

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



■ JA-13 Through ■ JA-14

February 12, 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 Section has locations JA-13 through JA-14.

The purpose of the February 12, 2006 field trip was to brush some of the roadbed traces found on the White 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 surfact 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 12, 2006 North Ox
Bow Trip**

Property Owner: Jeff White

Tom Walker
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.

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.

February 12, 2006 Brushing, 10:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Tom Walker and Mike Walker spoke with Jeff White at his house prior to the field trip. They showed him aerial photographs and where they would probably be working. Jeff continued to be supportive of the Applegate Trail project. They traveled the following trail locations.

- Point 1. Concrete Culvert over Maple Creek east and near White home.
- Point 2. Road Junction 1 of roadbed trace with White driveway.
- Point 3. Power Line Overhead crossing of roadbed trace.
- Point 4. Forest Edge 1 marking boundary overstory forest with open grass land/orchard area on White property.
- Point 5. West White Gulch is a small gulch located on a north-south axis.

Mike parked his pickup at Point 2 from which the brother walked west on the roadbed trace. With loppers and muscle power the Walkers brushed about 600 feet of the roadbed trace on the White property. The starting point was the brush fields in the western part of the White property without an overstory. They brushed west through three brush patches to the beginning of the mixed oak-laurel-conifer overstory forest (location where ditch and roadbed trace diverge, Point 4). The ditch continued west and dumped into West White Gulch. They continued brushing the road bed trace before and after it turned southwest along White Ridge and crossed West White Gulch. The brothers brushed approximately another 200 feet to the west of the gulch.

They marked the roadbed trace that they brushed with red tape. The roadbed trace varied from clear and obvious to anyone in the open grass land/orchard area of the White property. In the overstory forest the roadbed trace varied from obvious to having no physical visibility in the forest duff.



*Tom Walker At West White Gulch:
North Ox Bow of Applegate Trail*

Future Field Trips.

- Need to brush the roadbed trace on the White property to Knob Ridge.
- Need to brush the roadbed trace on the Boldway property from Knob Ridge to cleared field.
- Need to measure the length of the roadbed trace (bearing and distance).