

***Hugo Whistle Stop***  
2015 NEWS AT A GLANCE (Snail Mail)  
Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS)  
By Newsletter Editors, Karen Rose & Mike Walker  
March 16, 2016

This 2015 *Hugo Whistle Stop* addresses five subjects. Hopefully the public safety issue will not be too serious, but, of course, it is very serious. The 2015 *Hugo Whistle Stop* could have two publications: 1. hard-copy mailed to dues paying members, and 2. expanded newsletter web published.

**1. Membership Dues**

**2. Refurbished Hugo Sign 2015 - 2016 (5 brochures)**

- Hugo Community Sign (I)
  - Hugo Community Sign Dedication (II)
  - Community Sign Maintenance (III)
  - Hugo Community Sign Maintenance Committee (IV)
  - Hugo Community Sign Maintenance Committee: 2015 - 2016 (V)
- <http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/hugosign.htm>

**3. Josephine County Public Safety Problem/Issue**

Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS) Exploratory  
Committee (Committee)

*Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015 (Study Design)*  
<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/justicesystemexploratorycommittee.htm>

**4. Bummer Creek Historical Anomaly**

Minutes of Field Trip to Bummer Creek Anomaly: August 10, 2015  
[http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/AnomalyBummer\\_MinutesOfBummerCrAnomalyTour\\_081015.pdf](http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/AnomalyBummer_MinutesOfBummerCrAnomalyTour_081015.pdf)

**5. Grave Creek Hills**

Self Guided Scenic Vistas of Hugo  
<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/scenic.htm>

A second potential newsletter web published could expand on the topics covered here, or could address other topics, such as the following.

1. Major Professional Signage Program For Applegate Trail, by Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee.
2. Lowland Takelma In Hugo, by Hugo Native American Team.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES** By Karen Rose.

The best to all our HNA&HS members. It's time to remind everyone that our annual voluntary family dues are due. If you are like me, I always need a friendly reminder (see separate sheet).

**REFURBISHED HUGO SIGN:**

**2015 - 2016** By Hugo Community Sign Maintenance Committee Members: Tom Walker, Chair; Larry Manardo, Member; and Mike Walker, Member.

The HNA&HS's Community Sign Maintenance Committee maintains the support structure and the four hanging signs.

Neighbor Art Chatham is remembered for his 2001 - 2002 dedication and wood working skills which resulted in Hugo's first four signs. It was originally installed in phases. The structure was installed July 2002. The hanging signs were installed on a community sign dedication day which was May 10, 2003. This is the third



**Larry Manardo, Hugo Neighbor &  
Sign Painter**

sign renovation project. The first two were in 2006 and 2009 - 2010.

Wednesday, February 10, 2016, was quite a day getting the community sign back up showing proudly its red house and snow covered mountain at its 850 Three Pines Road location.

The third sign renovation project started November 22, 2015 when Larry Manardo showed up at the property location of the Hugo sign. He told the property owner he would like to volunteer in refurbishing the Hugo sign. He did not know it, but the owner was Tom Walker, Chair of the Sign Maintenance Committee. Larry informed Tom and Mike he is a retired painter, and wanted to clean the sign up

and make it reflect the brightness of an invigorated community.

Anyway three months later, between Larry, Tom, and Mike, we now have a new beautiful sign reflecting the spirit of Hugo, and the main man was Larry. Thanks Larry. The sign committee also had lots of help from other neighbors that showed up for the Wednesday sign installation. Larry McStravog and Tom did the ladder work, hanging in the air installing the four pieces of the sign.

Other cheerleaders at the party were Wayne McKy, Chair, HNA&HS; his wife Janet; Liz Butowitsch, Treasurer, HNA&HS; and, Michael Wetterauer, Member, HNA&HS (photos on web).

**JOSEPHINE COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY PROBLEM/ISSUE** By Mike Walker & Jon Whalen, Members JS&PSS Committee, HNA&HS.

After four failed public safety levies and one sales tax, in as many years, the public could be excused if it feels exhausted. What does the public really think about public safety? A Committee success story is that a second year graduate student, Nathan Davis, at Oregon State University will soon be telling us in June 2016.

As background, JO CO has been in the 2000 Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and Community Self-Determination Act phase from 2000 - 2015. This phase is a temporary program of declining federal payments, here in JO CO used mostly for PSS, and based on historical timber harvest revenues, rather than current revenues.

The Committee was established by the HNA&HS in 2013 to research the Josephine County (JO CO) JS&PSS problem/issue (public safety issue). The HNA&HS asked the question, "What can we do to shed some light on the public safety problem/issue?" In 2015, two of its members, Mike Walker and Jon Whalen, decided to document "listening" which wouldn't be scientific

in the sense of random sample public opinion surveys, and targeted populations; it was just listening to fellow citizens. They also had an idea about how to address the public safety issue. They called it *Study Design*.

In a nut shell *Study Design* proposes a *Study* which will be based on formal vetted inventories and an impact methodology model which promotes informed decision-making through a unique decision process, where the citizens identify the problems and potential solutions (e.g., voting, writing letters to the editor and guest opinions in *The Grants Pass Daily Courier*, writing arguments in voters' pamphlets, etc.), and are the decision-makers.

The Committee's core value is neutrality in researching the public safety problem/issue; its goal is a more informed public.



**Liz Butowitsch, Wayne Mcky, Larry Manardo, Larry McStravog, & Michael Wetterauer**

The *Study* is to document a comparison of the publicly identified range of alternative solutions for the public safety issue. The *Study* will be accomplished by documenting: 1. the publicly identified issues, range of JS&PSS alternative solutions, and affected conditions; and 2. analyzing the impacts of each alternative evaluated by condition indicators and standards through a combination of citizen input and professional expert investigations. The rest of this section on the public safety issues covers three topics.

- # 1. What's the Problem?
- # 2. Why support or sponsor a socio-economic impact "Study."
- # 3. Minimally Adequate Level of Public Safety Services (MALPSS).

**Topic 1. What's the Problem?** What is the public safety issue? First, *What are the public safety services (PSS) being referred to?* Second, *What is the issue?* The third, and final question, perhaps the most important question, is "Or, is there a problem, and if so, judged by what standards?"

These three public safety questions are asked within the context of the Committee's and *Study Design*'s four core values.

- #1. All Citizens, Voters, Votes, & Values Are Legitimate, Pro & Con.
- #2. Fair Representation of All Values.
- #3. Neutral Point of View.
- #4. Public Is Decision Maker.

Question No. 1 was "What are the public safety services (PSS) being referred to?" Six PSS, proposed for funding since 2012, are generally considered the major components of the county's historic public safety program: 1. adult jail beds, 2. juvenile justice, 3. district attorney's office, 4. rural patrol deputies, 5. criminal investigations and related sheriff's office support services, and 6. animal protection.

Question No. 2 was "What is the issue?" We have over a half-dozen sub-questions. The first sub-question is "Is crime the problem (i.e., the reason for the levies)?" In general crime is felonies, misdemeanors, and/or violations. Felony crime includes personal crimes, such as murder, robbery and rape, and crimes against property, including burglary or larceny. Are the potential causes of crime the problem (e.g., causes like medium income, homelessness, poverty, unemployment, and economic problems)?

Is funding public safety services the problem (e.g., property owners revolt, failed levies, mistrust in government, taxes, cumulative costs/fixed incomes, and income inequality)? Is the problem the level of the safety services (i.e., the levels being not enough, or too much of something). Examples of “level” in PSS are the response to 911 calls, rural patrol presence, number of adult jail beds available, jailed and released, use of resources, diverted monies, and service levels identified by citizens they are willing to fund? Is the problem a feeling of fear of being a victim of crime versus the belief that you can take care of your family if the situation arose?

Is part of the problem because JO CO citizens have never had to understand and debate needed levels and funding for public safety? Historically the CO government made the decisions to pass through Federal O & C payments to be used mostly for public safety. The public was never really involved in these decisions. Should this aspect of the public safety issue be considered fresh through a new public planning process decided de novo, meaning “from the beginning,” “afresh,” “anew,” “beginning again?”

Question No. 3, and the final question, was “Or, is there a problem, and if so, judged by what standards?”

Understanding and designing solutions are complicated tasks as there are substantial differences between Oregon counties in terms of their geographic and demographic characteristics, priorities, historic crime rates, willingness to tolerate certain levels of crime, and local priorities such as past and present funding of various PSS. A scientific study of the standards the Governor of Oregon would use to proclaim a *public safety fiscal emergency* when fiscal conditions compromise JO CO’s ability to provide a *minimally adequate level of public safety services* would help answer the question, “Is there a problem.”

(MALPSS; 2013 Oregon House Bill (HB) 3453; see Topic 3).

**Topic 2. Why support or sponsor a socio-economic impact “Study”** that purports to represent the citizens of JO CO, Oregon in their efforts to address the county’s public safety issue? The Committee has three summary responses.



Response 1: In a nut shell *Study Design* proposed an impact *Study*, which will be based on formal vetted inventories and an impact methodology model which promotes informed decision-making through a unique decision process, where the citizens identify the problems and potential solutions, and are the decision-makers. A key concept is *how to demonstrate trust and enhance communication between neighbors with different values, and JO CO government*. The approach primarily relies on citizens to provide insight about how to identify problems, and formulate their own goals and solutions for the future.

Response 2: Vetted *Study* Baseline Facts/Inventories. Understanding is made more difficult with all those noisy facts when truth isn't always something as clear and unquestionable as desired. It is believed that a step in the right direction is for different publics, that don't trust each other to share easily available vetted, or checked, information. This is one of the purposes – for citizens to speak a common language, to solve problems, not to spend valuable time and energy discussing potential conflicting facts. For that purpose, a web page of “listening” to baseline information, vetted facts, and disputed facts, has been started for consideration in *Study*: over 800 letters-to-the-editor from 2012

- 2015; guest opinions (27 and adding), media articles (over 650), 5 voters pamphlets; and studies & information (over 70 and adding - e.g., declining federal payments to counties, demographic & population, health, criminal offenses and arrests, local crime information, county budgets, JO CO Local Public Safety Coordinating Council, *Study Design*, JO CO Sheriff, minimally acceptable level of public safety services (MALPSS), OR Sheriff Jail Command Council, jail, Oregon State Police, Oregon Uniform Crime reporting, standards for PSS, etc.).

Response 3: Key Outcomes Of *Study Design/Study* It is difficult when citizens are polarized over the public safety issue and have not yet found a consensus definition of either the public safety problem, or the solution; and its compelling that a significant number of city and county citizens fear for their family's and community's safety because of a decreased number of jail beds, lack of 911 call responses, JO CO rural patrol, etc. How will *Study Design* change the way people live?

A successful *Study Design* and *Study* sets the scene for new relations based on trust, or at least on the shared recognition of common interests. It prepares the way for a new community dynamic. The following possible key outcomes are possible, and anticipated. They are all about the idea of slow long-range incremental changes, and the confidence that there will be an increase in the number of citizens believing the following starting to show between 2016 - 2026.

- \* *More* People know they are being listened to.
- \* *More* People are better informed.
- \* *More* People trust the vetted baseline facts/inventories (i.e., affected conditions).
- \* *More* People understand that the range of public safety problems/issues and range of alternatives were identified by them,

individually, for consideration by the collective public.

- \* *More* People better understand the concerns of their neighbors.
- \* *More* People speak a common language to solve problems.
- \* *More* People agree on a consensus public safety problem/issue.
- \* *More* People agree on a consensus public safety solution.
- \* *More* People have a consensus that also addresses the causes of problem/issue.

### Topic 3. Minimally Adequate Level of Public Safety Services (MALPSS)

To repeat, what is the public safety



problem? Or, is there a problem, and, either way, judged by what standards? A scientific study to determine whether the county is providing a MALPSS would help answer the question. This study would not replace PSS funding options the government, or citizens may put in front of the voters. It is concurrent fact finding with the ongoing political debate, and its answers will be viable for many years, regardless of future ballot results.

Since the 2000 SRS Act, Congress had repeatedly sent messages that federal payments would be phased out, and this was intended to give counties time to plan for the change. In light of the message and the local need, it is significant that information generated from a formal public planning process has not been tried. Why not? Probably because serious long-range planning involving the public requires time and money, and is not a quick fix against the political background of *“We need an answer today.”*

On the other hand, it has been over 15 years since the message. How many more years are to go by before we have answers?

Under the HB process, with its many largely untried technical elements, the county commissioners must first provide to the Governor, a request for a declaration of a public safety fiscal emergency because it “believes” the county’s fiscal conditions compromises the county’s ability to provide a MALPSS. Next, the State conducts an analysis. Then, the Governor can declare a declaration of fiscal emergency if it was determined a MALPSS could not be provided. If a declaration is issued, a fiscal assistance board must be established with responsibility to develop a recovery plan, which means the State would probably be in charge of providing any needed PSS.

What are the benefits for an educational MALPSS analysis (i.e., HB or non-HB)? This is the simple belief that the benefits of common accurate facts, to better explain the county’s public safety issue, is worth the effort. Strategies to combat misinformation are worth trying, within the framework that all citizens, voters, votes, and values are legitimate. Legitimacy has powerful hopes.

As an educational issue, a potential advisory question to the voters of whether to request a MALPSS analysis would have significant value for an informed public, if citizens understood the county’s MALPSS belief rationale supporting a request, before the advisory question was put to a vote. For example, we know we have less revenues for PSS than the historical pre-2012 PSS program. However, are we above an emergency level of PSS, or below? Are the PSS adequate, or less than adequate? How do the different PSS elements work together as a system, and how efficient are they? And, just as important, what are the facts supporting the adequacy

determination(s), beyond the limbo of historical conditions, beliefs, and opinions?

Providing a MALPSS analysis to the voters before an advisory vote would help answer the question, “Is there a PSS problem?” However, without having explained how the MALPSS analysis works, and the results of an operational application, the people will not really understand significant elements on what they are voting for, except yes or no, not whether there was a PSS problem, or if so, by what standards. We need PSS. Let’s build a future system based on the facts, not the amounts of pass-through federal payments without public debate.



In conclusion, professional and political opinions have been offered, but in our opinion, the voters have not been provided vetted information to understand the public safety issue, including the positive and negative impacts from a range of publically identified alternative solutions.

**BUMMER CREEK HISTORICAL ANOMALY** By Bummer Creek Anomaly Field Crew: Wayne and Janet McKy, Mike Wetterauer, and Mike Walker (photos on web).

The purpose of the August 10, 2015 field trip was to investigate an anomaly on the property of Wayne and Janet McKy’s property. It was a large tall concrete structure that had been viewed from approximately 100’ in the distance hiding in the vegetation of Bummer Creek. This observation was made by Mike Walker on a previous November 29, 2011 trip locating the Indian Trail site identified as “Bummer Confluences.” In hindsight the anomaly



was so buried and indistinguishable with its moss covering, Mike was not sure why he saw it with his Mark I eyeballs.

His Navy time took over here. Mark I eyeballs are just a humorous way to say he was looking for something specific with his own eyes, as opposed to using some sort of equipment, like binoculars. In the military, applying this sort of search to real-world terrain is often referred to as "using the Mark I Eyeball" device, which the U.S. military adopted in the 1950s.



**Bummer Creek Anomaly**

Anyway, the concrete structure was located at the confluence of Maple Creek and Bummer Creek. The anomaly turned out to be a hollow structure 7.5' x 4.5' x 4.5'. It was a good thing that an 8' aluminum step ladder was brought.

1. Wayne McKy Wayne knew there was a concrete structure in Bummer Creek north of the house. He thought it might be a well.
2. Mike Wetterauer suspected the anomaly is most likely a well casing. The possibility also exists that the anomaly could have been another use or possibly multiple uses.
3. Mike Walker feels the anomaly is a special feature as he has not seen its likes before. His hypothesis is that it is

the remains of an old hand dug domestic well seven feet above ground. How could that be?

The group is planning on revisiting the anomaly during September 2016. They plan on inviting other members of the community in order for a larger group discussion. This could include the Josephine Soil and Water Conservation District and the Oregon Department of Agriculture. There will also be an effort to contact members of the Brown family, who lived on Bummer Creek near the anomaly during the 1920s, for any knowledge of the anomaly.

### **HUGO'S SCENIC GRAVE CREEK HILLS TRAIL** By Mike Walker

The Grave Creek Hills Trail (GCHT) is within the Copper Queen Old Growth Grove. It is approximately one-half mile, in and out, along a developed quad trail. An all-terrain vehicle is also known as a quad, quad bike, three-wheeler, or four-wheeler. Quads are normally 50" wide and less.

The west access site over public lands is recommended to reach the GCHT. It is located in a 240-acre BLM-administered parcel of public land located along the ridge of Grave Creek Hills. The BLM allocated the parcel to Matrix - Southern Forest Management Area, which means its primary management purpose is timber production, but it is managed as a Late-Successional Reserve because it is also designated as a Northern Spotted Owl core area.

Visitors are able to drive to the west edge of the GCHT along the BLM's Quartz Creek logging transportation system. The trail is approximately 1.5 miles north of the Hugo Hitching Post Store as the crow flies and 11 plus miles driving to the west trail access site. It is part of the Bummer Creek drainage which drains into Quartz Creek. The trail's elevation ranges from 2,119' to 2,530'. The terrain is rugged and extremely steep on both sides of the ridge of Grave Creek Hills. It can be

very steep, but is not considered technical. Beware! Technical is subjective.

Mike Walker feels the trail experience is outstanding. *"It was like walking to Rainie Falls on the Rogue River, once you experienced it you would want to share it with others."*

Deep forest birds seen or heard were Mt. Quail, Hermit Warbler, and Pileated Woodpecker. Edge species are Lesser Goldfinch, Oregon Junco, Flicker, Hairy WP., Nashville Wbl., MacGillivray Wbl., Red Br., Nuthatch, Blk., Capped Chickadee, W. Tanager, Scrub Jay, Mourning Dove, Ravens, a Turkey Vulture, Hutton's Vireo, N. Flicker, and Ruffed Grouse.

Some measurements were made and the tree sizes ranged from one inch diameter at breast-height (dbh) to a large 17' plus dbh Douglas-fir. This led to discussions of old growth. Visitors had mixed feeling about whether they were viewing an old growth stand over 200 years old or a mature stand age 80 to 200 years. It seemed there are many definitions of old growth.

**HNA&HS Officers** (see dues sheet for contact information)

Want to get involved in the community? Contact an officer.

- Wayne McKy, Chair
- Liz Butowitsch, Treasurer
- Rene Ford, Liaison, Hugo Emigrants Trails Committee
- Mike Walker, Education Chair
- Jon Whalen, Chair, Hugo Story Telling Program

Edited by Karen Rose & Mike Walker.

p.s. Got a family, hunting, dog, garden, fishing, etc. story you would like to publish. A new Hugo fishing story called the "Lure" has been web published at our Storytelling web site.



**Officers: *Hugo Neighborhood***  
Jon, Liz, Wayne, Special Guest Janet, Rene, & Mike



***Bummer Creek Anomaly***