

**Heritage Resources
Specialist Report**

Bridge Thin Timber Sale Project

**Willamette National Forest
McKenzie River Ranger District**

Lane County, Oregon

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HERITAGE RESOURCES

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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to analyze the effects of Timber Sale Harvest activities proposed under the Bridge Thin Project Environmental Analysis (EA) on cultural resources. Heritage resources are fragile and irreplaceable resource that chronicles the history of people utilizing the forested environment.

Regulatory Framework

The legal framework that mandates the Forest Service to consider the effects of its actions on heritage resources is wide-ranging. In this case, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (amended in 1976, 1980, and 1992) is the foremost legislation governing the treatment of cultural resources during project planning and implementation.

Implementing regulations that clarify and expand upon the NHPA include 36 CFR800 (Protection of Historic Properties), 36 CFR 63 (Determination of Eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places), and 36 CFR 296 (Protection of Archaeological Resources), the 1994 Programmatic Agreement (PA) (amended in 2004) among the USDA Forest Service PNW, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Cultural Resource Management in the State of Oregon by the USDA Forest Service.

The National Environmental Policy Act is also a cultural resource management directive, as it calls for agencies to analyze the effects of their actions on social-cultural elements of the environment. Laws such as the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990, and Executive Order 13007 (Indian Sacred Sites) also guide the Forest Service decision making as it relates to heritage resources.

The Willamette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan tiers to the previously mentioned laws and corresponding Forest Service manual direction as it sets forth standards and guidelines that specify procedures for complying with all mandates for Federal Laws, acts, executive orders, and Federal regulations. Forest-wide management standards that are pertinent for this heritage resource effects analysis include:

- A cultural resource inventory shall be conducted for each proposed ground-disturbing activity and administered by a qualified archaeologist. The results of the inventory will be documented in a report which will serve as a planning document.
- The Forest's survey design strategy for cultural resource inventories shall be used to guide the inventory.
- Properties that may be affected by project activities will be evaluated using the criteria for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places.
- Measures shall be developed to protect significant sites from adverse effects due to ground disturbing and other activities.

Analysis Methods

The field methods were developed in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and the Willamette National Forest Inventory Plan. Two objectives were considered in creating the survey. First it must cover the possible discovery of the various site types known to occur within the project area; and second it must cover heritage properties known or believed to exist within the project area for purposes of monitoring their conditions or verifying their location. Utilization of information from prior surveys and the identification of known site locations were incorporated into the research design.

Along with the above objectives three requirements were incorporated into the overall survey design:

- One hundred percent high probability ground and 20 percent low probability must be covered unless it has been covered by a recent inventory survey, which meets current standards, given that no change in surface visibility has occurred since the time of the survey. Low probability ground over 65 percent should be considered but does not necessarily need to be surveyed.
- The effect on heritage resources, both discovered and undiscovered, expected to occur during the course of the proposed Bridge Thin Timber Sale harvest shall be determined.
- All heritage resources will be avoided when they are found to be in conflict with the proposed timber harvest units and associated roads and landings. Determination of property avoidance will be made after all the fieldwork is completed.

Description of Field Surveys

The archaeological survey of the Bridge Thin Timber Sale was conducted in order to comply with the above stated laws and regulations (see regulatory framework). A systematic surface pedestrian search is the principal manner for implementing the mandated goals.

Ground surveys for the proposed Bridge Thin timber sale occurred between June 18 and August 8, 2007. Surveys were conducted under contract by Warm Springs Geo Visions Cultural Resources Department for the Willamette National Forest (Gauthier et al. 2007). Pedestrian transects with 15 to 20 meter spaced intervals followed a specific orientation based on factors that included the shapes of units and landforms and the possible presence of historic Indian or Euro-American travel routes. One-by-one meter shovel scrapes made with entrenching tools exposed mineral soil every 20 to 30 meters in areas where dense vegetation limited ground visibility. Bearing orientations were followed to the best of abilities, but adjustments in orientation, spacing intervals, and shovel scrape spacing were made in order to avoid dangerous or unreasonable conditions (e.g., exceptionally steep slopes or impenetrable vegetation). The surveyor's utilized Garmin Etrex Summit™ Global Positioning System units to record transect routes for accuracy of coverage and compass and tape techniques were also utilized (Gauthier et al. 2007). A total of 1292 acres were survey consisting of 949 high probability and 343 low probability acres.

Existing Condition

The prehistory and history of the McKenzie River drainage have previously been summarized in Cultural Resource Overview for the Willamette National Forest, Western Oregon (Minor and Pecor 1977), the ten-year update of the above overview (Minor 1987), Prehistory and History of B. L. M. Lands in West-Central Oregon: A Cultural Resource Overview (Beckham, Minor, and Toepel 1981), Archaeology of Oregon (2nd Edition) (Aikens 1986) and numerous other publications. These documents provide adequate detail of ethnographic and historic background for this report.

Prehistoric Use

Ethnographic research indicates that highly mobile prehistoric and early historic aboriginal groups, probably the Molala, Kalapuya, and their ancestors used the western Cascade Mountains for the main purpose of seasonal hunting, fishing, and plant gathering. Ethnographic evidence also suggests that the Molala Indians were indigenous to the area and lived during the winter along low elevation streams, accessing the uplands during the summer and fall to hunt game and gather berries and other important plant resources. The Molala are linguistically related to Willamette Valley groups, but are thought to be a montane-based band that were living in the western Oregon Cascades during the historic period. The Molala generally are known to be split into two subgroups: the Northern Molala located in the vicinity of Mount Hood's drainage systems and the Southern Molala located west of the Klamath Lake area. Little is known of a third group, referred to as the Upper Santiam/Santiam band of Molala known to have occupied Linn and Lane counties in areas between the Northern and Southern groups. The Molala are also often culturally grouped with the Kalapuya who were based in the Willamette Valley but probably made seasonal forays to the Cascades for large game and berries. Many of the Molala and Kalapuya were removed to the Grand Ronde Reservation in western Oregon after the signing of the Dayton and Molalla Treaties of 1855). Other Molala shifted to the Siletz Reservation along the Oregon coast, the

Klamath reservation to the south and east into Central Oregon where they were absorbed into the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon.

Prehistoric resources left behind by the Indians include chipped obsidian lithic scatters and obsidian lithic isolates, representing tool use, modification, or manufacture related to hunting and gathering. Ongoing stone tool analysis, both by agency archaeologists and contractors, supports that this portion of the Cascades was occupied primarily by highly mobile people indigenous to the Cascades. Those people were probably ancestral to the Molala people that were involved in early but unratified treaties of the 1850s.

Culturally significant vegetation observed within the timber sale units includes abundant sword, wood and bracken ferns, Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*), oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), western red cedar, salal, Oregon grape, trailing or Pacific blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), huckleberry, wild strawberries (*Fragaria vesca*, *F. virginiana*), raspberries (*Rubus idaeus*, *R. leucodermis*), and thimbleberry (*R. parviflorus*), bitter cherry (*Prunus emarginata*), wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*), alder (*Alnus crispa* sp) (Gauthier et al. 2007). All of these food resources are still commonly used by present day Indian Tribes.

Historic Use

Historic accounts document the presence of horse-mounted Warm Springs Indians traveling into and through the area in the late 1800s and early 1900s (Williams 1988); these seasonal travels were motivated by the need for forage for horses, huckleberry gathering, inter-tribal contacts and visiting, hunting, fishing, trading with white settlers, and travel to seasonal cash employment, such as picking hops in the Willamette Valley (Williams 1988; Bergland 1992).

The earliest recorded permanent Euro American settler in the area was John Templeton Craig, who homesteaded at Craig's Pasture (now McKenzie Bridge) in the 1860s. The prospect of a toll road over the McKenzie Pass began to draw settlers into the area after 900 cattle and nine wagons made it over the pass on a rough track (the Scott Wagon Road) in the fall of 1862 (Williams 1988).

The town of Blue River was founded in 1886 (Williams 1988). Subsistence hunting, farming, and stock raising were the primary lifestyles of the early settlers. A greater influx of people into the area was encouraged by the passage of the Forest Homestead Act in 1906, which allowed homesteaders to claim land set aside as national forest. The first sawmill in the region was opened on the lower McKenzie in 1851 however systematic logging of huge tracts of forest did not occur until the 1890s.

Historic Administrative use appears in the form of trails and early logging activity. The Santiam NF Maps (1913, 1931) and the Cascade National Forest 1925 map depict several historic or prehistoric trails crossing through the project area. These include the Castle Rock Trails and trails to Deathball Rock and Thors Hammer. Several historic structures clustering around the Blue River, McKenzie Bridge, and Rainbow areas are visible on Forest Service maps dating back to the 1920s. A historic ranger station at McKenzie Bridge, along with the Paradise and Blue River Guard stations, is also noted on Forest

Service maps between 1913 and 1931. The Belknap CCC camp was located at the present site of the McKenzie River Ranger Station (Gauthier et. Al 2007).

Environmental Consequences

The site types recorded within the Bridge project area include lithic scatters and historic logging debris. The archeological sites within the project area are considered potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and must be protected from project activities or evaluated to determine their eligibility to the NRHP. The proposed Bridge Timber Sale has the potential to affect two of the known cultural sites (06180100583 and 06180100284) within or near the project area. To protect these potentially eligible sites the project was redesigned by dropping portions of timber sale stands.

Direct and Indirect Effects

Alternative 1(No Action)

Implementation of the no action alternative would not directly nor indirectly affect cultural resources since there would be no change to the integrity of heritage resource sites.

Implementation of Alternatives 2 and 3 would not directly nor indirectly affect cultural resources. The potentially eligible sites have been protected from Timber Harvest by redesigning the timber sale unit boundaries and associated project activities.

Cumulative Effects

Past, Present, and Foreseeable for All Alternatives

It is not anticipated that there would be cumulative effects to the potentially eligible cultural resource sites in the Bridge Thin Timber Sale Project Area from any of the proposed actions. The following mitigation measures cover the maximum alternative and are designed to minimize any effects this project might have on heritage resources.

Mitigation Measures

The proposed mitigation measures for the Bridge Thin Timber Sale Timber Sale are listed below and cover all alternatives. They are based on the results of the field inventory and information gleaned from the District's cultural resource files.

Information specific to heritage resource location and content is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom Information act (FSM 6271.2). In order to facilitate the decision-maker, the information will be made available to him.

- 1) All NRHP eligible sites and potentially eligible sites must be avoided during all project activities.
- 2) Changes to the current unit configurations and/or the addition of any new units, will require consultation with the District Archaeologist in order to protect known and unknown heritage resources.
- 3) Project activities planned outside of the area defined in the heritage resource inventory schema must be coordinated with the district archaeologist prior to initiation. This

includes the establishment of new harvest landings, helicopter landings, guy-line equipment anchors, slash burning, removal of roadside danger trees, ripping or cultivating temp spurs roads.

4) Although no other surface or subsurface evidence of cultural resources was found in the proposed project, there remains the possibility that buried prehistoric or historic cultural resources are present and could be uncovered during project activities. If cultural resources are encountered during the course of this project, earth-disturbing activities in the vicinity of the find should be suspended, in accordance with federal regulations, and the zone archaeologist notified to evaluate the discovery and recommend subsequent courses of action. Therefore, contract clause BT6.24 must be included in all project prospecti and contracts. The contract clause outlines the procedures to follow in the event heritage resources are discovered during timber sale operations.

Consistency with Direction and Regulations

State Historic Preservation Officer consultation has been completed under the terms of the 1995 Programmatic Agreement (amended 2004).

Irreversible/Irretrievable Commitments

“Irreversible” commitment of resources refers to a loss of future options with nonrenewable resources. An “Irretrievable” commitment of resources refers to loss of opportunity due to a particular choice of resource use. The heritage Resource Mitigation measures listed above and the Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines are designed to avoid or minimize the potential for irreversible losses from the proposed management actions. There are no irreversible and irretrievable commitments that would affect heritage resource by implementing any of the proposed alternatives.

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