

General Land Office (GLO) Surveyed Points of Interest (POIs): 1893 JA-15 South Rat Creek to 1855 JA-16 Old Stage Road: c.a. 1917

Map 7B. Roads Identified: O&C Revestment Act on June 9, 1916: Jacksonville Road (JR) Of Applegate Trail (Trail) & Rat Creek: c.a. 1917 Base Map: c.a., Douglas County Abstract Company¹

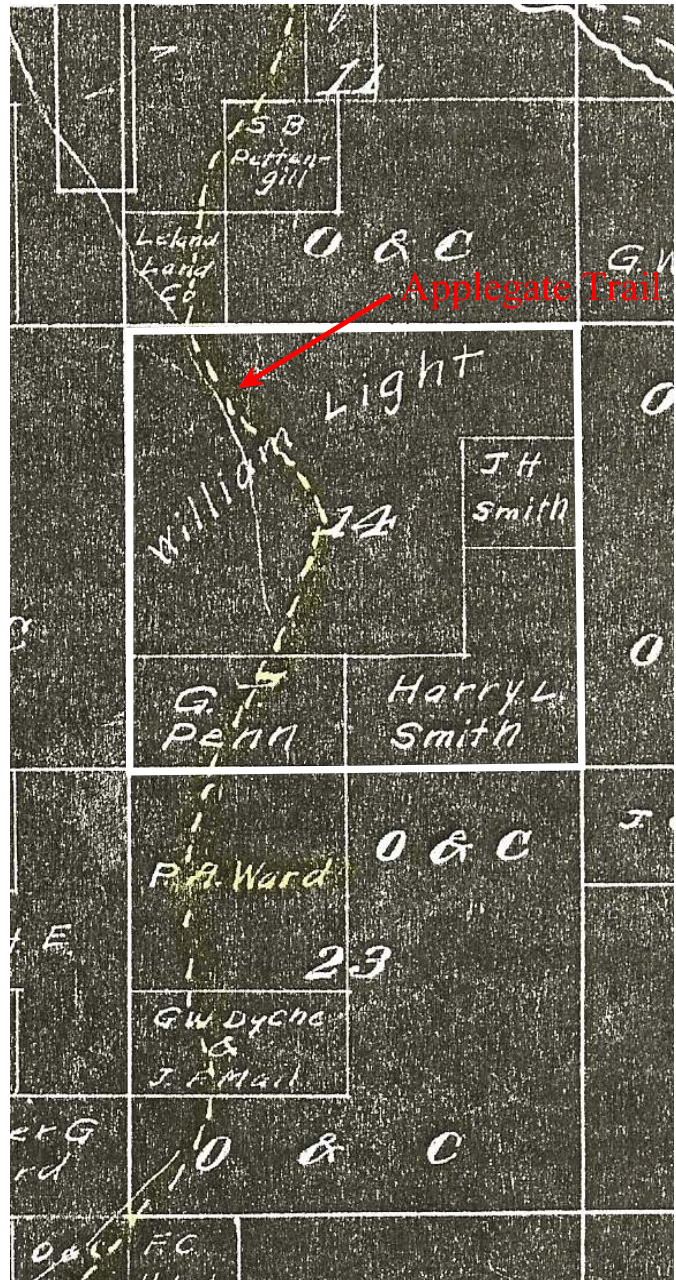
The Chamberlain-Ferris Act (39 Stat. 218) of June 9, 1916 was an Act of the United States Congress that ruled that 2,800,000 acres (11,300 km) of the original 4 million granted to the Southern Pacific Company (successor to the Oregon and California Railroad) in California and Oregon were "revested" to the United States, and put under the control of the General Land Office, which was to dispose of the lands and timber through auction sales.

It is not known what mechanism was used to determine the lands to be revested to the U.S. It is presumed that there were maps that identified such lands. There are maps c.a., 1917 that identify Oregon and California Railroad Lands. The Douglas County Abstract Company was known to make maps for, among other purposes, titles. Did the government maps use its own maps to determine lands for revestment?

It is not certain but, Map 7B. *Roads Identified: O&C Revestment Act on June 9, 1916*, identifies a road through Rat Creek in Section 14. What is not certain is whether the map is a government map generated as a result of the O&C Revestment Act, or a map developed by a commercial company like the Douglas County Abstract Company.

At this point the map will be assumed to have been produced by the Douglas County Abstract Company c.a., 1917. It identifies four landowners in Section 14: Willaim Light, J.H. Smith, G. Penn and Harry L. Smith. It also identifies a road through Section 14 east of an unnamed creek (i.e., Rat Creek).

The east road bend in the middle of Section 14 is similar in shape to the 1874 County Road identified on Map 2, but especially on Map 14B (base map is 1998 Merlin Quadrangle). However, the bend on Map 14B is approximately ¼ mile while the east bend in the c.a., 1917 map (Map 7B) is almost ½ mile to the center of the section. The significant point is that all the referenced maps locate the *Trail* east of Rat Creek.



Footnote 1. Douglas County Abstract Company, Roseburg, Oregon.