

Minutes of Field Trips to JA-15 South Rat Creek & JA-16 Old Stage Road

**GLO Field Survey Sub-Committee Inventory Trips
Friday, February 5, 2010
11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

References JR Of Applegate Trail: *South Rat Creek (JA-15)* Very Draft Brochure.
JR Of Applegate Trail: *Old Stage Road (JA-16)* Very Draft Brochure
JA-15 & JA-16 Mapped on 1998 USGS Merlin Quadrangle

Purpose Members of the GLO Field Sub-Committee (*Sub-Committee*), Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee, to inventory and mark GLO POI “JA-15 South Rat Creek”, and conduct orientation GPS work and section corner work for “JA-16 Old Stage Road” of the Applegate Trail.

Participants See Appendix A.

Accomplishments Field Trips to JA-15 and JA-16.

JA-15 SOUTH RAT CREEK

The JA-15 field review was under an accelerated schedule as a result of individual members visiting the site earlier (Chris Wytcherley and Mike Walker, Friday, January 29, 2010; Jim and Rene Ford and Mike Walker, Saturday, January 30, 2010). The two previous visits had found that the ground had a large amount of vegetation down and many survey stakes. It was speculated this ground disturbance was part of the I-5 widening project producing apprehension that the new I-5 fill will cover JA-15 and the Applegate Trail (Appendix B).

GPS Work

1. Traveled to JA-15 via the drill access road near summit (north side) of Mt. Sexton Pass to the “Fiber Cable Route” guided by the JA-15 GPS coordinates (from the original latitude and longitude calculations at Appendix B). Three different GPSs recorded JA-15 within 30' of each other. An average/consensus GPS location was identified. A stake was driven to mark the site and photographs were taken (Photo 1).



Photo 1. Averaged GPS Stake Location

Bearing & Distance Work/Visual Reconnaissance Bearing and distance work was conducted to quality control/verify work of previous individual field trips.



Photo 2. Distance Measurements

1. Located JA-15 Section Line from on-the-ground yellow capped monument, including K-Tag, and flags (Appendix B; Photo 2).

2. Observed Rat Creek and local environment. The ground from the K-Tag west to Rat Creek was relatively undisturbed. What are the Oregon Forest Practice Act riparian standards for a perennial stream that might be a fish stream? Rat Creek was approximately 2' wide which matched the 1850s GLO survey notes which recorded Rat Creek as 3 links wide = 23.76" (Appendix B). All five members of the GLO SubCommittee agreed

that Rat Creek appeared to be in a natural condition and in a location that probably had not changed from the 1850s.

3. Bearing and distance work was conducted along section line using GLO survey distances that Rat Creek and the Trail are 92.4' apart (Appendix B). The distance from Rat Creek to the yellow capped monument was 78.5' which matched the previous measurement of 78'. JA-15 was located at 92.4' and a stake placed. Photographs were taken (Photo 3). This bearing and distance location was within 25' of the averaged GPS location for JA-15 which was also on the section line.

Interestingly JA-15 was in the middle of a north-south tributary of Rat Creek (a bearing of the stream at JA-15 recorded N10" W - N15" W (azimuth 345 - 350 degrees). The working hypothesis of the GLO SubCommittee was that this stream was man-created by road work on the "Fiber Cable Route" which created earth barriers diverting water to the old *Trail*. When it encountered the old road its orientation changed to north and south for approximately 30' before it broke through toward the west and Rat Creek.

4. A visual reconnaissance was conducted from JA-15 along a course of north and south as the GLO recorded course was: "course N. and S." Distances observed in each direction was approximately 500'.



Photo 3. JA-15 From Bearing & Distance Work

Area North. After locating JA-15 on the section line, a compass bearing was taken in a northerly direction to search for possible traces of the old road. Chris, Joe, and Kelly proceeded approximately 250' on this bearing without seeing any good indicators, at which point this bearing brought us very close to the edge of a high bank east of Rat Creek. The terrain was a flat

bench to the east, gently sloping to the north as we proceeded in a north-easterly direction following the high east bank of the creek. This would be the only place a road could continue as



Photo 4. Applegate Trail Trace/Road Bed

the creek bank was very steep to the west. At approximately 300'-400' we could see a definite trace of a narrow roadway clearing between the brush on either side (Photo 4). To confirm that this was not the remnants of the fiber cable line construction we walked due east approximately 75' and found the fiber cable line route marked with post and tags and very obviously disturbed ground.

Area South. The area south of JA-15 was another matter. A comprehensive review of the ground from Rat Creek to the drill access road upstream found no evidence of the *Trail*. However, the ground at JA-15 as previously stated was in a north-south creek. The ground south of JA-15 within approximately 50' was degraded by major earth changes from developing the "Fiber Cable Route." After that, again in a north-south orientation was a large berm along the west side of the "Fiber Cable Route." And, finally the "Fiber Cable Route" road itself in a north-south orientation for 500' or

so. The conclusion of the GLO SubCommittee was that the *Trail* south of JA-15 was under the degraded area, the road berm, and the "Fiber Cable Route" road.

5. A summary of the *Trail* facts follow.

- a) Verified 1850s Oregon General Land Office surveys and map for JA-15.
- b) Verified 1895 Official Josephine County Map for road in same location as GLO mapped *Trail* at JA-15.
- c) Verified registered survey monument locating east-west section line JA-15 located.
- d) Bearing and distance measurement (GLO survey Rat Creek 92.4' east along section line to JA-15).
- e) Physical *Trail* traces and road beds in correction north-south orientation north of JA-15 for approximately 500'.

6. Consensus determination by GLO SubCommittee is that the *Trail* within 30' of JA-15 had a OCTA trail classification of Class ③ Verified Trail or Class ④ Altered Trail. However, several segments of the *Trail* north of JA-15 were Class ② Used Trail.

- Class 1 - Unaltered Trail. It retains its original character.
Class 2 - Used Trail. It retains elements of its original character, but shows use by motor vehicles.

- Class 3 - Verified Trail. It is accurately located and verified, but trail traces are nonexistent or insignificant.
- Class 4 - Altered Trail. It is verified, but elements of its original condition are permanently altered.
- Class 5 - Approximate Trail. It is obliterated or unverifiable that its location is known only approximately.

7. Consensus determinations by the GLO SubCommittee on OCTA's *Cardinal Rules of Trail Verification* as applicable to JA-15 follow (Appendix D):

Coherence Rule. Linear Uniformity. Yes
 Corroborative Rule. Confirming Evidence. Yes
 Collateral Rule. Physical/Topo Evidence. Yes
 Correlation Rule. Overall Agreement. Yes

8. A working hypothesis by the GLO SubCommittee was that the linear ground disturbance and tree felling in the route of the drill access road and the flags in the area of JA-15 are visible aspects of the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) I-5 widening project.

The GLO SubCommittee did not know if the new I-5 fill in the JA-15 area could cover the *Trail*. Could it? The GLO SubCommittee did feel that some of the northern part of the 310' 1853 military road segment would be further cut by widening of I-5 at the Mt. Sexton summit.

How to share the GLO SubCommittee's *Trail* information and concerns? It was decided that Jim Ford, Member, GLO SubCommittee (Appendix A) would have the lead in representing the GLO SubCommittee with ODOT. His general message, to be refined, is to initially share some *Trail* information (i.e., this set of minutes, final brochure for JA-15, 2005 Applegate Trail: Mt. Sexton Pass brochure) with ODOT, and ask for a meeting for the purpose of understanding the I-5 widening project and to share its concerns. Further *Trail* information would be referenced at meeting.

The GLO SubCommittee's interest is not to stop or interfere with the I-5 widening project even if it damages or destroys the *Trail*. However, it is vitally interested in preserving history through documentation, and in the event that *Trail* resources might be damaged to meaningfully consider mitigation measures (For example, see Chapter VI on conditions of approval which is part of the 2007 document entitled *Assessment Of Proposed Pioneer Meadows Subdivision Containing Applegate Trail Resources*. It was jointly authored by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society, Josephine County Historical Society, Goal One Coalition, Rogue Advocates, and the Oregon-California Trails Association. The entire document is published on the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's web page at <http://jeffnet.org/~threepines/AP.htm>).

JA-16 OLD STAGE ROAD

Fact: JA-16 is 530.64' East of Section Corner On a previous field trip two GPSs indicated JA-16 was to the west toward Rat Creek from **JA-16 Section Line # 1** (see Appendix C for definition). However, good GLO survey distance data from Corner Section plotted on both USGS quad map and assessor map indicate JA-16 is 530.64' east of Section Corner near location of South Stage Road (just east of road; Appendix C).

72.00 a Road c N30°W & S30°E [72 chains = 4,752']
80.04 To Section Corner [80.04 chains = 5,282.64']

5,282.64' - 4,752' = JA-16 is 530.64' east of section corner

Fact: Section Corner Is Close To Rat Creek The Section Corner is on a line approximately 200 feet west of location where the BLM Copper Queen Road crosses over Rat Creek, and on a line approximately 100 feet of latitude north of where the BLM Copper Queen Road crosses over Rat Creek (Appendix C; JA-15 & JA-16 Mapped on 1998 USGS Merlin Quadrangle).

Fact: JA-16 is 363' from Rat Creek GLO survey distance records Rat Creek is 363' from *Trail* and 7 links wide = 55.44" (Appendix C; JA-15 & JA-16 Mapped on 1998 USGS Merlin Quadrangle).

Fact: JA-16 has a N30°W & S30°E Orientation The quadrant bearings for the course of the *Trail* is N30°W & S30°E = azimuths of 330 degrees and 150 degrees (Appendix C).

GPS Work

The bearings and distances of three individual GPSs by three different operators from JA-16 Section Line 1 (Appendix C) to JA-16 follows.

Joe: 1. 274" , 286' (North American Datum (NAD) of 1927 (NAD 27)
2. 274" , 317' (North American Datum (NAD) of 1983 (NAD 83)
Mike: 1. 292" , 247' (North American Datum (NAD) of 1927 (NAD 27)
Jim: 1. 299" , 330' (North American Datum (NAD) of 1927 (NAD 27)
2. 299" , 344' (North American Datum (NAD) of 1983 (NAD 83)

We need a better understanding of these datums and how they affect our GPS work.

These bearing and distances make calculated latitude and longitude (especially longitude) for JA-16 very suspect as there is reliable mapping to indicate that JA-16 is close to Old Stage Road.

Corner Section for Sections 10, 11, 14, & 15

The SubCommittee located the Corner Section for Sections 10, 11, 14, & 15 on the ground. It was well marked including a monument. Pictures were taken and a GPS mark was recorded by Joe's GPS (Photo 5).

42° 37' 22.2" North Latitude
123° 23' 12.4" West Longitude

The SubCommittee's calculated latitude and longitude for JA-16 follows.

42° 37' 23" North Latitude
123° 23' 5" West Longitude



Photo 5. Section Corner

The SubCommittee will change its GPS latitude coordinate for JA-16 from its original calculated 42° 37' 23" North Latitude to Joe's GPS mark of 42° 37' 22.2" North Latitude. It should also recalculate the longitude of JA-16. Can Chris or Joe perform this calculation?

Rat Creek On Section Line between Sections 11 & 14

Rat Creek (the stream of water) was approximately 5' wide along the estimated section line. This matches the GLO survey of 7 links wide = 55.44". The SubCommittee felt that Rat Creek had not moved at the point along the section line.

Other Information

1. New Member Chris Wytcherley was invited to be a member GLO Field Review Sub-Committee, Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee, on the JA-15 field trip by members of the Sub-Committee. He accepted. Welcome aboard Chris.
2. Survey Goal A long-term goal of the Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee is a grant for legal registered surveys of the Applegate Trail relating to surveyed GLO road sites.

Chris accepted the lead in investigating the cost of surveying the GLO Field Review Sub-Committee's 30 Applegate Trail points of interest (POIs) with 1850s GLO surveys. The members of the GLO Field Review Sub-Committee agreed to assist Chris to collect the information necessary to make the estimate. Chris will develop a one page or less statement of the information needed and how the members can help collect the required information.

The cost estimate for the surveys would have two elements:

- a) Full cost estimate without assistance of the members of the GLO Field Review Sub-Committee.
- b) Reduced cost estimate based on major assistance from members of the GLO Field Review Sub-Committee as determined by Chris.

Walker has the lead in writing and applying for the grant after the cost estimate is developed.

3. Frequency of Field Trips The issue of field trips and the time and priorities of members of GLO Field Review Sub-Committee was discussed. To keep the energy going without compromising the lives of the members, it was felt that a goal of one or two field meetings a month was needed and O.K. (i.e., a goal of a minimum of one field trip per month and a maximum of two field trips per month).

4. Niday Donation Land Claim (DLC) No. 40

Chris provided BLM web page address for the Hiram Niday DLC Claim No. 40 survey (Township 34 South, Range 6 West) dated February 3, 1857.
http://www.blm.gov/or/landrecords/survey/yNoteView1_2.php?D0030OR0350003520

This survey will provide addition information on the Illinois Valley Road and the Jacksonville Road of the Applegate Trail.

5. BLM Web Pages For GLO Survey Notes & GLO Maps

Chris will provide BLM web addresses for the 30 GLO points of interest and the applicable GLO maps. Walker will provide Chris with GLO section lines that BLM web addresses are needed.

Web addresses for the following GLO township maps are needed.

1856 GLO Map: T. 35S., R. 5W., WM
1895 GLO Map: T. 35S., R. 5W., WM
1856 GLO Map: T. 35S., R. 6W., WM
1856 GLO Map: T. 34S., R. 6W., WM
1894 GLO Map: T. 34S., R. 6W., WM

6. Future Field Trips

- a) JA-10 Monument Drive (Campbell Lead; half on public land; we already have permission).
- b) Revisit JA-2 Soldier Creek for brush work (Walker Lead; we already have permission).
- c) Revisit JA-3 Louse Creek Saddle and office work (Walker Lead; public land).

- d) Revisit JA-13 Penny Ridge (Walker Lead; we already have permission; Could Wytcherley take Lead - This could work well with Josephine County Surveyor's Office needed work on pulled quarter corner monument for Sections 22 and 27).
- e) Revisit JA-14 Maple Creek (Walker Lead; public land - access from I-5)
- e) Revisit JA-4 Harris Road 1, JA-5 Harris Road 2, JA-6 Harris Road 3, and JA-7 Harris Road 4 as a new GLO SubCommittee with new documentation standards (Walker Lead; public land)
- f) Revisit JA-H-2A Harris House and JA-H-2B Davis House (Walker Lead; public land)
- g) IV-O Railroad Bluff Break, IV-1 Louse Creek Park, & IV-2 Haines Apple Tree (Rarey has Lead; start working on IV-0 as half on public land).
- h) JA-11, JA-12, and JA-H-3 (Widow Niday house) needs landowner permission. All three of these POIs are accessible and easy bearing and distance work. (Drake was Lead; Could Neiderheiser take Lead)

Minutes Recorded by Mike Walker.

Mike Walker, Minutes Secretary & Member
GLO Field Sub-Committee
Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee
Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society
Web Page: <http://jeffnet.org/~hugo/>

Email Copies of Final Minutes: Members of GLO Field Sub-Committee; Karen Rose, Co-Project Leader, Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee

Snail Mail Copies of Final Minutes: Glen Campbell, GLO Field Sub-Committee.

The final minutes are public and can be shared by members of the GLO Field Sub-Committee and Karen Rose, Co-Project Leader, Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee, as they determine desirable.

Appendix A. Participants: GLO Field Review Subcommittee Members

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Appendix B. *SOUTH RAT CREEK* POI Road POI Name South Rat Creek ■ JA-15. POI ID Code OR-AT-00-34-06-14-E-JA-15.

1983 GLO Survey Notes for POI Pages 462 - 463. Subdivisions of T. 34 S., R. 6 W. -
Thence I run N89°13'E. [East] on a true line bet [between] Secs [sections] 14 & 23 Var
19°E at 9 a.m.

Chains

11.70 A Stream 3 lks. wide course North, ascend + 250? [11.70 chains = 772.2'; 3 links
= 23.76"]

13.10 Grants Pass and Canyonville Roads course N. and S. (13.1 chains = 864.6'; Rat
Creek was 92.4' from road]

79.96 Corner at Sections 13, 14, 23, & 24 [79.96 chains = 5,277.36']

Latitude & Longitude of POI Calculated

42° 37' 23" North Latitude
123° 23' 5" West Longitude

Previous Bearing & Distance Work

JA-15 is in ODOT's I-5 ROW at section line between sections 14 & 23. There is a survey monument with a yellow cap by Surveyor Hull on the section line approximately one foot west of the I-5 fence line. A yellow metal surveyor "K-Tag" was on a tree close to the Hull monument reads: T.34S., R.6W., Section 23 (Photo 6). It showed an "x" on a figure of a section. The "x" was on the north boundary of the very northwest forty acres. In total the information on the sign is as follows.



Photo 6. K-Tag

T.34S., R.6W., Section 23.

[figure of Section 23]

"x" on a Figure of a Section

CORNER IS: "≈ 12"; HOW LOCATED [no information]; "BY TH" [Hull?].

DIRECTION: "N51E"; LINE IS: "-----"; DATE: "8/97".



Photo 7. Rene & Jim

This information located the yellow capped monument as on the section line. A visual alignment of the ribbons at the yellow capped monument with ribbons to the west in Rat Creek located the section line right at the tire on the "Fiber Cable Route"(Photo 7).

According to the GLO survey notes Rat Creek and the Trail are 92.4' apart. However, tape measures found Rat Creek to be 78' from the yellow capped monument. The GLO survey of 92.4' from Rat Creek to the Trail would place the Trail approximately 13' east of the I-5 fence line if Rat Creek is in the same location today as in 1855.



Photo 8. Brandi & Chris

Previously Chris and Brandi Wytcherley (Photo 8) and Mike Walker had found what looked like traces north of JA-15 and parallel to the "Fiber Cable Route" at distances approximating the GLO survey notes that Rat Creek and the Trail are 92.4' apart.

Appendix C. OLD STAGE ROAD POI
Road POI Name Old Stage Road³ ■ JA-16.
POI ID Code OR-AT-00-34-06-11-W-JA-16.

Date ? GLO Survey Notes for POI Page 605. Subdivisions of T. 34 S., R. 6 W. 89.46 W [West] on True Line between sections 11 & 14.

Chains

23.00 Summit of high Ridge c NW&SE, comes around from NW to SW Enter Pine & Oak Openings, Leave thick timber & Brush.

72.00 a Road c N30°W & S30°E [72 chains = 4,752']

75.00 Enter timber & brush

77.50 Branch 7 Lks wide c. N20°W [77.50 chains = 5,115' - Rat Creek is 363' from *Trail*; Rat Creek is 7 links = 55.44" wide]

80.04 To Section Corner (80.04 chains = 5,282.64']

Latitude & Longitude of POI Calculated

42° 37' 23" North Latitude

123° 23' 5" West Longitude

Previous Field Work

There is a natural field orientation stop on Old Stage Road at the section line between sections 11 and 14 at location where county sign reads “*End Josephine County Road Maintenance*” and private sign reads “*Private Property No Trespassing.*” If the fence is located correctly it is the section line and property line. From now on this location will be identified as JA-16 Old Stage Road Section Line No. 1 (**JA-16 Section Line #1**).

On a previous field trip two individual GPSs recorded that JA-16 was to the west toward Rat Creek from JA-16 Section Line #1.

The GLO survey notes recorded “77.50 Branch 7 Lks wide c. N20°W [77.50 chains = 5,115' - Rat Creek is 363' from *Trail*; Rat Creek is 7 links = 55.44" wide].” Question: Do you measure the 363' from Rat Creek from the center of Rat Creek? The Rat Creek riparian area above the culvert over Rat Creek was found to be approximately 80 feet wide with two major channels. The active channel (approximately 5' wide) today was toward the east.

The old two-story house and barn on Old Stage Road south of JA-16 Section Line #1 can be viewed from above at I-5. Walker checked his copies of selected sites in “Josephine County Historical Resources Inventory” (by Kay Atwood for the Josephine County Planning Office. 1983 - 1984. Volume I) and found the “Leidecker Fish Farm in exact same area as the farm house, barn, and pond (page 192).

Further research by Walker found the following.

<u>Year Built</u>	Two-story home 1892, 952 square feet?, living area 1,904' (Josephine County Assessor Records - GIS February 2010)
<u>1954 USGS Map</u>	In 1954 a fishpond is located and identified just north of the junction of Rat Creek and the East Fork of Rat Creek. Three structures (black dots) are north and very near the pond. (U.S.G.S. Glendale, Oregon Quad (topographic map), 1954, Scale: 1: 62500).
<u>1998 USGS Map</u>	Three structures (black dots) are very near the pond. (Merlin Quadrangle, 1998, 7.5 minute topographic series, scale 1:24,000, and contour interval 40 feet).
<u>2010 Visual</u>	Barn, home, and pond.
<u>Metsker Map(s)</u>	1932 William Light; 1955 Hugo Long; 1970 R. R. Leidecker.

Appendix D. OCTA's Cardinal Rules of Trail Verification

Coherence Rule. Linear Uniformity/Systematic Connection. There must be a linear uniformity so that trail segments form a continuous sequence; i.e., the trail segment under investigation has to link coherently with the trail segments that precede and follow it.

- Linear orientation of GLO point of interests (POSS)
- Linear road orientation (quadrant bearings) for previous and following GLO POS.
- Linear orientation of traces before and after POSS.
- Linear aerial photograph evidence: 1939 and 1958.
- Linear Corroborative and Collateral Rules' Evidence

Corroborative Rule. Confirming Evidence. To support with evidence or authority. There must be confirming documentary evidence of the trail; i.e., the trail segment under investigation has to have valid written or cartographic evidence to support its authenticity.

- GLO survey notes and maps.
- 1895 Office Map of Josephine County
- Aerial Photograph Evidence: 1939, 1958, and 2002.

Collateral Rule. Physical/Topo Evidence. There must be accompanying physical and/or topographical evidence of a trail; i.e., the trail segment under investigation has to have some geomorphic or artifact evidence to support it as an authentic emigrant trail.

- *Topographical Evidence* "A description or an analysis of a structured entity, showing the relations among its components." "The surface features of a place or region."
- *Geomorphic Evidence* "Of or resembling the earth or its shape or surface configuration."
- Traces, swales, cairns, etc.; confining and/or optimal topography (e.g., summits, saddles, ridges, water courses, etc.).
- Physical roads (i.e., fords, North Oxbow Road 310' segment of 1853 Military Road, Old Stage Road).

Correlation Rule. Overall Agreement/Correlate. There must be overall agreement between all types of evidence; i.e., the evidence resulting from the first three cardinal rules have to be mutually supporting (not contradicting one another) in order to verify the location of a trail segment.