

Reconnaissance Field Trip For Hugo's North Ox Bow Section of Applegate Trail

■ JA-13 Through ■ JA-14

February 6, 2006



There are 17 major “road” General Land Office (GLO) 1850s - 1890s surveyed locations for the “Road from Willamette Valley to Jacksonville” within Hugo’s routes of interest (MAPPING ACTION PLAN for Applegate Trail Program).¹ They are numbered JA-1 through JA-17 (Map 10, MAPPING ACTION PLAN and USGS Enlargement Map). The North Ox Bow trail section has locations JA-13 through JA-14.



The purpose of the February 6, 2006 field trip would be to visit a promising vegetation trace on an aerial photograph (primarily on the Boldway property).

The following terms are trail terminology from the MET Manual.² They are used for the purpose of standardizing the definition of terms used to describe real or possible emigrant wagon trails.

Trace:	General term for any original trail remnant.
Depression:	Shallow dip in surface, often very faint and difficult to see.
Swale:	A depression, but of deeper dimensions and with sloping sides.
Rut:	Deep depression, without a center mound and having steep sides.
Erosion Feature:	A trace of any sort that has been deepened and altered by subsequent wind and/or water action. Sides and bottom irregular.
Track:	Visible trace caused by compacting of surface or discoloration due to salt evaporation on alkali flats. Little or no depression. Often seen as streaks across an alkali flat.
Scarring:	Irregularly wide flat surface, devoid of vegetation, that no longer shows any wagon depressions or swales. Often seen trailing through sagebrush flats in an uneven pattern.
Two-track:	Parallel wheel tracks separated by center mound. Typically an unimproved ranch road used by motor vehicles.
Improved Road:	Improved Road or Secondary Road: Bladed, graded, crowned, gravelled, oiled or blacktop roads usually having side berms, curbs or gutters.

Participants of February 6, 2006 North Ox Bow Trip

Property Owners: Verne Bates,
Grave Boldway, & Jeff White

Malcolm Drake
Glenn Campbell
Kelly Rarey
Mike Walker

Note: On open sagebrush plains and alkali flats, depressions, swales, scarring, and tracks may be much wider than the width of a wagon (approximately five feet wide). This is due to emigrants either moving their wagons over to a parallel trace or fanning out to avoid heavy dust and deep, loose sand.

Date/Time/Location. The February 6, 2006 field trip started at 11:00 a.m. at the Hugo I-5 interchange parking lot. It finished at 4:15 p.m. at the Bates Packing shed.

The trip started at the Bates Packing shed. The participants walked east along an old road south of the fenced garden, over a plowed field and through an old orchard, over a diverted stream, on the road to base of Penny Ridge where there was a short moderately steep climb to Penny Ridge. This location was approximately 200' feet south of the old Penny home location.

At the Penny home location the group followed the ditch uphill to a very small running stream (local legend was that this was a spring when the Pennys lived there (c.a., 1900 - 1910).

The group proceeded further north up Penny Ridge to an improved dirt logging road and turned east where they shortly were in a draw with a running creek. This was the location of a pumper truck.

The group traveled over the stream and turned south along the road until another road was encountered. After a short distance on the south road (right road) the group turned east for a short distance on a moderately steep gradient. At the bottom of this road was another small running stream and what the group identified as the "Log Culvert".

Going east shortly after the Log Culvert location the group encountered the road from the previous junction (left road) and followed it a few hundred feet into a recently cleared field. This field in 2004 was a deer brush field.

The vegetation trace was located at the northern portion of the field near two moderately large closely spaced ponderosa pine trees.

The group did not located any promising traces on the ground and traveled east to Knob Ridge. The vegetation trace on the photograph was impossible to see in the forest environment.

At the gulch to the west and parallel to Knob Ridge, the group found a primitive built road going through the gulch after which they were on the ridge. They traveled south on the ridge to the deepest part of the saddle and continued traveling to the location of the Knob.

The Knob had a 1/4 section monument between sections 22 and 27. The following information was found on a 30" long, 1.5 inch diameter pipe with a brass county surveyor cap cemented to it.

"County Surveyor, T34S, R6W, \$500 Fine For Removal, 1/4 s" 22 [Section 22]/27 [Section 27], 1972."

The County survey monument was at the exact location of a private survey stake maker with Templin identified on it. There were four bearing trees around the county monument (yellow metal sheets).

The group retracted its route north on Knob Ridge until it reached its point of entry at which point it turned east toward White Ridge. This terrain was relatively gentle with some sidling. Malcolm Drake left the group at this point as he had another scheduled meeting.

The group picked up a road trace at the gulch west and parallel to White Ridge. From this point east to a location north of the house the group found many old road traces and marked them with red and white flagging.

The road was not readily visible and it was believed it turned north-north west (25 degrees true north) to the junction of a positively identified old road and ditch. This road and ditch became parallel with the ditch down slope of the road. This road was the old road shown on the January 15, 2006 field trip to the White property by Wyman White.

The group turned around at the road and ditch junction and retraced its route back to the east.

Promising Vegetation Traces. The approximately 1,500 foot vegetation trace was located on a 2002 aerial photograph from the Josephine County Planning Office (GIS maps). Segments of the trace were investigated by the field participants on February 6, 2006. The ground covered a variety of vegetation environments west to east starting at Penny Ridge: oak and laurel, deer brush, recently cleared field, and most a forest of laurel with some oaks and conifers. The forest was mostly a closed canopy with many small grass openings (lots of poison oak). The vegetation trace was straight for approximately 1,300 feet, laying approximately on a west-east course (i.e., 113 degrees true north). The west end of the trace was at the log culvert location. Its course was through the Knob Saddle. See Applegate Trail Features: North Ox Bow Section map. It could be the evolution of the 1856 GLO road.

1. It was oriented between two 1856 General Land Office surveyed locations (i.e., JA-13 & JA-14).
2. It was mostly a straight trace.
3. It had what would be sidlings described in an emigrant diary.
4. Its width approximated that of an emigrant trail (i.e., wagon approximately 5' wide).
5. It had lineal conformity with Penny Ridge and JA-13 and the White Place (probable later day stage location) close to JA-14.

GIS Locations. GIS coordinates were taken by Malcolm Drake and Kelly Rarey and recorded, documented, and mapped by Mike Walker (see Table 1 - Ox Bow Section of Applegate Trail).

It is the responsibility of the field participants to review and, as applicable, edit these draft notes. They will, in part, be the foundation for future field trips led by Drake, Campbell, Kelly, and Walker.

Need To Transfer Table 1. North Ox Bow Latitude & Longitude Coordinates to North Ox Bow of the Applegate Trail Field Trip Aerial Photograph: February 6, 2006. Plot them on the aerial photograph map, submit map to Walker, and he will use his art program to put them on a final aerial.

Future Field Trip(s). The 1856 GLO Field Survey Subcommittee needs to:

1. At least one, probably two, more field trip(s) after latitude and longitude coordinates are plotted on the aerial photograph map.
2. Brushing and limbing field trip for places where a road trace is found. Develop a clear trail the width of a human being.
3. Some time this spring lead a field trip for the whole Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee from JA-13, Penny Ridge, to JA-14, Maple Creek.
4. Other ideas?

1. Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee, Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society. May 2005. *MAPPING ACTION PLAN for Applegate Trail Program*. Hugo, OR.

2. Oregon-California Trails Association. July 2002. *Mapping Emigrant Trails MET Manual*. Office of National Trails Preservation, Oregon-California Trails Association. Independence, MO.