
General Land Office (GLO) Surveys & Points of Interest (POIs)¹

Hugo's Applegate Trail (*Trail*) is located in Josephine County, Oregon from Louse Creek in the south to Grave Creek in the north. There are thirty-three (33) 1850s GLO surveyed POIs along Hugo's two emigrant routes of the *Trail*.^{1&4}

Native Americans Use Of Fire & Prairies³ In southwestern Oregon the uses of fire by Native Americans, as well as natural lightning fires, greatly influenced vegetation patterns for thousands of years, until the mid-1800s. When European settlers first arrived in the area, *recently burned over lands were common, grasslands were much more prevalent than today, and trees clustered along streams, ridge tops, and protected valleys.*

Accounts by explorers many times noted huge burned over areas with many dead trees "littering" the landscape, without knowledge of whether the fires were natural or Indian caused. Written accounts by early settlers and fur trappers remain incomplete *although many noted that there were open prairies with tall grasses in almost every river basin.*

1850s GLO of Oregon¹ Survey notes on prairies and open woodlands from the 1850s GLO surveys for the Hugo region are one of the most prevalent notes. These open areas were like popcorn on the string of the Applegate Trail.

Trail POIs: 1855-1856 Except for the houses, Hugo's 33 POIs were surveyed on the boundaries of one mile square sections which means the distances from POI to POI averaged approximately one mile.^{1&4}

Diaries, Journals, & Reminiscences²

1840s Applegate Trail Diarists² From a vegetation point of view much of the *Trail* did not have to be cleared on the east side of the Cascades. Except for the Cascades and the Umpqua mountains north of Grants Pass, a considerable portion of the emigration routes were through open valleys.

In the Hugo region diarists noted only three places they had to cut brush from Louse Creek to Grave Creek: 1. Louse Creek, 2. Jumpoff Joe Creek, and 3. north side of Grave Creek Hills.

Time Of Travel: 1846 - 1855 was at the last quarter of a 2,000 mile emigration. Travel in southwestern Oregon was during the late summer when the land was bone dry until the fall rains came in late October or November. On October 26, 1846 diarist Pringle wrote: "*The wet season commenced the second day after we started through the mountains.*"

Trail Traffic Direction: 1846 - 1855 Southwestern Oregon was hostile to pioneers prior to Native American removal in 1856 to distant reservations. This meant that, except for anomalies like the gold rush to California, all traffic on the *Trail* in the Hugo region was one-way north to the Willamette Valley. These folks were not building or improving roads. Where necessary they were cutting a trail through the wilderness to get beyond, and they did not intend to come back.

National Historic Trail (NHT) Routes At a macro level NHTs are defined by well-defined major variants of a NHT. At this level the GLO maps locate the *Trail* between the POIs.

Takelma Indians Use Of Fire Creating Open Woodlands & Prairies In Narrow Valleys³

Working Hypothesis: Locating Trail Sites Between POIs The *Trail* in the Hugo region was restricted by the complex mountain-valley structure of the region. A working hypothesis is that, except when traversing mountains and ridges, the *Trail* was located in the narrow valleys which in 1846 - 1855 were generally open woodlands and prairies located next to trees clustered along streams.

Guidelines For Locating Wagon Trails Within the parameters of the working hypothesis for locating routes between POIs the guidelines are from the Oregon-California Trails Association's *Mapping Emigrants Trails MET Field Manual*.⁵

Evolution Of Routes Year-around traffic meant travelers had to deal with lowland ground that was wet and muddy in the winter. After 1856 the *Trail* continued to evolve away from the winter wet ground to the toes of adjacent hills and ridges.

Want more information? Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* .

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.

3. Hugo Neighborhood. 2010. *Takelma Indians And Fire*. Brochure I-15B Of Hugo's Native American Brochure Series. Hugo, OR; Hugo Neighborhood. 2010. *Takelma Indians And Anthropogenic Fire*. Brochure I-15A Of Hugo's Native American Brochure Series. Hugo, OR.

4. Hugo Neighborhood. 2009 *Hugo's Applegate Trail GLO Points of Interest*. Brochure 1 in Applegate Trail GLO Surveys Series. Hugo, OR.

5. Hugo Neighborhood. July 27, 2005. *Guidelines For Locating Wagon Trails: Mountainous & forested Terrain*. Hugo, OR.

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. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

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Brochure 5 of Applegate Trail POI Series - HNA&HS 2009 - 64B
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Applegate Trail's Open Valleys & Wagon Routes In Hugo Region: 1846 - 1855



Brochure 5 of Applegate Trail GLO
Surveys Brochure Series



Oak Woodland In Harris Creek Drainage

January 10, 2010

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