

THE DEBITAGE

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

The Official Newsletter of the Modoc National Forest Heritage Program

Volume 4, Issue 3

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Special points of interest:

- Student Volunteer program since 1978. Hosting two students in 2015.
- Passport in Time since 1991. Three *PIT* projects offered in Summer 2015.

So far during the FY-15 field season:

- 1,176+ volunteer hours were contributed to the Heritage Program.
- MDF crews recorded, re-recorded, updated, monitored or re-flagged 150+ archaeological and historic sites.
- 150+ site records were sent to CSU-Chico for trinomial assignments (including backlog site records).
- Heritage Program Managed to Standard – expect 60 points to be reached!



25th Anniversary of *Passport in Time*

Newsletter Special Tribute

Boles Creek Archaeological District VI

This is the 25th Anniversary of the *Passport in Time* program in the Forest Service and all 2015 *PIT* volunteers will be given a special 25th Anniversary *PIT* pin modelled after an original Forest Reserve officers' badge.



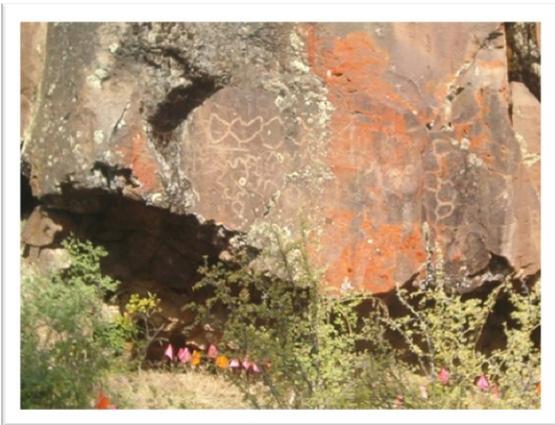
L-R: Slate Coffee, Arch Tech; Brooke Harder, Student Volunteer; Scott Jones, Student Volunteer; Dan Murray, PIT; Jacob Duncan, PIT; Patrick Allen, PIT; Cliff Evans, PIT; Todd Provancha, PIT; Sophia Provancha, PIT; Gerry Gates, Forest Arch; Brian Williams, PIT.

This field season marks the sixth year of archaeological inventories along Boles Creek using *Passport in Time* volunteers. The first session was June 22-26 and was attended by seven *PIT* volunteers and two American Student Volunteers.

The *PIT* volunteers braved “No-see-ums” and very hot temperatures while surveying for archaeological sites. As promised in the advertisement for this project the *PIT* crew encountered and recorded “rock rings, rock stacks and rock art.” Three probable habitation sites were encountered and recorded under the guidance of Forest Archaeologist Gerry Gates and Section 110 Crew Jim White and Slate Coffee, with Student Volunteers Brooke Harder from Chico and Scott Jones from Bakersfield. These two American Student Volunteers each stayed for a six week placement and gained valuable archaeological experience equivalent to a more costly college field school.

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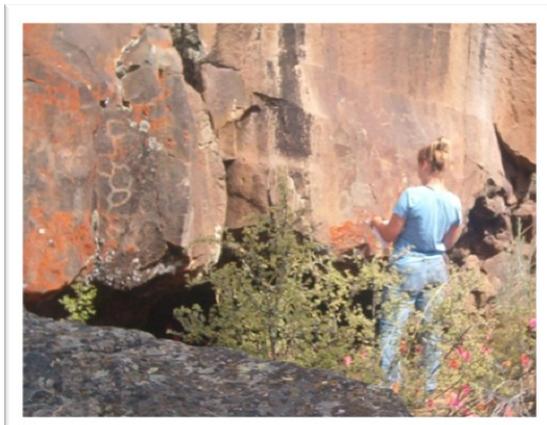
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**More Boles Crk.
PIT photos:**

L – Petroglyphs above a rock shelter.

R – Rebecca Rottenborn (WA) recording the petroglyphs during Session #2 in July.



The following article is by the Modoc NF Public Affairs Officer, Ken Sandusky for FOREST SPOTLIGHT – July 30, 2015:

PIT projects provide data, experience and connections

Through a sea of brightly colored “pin flags” and old gnarled juniper within the vast sagebrush, a visitor may see a small group of Passport in Time (PIT) volunteers of all ages and backgrounds.

Value of Giving Back

“This is one project that takes everybody to accomplish,” said Volunteer, David Loera of Sacramento.

“We couldn’t do this archeological inventory without the help of PIT volunteers,” Forest Archeologist, Gerry Gates agreed. “They help make the work more cost effective, and help provide insight and knowledge about Heritage resources and the history of the tribes in the area.”



Volunteers catalogue obsidian flakes and other artifacts



Ray Hanson of Myrtle Creek, Ore. holds an obsidian flake to the light to determine its origin.

Value of the Opportunity

“If you like the outdoors and want to see the beauty of America, Passport in Time gives volunteers an opportunity to help preserve the cultural heritage I think is important,” said Ray Hanson, Myrtle Creek, Ore.

“I do a lot of rafting and you’re always moving,” shared Loera. “PIT allows me to move slower and take the time to see many things I might miss during my other outdoor pursuits.”

“All of the Archeology and Heritage employees I have worked with here and all over the country are really competent public servants,” Hanson added. “I’ve not met a fumbler or a bumbler in the bunch!”

FOREST SPOTLIGHT (con't.)

Value to Educations

"My education and future career path requires field school, which can be expensive. PIT is a good opportunity to get field experience without paying thousands of dollars," said UC Santa Cruz Biology and Anthropology major, Rebecca Rottenborn. "This is a great opportunity to gain experience in my own state where we are studying history that hits much closer to home."

Madison Henley recently graduated

from Western Washington University in Anthropology with an archeological concentration and has also been to field school. "I have found it hard to find opportunities to gain experience on the West Coast," she said. "These projects are a really good way to get experience and make valuable contacts at the same time."

Rottenborn and Henley agree on the value of getting to know people in the archeological community on the West Coast. Many have participated in other PIT projects around the country, and every project is organized by people extremely knowledgeable in the discipline, "Archaeology is a close-knit community," Henley added. "It's good to get to know as many people as possible."

"Part of our Heritage Program on the Modoc National Forest has been to provide field opportunities for college and university students," explained Gates. "On our first PIT project in June this year, we also had two American Student Volunteers."

Brooke Harder from CSU-Chico and Scott Jones from Bakersfield Community College assisted the Modoc Archeological Crew with instructing PIT volunteers in archeological field methods during their six-week volunteer placement provided by the Modoc National Forest Heritage Program.

The information gathered from this PIT project will be available for graduate students to use as subjects for master's thesis topics. Over the years, the Modoc Heritage Program has supported more than a dozen theses and one PHD dissertation.

These studies help us all better understand the nature of our non-renewable archeological resources, as well as help in improving management methods and exploring new opportunities.

"We have been hosting PIT projects on the Modoc since 1991, and hope to continue in the future. It is a program that helps the Forest to achieve a 'Heritage Program managed to standard'," Gates added. "And it's just plain fun!"

Learn more about Passport in Time (PIT) and how to get involved at: <http://www.passportintime.com/>. Or hear directly from more volunteers on Facebook [@PassportinTime Volunteers](#).



Gerry Gates explains the origin of a rare material to UC Santa Cruz Biology and Anthropology major, Rebecca Rottenborn.



Modoc Heritage Program Manager, Gerry Gates explains the significance of a projectile point found at the project site.

PIT (Con't.)

Passport In Time volunteers for the second session, July 13-17, included Ray Hanson (OR), Madison Henley (WA), David Loera (CA), and Rebecca Rottenborn (CA). The third session, July 27-31, hosted Mary Benton (CA), David and Vicki Evans (UT), Jason Hernandez (WA), Steve and Sally Stephenson (UT), and Gary VanderWeide (CO).

This was the sixth year of this particular project. The goal is to locate and record the archaeological sites along the Boles Creek riparian corridor in order to produce an archaeological district “determination of eligibility” for the National Register of Historic Places. The work could not be accomplished without the *Passport in Time* volunteers and the Heritage Challenge Funds from the Regional Office. These efforts help the Forest to achieve a “Heritage Program Managed to Standard.” This in turn helps to keep the Forest on the Regional Programmatic Agreement that helps to streamline and expedite its legal requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.



Surviving “Terrorists” on the Modoc!

No, the two images to the left are not terrorists, just two archaeological technicians, Tim Crabtree and David Gordon, trying to survive out on the Doublehead Ranger District. The real “terrorists” here are the “No-see-ums.” They are tiny insects that delight in tormenting people for a month, or so, each summer season. Unfortunately, we have not yet found an insect repellent that they don’t like.

This is one of the hazards field going personnel face while performing archaeological surveys this time of year, as well as the early high summer temperatures and very dusty road conditions. This effort is part of the Sage-Steppe Ecosystem Restoration project focused on improving Sage Grouse habitat through reduction of expanded juniper woodlands beyond their normal habitat. Archaeological sites are common in this

area and are located and recorded so that special prescriptions may be developed in order to remove juniper and minimize effects to the archaeological and cultural values of the cultural resources present. This is part of the Forests’ legal compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

South Fork Archaeology & Botany Work Station Painted!

At the end of 2014 Modoc NF Engineering/Facilities had a contract to remove the old lead-based paint from the old C&M shop that had been converted into a facility for archaeology and botany seasonal employees. The building had been designated for demolition several years ago but through the efforts of Heritage Resources, Botany and Facilities funding was pooled together over three fiscal years to fund a fire crew to renovate the building. One third is used by Botany temps and the rest by archaeological technicians. In addition, a separate room is dedicated as a curation facility annex. Over a dozen seasonal employees use the facility each field season from May to November.



Medicine Lake is a Sacred Place and Needs to be Protected at All Costs, Tribal Chair Says

On March 12, the Pit River Tribe and their Native American and environmental allies optimistically left the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco following oral arguments in their long legal battle to protect the Medicine Lake Highlands from geothermal destruction and desecration. The Pit River people, the lead defendants in the case, are fighting in court to defend the Highlands, known to them as "Saht Tit Lah," (Knife Rock Lake) an area that has been used for healing, religious ceremonies and tribal gatherings for thousands of years.

Pit River, Wintun, Karuk, Shasta and Modoc Nations hold the Medicine Lake Highlands sacred, and have used the region for spiritual purposes for untold generations, according to Morning Star Gali of the Pit River Tribe. The Tribe and their supporters appeared at the hearing with their attorney, Deborah A. Sivas, Director of the Stanford Environmental Law Clinic, in the case of the Pit River Tribe vs. US Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, & Calpine Corporation, Defendants-Appellees.

"Medicine Lake is a sacred place and it needs to be protected at all costs," said Pit River Tribal Chairman Mickey Gemmill. "We're trying to preserve our culture and Medicine Lake is part of the beginning of our people. If we allow these corporations to come in and frack, we could lose that chance to bring back that part of our culture. So we're asking the Calpine Corporation to step back and leave the Medicine Lake Highlands alone."

"The judges asked really good questions and we are optimistic about the outcome," said Gali. "At one point Calpine said that nobody had the authority except for themselves to challenge the leases. This showed total disregard for the Tribe's utilization of the sacred lake and highlands for over 10,000 years." The area has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 1999 as the *Medicine Lake Area Traditional Cultural Places District as a component of the Medicine Lake Region in American Indian Culture and History Multiple Property Listing*. This historic district covers portions of the Modoc National Forest, Klamath National Forest and the Shasta-Trinity National Forests within Siskiyou County.

Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma Renewing Ties to the Land!

This past month a representative of the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma visited with the Forest Supervisor and some of the Forest Staff before going on a tour of ancestral lands now administered by the Modoc National Forest. Blake Follis, J.D., Special Assistant to the Chief, and his wife, Amber Follis, met in the afternoon of May 26th to introduce themselves and to discuss ways in which the Oklahoma Modocs may begin a relationship with the Modoc National Forest. On May 27th a small group, including the Follis', Forest Supervisor Amanda McAdams, Ecosystem Staff Officer Gary Kedish, were led on a tour of Modoc tribal territory by Forest Archaeologist Gerry Gates.

The tour started at beautiful Medicine Lake, unseasonably free of snow. The tour proceeded to a Modoc War (1872-1873) site, Hasbrouck's Camp, located near Big Sand Butte. Blake ascended about 2/3 up the butte to get a breathtaking view of

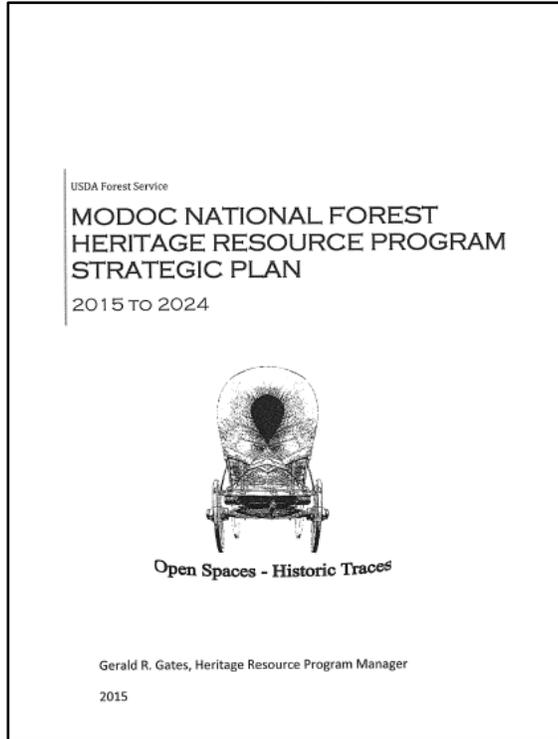
the surrounding lava country and the Medicine Lake Highland shield volcano. The tour continued eastward stopping at locations of pre-historic sweat lodges, pit houses, a "bow stove" tree, and other locations with culturally significant archaeological presence.

For more information on the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma go to www.modoctribe.net and learn how they came to be in Oklahoma as a result of the Modoc War.

PHOTO: (L-R) Amber Follis, Blake Follis, Amanda McAdams and Gary Kedish, with Medicine Lake in the background.



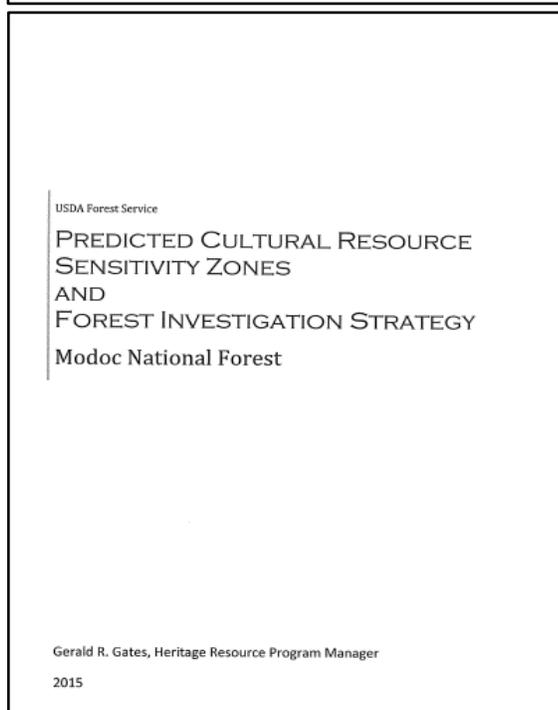
Heritage Management Plans Completed for the Modoc NF!



The retiring Forest Archaeologist/Heritage Resource Program Manager, Gerry Gates, has completed two major components required for maintaining a “Heritage Program Managed to Standard.” These include a ten-year “strategic plan” for program direction that is based on the current on-Forest minimum of \$50,000 per year for the Section 110 side of its National Historic Preservation Act requirements and predictive model for archaeological site location and density. This is in fulfillment of the following:

A Heritage Program Plan is in place for the national forest or grassland and includes all the elements listed as 1 – 7 in FSM 2362.3 as follows:

- a) A synthesis of known cultural resources traditionally known as a Cultural Resource Overview.
- b) A synthesis of projected cultural resource numbers, types, and locations based on predictive modeling, site identification strategies, and known cultural resources.
- c) Goals and objectives for managing cultural resources with projected annual accomplishments through preservation, research, education, interpretation, and tourism.
- d) Annual monitoring targets to assess site conditions and to measure success of treatment or mitigation measures.
- e) Protocols for responding to unanticipated discovery of cultural resources or human remains, as required by NAGPRA.
- f) Protocols for responding to damage or theft of cultural resources.
- g) Direction for the protection of cultural resources vulnerable to catastrophic fires or other natural or human-caused damage.



An interesting Boles Creek artifact – this is a “fire affected” rock that has been used as a mano to grind red ochre pigment. This is a good indicator that some of the nearby petroglyphs may have been painted in red – the paint has since weathered off the exposed lava rim faces....grg

Please enjoy, but do not destroy your American heritage!

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