

THE DEBITAGE

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

The Official Newsletter of the Modoc National Forest Heritage Program

Volume 4, Issue 1

October 2014

Special points of interest:

- Student Volunteer program since 1978. Hosting four students in 2014.
- Passport in Time since 1991. Three *PIT* projects offered in Summer 2014.
- International Volunteer Program inaugurated in 1992.

Also during the FY-14 field season:

- 1,836 volunteer hours were contributed to the Heritage Program.
- MDF crews recorded, re-recorded, updated, monitored or re-flagged 250+ archaeological and historic sites.
- 250+ site records were sent to CSU-Chico for trinomial assignments (including backlog site records).
- Heritage Program Managed to Standard – 55 points!

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INTERPRETIVE SIGNS INSTALLED!

At the very end of the Fiscal Year we were able to install two interpretive signs along a portion of the Applegate Trail! This segment of the trail is in the eastern portion of the Devil's Garden and is also an alternate route for the *California Back Country Discovery Trail*. Modoc National Forest C&M personnel, Pete Desario and Alan Northrup, travelled a very rocky road to drill the post holes in rocky soils to install the signs. A big "Thank You" goes to both of them from the Heritage Program!



Interpretive sign at the junction of the 1853 Applegate Trail and the 1867 Ft. Crook to Ft. Bidwell Military Road

The two signs are located along FS Road 46N02 and mark the locations of 1) the junction of the original 1846 route of the trail and the 1853 realignment of the road by Siskiyou County road engineers, and 2) the junction of 1853 route near where it ascends the lava rim above the west side of Goose Lake and the 1867 Military Road from Ft. Crook to Ft. Bidwell. This road combination was used well into the latter part of the 19th Century as a major freight route from points west to Surprise Valley.

Four additional interpretive signs are planned to be installed in 2015. These include one more along the Applegate Trail, one along the Lassen Trail, one along the northern portion of the Burnett Cutoff, and one near the junction of the Burnett Cutoff and the Lassen Trail. Both the Applegate Trail and the Lassen Trail are part of the National Historic Trails system. The Burnett Cutoff (or Road) connects the Applegate Trail to the Lassen Trail. It was blazed by Peter Burnett in 1848 back tracking along the Applegate Trail to Tule Lake and then southward along the 1845 route of John C. Fremont to where it joined with the Lassen Trail at the Pit River. Burnett and his Oregonians helped Peter Lassen complete the last stretch of his trail to his (con't)

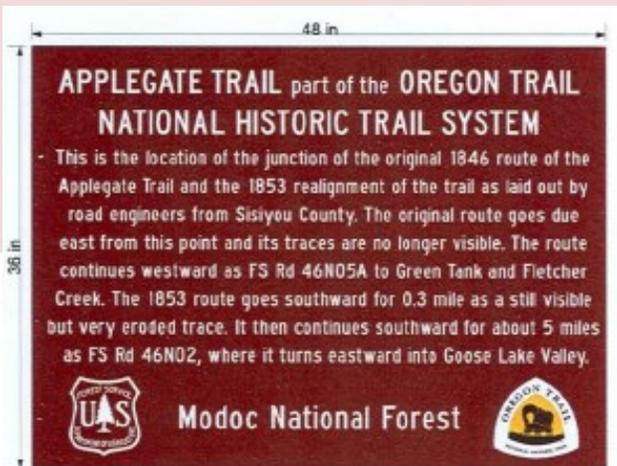
Interpretive Signs (Con't)

Northern California rancho. Peter Burnett would go on to become the first elected governor of the State of California.

Did you know that, at present, the Applegate Trail, also known as “The South Road to Oregon” - is only listed as a part of the “California Trail” National Historic Trail System? This year the Long Distance Trails Office of the National Park Service is looking into giving it dual status as officially part of the “Oregon Trail” NHT system. The Applegate brothers, Jesse and Lindsay, blazed the trail from the Willamette Valley in Oregon Territory eastward to Fort Hall, Idaho Territory in 1846. They billed it as a safer route into Oregon, bypassing the dangerous Columbia River rafting section. From its inception until the discovery of gold in California, it was used exclusively as a trail to Oregon Territory. In 1848 the Peter Burnett wagon train, from Oregon, would connect the Applegate Trail to the Lassen Trail – thus the connection to California.



Interpretive sign at the junction of the 1846 and 1853 alignments of the Applegate Trail.



Wagon Step



Hand-forged chain link

Boles Creek Archaeological Survey – Part V

Three *Passport In Time* sessions were held this past summer for the fifth year in a row. The *PIT* volunteers helped to undertake another 200 acres of inventory and record additional prehistoric and historic sites within the area of the proposed Archaeological District. The total of fifteen *PIT* volunteers contributed a total of 616 hours with an assessed dollar value of about \$23,911.00 – a very good match towards the \$10,000 in *Heritage Challenge Funds* from the Regional Office. Additionally, all three of the American Student Volunteers - Jason Field from Carmel, California, Ashleigh Sims from Fair Oaks, California and Steven Solorio from Sacramento, California, had the opportunity to help with the inventory.

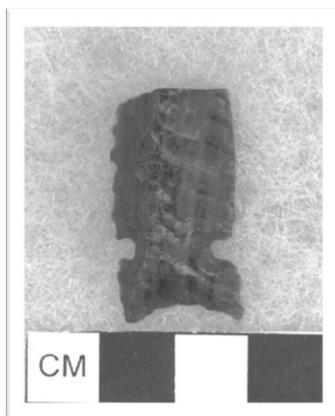
Twenty new archaeological sites were located and recorded – most had been previously within a very large, previously recorded, complex site. With many eyes to undertake a more thorough survey it has been possible to break up the “mega-site” into smaller, more manageable sites by being able to locate and verify “voids” of cultural materials between the newly recorded sites. Many “rock stacks” and hunting blinds were identified, as well as lithic scatters and possible habitation areas. This year’s survey was on the Devil’s Garden RD side.

One very unusual projectile point was found that appear to be a hybrid of a McKee Uniface and a Northern Side Notch point. These point styles are “dart” points rather than “arrowheads” and date to the Middle and Early Archaic, about 2,500 to 7,000 years ago. The point is flaked only on one side, like a McKee Uniface, but the side notches are earmarks of the earlier Northern Side Notch point style. It is made out of what appears to be Buck Mountain obsidian, from the Warner Mountains, and obsidian hydration could be used to obtain a more precise timeframe for the artifact. The basal end of a Great Basin Stemmed point was also identified on the site – this point style may date to 7,000 – 9,000 years ago or more. This is all a part of the more than 10,000 years of Native American use of the Devil’s Garden area.

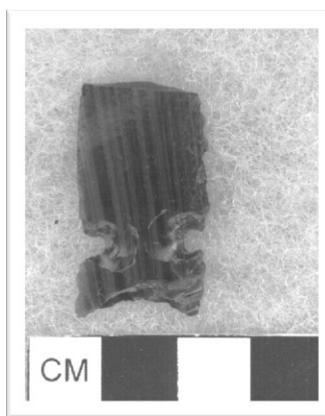
Boles Creek is within the ethnographic territory of the *Kokiwias* band of the Modoc Tribe. The Modoc tribe is a part of The Klamath Tribes headquartered out of Chiloquin, Oregon. Perry Chocktoot, Cultural Resource Protection Specialist from the Culture & Heritage branch of The Klamath Tribes assisted our Heritage Program with securing the Regional Office *Heritage Challenge Funds* for this project.

The *Passport in Time* project will continue, hopefully, with three more sessions during the summer of 2015. Information on how to apply may be found at www.passportintime in the spring of 2015.

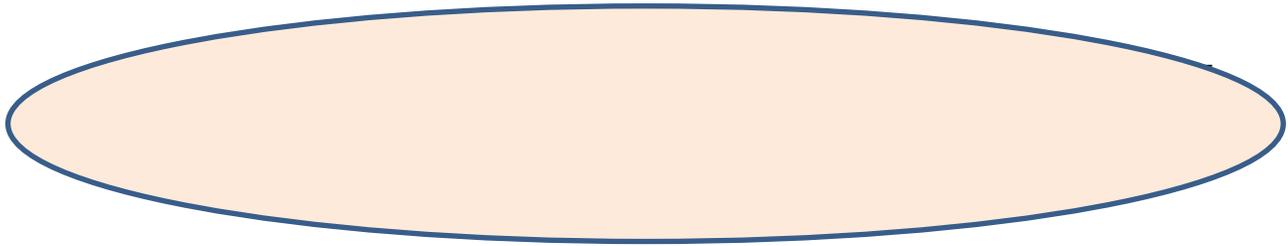
Northern Side Notch
(flaked side)



McKee Uniface
(un-flaked side)



Jess Whalen, a Boles Creek Session #2 *Passport In Time* volunteer wrote the following: ***I really want to take this opportunity to Thank You for such a wonderful and memorable experience at Boles Creek this year :) I had a fantastic time, and I really learned a lot about California archaeology, and the material culture of the Modoc National Forest. The work you are doing at Boles Creek is incredibly important to preserving the heritage of the region for future generations. I really look forward to the day when you get the area listed in the National Register!***



Update: The Archaeological Conservancy & Modoc NF

The Archaeological Conservancy has acquired a parcel of land surrounded by Modoc National Forest land that was recently reported on in their quarterly publication *american archaeology* (vol. 18, No. 1: Spring 2014).

In cooperation with the Archaeological Conservancy and MNF, volunteers have completed survey and begun analyzing data from the Fast site. Originally noted by MNF archaeologists in 1981 and formally recorded 33 years later in 2014, the cluster of sites under analysis spans both National Forest and Conservancy lands, and is believed to represent the remnants of a past ethnographic village.

Archaeological evidence suggests the village has been seasonally visited for centuries, if not millennia, and was likely used up to the turn of the 20th century as Native American peoples transitioned from traditional, semi-nomadic lifestyles to ones influenced by Western settlement, society, and landownership in the region. The project offers an opportunity to learn about Late and Terminal period land use and subsistence practices, and contact period interactions between Native American and Euro-American populations. Upon completion of the project, the site will be nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Lowell Thomas is a graduate student in Anthropology at California State University at Chico and will be using this project for his Master's Thesis.



Rock ring house structures at the village site. At least one traditional structure at this location was noted to have been standing as late as the 1930s.

The Klamath Tribes Treaty of 1864

On October 14, 1864 the treaty was signed by 27 leaders of the Klamath, Modoc, and Paiute (Yahooskin) tribes at Council Grove near Fort Klamath. The treaty granted the tribes a large reservation in Oregon, and guaranteed certain hunting, fishing, gathering, and water rights. The reservation and tribe was "terminated" by the US Congress in 1954 and much of the old reservation became the Winema NF and some went to private land ownership.

The tribe successfully fought for and regained tribal status and recognition in 1986. Today, with income from a successful casino and other sources, The Klamath Tribes are looking at regaining some of their former reservation lands. Ancestral Modoc tribal territory cover the northern third of the Modoc NF.



Notice anything odd about this Juniper? It's not shrubby. Monty Pythonesque!

Photos from the Modoc NF Historic Photograph Collection...Range Conditions 90+ years ago!

BVRD



A 6BrGr type on the Rocky Prairie sheep range. Such types as this are closely utilized by both sheep and C&H, both classes of stock being found on the range at the same time.

BVRD



A 7 Br (Manzanita) type on east slope of ridge above Sweigert Flat. "Rocky" signal in background. Drainage flows down Canyon Creek.

From: Smith, Leland S.

c. 1920 RANGE MANAGEMENT: Views of Ranges Showing Cover Types – General Views of Allotments (Book A). Modoc NF, Supervisor's Office, Heritage Resource Management, History Archive.

**HERITAGE RESOURCES on the Modoc National Forest:
Photo Gallery – Art in Archaeology...Native & Basque.**



“Rock Art” from the upper portions of Boles Creek on the Doublehead Ranger District within Modoc tribal territory.



Basque “Aspen Art” from the Warner Mountain RD.

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



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