

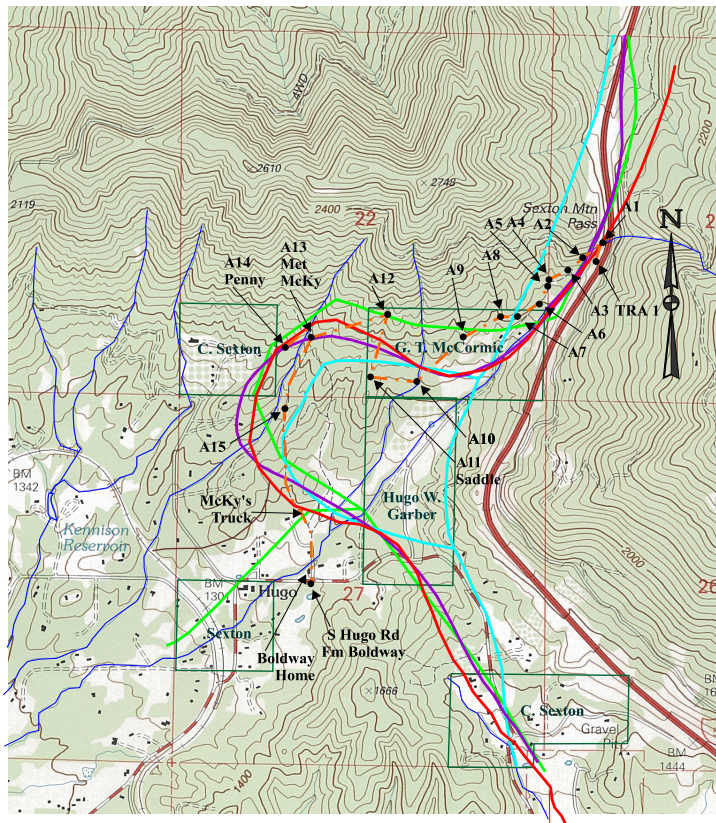
### VI.A.3.i) Composite Trail Description: May 14, 2005

An effective means of applying diaries, journals, and/or government reports, especially general land office (GLO) maps, to locate and verify particularly vexing segments of emigrant trails (no more than a few miles in length) is creating a composite trail description. You begin by gathering together as many accounts as possible that describe in any way the trail segment under study. Descriptions, for example, could include references to springs, a particular rock formation, creeks, a rocky part of the trail, sand hills, ridges, ravines, forks in the trail, and any distances or directions recorded. Look for similarities and discrepancies among the various accounts. Then arrange all of these descriptions--really clues—in some kind of sequential order that will reveal the course, direction, and location of the trail. In this way, you will have created a detailed composite description of the trail segment under study ([Appendix J](#)).

## Applegate Trail Field Trip July 21, 2003



<b>Hugo Neighborhood Association &amp; Historical Society</b>	1856 Road		<b>07/21/03 Field Trip</b> 
	1894 Road		
	1895 Road		
	1995 Atlas		



**(1) Diaries/Journals**

The following quotes are from "The Applegate Trail of 1846" by William Emerson.<sup>3</sup>

*"About the time they reached the Rogue River, Margaret Garrison, Rev. Garrison's wife, was feeling better. She had taken sick back on the desert. When they reached the Rogue River, she was getting up and around."<sup>61</sup>*

*"The wagon company traveled north about eight miles and crossed Jump Off Joe Creek. They traveled along the creek on approximately the same route as present day Russell Road north of Merlin and camped in Pleasant Valley."<sup>62</sup> Pringle mentions that it was a good camp.<sup>63</sup>*

*"From here the emigrants had to cross Sexton Mountain. The road builders traveling before them had done little to cut a road for the wagons. The wagons could not go any further without doing more to provide a road. Virgil Pringle, Levi Scott and others had to take their axes and cut through the undergrowth to clear a way for the wagons to cross."<sup>64</sup> In some places, the emigrants had to take down the wagon bows to get through.<sup>65</sup> They edged their way along in single file as Levi Scott and others cleared a path for the wagons to follow. They worked through the day and into the night. Sometime after dark they stopped having managed to make a total of about six miles through Sexton Mountain and beyond.<sup>66</sup> They chained their oxen to trees to camp for the rest of the night."<sup>67</sup>*

***"The wagon company traveled north about eight miles and crossed Jump Off Joe Creek. They traveled along the creek on approximately the same route as present day Russell Road north of Merlin and camped in Pleasant Valley."<sup>62</sup> Pringle mentions that it was a good camp."<sup>63</sup>***

The following quotes are for Virgil K. Pringle, 1846 emigrant, from "Applegate Trail II, West of the Cascades" by Klamath Echoes.

*"Thursday, October 15 - Move down the river 10 miles and camp [About one-half mile west of S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, in Grants Pass, near the Fairgrounds]. Plenty of Indians about, but none came near. Lose some cattle by them. 10 miles."*

*"Friday, October 16 - Cross Rogue River about 4 miles from last camp. Ford good. Camp on the right bank [At site of later Fort Vannoy, approximately four and one-half miles west, or downstream from Central Grants Pass]."*

*"Saturday, October 17 - Travel 8 miles, road good and a good camp which is not common, the country being mostly burnt [Camp approximately two miles north of Merlin on Jump Off Joe Creek near Russell Road bridge]. 8 - 2,218 miles [From Independence]."*

***"Saturday, October 17 - Travel 8 miles, road good and a good camp which is not common, the country being mostly burnt [Camp approximately two miles north of Merlin on Jump Off Joe Creek near Russell Road bridge]. 8 - 2,218 miles [From Independence]."***

*"Sunday, October 18 - Have some bad road that takes till after dark to go 6 miles [Up and over Sexton Mountain. Camp near junction of Rat and Grave Creeks]. 6 miles."*

*"Monday, October 19 - Move one mile to a camp, having done last night, and spent the day burying Mr. Crowley's daughter, who died yesterday evening, age about 14 years. [Camp near the covered bridge over Grave Creek in Sunny Valley on Old Highway 99]. 1 mile."*

The following quotes are for Lester G. Hulin, 1847 emigrant, from "Applegate Trail II, West of the Cascades" by Klamath Echoes.

*"[September] M. 18<sup>th</sup>. Followed down the river (with some of our too neighborly Indians) about 12 miles and camped. [Camp approximately one mile east or upstream from So. 7<sup>th</sup> Street across Rogue River in Grants Pass]."*

*"T. 18<sup>th</sup>. In about 1 mile we crossed the river and left it after following it about 5 miles in all; passed among the bluffs and camped after a distance of about 10 miles. Some of the Indians are yet following us. Their room is better than their company. [It thus appears that the 1847 ford was very near but east of present Grants Pass. It is known for sure that by 1853 there was a ford or ferry in use about one mile above Grants Pass as indicated by old surveys. More on this later Camp was probably near present Merlin]."*

***"W 19<sup>th</sup>. Upon leaving camp soon came to a fine creek [Jump Off Joe Creek], then bad roads entered (rough, hilly and sidling), but by night we were in a valley with good camping ground at hand [On Grave Creek in Sunny Valley]; distance 8 miles."***

*"W 19<sup>th</sup>. Upon leaving camp soon came to a fine creek [Jump Off Joe Creek], then bad roads entered (rough, hilly and sidling), but by night we were in a valley with good camping ground at hand [On Grave Creek in Sunny Valley]; distance 8 miles."*

The following quotes are for J. Quinn Thornton, 1846 emigrant, from "Applegate Trail II, West of the Cascades" by Klamath Echoes.

*"After crossing the Rogue River, the emigrants came to a stretch of country before reaching Louse Creek, were the road-workers had done nothing so were brought to a halt. The horse trail being too rough for wagons, Levi Scott went ahead and eventually found a place that by cutting through thick brush for about 200 yards they could pass with the wagons. The same situation also faced the emigrants upon reaching Jump Of Joe Creek and after pass over Sexton Mount to descend to Rat Creek."*

*"As the train reached Grave Creek a Miss Leland Crowley died. The wagon in which she lay stopped and those behind could not pass, and those ahead kept traveling, not knowing what had happened. Thus a breach occurred in the train which may have been responsible for the Indians approaching closely to the creeping train."*

*"Hidden by thick brush and timber, they sent a shower of arrows at both animals and humans. An ox in Pringle's team was shot and later died. Arrows whizzed past the beleaguered emigrants but no one was injured. Three dogs of the train were "hissed" on the concealed Indians and a fierce struggle ensued which could be distinctly heard by the emigrants. The Indians were dispersed and one of the dogs severely but not mortally wounded."*

*"After the Crowley girl's death the train again joined and camped for the night. The next morning they moved on about one mile, crossed the main creek [Grave Creek] and stopped to bury the dead girl, Mrs. Tabitha Brown giving the upper side-boards of her wagon for a coffin."*

The following quotes are for Talbot Carter, 1846 emigrant, from "Applegate Trail II, West of the Cascades" by Klamath Echoes.

*“Soon a wagon appeared, with weeping a lamentation among its occupants. It was soon learned that an estimable young lady by the name of Crowley, who had been afflicted with typhoid fever, had died \* \* \*”*

*“When morning came we found we were a few hundred yards from a small stream \* \* \*”*

**(2) GLO Subdivision Lines, T. 34 S., R. 6 W. , Surveyed March 31, 1856**

Page 589 - Subdivisions of T. 34 S., R. 6 W. - North Between Sections 34 & 35

Chains

70.50 Spring branch 2 Lks wide. And enter prairie

79.20 Road to Jacksonville Enter openings

80.00 Widow Niday's house. Surface nearly level. Pine & Oak timber. Some greasewood & Manzanita.

Page 609 - Subdivisions of T. 34 S., R. 6 W. - North Between Secs 27 & 28

Chains

47.25 Indian Trail

56.35 Branch 3 Lks wide c S.W.