

Appendix D. Chronology

Precontact History and Cultural Legacy of Forest Research Sites in Southwestern Oregon

The purpose of a chronology is to complete the matrix of people, places, and plants that form identifiable landscape patterns over time. This chronology mirrors the ten time periods used in cultural landscape discussion in the body of the main report (see Part 6: 13-17):

- 1) 10,000 BP to 1000 AD: Ancient Lands & People**
- 2) 1000 to 1500: Ancient Forests**
- 3) 1500 to 1650: Historical Old-growth Forests**
- 4) 1650 to 1775: Historical Second-growth Forests**
- 5) 1776 to 1849: Early Historical Forests**
- 6) 1850 to 1856: Rogue River Indian Wars**
- 7) 1857 to 1884: Gold-Mining**
- 8) 1885 to 1945: Family Farm**
- 9) 1946 to 1986: Logging**
- 10) 1987 to 2007: Forest Fires**

1) 10,000 BP to 1000 AD: Ancient Lands & People

Prevalence and then abrupt absence of narrow-barbed hooks at archaeological sites in Applegate basin were typified by “Gunther Island Points” that continued to be found in NW California Hokan sites until early historical time.

2) 1000 to 1500: Ancient Forests

No existing evidence of 500+ year-old trees or vegetation patterns in the study area.

3) 1500 to 1650: Historical Old-growth Forests

Athapascan likely invaders, 1500 to 1700; possibly with related major decline in Takelma population.

Abrupt termination of NW California technology may coincide with large-scale human plagues and population losses. Takelma influence may have extended into Applegate Valley area, with a stress on vegetable production, including acorns, berries, bracken fern, camas, and tarweed. Many oak groves, filbert orchards, and cultivated sugar pine date to this period, and perhaps somewhat before. Camas and

tarweed patches were also cultivated over a wide area. Fields of manzanita were apparently maintained for berry and fuel production.

[Note: Most old-growth (200+ year old trees, groves, and stands) oaks and conifers from sometime shortly after 1700 to about 1930, date to this time period. From about 1930 to the present, most old-growth became seeded between 1730 and 1806.]

It is probable that the Takelma were once the occupants of a territory larger than that just described, and that later on there was an invasion by the Athapascans, who established villages on all sides of them, and imposed Athapascan names on the Takelma villages, though they never succeeded in forcing the Takelma to abandon their language. (Harrington Field Notes, Reel 27, Frame 27, as quoted in Pullen 1996, App. I: 1).

4) 1650 to 1775: Historical Second-growth Forests

“According to tradition, many years ago they were far more numerous than at the present time, wars and disease having in some instances destroyed whole tribes. The marks of the old towns and large settlements everywhere found, now entirely deserted, are strong evidence of the truth of their traditions” Hubbard Manuscript 1861, Bancroft Collection, quoted in Pullen 1996, App. I: 5).

5) 1776 to 1849: Early Historical Forests

Low population levels and only three towns in the Applegate Basin at the time of white invasion and occupation in the early 1850s.

Result of lower populations, possibly greater reliance on fish and game, rather than plants, is widespread establishment of conifer trees (no fire) in isolated canyons and steep north slopes, and of oak woodlands and manzanita fields. Reduction in grasslands, huckleberries, beargrass, hazel, and other cultural plant populations.

1826 to 1850 likely lowest level of human population in Applegate Basin in hundreds, maybe thousands, of years.

March 20, 1827 [at mouth of Cow Creek] With the exception of the Climate which is at this season is very rainy this is certainly a fine Country – the soil is the variety of flowers grass Clover and trees of all kinds very rich and by culture no doubt would produce well . . . from the number of new Graves I have seen lately I am of opinion starvation has been the cause of their death. (Ogden, cited in LaLande 1987: 88, quoted by Pullen, App. III: 15).

June, 1836. Four Willamette Valley beaver trappers are killed by Indians at mouth of Foots Creek, below Rock Point (nee “Point of Rocks”). (Walling 1885: 185-186)

September 14, 1837. Two cattle drivers present at Point of Rock murders kill a peaceful Indian in retaliation, in camp along Klamath River. The men were engaged with Ewing Young, in the process of driving more than 600 cattle from the Sacramento Valley to the Willamette Valley (Walling 1885: 131, 186).

September 18, 1837. Cattle drivers are attacked by Indians entire night at Footh Creek campsite, one killed and two wounded. [“Tradition relates the murders of several men near Foot’s creek and the robbery of their camp wherein was gold to the value of many thousand dollars . . .” (Walling 1885: 188)]

September 27, 1841 “Though we saw but one, a squaw who was so busy setting fire to the prairies around that she seemed to disregard us . . .” (Titian Ramsay Peale, quoted in Pullen 1996: App. III: 8)

6) 1850 to 1856: Rogue River Indian Wars

The following chronological listing of government documents relevant to the history of southwest Oregon are available online:

http://www.ORWW.org/History/SW_Oregon/Rogue_Indian_Wars/Correspondence

From	To	Date*	Regarding	Walling
Dart	Spalding	18501014	Spalding orders; whiskey	
Dart	Lea	18501022	Spalding orders; treaties	
Applegate, J.	Spalding	18501207	Indian danger; 1846 killing	
Dart	Lea	18501230	Applegate advice; US troops	
Dart	Spalding	18510301	Treatment of Indians	
McBride	Gaines	18510612	June 2, 1851 battle	
Gaines	Dart	18510708	Indian prisoners; bad whites	
Dart	Lea	18510719	Oregon Donation Land Law	336
Dart	Lea	18510722	Spalding illness; gold miners	
Applegate, J.	Dart	18510819	Ewing Young murders; treaties	302
Spalding	Dart	18510924	Spalding escape; Gaines treaty	
Dart	Lea	18521214	Dart resignation	
Palmer	Manypenny	18530708	Graves Creek “murders”	
Palmer	Manypenny (?)	18531008	September 10, 1853 agreement	
Ambrose	Palmer	18540612	Indian Creek murder; Old John	
Palmer	Parrish	18540715	Chetco massacres; damages	
Ambrose	Palmer	18550414	Chinese theft; Applegate exit	
Ambrose	Palmer	18550512	Indian murder sentence	
Palmer	Manypenny	18550710	Siletz Reservation boundaries	
Palmer	Manypenny	18550714	Sept. 10, 1853 Treaty; war	
Ambrose	Palmer	18551111	All quiet; Bruce elected	
Ambrose	Palmer	18551202	Indian extirpation & strategy	
Palmer	Manypenny (?)	18560109	Nov. 24, 1855 Treaty; deep snow	
Palmer	Manypenny (?)	18560427	Bruce claim; Oct. 8 Massacre	
Curry	Palmer	18560623	Demands signed retraction; DC	193
Palmer	Curry	18560808	Reply to Curry; defends Indians	193
Beeson	<i>True Californian</i>	18560812	Defends Indians; Palmer; Wool	193
Palmer	Manypenny (?)	18560920	Siletz Reservation Proposal	
Beeson	<i>NY Tribune</i>	18560930	Defends Indians; suffers results	
Beeson	<i>Oregon Statesman</i>	18561008a	Defends John; Oct. 8 Massacre	
Beeson	Manypenny	18561008b	Fought “moral war”; needs cash	
Metcalf	Hedges	18561212	Siletz Reservation shipwreck	
Hedges	Manypenny	18561219	Siletz Reservation shipwreck	
Browne	Manypenny (?)	18571204	“War of Destiny” explanation	
Mott	Manypenny (?)	18590211	OR Donation Land Law; Chiefs	
Sykes	Geary	18601116	Siletz Reservation News	
Indian Chiefs	Rector	18620526	Broken Treaty Promises	
Huntington	Cooley	18661026	Table Rock Reservation	
<i>Oregonian</i>	Public News	18710717	Palmer new Siletz Agent	

1850

August, 1850. Two packers killed and cargo taken by **Shasta** (?) Indians at Klamath River crossing camp (future Blackburn's ferry site) (Walling 1885: 188).

1851

During 1851, the first three permanent homes were established by white men in southwest Oregon at the three California Trail ferry crossings of the Rogue River: Long's, Evans', and Perkins' (Walling 1888: 336).

January, 1851. Four people killed by **Klamath** (?) Indians at Blackburn's Ferry. Two weeks later, an Indian man and woman were shot and killed in a canoe, as retaliation, by a group of vigilantes. The group then attacked a Rancheria of **Yuroks** near Happy Camp, killing "every male inhabitant and two females. One of the attacking party was killed. This action is called the Lowden's ferry fight" (Walling 1885: 188-189).

May 15, 1851. Four goldminers are killed by Indians along Grave Creek and Rogue River. Two more are killed by Indians on the Klamath. A vigilante squad from Yreka kill two Indians and take four captives in retaliation for one of the Rogue River murders (Walling 1885: 189, 196).

June, 1851. Gold discovered on Josephine Creek, along Illinois River.

June 2, 1851. Battle (McBride: June 12, 1851)

June 26, 1851. Hostilities between local Indians and white travelers and invaders begin, along the Rogue River. "Captain Stewart" is killed in military action against **Tututni** (?) Indians near Table Rocks. Subsequent military actions result in an estimated "Some fifty of them have been killed, many wounded, and thirty taken prisoners" (Jesse Applegate, quoted by Walling 1885: 198).

A. A. Skinner and Chesley Gray establish the first Donation Land Claims in the Rogue basin. The claims are made adjacent to one another, southeast of Table Rock. Skinner was assigned to the area by Governor Gaines as Indian Agent, immediately following Gaines' efforts to forge a Treaty with the **Tututni** that summer, and Gray was Skinner's "government interpreter." (Walling 1885: 336).

December 25, 1851. Moses Hopwood files a claim near Skinner and Gray, on Bear Creek. Hopwood brings his wife and nine children from the Willamette Valley, and they become the first white family to live and farm in the Rogue basin, establishing the well-known "Hopwood farm on Bear creek" (Walling 1885: 336-337).

1852

January 1, 1852. A census taken of white residents of Rogue Valley on this date counted 27 or 28 individuals, all male adults. (Walling 1885: 337)

January 12, 1852. Jackson County created by legislative action.

January, 1852. Placers on Jackson Creek are discovered and an "extensive immigration of miners began immediately . . . In March it was estimated that 100 to 150 men were working in the vicinity of Jacksonville" (Walling 1885: 337). Jacksonville quickly develops into the center of trade for southwest

Oregon, connected by pack trails to the Sacramento and Willamette Valleys, and to international maritime trade via Scottsburg, on the Umpqua River.

At an early date gold-bearing gravel was struck at the present Cameron place [Uniontown, Buncom, Sterlingville], on Applegate creek, and shortly after Forest creek was invaded by a small army of miners, who worked with excellent results amid its sands . . . Foot's creek became a noted mining ground, hardly second to Forest creek. By the middle of the summer of 1852, not less than a thousand miners had arrived in the valleys of the Rogue river and its tributaries, and prospected nearly every spot where gold was likely to be found. (Walling 1885: 338)

June 2, 1852. Gold miner Calvin Woodman is killed by two **Tututuni** (?) Indians while riding his horse along Indian Creek, tributary to Scott River. In retaliation, 13 **Tututunis** are subsequently killed in cold blood at Big Bend, and at least three other local Indians hunted down and shot or hung,

December, 1852. Seven miners at the mouth of Galice Creek are thought to have either drowned by high waters, or killed by local **Taltuctunte** (?) Indians, led by **Chief Taylor** of the Grave Creek band. Chief Taylor and several of his followers are hanged.

A great many land claims were taken up in the year 1852, and nearly all the bottom lands of Bear creek valley were claimed, mostly by people from the Willamette. If there is any distinction to be made of the origin of the mining and farming population, it lies in the fact that the farmers were mostly Oregonians, while the greater part of the miners were from the California placers. (Walling 1885: 339).

1853

In the following year [1853], 159 wagons came to Rogue river valley, via the southern route from the east, accompanied by 400 men, 120 women, and 170 children. These pioneers brought 2600 cattle, 1300 sheep, 140 loose horses and forty mules, with agricultural and household implements suited for use in the new country, where they set about making their homes. (Walling 1885: 339-340).

August 24, 1853. Battle of Evans' Creek (Walling 1884: 218-220; McArthur 1982: 264).

September 10, 1853. Table Rock Treaty (Palmer: October 8, 1853; McArthur 1982: 716)

September 19, 1853. Cow Creek Treaty

September 21, 1853. Fort Lane established (Walling 1884: 231; McArthur 1982: 289).

1854

More than 25% of the Table Rock treaty Indians died from health problems during the first year on the Reservation, and losses among local non-treaty Indians are believed to be much greater, including extinctions of entire bands and families (Walling 1885: 191).

“The number of Indians in this district [Table Rock Reservation] is not large. It is as follows . . . **Tyee John's** Band – 18 Men, 26 Women and 19 Children, **Limpy** and **George's** Band – 30 Men, 28 Women, and 23 Children . . . The number of these bands have diminished since that time, not less than twenty five per cent.

“The other bands in this district, and not included in that purchase, are as follows: **Elijah**’s Band – 32 Men, 34 Women, and 28 Children. Those known as the Ancient Applegate’s [**Tipsu Tyee?**] number 10 Men, 15 Women, and 17 Children. **Taylor**’s Band and those at Jump Off Joe – 14 Men, 27 Women, and 19 Children, Illinois [**Gusladada?**] – 16 Men, 14 Women, and 17 Children.” (Culver report to Palmer, July 20, 1855, 33rd Congress, 2nd session, quoted in Pullen 1996, App. I: 5-6).

May 10, 1854. Theodoric (Tod) Cameron files a DLC

August, 1854. James Sterling and Aaron Davis strike gold at Sterling Creek, near the **Dakubatede** primary town that **Chief John** considered home. Within a short time the site becomes known as Sterlingville, with a population of 1,200 whites and Chinese, and boasted a bakery, saloon, stores, gambling house, butcher shop, dance hall, two boarding houses, livery stable, blacksmith shop, hotel, school, and post office. Within five to six years the gold declined, and the town was largely gone by the 1860s (Black & Black 1990: 94-98).

November 18, 1854. Applegate Creek Treaty

1855

June 1, 1855. Jerome Dyer and Daniel McKew killed by [**Tututni?**] Indians.

October 8, 1855. Massacre of October 8th (Palmer 1856; Beeson 1856).

October 9, 1855. Massacre of October 9th (Walling 1885: 244-250).

October 17, 1855. Siege of Galice Creek (Walling 1885: 250-251).

October 31, 1855. Battle of Hungry Hill; aka Battle of Bloody Spring (McArthur 1982: 379; Victor: 352-355).

November 24, 1855, Treaty.

1856

. . . those who would inform themselves upon the subject matter of the Wool-Curry-Stevens dispute, should seek it in the files of newspapers of the date 1856 and subsequently. (Walling 1885: 193).

Returning to our subject of the immediate causes of the wars, we find ourselves under the necessity of quoting from the words of General Sam Houston: “The outbreaks of Indians are always preceded by greater outrages on the part of the whites.” There was a very peculiar yet probably common class of outrages inflicted on the Indians that seem more particularly to illustrate the words of the venerable speaker. These outrages were upon women . . . It may well be taken for granted that such outrages were of not uncommon occurrence. The debauchery of the Indian women was an accompanying circumstance . . . (Walling 1885: 193-194).

January 2, 1856. Martin Angel killed by **Dakubetedes** in Star Gulch (Black & Black 1990: 17-19).

January 22, 1856. Captain Bruce in battle at Murphy Creek.

February 26, 1856. Three miners are killed by Indians at mouth of Deer Creek (Walling 1885:453).

March 25, 1856. Battle of Eight Dollar Mountain (McArthur 1982: 247; Victor: 391-392).

April 27, 1856. Winkle Bar Battle. (Pullen 1996, App. III: 11)

On the 27th the two battalions were ready to attack. A reconnaissance by General Lamerick in person had discovered their camp on a bar of Rogue River, where the mountains rise on either side high and craggy, and densely timbered with manzanita, live-oak, chinquapin and chaparral, with occasional bald, grassy, hillsides relieving the sombre aspect of the scene. A narrow strip of bottom-land at the foot of the heights, covered with rank grass and brambly shrubs, constituted the meadows, where all winter the Indians had kept an ample supply of cattle in good condition for beef. (Bancroft 1886, History of Oregon, Vol. II: 402, quoted in Pullen 1996, App. III: 11).

Many Indians had not yet got out of their huts. The soldiers pured a heavy fire on them. Men, squaws, and children were all together in great confusion – nothing saved them but the river. The enemy took positions behind rocks and trees (and fired). The squaws and children disappeared in a dense growth of fir. (Report of Col. Kelsey to Gen. Lamerick, April 27, 1856, quoted in Pullen 1996, App. III: 11).

May 1, 1856. Fort Lamerick established at Big Meadows (McArthur 1982: 288).

May 21, 1856. Council of Oak Flat (Walling 1885: 279).

May 22, 1856. You are a great chief; so am I a great chief. This is my country; I was in it when those large trees were very small, not higher than my head. My heart is sick with fighting the whites, but I want to live in my country. I will not go out of my county. If the white people are willing, I will go back to Deer Creek and live among them as I used to do. They can visit my camp, and I will visit theirs; but I will not lay down my arms and go with you on the reserve. I will fight. Good bye. (**Chief John** to Robert Buchanon, as reported in Victor 1894: 407, quoted in Pullen 1996, App. I: 5).

“And so saying, he strode into the forest” (Walling 1885: 279).

July 1, 1856. John surrenders to regular army, with 35 followers (Walling 1885: 283).

The objects of war were now accomplished. The last band of hostile Indians had surrendered. On the temporary reservation at Port Orford were gathered about 1,300 Indians of various tribes, and including all the surviving members of the bands which had begun and carried on the war. All the chiefs of note were there; and not less than 300 warriors, the like of which for bravery, perseverance and fighting powers had rarely been seen. Their career in arms was now effectually stopped; and it remained to remove them from a country where peace for them would be an impossibility. The coast reservation was fixed upon as their future abode . . . (Walling 1885: 283).

September 1, 1856. By the first of September, 1856, 2,700 Indians had been removed there [the “coast reservation”], including the Table Rock band under **Chief Sam**, who were taken there during the previous month of February, while the war was in progress. The **Umpquas** were removed there also, and were remarkable for their industry and

obedience. The new home of the Indians was a well-watered country, hardly so fertile as that they had left, and much less pleasant. Fogs prevail and an enormous rainfall during the winter months makes the region gloomy and unpleasant. (Walling 1885: 283).

7) 1857 to 1884 Gold Mining Period

Three methods of mining have been mainly followed in the extraction of gold; whereof two pertain to gravel mining, and the other is quartz mining, so-called. One of the former is called surface placer mining, the other is styled hydraulic mining. The former process – the washing of gravel from shallow beds – is the forerunner of the hydraulic process, and though comparatively old, yet as practiced for the last twenty-five years is an enormous improvement on foreign and antiquated forms of mining. (Walling 1885: 322).

http://www.ORWW.org/History/SW_Oregon/References/Walling_1884/Illustrations

All that portion of Jackson county lying west of that [‘area of gold mines’] line is considered as the mining district, and includes about one-third of the county’s whole area. Within the district are the gravel mining localities known and celebrated under the names of Jackson creek, Sterling creek, Applegate, Forest creek (otherwise known as Jackass), Foot’s creek, Kane’s creek, Evans’ creek, Pleasant creek, Sardine creek, Ward’s creek, Poorman’s creek, Grave creek (Leland creek), Jump-off-Joe creek, Coyote creek, Louse creek, Wagner creek, Phoenix, etc., as well as the quartz claims of Gold hill, Jackson creek, Steamboat, and many others. Here was mined a vast amount of treasure which played the foremost part in building up and developing the resources of this country. (Walling 1885: 324).

January, 1860. Gold Hill quartz lode discovered, causing a sensation (Walling 1885: 328).

February, 1860. Famed “Steamboat ledge,” “Fowler lode,” or “Applegate quartz mine” is discovered by local prospectors along the ridgeline separating “Carbury Fork” from “Brushy creek” in the Applegate basin headwaters (Walling 1885: 331-332).

The extent of the mining industry in Jackson county is shown by the fact that 5438 mining locations were made from October 8, 1856 to June 30, 1880. Of these sixteen were copper, one tin, 124 cinnabar, and the rest gold and silver . . . The claims were located as follows: The Big Applegate District, 466; in Little Applegate, 39; Uniontown, 2; Sterling, 151; Jackass, 491; Jacksonville, 1463; Forty-nine, 234; Willow Springs, 785; Gold Hill, 361; Gall’s creek, 95, Foots, creek, 288; Evan’s creek, 115; Sardine creek, 132; Louse creek, 25; Dry Diggings, 33; Jump-off-Joe, 114; Grave creek, 224, Coyote creek, 75, Poorman’s creek, 300; Steamboat, 45. (Walling 1885: 325).

The principal association concerned in handling the product has been the express company of Wells, Fargo & Co., whose agent at Jacksonville testifies to having forwarded ten million dollars worth of gold since 1856 . . . By calculations based upon these figures we are apt to arrive at the opinion that thirty millions represents the quantity mined between the years 1851 and 1884 . . . While the average annual yield may have been quite a million a year, the out-put of precious metal has in general decreased each year from 1856 until the present . . . and the yearly product has now sunk to less than \$250,000. (Walling 1885: 325).

8) 1885 to 1945: Family Farms

“Since the decrease of mining and the consequent partial destruction of the home market, and more especially since the coming of the railroad, it has seemed that the heretofore isolated country will have to adopt itself to the changed circumstances in which it finds itself. . . . Fruit raising, especially the of the apple, pear and stone fruits, will prove at once a more laborious pursuit and a better paying one. For twenty years men have been prophesying an era when the fruits of this [Rogue] valley will be regarded universally as the best in the world and sought for at the highest prices.” (Walling 1884: 317).

9) 1946 to 1986: Logging

August 1931. China Gulch and Humbug Forest Fires (Black & Black 1990: 158; 163)

Humbug Fire. Ralph Pittock and his family loved the beauty and quiet of the Applegate country, though during midsummer there was always the danger of fire in the surrounding timber. During fire season in August of 1931, Ralph was patrolling firelines for the Forest Service, and his wife was down at Murphy visiting her sister Irma Perry, when fire approached the Pittock home on Humbug Creek. Young Regina, alert and resourceful, as most of the Valley young ones learned to be, loaded her brothers and sisters into the old Star automobile and steered it toward the Applegate – the livestock herded ahead. The flames were close behind them; by great good luck they escaped, and the home itself did not burn. The barns and sheds were gone; but Ralph Pittock and an Indian neighbor, who arrived soon after Regina and the others left, managed to save most of the movable equipment by taking it down to the Creek; before the fire was out, the creek had become a mere course of stones twisting among the remains of what had been a magnificent timber stand on upper Humbug Creek and the ridges bordering Missouri Flat. (Johnson 1990: pp. 99-100).

Two of the largest ranches [on Humbug Creek] were operated by Herman Walters and the Pittock family. In 1931, a disastrous fire destroyed the forests of pine and fir timber. Some trees and brush eventually grew back over the burned area. In 1989 the old ranches are subdivided and there are many rural residences along the creek. (Black & Black 1990: 163).

10) 1987 to 2007: Forest Fires

Silver Complex, Biscuit, Deer Creek, and current risk.