

Draft

Hugo Emigrant Trail Committee

Field Trip with National Parks-Applegate Trail

September 26, 2014

Participants: AM portion: Mike Walker, Leta and Joe Neiderheiser , Jim and Rene Ford, Bob Black, Kelly Rarey, Larry McStravog and our guest from National Park Service: Lynne Mager, Interpretive Specialist

Participants for the September 26 Applegate Trail trip met at the Manzanita Rest stop at 8 a.m. with Mike Walker in charge of the morning activities at Manzanita Rest Stop-Harris Cabin site and a walk along a section of the Applegate Trail on Sexton Mt. (See Mike's detailed notes on a.m. activities).

At about 11 a.m. we left Mike and Larry and headed to the Applegate Trail Interpretive Center in Sunny Valley. The museum was not open but Lynne was able to view the site and see the size of the wagons that came west. (She is familiar with the Conestoga wagon used on the Santé Fe Trail) We walked down to the bridge and over to the Martha Leland Crowley marked grave site. Lynne's initial impression was that the site was already sufficiently identified and that limited resources could best be used at another site along the Applegate Trail.

We moved on to Wolf Creek Inn for lunch and a chance to view the informational signs placed at the inn in 1996 for the 150th commemoration of the Applegate Trail. Our time at the Inn was limited as we had a 2 o'clock meeting in Myrtle Creek to view a section of the Applegate Trail on Dole Road just off of Interstate 5.

On our way to Myrtle Creek we stopped at the Canyonville Pioneer Park to view the Applegate Trail Interpretive signs located in a kiosk on the south end of the park. Once again we saw the Applegate Trail map that was at the Valley of the Rogue State Park and all agreed that it would be nice to carry that same map into any new signage. Lynne asked Leta to contact Sea Reach to see if it would be possible to use the map. (I called Sea Reach and they shared that the signs were old enough that they did not have a digital copy of the map but they had no problem with us taking a high quality picture of the map and sending it to National Parks to be used in any new sign projects concerning the Applegate Trail.)

We met the Myrtle Creek mayor, Dan Jocoy, in front of the city hall and proceeded to the Dole Road site. We walked up the trail ruts, discussing why we felt they were trail ruts: GLO map of 1856, depth of the ruts, rocks cast to the side making a path, only logical place where it could

have gone up the mountain in that area, and local legend. The land where the ruts are located, is for sale at this time. The mayor called the real state office listing the land and was told there is no asking price. The city would like to try and work out some way that the city could acquire the land without spending money. They, like most small cities in Oregon, are struggling financially but do wish to find a way to protect this important historical site.

Lynne had some concerns about the parking area and if it could be made handy-capped accessible. She shared that the trail did not need to be accessible but the area where signs would be located would need to meet federal standers for handy-capped accessibility.

We left the Dole Road site just after 4p.m. and stopped at the south bound Manzanita Rest stop to check where we might locate copies of the signs that would be located in the north bound Manzanita Rest stop. Lynne and Rene walked the rest stop discussing several possibilities and taking numerous pictures.

I had hoped we would have time to go to Fort Vannoy Farms and view the river crossing of 1846 with the possibility of signage but Lynne needed to be back at the motel by 5 p.m. We dropped her off at the motel and she shared she would be on vacation for two weeks but at the end of that time would share the gathered information and her impressions with her superiors and get back to us with a time line and responsibilities. It was agreed that I would continue to be the contact person and I have not received any communications since then.

Submitted by: Leta Neiderheiser