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Forest Supervisor, Wallowa-Whitman N. F.

February 13, 1962

G. J. Tucker, District Ranger

Contracts and Other, Historical Data

Reference to Mr. Roger's memo of January 19, 1962 and Mr. Ragland's memo of February 9, 1962.

I have given the matter of signing the Whitman routes considerable thought and have come to the conclusion that there should be a large information sign at Five Point Creek for which I suggest the wording as shown on attached sheet #1.

There should perhaps be some signs at a few other locations, much smaller and simple, such as shown on attached sheet #2.

At a point near Hughs Spring along the boundary between the Whitman and Umatilla it would be desirable to erect an information sign. This would probably be a joint project between the two forests. Suggested wording on attached sheet #3. Few people would see an expensive sign out on Spring Mountain or on the point of Horseshoe Ridge but a sign somewhat like the Five Point sign might well be erected near Smith Gate. Suggested wording on attached sheet #4.

It is my opinion that with the three large signs mentioned, one for each forest and one put up jointly by the two forests, the route would be adequately signed with large signs, unless the Historical Societies of Union and Umatilla Counties should desire to erect signs outside the National Forest.

GJTucker:ba



Whitman Trail

← 1836 →

Overnight camp here August 28, 1836. Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, missionaries, enroute from the East to establish a mission among the Indians, left their last wagon at Fort Boise and continued horseback. They left the Old Oregon Trail at La Grande and took this short cut, an Indian and Hudson's Bay trail, across the Blue Mountains. Narcissa's diary for August 28, 1836, "We nooned upon Grande Ronde River. After dinner we left the plains and ascended the Blue Mountains. There a new and pleasing scene presented itself, mountains covered with timber through which we rode all the afternoon, a very agreeable change."

Suggested wording for sign to be
placed on Five Points Creek at Camp I

Whitman Trail

← 1836 →

Noon camp here August 29, 1836

Whitman Trail

← 1836 →

Whitman Trail

← 1836 →

Crossed Meacham Creek August 29, 1836

Whitman Trail

← 1836 →

Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, missionaries, passed here on August 29, 1836. Enroute from the East to establish a mission among the Indians, they had left the last of their wagons at Fort Boise and continued horseback. They left the Old Oregon Trail at La Grande and took this old Indian and Hudson's Bay trail, crossing Five Points Creek and Meacham Creek. Narcissa's diary for August 29, 1836.

"Had a continuation of the same scenery as yesterday afternoon - Before noon we began to descend one of the most terrible mountains for steepness and length I have yet seen - The horses appeared to dread the hill as much as we did - We had no sooner gained the foot of the mountain when another more steep and dreadful was before us." Narcissa's discription of crossing Meacham Creek to Horseshoe Ridge.

Suggested wording for joint-forest sign
to be placed on Fox Prairie Road some-
where near Hughes Springs.

Whitman Trail

← 1836 →

Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, missionaries, passed here on August 29, 1836 Enroute from the East to establish a mission among the Indians, they had left the last of their wagons at Fort Boise and continued horseback. They left the Old Oregon Trail at La Grande and took this old Indian and Hudson's Bay trail crossing Five Points Creek and Meacham Creek. Narcissa's diary for August 29, 1836.

"Our ride this afternoon exceeded everything we have had yet and what rendered it the more aggravating the path all the way was very stony resembling a newly McAdamized road - We were late in making camp tonight" - (on Squaw Creek). "While upon this elevation we had a view of the valley of the Columbia River - Beyond the valley we could see two distance Mountains Mount Hood and Mount St. Helens. - Behind the former the Sun was hiding part of his rays which gave us a more distinct view of this gigantic cone."

Suggested wording for sign to be placed near Smith Gate.