

Jacksonville Road (JR) Of Applegate Trail (*Trail*): Big Tree Aged¹

Hugo's JA from Willamette Valley to Jacksonville (route of the Applegate Trail) is located in Josephine County, Oregon from Louse Creek in the south to Grave Creek in the north. There are 17 GLO surveyed points of interest (POI) along the JR in Hugo's area of interest.³ There are many more like this *2010 Big Tree At Mt. Sexton Pass POI* without a GLO survey.

MT. SEXTON PASS TRAIL SEGMENT

POI Name Mt. Sexton Pass ■ JA-14B.

POI ID Code OR-AT-00-34-06-23-n/a-JA-14B

2010 BIG TREE AT MT. SEXTON PASS

POI Name 2010 Big Tree At Mt. Sexton Pass

■ JA-14H.

POI ID Code OR-AT-00-34-06-23-n/a-JA-14H.

POI Located With GPS/Interpretative Sign No.

2005 Big Tree On April 6, 2005 Virgil Witcher⁴, Consulting Professional Forester, aged a large Douglas Fir tree (dbh 33") at 75 years with wound wood close to the middle of the *Trail* at Mt. Sexton Pass His hypothesis about wound wood and injury makes Big Tree much older. In 2010 Big Tree might be the same age of 107 years old as a nearby fir that Witcher believes is a cohort.

1. General Surveyor Office of Oregon. Subdivision Lines For 1856 Map (T.34., R. 6. W., Willamette Meridian). Field Notes. Surveyor Luke G Hyde. Contract February 19, 1855; Surveyed March 31, 1856; Hugo Neighborhood. 2006. *Hugo's Applegate Trail Field Notes*. Brochures 10A - 10D in Emigrant Trail Series. Hugo, OR.

2. Rose, Karen. 2006. Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee, Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. *Hugo's Applegate Trail Diaries, Journals & Reminiscences Project*. "Yellow Book Project" For Participants of the Diaries, Journals and Reminiscences Sub-Committee. Hugo, OR. Hugo Neighborhood. 2005 *Diaries & Journals*. Brochure 11 in Emigrant Trail Series. Hugo, OR; Hugo Neighborhood. 2006 *Diaries, Journals & Reminiscences Sub-Committee*. Brochure 11B in Emigrant Trail Series. Hugo, OR.

Big Tree From 80 - 107 Years Old: 2010

The purpose of the field trip was to age Big Tree by boring and counting it's annual rings. Witcher used a 16" long increment borer. All rings had good growth. 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 would normally indicate Big Tree was 75 years old in 2005.⁴



Virgil Witcher, Consulting Forester, Measuring dbh At Big Tree

rationale for this hypothesis are old broken limbs/stubs from one to 5 feet from the ground on the tree. When the injuries first occurred there had been enough living tissue to supply the limbs with water and the injured limbs continued to live. The tree grew around the injured limbs and absorbed them. Because of the injuries the limbs do not slough off and become persistent forming stubs on the outside of the tree.

In 2005 another Douglas fir tree 25-30 feet uphill from tree from Big Tree was also bored. The core had 95 annual rings plus 7 equals a 102 year old tree. This tree is not as big as Big Tree, but probably a cohort and the same age.

Wound Wood⁴

Witcher believes that Big Tree probably had injuries when it was small from wagons and/or motorized vehicles driving over it. It was probably injured many times. The

No Wagons Or Motorized Vehicles At Mt. Sexton Pass Since 1920s

Summary In 2010 Big Tree was from 80 to 107 years old and started growing from 1903 - 1930. The wound wood strongly suggests that a young Big Tree was being traumatized by wagons and early motorized traffic prior to a new Pacific Highway being paved in 1921 and the old *Trail* being abandoned. Either way Big Tree proves the roadbed is not some recent logging road. It is old, has not been used by wagons or motorized traffic since the 1920s, and highly likely the evolution of the old 1853 Military Road.

Stakeholders Oregon Highway Commission/Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

OCTA Trail Classification Class ② Used Trail⁵

Coherence Rule Linear Uniformity. Yes

Corroborative Rule Confirming Evidence. Yes

Collateral Rule Physical/Topo Evidence. Yes

Correlation Rule Overall Agreement. Yes

Be Respectful *Do not trespass. Big Tree At Mt. Sexton Pass is located on public property.*

More Information Contact a member of the Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee.



Inside Story Of A Douglas Fir

3. Hugo Neighborhood. 2009 *Hugo's Applegate Trail GLO Points of Interest*.

Brochure 1 in Applegate Trail GLO Surveys Series. Hugo, OR.

4. Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee. April 6, 2005. *Big Tree Boring*. HNA&HS. Hugo, OR.

5. Office of National Trails Preservation & Oregon-California Trails Association (P.O. box 1019, Independence, MO, 64051-0519, 816-252-2276, octa@indepmo.org). July 2002, 4th edition. *Mapping Emigrants Trails MET Field Manual*.

Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee

Hugo is blessed with a rich heritage of historic roads, rough though they were. The *Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee* was formed to bring together all those who want to learn more about the early transportation in the area, from the casual admirer to the dedicated researcher. Its aim is to collect and record information about Hugo's emigrant trails, especially its two historic 1850s General Land Office mapped roads, and to share this information (e.g., through *Hugo History Day*, talks, hikes, group visits, training exercises, workshops, publications, web sites, etc.).

Karen Rose, Co-Project Leader
Mike Walker, Co-Project Leader

Diaries, Journals & Reminiscences SubCommittee

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Janet McKy
Kelly & Berneata Rarey
Glen Campbell
Norm Tieman
Joe & Leta Neiderheiser
Kristen Boyce
Kathy Burkey
Penny Shipley
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General Land Office Field Survey SubCommittee

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Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area. Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings.

Hugo Neighborhood

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JR Of Applegate Trail: 2010 Big Tree At Mt. Sexton Pass



Brochure 18H of Applegate Trail GLO
Surveys Brochure Series



Injury Limbs On Big Tree

April 21, 2010

**Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee
Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society
Josephine County Historical Society**