claim is the nearest at about ¼ mile to the northeast. All three of these parcels are currently private.”



**Tournquist Cabin before and after the fire.**



# NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL INTERPRETIVE SIGNS PURCHASED!

This past summer the Heritage Resources Program was able to design and purchase three interpretive signs thanks to funding secured from the Regional Office. The funding is in CMTL, or trails dollars, but are specifically allocated for sites and resources associated with the "National Historic Trails System." Installation of the signs will take place this Fall.

Two signs will be installed along the 1846 and 1853 portions of the Applegate Trail. The 1853 segment was just relocated and recorded during the 2011 field season by our Section 110 Crew, again funded by NHT funds from the RO. The third sign will be placed above the big bend of the Pit River along the route of the 1848 Lassen Trail.

The Applegate Trail is unusual in that it was actually blazed from West to East. The Applegate brothers, Jesse and Lindsey had come to Oregon Territory via the old Oregon Trail and down the Columbia River – where family members were drowned. In order to make a safer route to Oregon the Applegate brothers along with Levi Scott, pioneered their route from the Willamette Valley southward into California and then eastward to Nevada and up to Ft. Hall in Idaho Territory. This route became known as the "South Road to Oregon."

**APPLEGATE TRAIL** part of the **OREGON TRAIL NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL SYSTEM**

This is the location of the junction of the original 1846 route of the Applegate Trail and the 1853 realignment of the trail as laid out by road engineers from Siskiyou County. The original route goes due east from this point and its traces are no longer visible. The route continues westward as FS Rd 46N05A to Green Tank and Fletcher Creek. The 1853 route goes southward for 0.3 mile as a still visible but very eroded trace. It then continues southward for about 5 miles as FS Rd 46N02, where it turns eastward into Goose Lake Valley.




**Modoc National Forest**

**APPLEGATE TRAIL** part of the **OREGON TRAIL NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL SYSTEM**

This is the location where the 1853 realignment of the trail as laid out by road engineers from Siskiyou County turns eastward into Goose Lake Valley. It coincides with FS Rd 46N02E. This 1853 route continues northward as FS Rd 46N02 to its junction with FS Rd 46N05 and the original 1846 trail route. Continuing southward on FS Rd 46N02 is the route of the 1867 military constructed road from Fort Bidwell, in Surprise Valley, to Fort Crook, in the Fall River Valley, about 90 miles west. This route was used as a major freight route throughout the latter part of the 19th Century.




**Modoc National Forest**

**LASSEN TRAIL** part of the **CALIFORNIA TRAIL NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL SYSTEM**

This trail was blazed by Peter Lassen in 1848. This is where the Lassen Trail enters the Pit River canyon heading southward towards Hanging Rock. The trail makes multiple crossings of the river over only two miles. The rough passage was noted in many emigrant diaries. At Hanging Rock the trail left the canyon and made a steep ascent up and around this obstacle. Today, there is a foot trail along the west side of the river to Hanging Rock.




**Modoc National Forest**

The Applegate Trail crosses through three ranger districts – Warner Mountain RD, Devil’s Garden RD and Doublehead RD. We hope to be able to place more interpretive signs along the route in coming years.

The signs were produced by *Wood Product Signs* located in Colorado. Each sign is 48 inches in width by 36 inches in height and consist of a digital graphic decal on 3/4 inch HDO plywood.



**Please enjoy, but do not destroy your American heritage!**

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