

## Along Illinois Road

**Overview** Hugo, Oregon like most places has its Native American history, some known, most not. Hugo's first citizens or peoples were the Takelma Indians in the Rogue River Valley.<sup>1</sup>



**Beckham**<sup>3</sup> Salwaxkan: [This village was west of the Applegate River on the road between Grants Pass and the Illinois River and was a short distance upstream from the confluence of the Applegate and Rogue. It does not appear to correlate with any archaeological site excavated to date.]

“big red flat back of Hussey's” (Harrington 1981[28]:490). (Beckham 1993: 30-31).

“Salwaxkan was a field across R[ogue] from Mastalow's place. Story of war betw[een] Applegate & Tak[elma] Ind[ian]s app[arently] Talkwa-hata'na was the name of the man who got killed but was brot across river in boat.” (Harrington 1981[28]:494). (Beckham 1993: 31).

“we reach Applegate River. She (Frances Johnson) . . . knows that Salwaxkan is away from bank of Rogue River. Salwaxkan is the little flat, and k[now]s that Talkwa'lk is on s[outh] bank of R[ogue] river in front of Salwaxkan. She heard her mother talking about Salwaxkan in connection with the Illinois road” (Harrington 1981[28]:462). (Beckham 1993: 31).

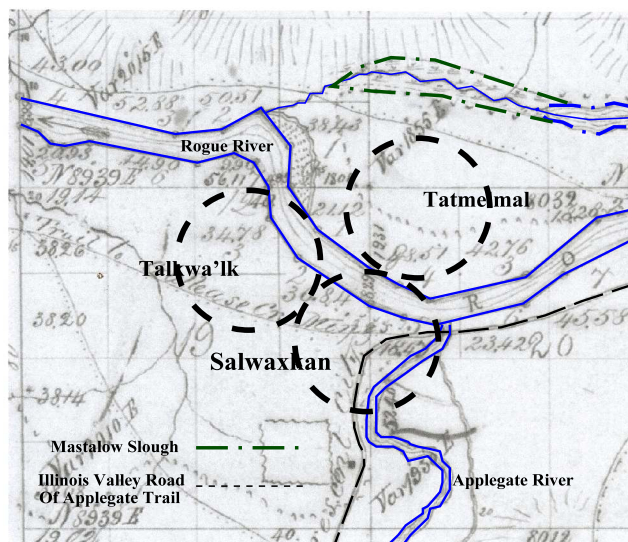
1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. January 1, 2010. *Program Overview: Native Americans of Hugo, Oregon*. Hugo, OR.

2. Harrington, John Peabody . 1981 The Papers of John Peabody Harrington in the National Anthropological Archives of the Smithsonian Institution 1907-1957. Reel number 28. Kraus International Publications. Millwood, New York

## Takelma Salwaxkan Village

**Beckham**<sup>3</sup> “Salwaxkan is where the ferryboat crosses Applegate C[ree]k” (Harrington 1981[28]:492). (Beckham 1993: 31).

“[Frances Johnson] Says all she know it that Salwaxkan is on the Ill[inio]s r[oa]d “outside” R[ogue] River to outside [?] off mouth of Applegate probably. She knows nothing of Ill[inio]s r[oa]d going over gap of hills” (Harrington 1981[28]:461). (Beckham 1993: 31).



*Map 2. Salwaxkan:  
Confluence of Rogue & Applegate Rivers*

Villages at Confluence of Applegate and Rogue Rivers. Frances Johnson recalled three village sites : Tatmelmal on the north bank, Talkwa'lk near of grove of cottonwood [balm or “bam” trees] on the south bank west of the mouth of the Applegate, and Salwaxkan, the “big red flat back of Husey's”. (Harrington 1981[28]:490) (Beckham 1993: 43).

## Confluence of Applegate & Rogue Rivers

**Gray**<sup>4</sup> Salwaxk'an (Harrington), also possibly Salwal-xa (Sapir) and Sal--wa--qu (Dorsey): “We reached the Applegate River. She . . . knows that Salwaxk'an is away from bank of Rogue River. Salwaxk'an is the little flat. Heard her mother talking about in connection with the Illinois Road (Harrington 1981:410,462).”

“Sal-wa-qu (i.e., @U[Salwa'xa] which probably means 'at the foot of the creek' and which must have applied to a village at the mouth of Illinois River or one of its tributaries [Sapir 1907a:254].”

[The confusion between Sapir's and Dorsey's placement of Salwaxk'an in the Illinois Valley, and Frances Johnson's later statement that it was connected with the Illinois Road, yet near the Applegate/Rogue confluence is understandable, if, in fact, both spellings apply to the same place name. Therefore, I would be inclined to disregard Dorsey's original placement of Sal-ia iu in the Illinois Valley and Sapir's later repetition of this placement, in favor of Harrington's information that it was near the confluence of the Applegate and Rogue Rivers.]

**Be Respectful.** Do not trespass. Always be respectful of your neighbor's property rights. With permission, leave only footprints.

3. Beckham, Stephen Dow. September 30, 1993. *Takelman And Athapascan Lifeways And History, Rogue River Corridor – Applegate River To Grave Creek: Investigations For Interpretive Programs*. Submitted to BLM Medford District. Heritage Research Associates, Inc. Eugene, OR.

4. Gray, Dennis J. (1987). *The Takelmas and Their Athapascan Neighbors: A New Ethnographic Synthesis for the Upper Rogue River Area of Southwestern Oregon*, University of Oregon Anthropological Papers, No. 37. Eugene: Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon.

## 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.

Email: [hugo@jeffnet.org](mailto:hugo@jeffnet.org)

Web Page: <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/>

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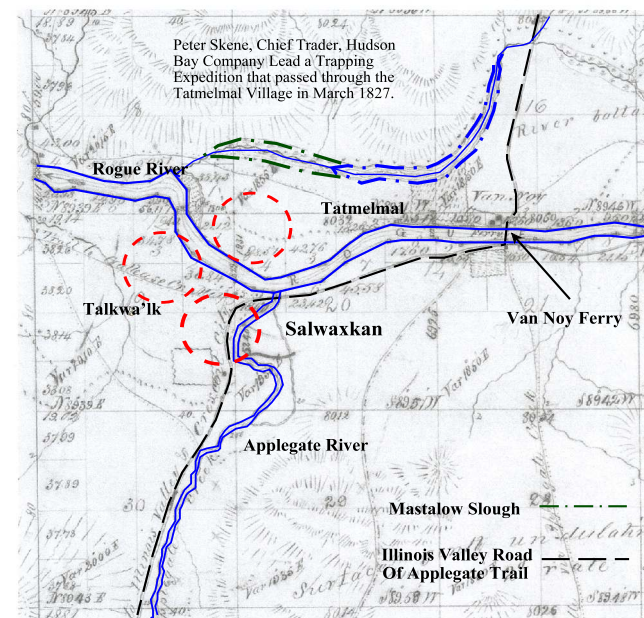
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Contact an member of the HNAT.

Brochure NA-33 in Hugo's Native American Brochure Series  
HNA&HS 2011 -NA-33  
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## Takelma Salwaxkan Village



Brochure NA-33 Of Hugo's  
Native American Brochure  
Series



**Map 1. Confluence of Applegate and Rogue Rivers & Three Takelma Villages**  
1856 GLO Base Map

**October 5, 2011**

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &  
Historical Society  
Josephine County Historical Society**