

VI.C. Action Plan Policies

Action plan policies help direct the *Hugo Neighborhood's* Applegate Trail work program. These are the ideas that the *Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee* feels should be followed up on.

Action Plan Policy 1. Public Outreach & Educational Brochure Committee May 14, 2005

One of the ways the *Hugo Neighborhood* aims to promote the social welfare of its Hugo neighbors is by collecting, preserving, interpreting, and researching its rich local history, and encouraging neighbor's interest in the history of the Hugo area, in their geographic place, in their community (see Chapter II.).

The Public Outreach & Educational Brochure Committee for Hugo's emigrant trails was established January 27, 2005 by the *Hugo Neighborhood* (see Chapter IV; [Appendix A](#)). The mission of the committee is to develop an educational brochure program which stimulates public awareness of the Applegate Trail in the Hugo region.

Action Plan Policy 1 is to stimulate public awareness of the Applegate Trail in the Hugo region.

Action Plan Policy 2. Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee May 14, 2005

The Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee (*Trails Committee*) for Hugo's emigrant trails was established January 27, 2005 by the *Hugo Neighborhood* (see Chapter V; [Appendix B](#)). The mission of the *Trails Committee* is to collect and record information, including mapping, about Hugo's emigrant trails, especially its two historic 1856 General Land Office mapped roads (Applegate Trail).

- **Road from Willamette Valley to Jacksonville (route of the Applegate Trail)**
- **Road to Illinois Valley via Van Noys Ferry (route of the Applegate Trail from Widow Niday's place to ferry location on Rogue River)**

Action Plan Policy 2 is collect and record information, including mapping, on the Applegate Trail in the Hugo region.

Action Plan Policy 3. Geographic Area of Interest May 14, 2005

Hugo's Applegate Trail routes of interest are approximately 17-18 miles long from Louse Creek in the south to Grave Creek in the north ([maps 8 - 11](#); [Appendix C](#)).

- Map I.** Jacksonville Road From Louse Creek to Pleasant Valley Cemetery: Map I of IV
- Map II.** Jacksonville Road From Louse Creek to Pleasant Valley Cemetery & Illinois Valley Road From Louse Creek to Jumpoff Joe Creek: Map II of IV
- Map III.** Jacksonville Road from Pleasant Valley Cemetery to Mt. Sexton Pass & Illinois Valley Road from Jumpoff Joe Creek to Widow Niday's Place: Map III of IV
- Map IV.** Jacksonville Road from Mt. Sexton Pass to Grave Creek: Map IV of IV

Action Plan Policy 3 establishes the geographic scope of interest in the Applegate Trail to be from Louse Creek in the south to Grave Creek in the north.

Action Plan Policy 4. Mapping May 14, 2005

Hugo's Applegate Trail Program will ultimately address mapping, marking, and monitoring our emigrant trails. This Action Plan is Phase I and only addresses the mapping element of the program ([Appendix K](#)).

Action Plan Policy 4 is to accurately map the Applegate Trail from Louse Creek in the south to Grave Creek in the north.

Action Plan Policy 5. Neighbor Involvement December 11, 2005

Interested participating neighbors are the key to accurately mapping our emigrant trails (see Section VI.A.2.).

A *Trails Committee* goal is to identify all potential property owners along Hugo's immigrant trails and contact them for the purpose of sharing its trail inventory efforts and discover if they are interested in participating ([Section VI.A.2. - Property Owners; Appendix L](#)).

Action Plan Policy 5 is to contact neighbors along the trail and inform them of our inventory efforts and to respond to any neighbor asking for assistance in reviewing their property for potential of the Applegate Trail.

Action Plan Policy 6. Networking May 14, 2005

The involvement of all stakeholders, including neighbors, is vital for the success of our Applegate Trail Program ([Section VI.B.](#)).

Action Plan Policy 6 is to network with all stakeholders concerning our program to inventory the Applegate Trail in our region.

Action Plan Policy 7. Diaries and Journals May 14, 2005

A crucial key to understand the location of the trail is to have reviewed and understand the diaries and journals of the emigrants ([Sections VI.A.3.d](#) & [f](#)); [Appendix D & F](#)).

Action Plan Policy 7 is to review and document testimony from applicable diaries and journals of the Applegate Trail in the Hugo region.

Action Plan Policy 8. General Land Office Maps May 14, 2005

Another key to understanding the location of the trail is to have reviewed and understand all the applicable maps, especially the General Land Office (GLO) maps ([Sections VI.A.3.e](#) & [h](#)); [Appendix C](#)).

Action Plan Policy 8 is to review and document surveys and other records from applicable maps of the Applegate Trail in the Hugo region.

Action Plan Policy 9. Survey Field Notes May 14, 2005

Survey field notes, including those supporting the GLO maps, can be used to find the physical location of the Applegate Trail based upon actual surveys ([Sections VI.A.3.e](#); [Appendix E](#)).

Action Plan Policy 9 is to review and document notes from applicable field surveys of the Applegate Trail, including its successors or replacements, in the Hugo region.

Action Plan Policy 10. Composite Trail Descriptions May 14, 2005

An effective means of applying diaries, journals, and/or government reports, especially GLO maps, to locate and verify segments of emigrant trails is by creating a composite trail description ([Section VI.A.3.i](#); [Appendix I](#)).

Action Plan Policy 10 is to develop composite trail descriptions from applicable diaries/journals and field survey notes/maps of Hugo's Applegate Trail.

Action Plan Policy 11. Geographic Position System (GPS) Mapping May 14, 2005

Field survey notes can be used to locate roadbeds of the Applegate Trail. This approach is applicable for either historical notes or recent surveys (e.g., 1856 field survey notes for GLO map by Surveyor Hyde, 1893 field survey notes for GLO map, 1874 Josephine County surveyed road by Alex Watts, County Surveyor, modern land surveys, etc.; [Appendix M](#)).

Action Plan Policy 11 is to develop as many latitude and longitude coordinates as possible in order to locate the Applegate Trail on the ground through the use of GPS devices.

Action Plan Policy 12. Mapping With USGS Quads May 14, 2005

Four USGS topographic quadrangles cover the geographic area for emigrants trails in and adjacent to Hugo, Oregon. They are all in Josephine County, Oregon, 7.5 minute topographic series, scale 1:24,000, and contour interval 40 feet ([Section VI.A.3.c](#)).

Action Plan Policy 12 is to map the Applegate Trail in the Hugo region on 7.5 minute topographic quads.

Action Plan Policy 13. Grave Creek Hills Portion Of 1853 Military Road October 28, 2005

In 1853 a military road from Myrtle Creek to Jacksonville, Oregon was located and surveyed by Brevet Major B. Alvord, United States Army. The road was located or surveyed for its entire length, and constructed in two documented places: 1. 10 - 11 miles of the Umpqua Canyon (Canon), and 2. Grave Creek hills. The *Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee* has been researching a 310' section the Grave Creek hills portion of the road since 2003 (e.g., 1856 general land office survey notes and maps; researching diaries, journals, and reminiscences; anomaly detection search; tree borings; field trips; global position system (GPS) data; mappings; and presentations to the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) and the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council (OHTAC)).¹⁻⁶

This south approach to Mt. Sexton Pass had been inventoried for the possibility of remnants of the Applegate Trail on July 21, 2003. The *Trails Committee* found what it felt was an unaltered roadbed in the location identified by the 1856 and 1894 Government Land Office (GLO) maps and a 1895 county map. On February 16, 2005 members of the *Trails Committee* shared the site and "Big Tree" with Joe Neiderheiser, Member, OCTA. The tree's circumference at diameter at breast height (dbh) was measured to be 33".

On March 5, 2005 the *Trails Committee* participated in a field trip to the 310' roadbed at the Grave Creek hills (i.e., Mt. Sexton Pass) Big Tree location. The road segment was cut into a side hill on the south side of Mt. Sexton Pass. The road was the right width for an early 1850s wagon (9' - 10') and matched the location of the 1856 GLO map. GPS data was collected. Together, the 1856 and 1893 GLO field notes supported the GPS A1 location as the trail. In addition, a large fir tree was growing in the roadbed near GPS fix A1. It was speculated by the *Trails Committee* that this could be an old tree. In this country, if it was over a hundred years old it would be pre-automobile.

Larry McLane, historian and author of *First There Was Twogood*, felt that the 310' roadbed is a portion of the Applegate Trail as it had evolved from 1846 through 1853 (i.e., 1853 military road from Oakland, Oregon to Fort Steward surveyed by Major B. Alvord, U.S. Surveyor, and Jesse Applegate with a Burts solar compass). McLane's research supports the first wagon trains from 1846 through 1852 traveling in the upper draw of Maple Creek until 1853 when they used the improved road over the Grave Creek hills.

On April 6, 2005 the *Trails Committee* participated in another field trip to the 310' roadbed. The purpose of the field trip was to age the douglas fir tree by taking an increment bore and counting the annual rings. The boring was at dbh. There were 70 annual rings from the bark and cambium to the center of the tree at the pith. The number of annual rings and adding five years to get to dbh would indicate Big Tree is around 75 years old. However, a tree injury hypothesis suggested that Big Tree could have taken 20 - 40 years to get to six feet tall before it started its rapid growth. Another boring needs to be conducted.

Circumference at dbh was also measured on the April 6, 2005 trip. One measurement of the

circumference at dbh was 34 inches. Measuring another aspect of the tree recorded a circumference of 26 inches at dbh. The average circumference for Big Tree was 30" at dbh.

The OHTAC met with the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society May 14, 2005 at Sexton Mt. pass. They jointly investigated the 310' road that the Hugo Neighborhood believes is the evolution of the constructed portions of the surveyed 1853 military road.

In conclusion, the *Trails Committee* felt more work needed to be done using OCTA's mapping standards (e.g., diary and journal research; artifact searches; tree aging; further review of GLO field notes; metal detector inventories; field reviews by OCTA, university research teams, or other interested stakeholders; etc.).

Action Plan Policy 13 is to seek expert advice and secure funding for research of the 310' road. Perhaps the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society can secure funding for this research by a university.

-
1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. 2005. *MAPPING ACTION PLAN For Applegate Trail Program*. 2005. Hugo, OR.
 2. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. 2005. *Anomaly Detection Party: March 5, 2005*. 2005. Hugo, OR.
 3. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. 2005. *Tree Boring*. 2005. Hugo, OR.
 4. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. 2005. *Brevet Major B. Alvord's Military Road: 1853*. Hugo, OR.
 5. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. 2005. *Military Road: 1853*. Hugo, OR.
 6. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. 2005. *Applegate Trail: Mt. Sexton Pass*. Hugo, OR.