

Military and Industrial Development (1890-1999)

Industrial development started in Soap Creek Valley with establishment of a few minor rock quarries in pioneer times; perhaps in conjunction with creation of a dry goods store or boarding houses associated with the town of Tampico (see Figs. 27 and 28; Maps 2 and 14), its school, post office, and/or race track (Zybach and Meranda 1989; Glender 1994). At least one blacksmith shop dated to this pioneer time (Elder 1853). Sawmills in the late 1880s or early 1890s were the first discrete industry to locate in The Valley (Wisner 1992), although their existence was short-lived and they were abandoned by the early 1900s (Longwood 1940; Olson 1994; Wisner 1998).

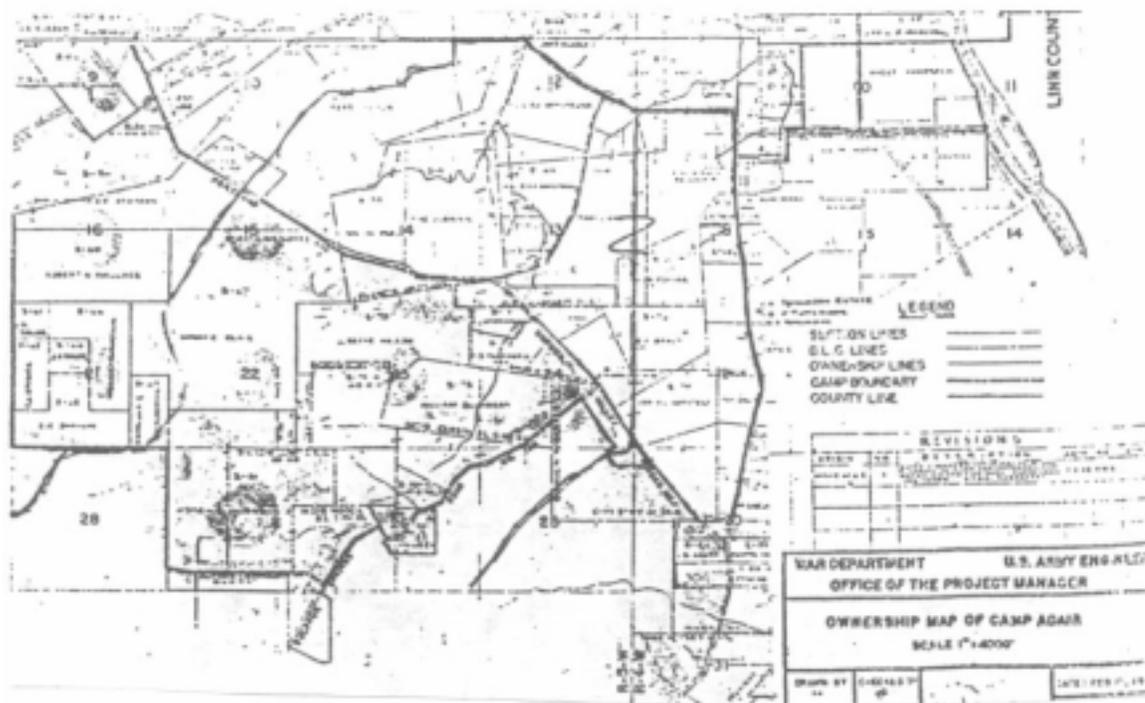
In the 1920s, at least three new sawmills were established in Soap Creek Valley (Fig. 27; Map 15; Rohner 1993; Glender 1994; Hindes 1996), but the Depression of the 1930s spelled an end to these enterprises as well. The creation of Camp Adair in 1941 led to the immediate use of Coffin Butte as a rock quarry for the construction of new roads and other military needs (Figs. 28, 30, 31, and 32; Maps 16 and 17; Rohner 1993). The remainder of The Valley was used for military field training purposes (Map 17; Berg 1983; Dunn 1990; Polk County Museum Association 1993; Rohner 1993). Following WW II, Coffin Butte continued to be used as a quarry, a capacity that has continue to the present time (Figs. 32 and 33; Rohner 1993; Webber 1996: personal communication; personal observation).

In addition to its use as a quarry, Coffin Butte has become a major landfill, a use which is currently altering its profile dramatically (Figs. 32, 33, and 34; Map 3; Table D.4; Westlund 1993; personal observations). The story of Coffin Butte, from pioneer rock quarry and landmark (Fig. 30), to military rock quarry (Fig. 32), to public landfill (Figs. 33 and 34), probably summarizes the majority of Soap Creek Valley's industrial development. The only other major industry that can be considered active in Soap Creek Valley at this time is the residential development industry, but its various interrelated businesses are located primarily in nearby cities and communities; i.e., little evidence exists of local construction or real estate development businesses based in Soap Creek Valley.

Map 16. US Army purchase of Soap Creek Valley lands, 1941. In anticipation of US involvement in WW II, most Soap Creek Valley land was purchased by the US Army for military training purposes. This process created the largest amount of federal ownership in Soap Creek Valley history, and the largest single block of land ownership in The Valley since presettlement time (annotated detail; US Army Engineers 1941).

Map 17. Camp Adair artillery ranges in Soap Creek Valley, c.1945. Data from this map was first published in 1993 (Polk County Museum Association 1993). It was based on an original hand annotated map discovered in The Valley Library Map Room earlier that year (Jones 1993; Loew 1993).

Map 16.



Map 17.

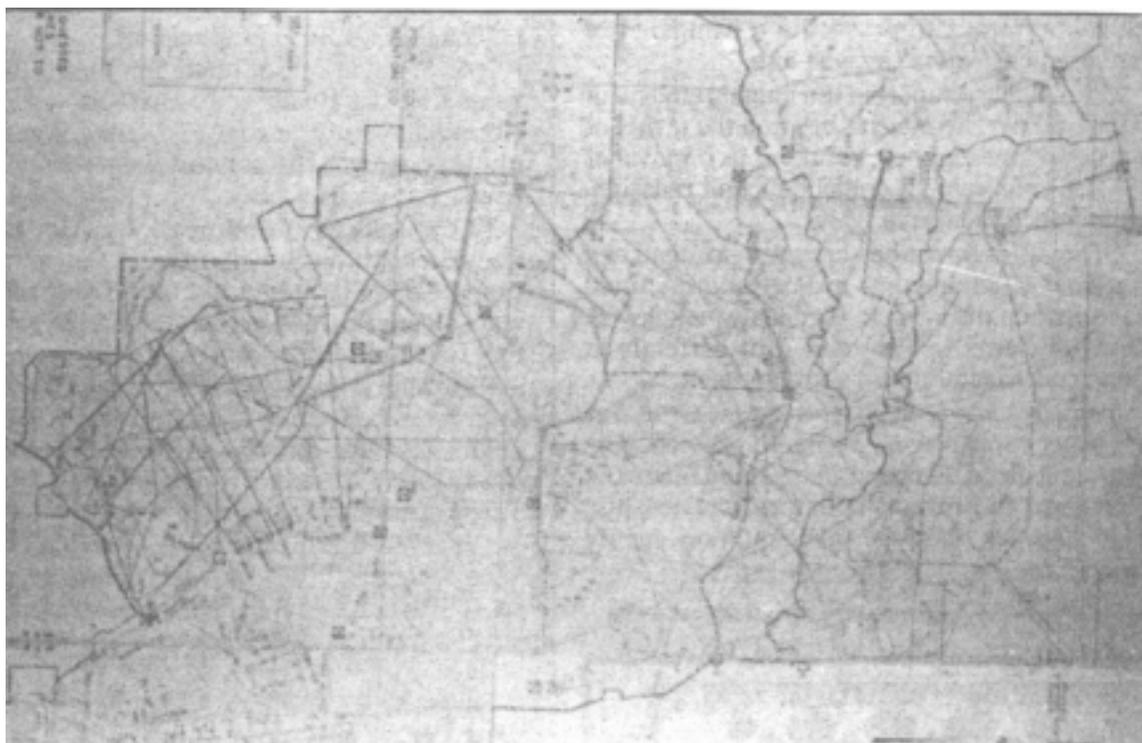


Fig. 31. Camp Adair traces, 1972. Photo shows eastern entry to Soap Creek Valley via Highway 99 W (visible as a straight line through center of photo, top to bottom) and Tampico Road turnoff (see Map 2). Note relict Camp Adair development to northeast, and Adair Village to southeast of Highway 99 W. Also note afforestation and housing development to south and west of Tampico Ridge (see Map 2), extending northward between Tampico Road and Highway 99 W. Photograph commissioned by OSU.



Transportation and Communications Systems (1500-1999).

The transportation development history of Soap Creek Valley closely parallels other agricultural areas of western Oregon that are not adjacent to steamboat landings or connected to railroad lines. Foot trails and canoe routes used by local Kalapuyan families (Zybach et al., 1990) were supplanted by horse

Fig. 32. Coffin Butte rock quarry and landfill panoramas, 1941-1997. Top Photograph. Panorama made of two "unauthorized" photographs of US Army quarry operations taken during WW II by Wilma Rohner. Photos were made with Kodak Brownie camera she received on her 16th birthday (Rohner 1993). Rock from the quarry was used to build extensive road system throughout Camp Adair training area, including Soap Creek Valley artillery ranges (Berg 1983; see Map 17). Bottom Photograph. Panorama made with four 35 mm. photographs. Coffin Butte landfill operations can be seen in the right foreground of the quarry in 1997. The addition of the major landfill operation has dramatically changed the local topography (see Maps 3 and 5) in the past 10 years (Westlund 1993). Photographs by author.



Fig 33. Coffin Butte southern slope, 1998. Aerial photograph of Coffin Butte shows extent of recent quarry and landfill operations. Compare with Figs. 30 and 32. Photograph and annotations courtesy of Brian Stone, Valley Landfills, Inc.



Fig. 34 Coffin Butte landfill, June 12, 1999. Entryway to current landfill operations, near former location of Rohner farmhouse (see Map 9; [Rohner 1993](#)).

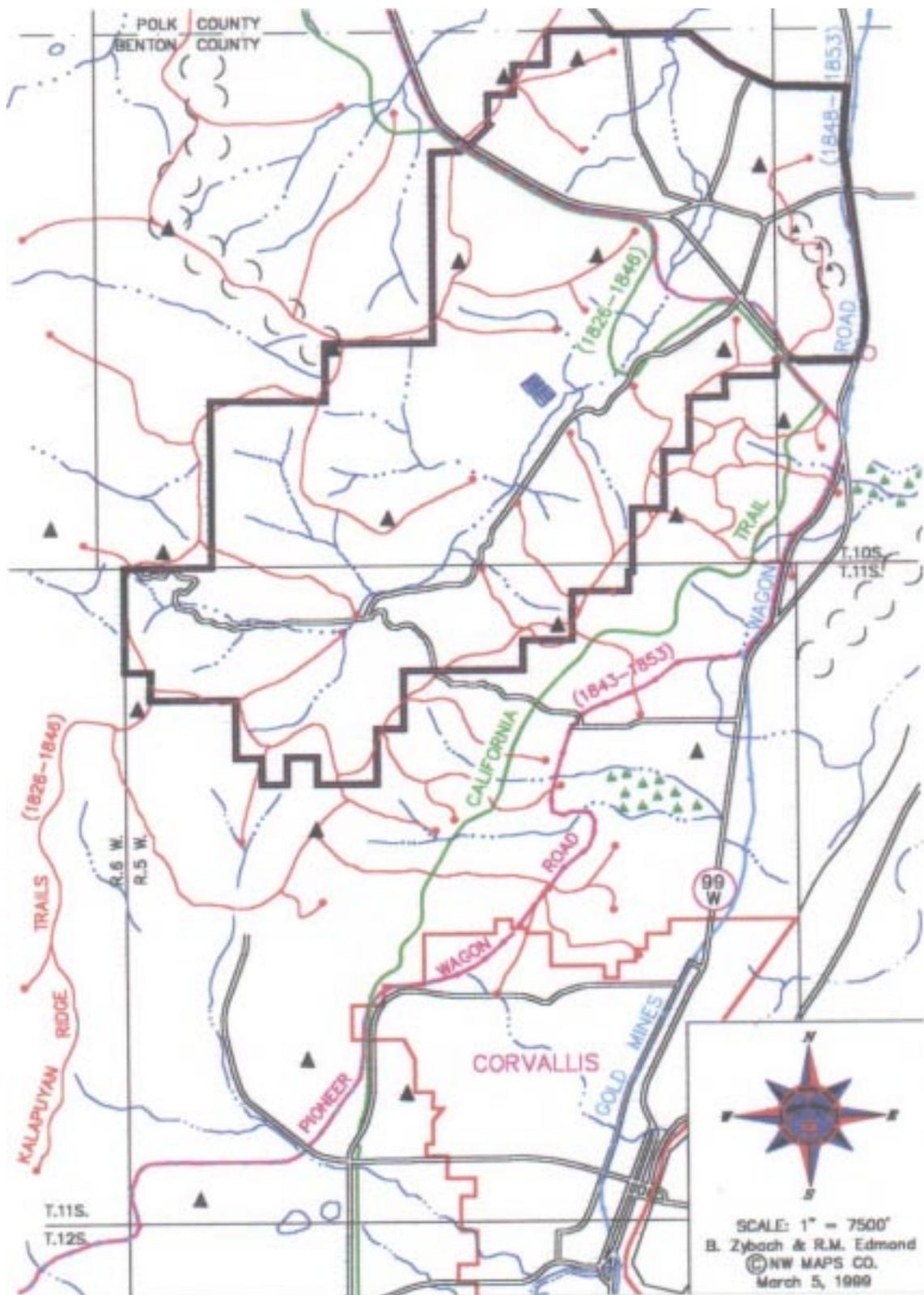


and livestock trails in the 1820s and 1830s (see Map 18; Douglas 1905; Davies 1961). American settlement and the California Gold Rush in the 1840s and 1850s led to the construction of a permanent network of wagon roads that persisted until the early 1900s (see Maps 12, 13, and 14; Figs. 17, 24, 27, 28, and 30; Olson 1994). Beginning in 1905, local dirt and plank wagon roads began to be replaced with paved and rock surfaces for bicycles, buggies, and automobiles (Figs. 26 and 29; Murphy 1995). The road network was extended to the forested areas of Soap Creek Valley during the 1930s by CCC laborers (Nettleton 1956; Jackson 1980; Sekermestrovich 1990; Rowley 1996;) and connected The Valley's resources to the Oregon State Nursery and CCC Camp Arboretum (Zybach c. 1991) by truck transportation. Creation of Camp Adair in the 1940s led to additional road construction in the eastern and northern parts of The Valley (see Fig. 31; Dunn 1990; Polk County Museum Association 1993; Rohner 1993). For the most part, this is the same network that remains in use today, although numerous access routes have been added to service modern real estate developments (Grabe 1990; Blanchard 1995, personal communication; Rowley 1996).

Map 18 summarizes primary road and trail development between Soap Creek Valley and Corvallis during the 1826-1899 period. Compare to Map 13 to note principal changes between 1826 and 1851, and between 1851 and 1999. For the past 170 years, this network has served as a major segment in the north-south land route between the Columbia River Valley of Oregon and Washington and the Sacramento Valley of California. This map shows both the location and evolution of transportation routes between the present-day Corvallis bridge crossings of Marys River and Soap Creek Valley crossings of Soap Creek (Zybach et al. 1990; OSU College of Forestry Forest Planning Team 1993): from Kalapuyan foot trails (1788-1825); to beaver hunter and livestock pack trails (1826-1845); to wagon roads (1846-1914); to automobile highways (1915-1999).

The history of local land-based communications systems parallel the transportation routes: from the mail carrying stages of the 1840s and 1850s (Zybach and Meranda 1989); to the telegraph lines of the 1860s and 1880s (Jackson 1980); to the railroad stations of the 1880s and 1890s (Rawie 1994); to the telephone lines of the early 1900s that persist until today (Glender 1994). Of recent interest are the satellite transmissions of the 1970s and 1990s, and how they are used to transmit television signals and Internet communications to local

Map 18. Soap Creek Valley road and trail history, 1788-1999.



Soap Creek valley residents. Although this most recent history does not tie directly to forest cover patterns, it does have an interesting historical connection to the military communications system that was based at Camp Adair, just east of Soap Creek Valley, until the 1980s (see Fig. 31; Bill Webber 1998: personal communication).

Summary. This chapter has documented various ways in which catastrophic events, wildlife demographics, and people have affected change in Soap Creek forest cover patterns during the past 500 years— and documented to a lesser degree the past 15,000 years as well (see Chapter II). Most change has been in conjunction with human resource management activities: from the broadcast burning practices of local Kalapuyan families and their forebears, to the real estate development and waste management practices of today. Effects of catastrophic events and wildlife demographics to forest cover patterns during both prehistoric and historical times appear to be directly exacerbated or mitigated by human actions.