THE DEBITAGE

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

The Official Newsletter of the Modoc National Forest Heritage Program

Volume 1, Issue 1 October 2011

Special points of interest:

- Student Volunteer program since 1978.
- Passport in Time since 1991. Three PIT projects were hosted in FY-11.
- International Volunteer Program inaugurated in 1992.
- During the FY-11 field season over 2,000 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 more archaeological and historic sites.
- During FY-11 over 340 site records were sent to CSU-Chico.

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The Boles Creek Archaeological District Passport in Time Projects - 2011

This was the second season for the continuing Boles Creek Archaeological District and its *Passport in Time* opportunities for the public. The 2010 field season saw two *PIT* projects at Boles Creek with a total of 13 participants. The three 2011 *PIT* projects also had a total of 13 combined participants This Section 110 project is being funded through Regional Office "challenge funding" with the end goal of locating and recording the numerous prehistoric archaeological sites along Boles Creek in the Devil's Garden. This information will then be used to undertake an "archaeological district" determination of eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places.

The archaeological sites in this area include features such as rock rings, rock stacks, rock alignments, hunting blinds, and rock art – petroglyph and pictograph sites – associated with the Boles Creek riparian area, its canyon and lava rims.

We hope to successfully compete for 2012 challenge funds and offer three *PIT* opportunities to continue our inventory of this very interesting area. The *PIT* offerings will most likely be in July and August next year. Go to www.passportintime.com for more information.

Ray Charland wrote of his 2011 *PIT* experience: "*I've been enjoying starting to go through my pictures, plus re-reading the handouts you provided. Thanks so much for all you did to make our experience a good one, from the valuable time in the "classroom" on Monday morning, to the site overview, and then doing the work together. It was a good experience, and I learned a lot."*

Of note so far are the numerous "rock stacks" that have been identified, plotted and photographed. This type of feature presents an interesting challenge in trying to assign a relative age or date of their construction. At present, it appears that there may be two possible lines of investigation. One is the nature and amount of "lichen growth" associated with the contact zone between the stacked rock and the base rock. The second approach may be in the amount of "bleaching" that has occurred at the "contact zone" underlying the stacked rock – the dark natural patina, or desert varnish, covering the base rock significantly lightens, or "bleaches" out, with time. The dating of the rock stacks is important in order to identify how long an area has been used for this purpose, whether or not some stacks are older or younger, and some constructed about the same time – that may be in "alignments" of some type. This is a type of research project that may be pursued by a graduate student for a Master's thesis subject at some time in the future.

This type of feature is culturally important to the Klamath Tribes and to the Pit River Tribe. We look forward to working with tribal members to help assist us with interpreting these types of features and planning for their long-term management.
(See photos on Page 2.)

AMERICAN STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM – 2011

The Forest Archaeologist participated in an organized session at the annual meeting of the Society for California Archaeology in March of 2011. This session was designed to inform college and university students of employment and volunteer opportunities in the world of Cultural Resource Management. Over a dozen students signed up to receive more information and volunteer applications via e-mail. Three of these students eventually were selected to participate in the student volunteer placement program on the Modoc National Forest. This volunteer program has been in place since 1978 on the Forest. It has resulted in the placement of over 100 students since then, providing them with needed "on-the-job" training and experience and contributing thousands of volunteer hours to the Heritage Program.

Our long-term volunteer program, with a minimum of a 4 week placement, provides free housing in FS barracks and $140 in weekly per diem paid via DirectDeposit from ASC after the submittal of a "Request for Reimbursement". These long-term volunteers are signed up through ASC as "vendors" so that they may receive the reimbursements. We have had long-term American student volunteers stay as long as six months.

This year the students selected were KIRSTIE BILBREY from the University of California at Santa Cruz, SHANNON GUENTHNER from San Francisco State University, SUSAN LANE from California State University at Chico, and ED NAGEL from Cabrillo Community College.

KIRSTIE volunteered for four weeks in June with our Section 110 crew, Terry Ernsberger and Jim White, undertaking an inventory of 200 acres of FS land adjacent to a private land in-holding. Eighteen archaeological and historic site were located and recorded – including six with Native American "rock art" and one very unusual historc Forest Service "petroglyph" of the FS shield, the initials "C O B" and a date of 1922.

In July, Kirstie was replaced by SHANNON, who continued to work with our Section 110 crew continuing our Boles Creek Archaeological District inventory started in 2010. This project hosted three *Passport in Time* volunteer projects in 2011. A participant in all three *PIT* projects as a volunteer was ED NAGEL. Ed was provided free barracks housing and was also signed up as a "Student Volunteer" so that he could stay and assist our Section 110 crew in the intervening weeks between the *PIT* projects. Both Shannon and Ed left at the end of August after contributing more than 600 volunteer hours. Shannon went on to a paid archaeological job with a private consulting company and Ed back to more college courses.

SUSAN started the first week of June and continued through the end of September, contributing over 640 volunteer hours. Her assignment for on-the-job training was working with a Section 106 crew undertaking archaeological surveys for four projects designed to help restore the Sage-Steppe Ecosystem and habitat for Sage Grouse through juniper removal. The implementation of these projects is funded through Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) grants to Range Permittees and the required archaeological surveys through local Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) funding. Collectively these four projects will help to treat over 5,000 acres within this ecosystem.

The Modoc NF Heritage Program will continue to recruit and place American Student volunteers for the 2012 summer field season. This program has been a great "win-win" proposition for over three decades on the MDF.

BOLES CREEK ROCK STACKS:

Double rock stack.

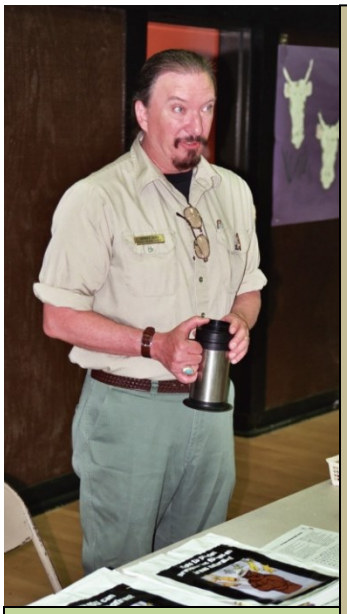
Bleaching.

Single rock stack.

Who We Are

Gerry Gates

Heritage Program Manager



Gerry mans a booth at the Annual Modoc County Children's Fair in May 2011.

GERRY received both his bachelor's (1973) and master's (1978) degrees from California State University, Northridge in Anthropology with emphasis in Archaeology. His master's thesis entitled *From Dons to Dams: The Van Norman Reservoir Archaeological Complex, 1972-1975* may even prove useful in the upcoming removal of dams along the Klamath River, as part of it studied sites that had been inundated for over 60 years. He has been the Forest Archaeologist/Heritage Resource Program Manager on the Modoc National Forest in the NE corner of the state since 1977. His interest areas are in historic and prehistoric archaeology as a "jack of all trades and master of none." He has had the opportunities to work on emigrant trails, Modoc War sites, rock art, rock rings, rock alignments, and "small prehistoric foraging and logistic locations." On the latter, he collected data for and authored *A Thematic Evaluation of Small Prehistoric Foraging and Logistic Locations on a Portion of the Modoc Plateau of Northeastern California* (2007) under which over 300 sites have been determined eligible for the NRHP. He has hosted dozens and dozens of American and International volunteers over the years. He had two presentations on the archaeology of the Modoc War (1872-1873) given at the *First International Conference on Battlefield Archaeology* held at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, in 2000. He was honored to be awarded the 2011 "Jeffersonian Award" by the State of Jefferson archaeological group at this year's annual meeting. He continues to find the archaeology on the Modoc NF interesting and fun after nearly 35 years, so retirement is still a few years away. Contact: ggates@fs.fed.us.

Vicki Adkison

Sec. 106 Compliance archaeologist

VICKI began working at the Modoc National Forest in 1986 as on the American Student Volunteer Program in the Cultural (now Heritage) Resources Program. Back then volunteers got a whopping $70.00 in weekly per diem and free housing in the FS barracks in Alturas. After recovering from that, she began working in 1988 as a seasonal archaeological technician, then seasonal archaeologist on various temporary employment hiring authorities. She earned her undergraduate degree in Archaeology at the University of Texas at Austin in 1989. Other than a few seasons on other National Forests in Southern California and Alaska, she worked each season at the Modoc until 2002, when she accepted a SCEP appointment. She did her graduate work in History/Humanities at California State University-Dominguez Hills and wrote her Master's thesis (2006) about historic settlement patterns on the Devil's Garden. Her thesis is entitled *The Worst Piece of Rocky Country on Top of Ground: Settlement Attempts on the Devil's Garden of Northeastern California.*

She is now the Section 106 Compliance Archaeologist, supervising the seasonal archaeological survey crews for project related work, does the pre-field background records search, and writes up the project reports. Modoc National Forest Heritage Program produces an average of 20% of all of the archaeological sites recorded annually in the Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5).

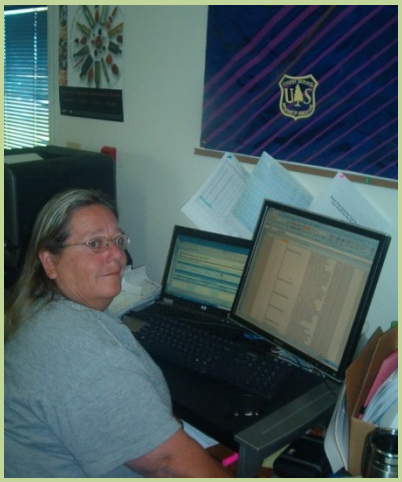
Contact: vadkison@fs.fed.us.

Who We Are (continued)

Deborah Zolnay

GIS/INFRA Heritage Database Manager

DEBBIE received her BA in Anthropology and Geology from Case Western Reserve University in 1980 and attended graduate school at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis while working as a seasonal archaeological technician on the Sierra National Forest in 1980. After three years working seasonally on the Sierra NF she became a permanent FS employee in 1984 in a clerical position and the was hired as a GS-0193-07 Archaeologist on the Sequoia National Forest as the Greenhorn RD district archaeologist. She transferred to the Modoc National Forest in 1990 as a GS-0193-09 District Archaeologist for the Big Valley Ranger District.



After a Heritage Program reorganization in 2000 she became the Zone Archaeologist for the Big Valley and Doublehead Ranger Districts. She is now the GIS/INFRA Heritage Database Manager. In this position she supervises one seasonal INFRA Support Person (Michelle Fuller). She manages GIS/INFRA data bases of over 7,400 sites, edits and enters an average of about 20% of the new site records, updated site records, monitor records, and GIS spatial data in Region 5 on an annual basis. This is a tremendous workload that is not greatly facilitated by our government computers – and the Fiscal year-end push to get all of the "widgets" into INFRA is an annual Olympic event!

Contact: dzolnay@fs.fed.us.

Did you know that the Modoc National Forest was the FIRST forest in the Nation to hire a permanent Forest Archaeologist? That was Michael J. Boynton in August of 1974 as a GS-0193-09.

Anna Borthwick was hired as, what we believe to be, the first GS-1421-05 Archive Technician in the Forest Service! It took six weeks of trying to get a PD together for this series so that we actually had a Position Description that matched the work to be done in our Forests' Curation Facility and History Archive. The STEP hiring authority was used to hire Anna to work with our holdings in the History Archive. She organized our backlog materials, encapsulated historic documents and records, updated the History Archive Catalog, and created a "user friendly" and searchable spreadsheet of the archives' holdings. This position was funded out of Regional "Deferred Maintenance" funds.

Anna graduated from California State University-Chico with a degree in History, specializing in public history and historic records. After her work period on the Modoc she left to attend graduate school at the University of Oregon and is working on a Master's degree in Historic Preservation, with an emphasis in historic documents and archives. After arriving at grad school Anna e-mailed saying: *"I just wanted to say thank you again for the archive technician position this summer. I learned a great deal and was able to utilize what I had learned as an undergraduate."* We hope to have her back in our History Archive next year if funding permits.

Curation Facility Compact Storage System

Historic Evaluations and Planning in FY-2011

This year saw several evaluations for the National Register of Historic Places for historic era properties. The Forest contracted with HERITAGE STEWARDSHIP GROUP (HSG), an Enterprise Unit, to undertake a determination of eligibility for the one Recreation Residence Tract on the Modoc National Forest. This tract, located on the Doublehead Ranger District, is known as the *Little Medicine Lake Summer Home Tract* and consists of three cabins and out buildings. The original cabin structures were barracks at the WWII Tulelake Japanese Internment Camp, now a part of the new "Valor in the Pacific" National Monument. After the camp closed the buildings were sold to local people. Most of the sold buildings ended up as homes for settlers in the Tulelake Basin. These three, however, ended up in the Medicine Lake Highlands.

The HSG report (Kline 2011) states that all of the structures within the Little Medicine Lake Summer Home Tract maintain integrity, embody a rustic vernacular character within a natural forest setting, and collectively convey the development of historic summer home sites in northern California forests. Following a discussion of their architectural descriptions, alterations, and historic context HSG goes on to say that this summer home tract demonstrates that the cabins of this tract are individually eligible under Criteria A and C. Additionally, the tract is eligible as a Historic District with the three cabins and two associated outbuildings as contributing features. The period of significance for this tract is 1948-1960, the historic time period when the owners/permit holders constructed and first occupied the summer home cabins.

MOUNTAIN HERITAGE ENTERPRISE UNIT completed *Prober's Cabin (CA-Mod-1957/H) Restoration Plan Modoc National Forest* (Stephens 2011b). Doug Stephens examined the very deteriorated cabin, constructed in the 1920s as a range cabin for "buckaroos". Doug put together costs for the stabilization of the structure and for complete restoration of the structure for potential development into a rental cabin. At present our goal is to stabilize the cabin for future public interpretation.

MOUNTAIN HERITAGE also completed the *US Forest Service Tulelake Residential Compound Evaluation for Eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places* (Stephens 2011a) determining that, due to major alterations and loss of integrity over the years, the buildings and compound were not eligible for the NRHP. The first office and support buildings at the compound were built in the 1940s and then the two residential houses in the late 1950s.

GERRY GATES compiled a massive archaeological site record (62 pages including an overall site location map created by satellite imagery!) for "Carr's Wall" (FS-05-09-56-0036H; CA-Mod-1129H) on the Doublehead Ranger District. This 33.2 mile long linear feature was constructed between 1875 and 1882 by Chinese, Scandinavian, and Portuguese laborers for cattle baron Jesse D. Carr. The wall, around Clear (Wright) Lake, enclosed some 58,000 acres of public range land. Portions of the stone wall enter into the lake bed, and were probably extended by barbed wire fences in periods of low water. The methods used in construction included high lava rock wall, low rock wall with wooden posts and two strands of new-fangled barbed wire, barbed wire strung to fence posts (with or without rock post supports), cut junipers laid end to end ("brush fence"), and natural terrain features such as the lava rims above the Lost River, Willow Creek and Boles Creek. Eventually, Carr was forced to have the wall breached – after over two decades in the courts – and open the lands back as public grazing lands. The California SHPO concurred with our determination that Carr's Wall was eligible for the NRHP under criterion A, B and D.

"Chipmunks hide in the crevices and rattlesnakes sun on the old rock walls…where, when the moon is full, a pig-tailed boy from Canton, China runs atop the stones, now falling and scattered on the juniper flats."

(Buena Stone notes, an item in Klamath Falls Herald and News July 1, 1956 by Alex Zevely as told to Ruth King.)

HERITAGE RESOURCES on the Modoc National Forest

The Modoc National Forest, as does the general Modoc County area, contains over 10,000 years of human occupation – numerous archaeological sites illustrating the activities and lifeways of its native inhabitants, up to vestiges left behind by Euro-American fur trappers, explorers, emigrants and settlers. All of these places, these "Heritage Resources," tell the story of those who came before us and how we came to be who we are today.

No one today knows the names of the first Indian groups to enter and settle in the Modoc County area, but over time these early folks became the Native American tribes that still occupy the area today: the Modoc, the Pit River or Achomawi, and the Northern Paiute. All three of these groups led a "hunter & gatherer" lifestyle, that is, they subsisted off of the natural foods available to them – wild game, fish and fowl, and edible plants. All of these food resources they hunted and gathered on an annual cycle from the lakes, rivers, wetlands, mountains, plateaus, and valleys of the area. Winters were spent in main village locations where collected food was stockpiled. During most of the spring, summer, and fall, these people roamed across their territories systematically harvesting wild plant and animal resources as they became available. They used natural "tool stone" such as obsidian to make knives, spear points and arrow points, and basalt to make plant grinding/processing tools such as metates and manos and mortars and pestles. Their winter villages usually had substantial semi-subterranean houses to keep them warm, and used temporary shelters, some with "rock rings" for foundations, for their seasonal round collecting food stuffs. In some places these folks made "rock art" – petroglyphs (rock carvings) or pictographs (rock paintings), and rock stacks or cairns. Some of these locations were special places where they might wish for luck or pray for good hunting, or other things.

A house structure "rock ring" foundation from the Devil's Garden

Starting in 1826 Euro-Americans entered the Modoc County area. The first were fur trappers and explorers for the Hudson's Bay Company and the young United States; these were followed by emigrants – settlers heading to Oregon along the Applegate Trail in 1846, and settlers and gold miners heading to California along the Lassen Trail in 1848-1849. Vestiges of these early emigrant trails are still visible across the area, part of the Emigrant Trails Scenic Byway and marked by the Oregon-California Trails Association. In 1872-1873 the Modoc War took place in the vicinity of Tule Lake and the current Lava Beds National Monument. Here the Modoc leader, Captain Jack, and about 57 warriors, kept the US military at bay for several months in the rough lava country. General E.R.S. Canby was killed during the conflict – the only regular Army general ever killed during the 19th century period of Indian Wars.

The Modoc National Forest was first established as the Modoc Forest Reserve and the Warner Mountain Forest Reserve in 1904 – these were combined in 1908 into the present forest.

Please enjoy, but do not destroy your American heritage!

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Rock Art (petroglyphs) in the Devil's Garden area.