

## Hugo's Native Americans

Native inhabitants date back as far as 10,000 years ago in the Hugo area.<sup>1</sup> The Takelma Indians, or commonly named the Rogue River Indians, lived in semi-permanent villages during the winter, and then broke up into smaller bands during fall, spring and summer to hunt, fish and gather in the neighboring foothills. During their time away from their village, they lived in temporary camps in brush houses. There is a high probability that the Hugo area was the site of one of these temporary camps. It is alive with the preferred black acorn trees and close to both Mt. Sexton and Red Mountain where upland game is and was abundant. Also, numerous creeks are present here as a source of water. Not named then, but Bummer and Quartz creeks are two major perennial creeks in the Hugo area.

One of the most important tools for survival and subsistence was the use of fire by these native inhabitants. The reasons for the use of fire included game drives, gathering of acorns, hazel nuts, tarweed seeds, grass seeds, insects, root and berry propagation, procurement of sugar pine sap, snake control, preparation for tobacco planting, enhancement of basketry materials, warfare, communication and ceremonial purposes as well as cooking, warmth and light.

1. Rose, Karen. May 25, 2002. *Takelma Indians: An Essay on Native Americans in the Rogue River Area*. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. <http://jeffnet.org/~hugo/takelma.htm>. Hugo, OR.

2. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. January 2005. *Hugo Applegate Field Notes*. Brochure 10. Hugo, OR.

3. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. January 2005. *Ox Bow of Applegate Trail*. Brochure 15. Hugo, OR.

4. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. January 2005. *Applegate Trail: White Property*. Brochure 18. Hugo, OR.

## Hugo's Indian Trail: 1856

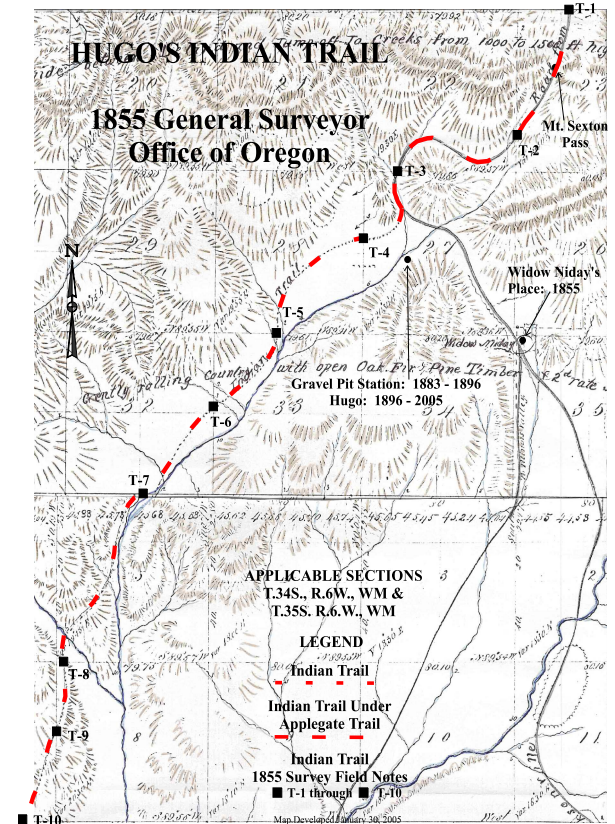
The 1856 Oregon General Land Office (GLO) map for T. 34 S., R. 6 W., Willamette Meridian documents an Indian trail going east to west along Leland Creek which is today known as Grave Creek. The GLO maps for T. 34 S., R. 6 W. and T. 35 S., R. 6 W., Willamette Meridian, document an Indian trail going southwest to northeast from the Applegate Trail in the north to Jump-off Joe Creek in the south. This trail connects with the Rogue River and a main Indian Trail at the confluence of Jump-off Joe Creek with the river.

As a general rule, the accuracy of GLO maps only exists where the trail intersects a section line.<sup>2</sup> Ten such points were identified for the Indian Trail in Hugo (see map and points T-1 through T-10) which can be transferred to USGS 7.5 minute topographic quadrangles.

A hypothesis to be tested is that the northeast terminus of the Indian Trail on the 1856 map at the Applegate Trail reflects the fact that at this point the later Applegate Trail was built on top of the existing Indian Trail which was connected to its counter part Indian Trail in Leland Creek. Using an existing trail saved time and for most of the trail matched the emigrants' normal inclination to avoid side hilling. In 1846 a major effort was expended in energy and time to widen the Indian trail, but not as much as if the emigrants had hacked a brand new trail in the brush and trees. The emigrants' normal practice of following ridges or higher elevations and traveling directly up or down grades to avoid side hilling on steep slopes also fits the topography for the south and west portions of the ox bow of the Applegate Trail.<sup>3&4</sup>

## More Information

The GLO maps's field notes are in conformance with their associated modern topo quads which means that the 10 points on Hugo's Indian Trail can be located on the ground by transposing these field notes to latitude and longitude and using a global positioning system (GPS) device.



**Want more information?** Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* on how you can become involved in this trail project.

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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 by preserving, protecting, and enhancing the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, as 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 Association*

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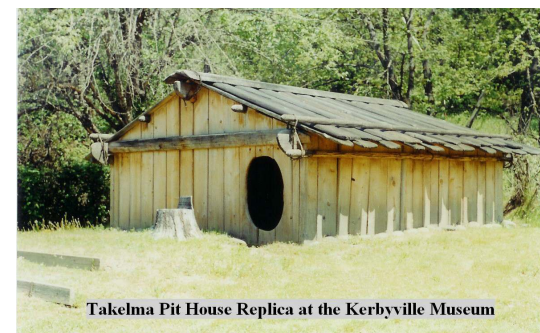
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# HUGO'S INDIAN TRAIL

Brochure I-8 Of Hugo's Native American  
Brochure Series &  
Brochure 4B Of Hugo's Trails  
Brochure Series



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**Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee**

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &  
Historical Society**