

# THE DEBITAGE

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

The Official Newsletter of the Modoc National Forest Heritage Program

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## Special points of interest:

- Student Volunteer program since 1978. Hosted one student in 2013.
- Passport in Time since 1991. Three PIT projects completed in Summer 2013.
- International Volunteer Program inaugurated in 1992.

### Also during the FY-13 field season:

- 1,336 volunteer hours were contributed to the Heritage Program.
- MDF crews recorded, re-recorded, updated, monitored or re-flagged 204 archaeological and historic sites.
- 200+ site records were sent to CSU-Chico for trinomial assignments (including backlog site records).

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## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Forest Archaeologist Position!

August of 2014 will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the **first** Forest Archaeologist hired on a US National Forest in the United States. That was Michael J. Boynton (right) in August of 1974 on the Modoc National Forest! Mike Boynton was a recent graduate with his Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology from California State University, Chico. This first position was filled through the old Civil Service system in which applicants had to take the "Civil Service Exam." As noted in previous issues of *The Debitage*, Donald Miller, the first Regional



Archaeologist in the USFS was so impressed with the archaeology on the Modoc after his three visits to it in 1971-1973 that it became his highest priority to get an archaeologist hired and in place. Boynton moved on in 1977 to establish an archaeological program on the Mendocino National Forest, and later transferred to Region 6. A hand-written management objectives note to Boynton from Don Miller noted that the Modoc NF had about 1,630 archaeological sites recorded – BVRD had 30, DGRD had 160, DHRD had 840 (primarily from the 1971 University of Nevada-Reno survey led by Don Hardesty – the **first** archaeological survey contract let in the Region), and the WMRD had 60 sites. From this data Miller predicted that the Modoc should contain about 33,025 archaeological sites.

Not bad for that early data! Today, with 40 years of inventory and over 8,200 sites recorded our current prediction for the total number of archaeological sites on the forest is about 35,000 to 40,000! This number places the Modoc NF in the top 10 US National Forests in quantity of archaeological sites located and recorded.

This August the Heritage Resource Management Program on the Modoc will be hosting an "Open House" and a celebration of 40 years of "Cultural Resource Management" on the Forest. There will be more information on this event in the June issue of *The Debitage* and on the Modoc National Forest website.

We hope to see you there!

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Stories (cont'd)



Archaeology and timber sale preparation were subjects discussed by (l to r) Dick Hanes, Modoc Soil Scientist; Gordon Sanford, Div. of Recreation, WO; Dick Lund, Modoc TMO; and Bill McBain, Devil's Garden RD, TMA.

### WO RECREATION MAN VISITS MODOC NF

Gordon Sanford of the Washington Office, Div. of Recreation, recently met with Modoc National Forest Timber Management Officer, Dick Lund; Soil Scientist, Dick Hanes; and Devil's Garden RD TMA, Bill McBain, on the subject of archaeology and timber sale preparation.

Regional Archaeologist Don Miller brought Gordon along for a review of the Modoc's Cultural Resources Program. The Modoc's program was expanded this summer by the employment of Richard Hughes, archaeologist, and Amy Foster, student assistant, who have been involved in site inventory and historic registration.

Gordon's interest in on-site examination and appreciation of the job the field has to do, was gratifying to the Modoc employees involved in management problems and the realization of the need for closer cooperation between all levels of the Forest Service.



## ARCHAEOLOGISTS ON THE MODOC



Archaeologist Richard Hughes & Amy Foster

The Modoc National Forest's program of protecting historical features and the prehistoric remains of three Native American groups--the Achomawi, Modoc, and Northern Paiute Indians --was bolstered by the seasonal employment of Richard Hughes, Archaeologist, and Amy Foster, Student Assistant.

The national increase in use of the outdoors, coupled with the accelerated development of public lands, has multiplied the chance for damage and destruction of extremely fragile and non-renewable historic and prehistoric sites. Awareness of this trend, and its accompanying impact, has resulted in statutes which require protection of these fragile resources. Public pressure has developed, urging land-managing agencies to do a better job of protecting sites on public lands. When investigated scientifically, these sites can contribute to the understanding of world-wide human cultural systems.

Hughes is a graduate of California State University, Sonoma. For the past three years, Richard has been working on the Goose Lake Basin Archaeological Project supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. It concerned the archaeological reconstruction of the adaptive pattern of the peoples who inhabited the Goose Lake Basin in the prehistoric period.

Amy Foster from Shasta College, Redding, has been assisting Hughes with the location and recording of cultural resource data on the Forest.

Articles from the *California Log* October 19, 1973 (l) and December 21, 1973 (r).

**1971:** First "Regional Archaeologist", Don Miller (l) and Dewey Risconi (r), DHRD-TMO, at Mason's Camp, a Modoc War (1872-1873) site. The Modoc NF was the first Forest visited by the Regional Archaeologist -- and he would visit it two more times prior to hiring the first Forest Archaeologist.

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Stories (cont'd)

### CULTURAL RESOURCES TRAINING

The first phase of a Forest-wide program to increase the protection and interpretation of thousands of archaeological sites was completed on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, March 27-30. The training of District personnel in the identification and description of archaeological sites and the preparation of a Cultural Resource Action Plan for their Districts were the two major projects offered to the 21 District trainees.

Three persons from each District and the SO, attended the sessions. These people will be responsible for survey and inventory work in the future. Dick Mooring from the Lassen NF; Susan Linstrom, Truckee RD, Tahoe NF; and Bob Faye, BLM Area Manager of the Four Rivers Resource Area, also attended the session. Dick Marlow of the Modoc NF videotaped key presentations for use in future training on that Forest.

Evaluations turned in by participants indicate that the training was considered informative in providing the tools for archaeological site discovery and inventory, and in stimulating professional and personal awareness of cultural resources as non-renewable fragile components of the Forest environment.

This was the first Forest organized training session of this kind held in Region 5. The session was organized by Barbara Johnston, VIS specialist on the Shasta Lake RD, as a follow-up to the Happy Camp archaeology school held last summer. Don Miller, Regional Archaeologist,

Dick Hanes of the Modoc, George Liddicoatt, Bob Tribble, and Garth Jeffers of the Shasta-Trinity, helped Barbara put together the session which consisted of one day of site surveying practice in the field and two days of discussions and lectures. Out-of-service archaeologists, Ed Clewett of Shasta College and Mike Boynton of the University of California at Chico, contributed to the session along with Shasta College historian, Ed Peterson.



FS personnel investigating surface phenomenon during the first Cultural Resources Training session in R-5 on the Shasta-Trinity NF.

Article from the *California Log* August 8, 1973

## **A Valentines Event – Help Identify People, Places and Things!**

During the recent move from the old Supervisor's Office into the new one a couple of boxes of unlabeled, not quite "historic" photographs from the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century were retained by the Heritage Program. These photographs, from the Public Affairs files, date to the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s and were taken by various photographers both within the old Supervisor's Office on Main Street and the more recent one on Highway 299/12<sup>th</sup> Street, as well as out in the woods.

Before too much more time passes and memories fade, we would like to invite current and former Modoc National Forest employees and the local public to come to the new Supervisor's Office located at 225 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. The event will be from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the Conference Room. So please come and help us identify the people in the photos and any other pertinent information about them. These photographs are a part of the recent "history" of the Modoc National Forest and its employees – let's not let the memories fade!

The properly identified and labeled photographs will then be curated in the History Archive section of the Modoc National Forest Curation Facility.

The event will be hosted by the Heritage Resources staff. There will be coffee, tea, punch, and goodies to keep you refreshed while you go through a few hundred photographs.

For more information please contact Gerry Gates at (530) 233-8730.

# The 38th Annual Meeting

*of a group composed of archaeologists, historians, museum professionals, librarians, and Native Americans from northern California and southern Oregon. The group meets each year to share ideas from our common territory, which crosses the California/Oregon state line.*

***Archaeology, history, and more...***

**Thursday-Saturday - May 1-3, 2014**

**Alturas, California**

This year the group will meet in the town of Alturas, and your hosts are Gerry Gates (Modoc National Forest Archaeologist) and Jack Scott and Jennifer Rovanpera (Bureau of Land Management Alturas and Cedarville Field Office Archaeologists). We will meet at the St. Michael's Episcopal Church Hall, 310 North Street, on Thursday and Friday, May 1-3, 2014 beginning at 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Thursday and beginning again at 8:30 AM ending by 5:00 PM on Friday. There will be an optional Saturday field trip to the Logan Slough Site for folks who stay Friday night. The field trip will probably be from about 9:00 AM to Noon, weather permitting.

To get to St. Michael's Episcopal Church Hall drive north on Main Street (Hwy 395) if coming from Reno/Susanville or south on Main Street, if coming from points north (Klamath Falls or Lakeview, OR) or points west (Redding, CA) and turn west onto North Street at the Niles Theater. Drive west for three blocks, the church is on the right-hand side. Parking is open all around the church block and the adjacent vacant lot.

**CALL FOR PAPERS!** In addition to the regular "round-robin" with everyone having a chance to briefly talk about what they are doing, we encourage you to give a paper (15 minutes long); we like a variety of subjects on the prehistory, ethnography, and history for both southern Oregon and northern California. If you have never given a paper, this is the place to do it - a casual atmosphere and a great friendly group! Please submit your paper titles/topics/videos as soon as possible at [ggates@fs.fed.us](mailto:ggates@fs.fed.us).

Trudy Vaughan will send an email out to our group mailing list with the tentative agenda as the dates get closer. If you have any changes to your contact information or want to add someone to the mailing list, please contact Trudy Vaughan at [coyotefox@charter.net](mailto:coyotefox@charter.net)





First generation beer can openers (or “Church Keys”) from a circa 1930s hunters or “buckaroo” camp within a prehistoric site found during the 2013 Boles Creek archaeological survey.

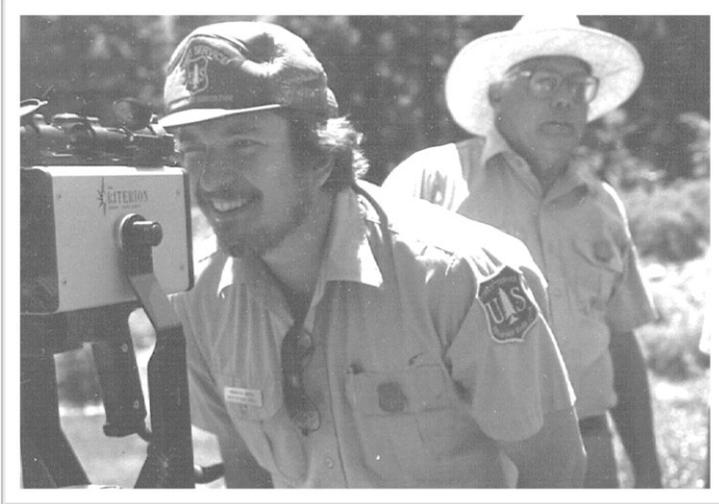
**REMEMBER!**

**NOW IS THE TIME TO ENROLL IN THE 2014 *PASSPORT IN TIME*  
BOLES CREEK ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT V  
PROJECT BY GOING TO [www.passportintime.com](http://www.passportintime.com)**

**HERITAGE RESOURCES on the Modoc National Forest:  
Photo Gallery – A Mixed Bag of Things.**



The Forest Archaeologists’ desk in 1988 (above) and in 2014 (right)...things don’t change! Natural habitat!



Forest Archaeologist Gerry Gates (l) and WM District Archaeologist Dee Green, PhD, mapping a site in 1993.



CA/OR Meeting– 2008: Jim Wolff, Patrick Brunmeier, John Hitchcock, and Joanne Mack, PhD.

**Heritage Resource Program contacts:**

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

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**Amy Foster,  
Student Assistant  
working with Richard  
Hughes recording a  
vandalized “rock ring”  
in 1973 on the DGRD.**

