

ROGUE RIVER TIME-LINE:
A CHRONOLOGY OF THE ROGUE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST
AND THE
SURROUNDING AREA

(C.R. Job RR-572)

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1982

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This chronology highlights some of the more significant natural and cultural events of local and Pacific Northwest history. The area of focus is southwestern Oregon-northwestern California. The chronology is an updated and revised version of the 1980 edition of "Rogue River Time-Line" which appeared as Appendix II in Prehistory and History of the Rogue River National Forest. The first section, a geological history, is obviously an approximation based on currently available information. Future study may result in major changes, especially to the lower (i.e., earlier) portion of the sequence. This statement holds true for the prehistoric cultural sequence (circa 15,000 to 200) as well.

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January 1982

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Circa 500 million to 350 million years ago (portions of the Paleozoic Era or "Age of Fishes and Amphibians"; Ordovician - Devonian Periods [?]).

What is now southwestern Oregon-northwestern California was part of the floor of an ocean basin, most likely near the edge of an oceanic "plate" which was being drawn beneath a volcanic chain of islands. Some metamorphosed sediments (e.g., Condrey Mountain Schists) in the "Siskiyou" portions of the Klamath Mountains may date from this era--if so, they are among the oldest exposed rocks in Oregon. 1/

Circa 230 million to 180 million years ago (portions of the Mesozoic Era or "Age of Reptiles"; Triassic Period and possibly earlier).

Deposition of vast amounts of marine and volcanic sediments in a major ocean "trough"; tens of millions of years later these rocks were folded, faulted and altered into quartzites, argillites, phyllites, "greenstones," schists, gneiss, amphibolites, etc. (i.e., the Applegate Group metamorphics of the Klamath Mountains). The general geological environment was probably somewhat similar to that of the volcanic chain of the Aleutians.

Circa 180 million to 130 million years ago (portion of Mesozoic Era; Jurassic Period).

Continued deposition of ocean sediments and lavas in deep basins along the flanks of large underwater volcanoes. Many geologists believe that these rocks and the older formations discussed above originally formed far south of their present location and drifted slowly north, coming to rest in their present position at about the time of the last dinosaurs (Cretaceous Period). Heat, pressure and time transformed these soft sediments into the hard rocks of the present-day Galice, Rogue and Dothan Formations of the lower Rogue River drainage. This period of mountain-building is called the Nevadan "orogeny" phase, and it included intrusion of granites (e.g., Ashland pluton), resulting in "contact metamorphism" (evidenced by gold and other ore deposits) in the surrounding Applegate Group rocks. Emplacement of ultramafic peridotite bodies (altered to serpentine in many locations) in the Klamath Mountains (e.g., Red Mountain, Red Buttes, Kalmiopsis Wilderness, etc.) The Klamath Mountain rocks were evidently first raised above sea level during this period. (Fossil plants dating from this period -- such as fern, cycad, conifer, ginkgo -- are now exposed in vicinity of Riddle, Douglas County. Jurassic sea shells [clams, oysters, scallops, ammonites] presently occur in the formations west of Grants Pass and south of Roseburg.)

1/ Most geologists prefer to use the term "Klamath Mountains" when referring to the geology west of the Rogue River/Bear Creek Valley. However, the term "Siskiyou" is historically acceptable when referring to the subunit south of the Rogue River and north of the Klamath River (see Nevin M. Fenneman, Physiography of the Western United States, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1931).

The compiler thanks Dr. William Purdom and Dr. Monty Elliott, both of the Geology Department - Southern Oregon State College, as well as Dr. James Smith of the U.S. Geological Survey, for their review and comments on the geological history. Dr. David Brauner, Department of Anthropology - Oregon State University, reviewed the prehistoric cultural sequence.

Circa 130 million to 75 million years ago (final portion of Mesozoic Era; Cretaceous Period).

Further uplift of what is now the Klamath Mountain Province; deposition of sediments (e.g., Hornbrook Formation conglomerates and sandstones, with fossil clam-like shells such as Exogyra and Trigonia) in the adjacent shallow sea; these are presently exposed near Ashland, Jacksonville and other portions of the Bear Creek Valley. (Cretaceous plant fossils [fern, cycad, ginkgo] now exposed on southern Oregon coast near Port Orford indicate a moist, semi-tropical climate during Cretaceous times.)

Circa 50 million to 10 million years ago (portion of the Cenozoic Era or "Age of Mammals;" Tertiary Period, Eocene, Oligocene and early Miocene Epochs).

Erosion of Klamath Mountains and consequent build-up of continental deposits (alluvial fans and river deposits) during the Eocene, now exposed as the Payne Cliffs Formation in the Bear Creek Valley. Initial volcanic build-up of the Western Cascades in this vicinity began between about 37 million and 30 million years before present (B.P.); now exposed in Bear Creek Valley foothills as the flows and sediments of the Colestin formation and on the adjoining highland as the breccias and flows of the Roxy Formation (early Oligocene). The climate of the Cascades during the early Tertiary period was sub-tropical. Elkhorn Peak and Pilot Rock fossil beds (late Eocene and early Oligocene leaf-prints, including fig, magnolia, palm), petrified wood (30-35 million years old south of Ashland; 20-15 million years old north of Prospect), some low-grade coal deposits (e.g., Fern Valley, Siskiyou Summit) date from this time.

During later Oligocene and early Miocene times the Western Cascades experienced continued deposition of huge quantities of volcanic ash, breccias, agglomerates and flows from many separate vents. Much of this material is presently exposed in the Little Butte Series volcanic sequence: Wasson Formation (tuffs and breccias) seen in Little Butte Creek canyons; Heppsie Andesite on nearby west edge of present High Cascades. The Cascades continued during this period as a relatively low range of hills; but gradual uplift and cooling of the northern hemisphere resulted in a change from semi-tropical to temperate vegetation (e.g., fossil deposits from near Grizzly Peak and other areas contain redwood, alder, birch and other leaf-prints; these were the result of accumulations of organic litter in beds of volcanic sediment within shallow drainage basins). There was also continued uplift and tilting of the Western Cascades to the eastward, with consequent erosion.

Circa 10 million to 2 million years ago (portion of the Cenozoic Era; Tertiary Period, late Miocene and Pliocene Epochs).

During the late Miocene (ca. 7 million years B.P.), extensive basalt flows resulted in a thick layer of lava in the Rogue River Valley, later eroded into the mesa-like Table Rocks. Late Miocene fossil pollen profiles from elsewhere in Oregon reflect the growing dominance of conifers, due to major cooling trend.

During Pliocene times, there was more localized extrusion of basalt/andesite flows along the present High Cascades, including composite and shield volcanoes. Rocks in Mountain Lakes Wilderness were formed ca. 3.6 million years B.P. Burton Butte (youngest rocks on Dead Indian Plateau south of Little Butte Creek) erupted approximately 3.3 million years B.P. Intra-canyon basalt flows along the Rogue River between Union Creek and Shady Cove occurred between 3 million and 1.5 million years B.P. (late Pliocene/early Pleistocene). This period also witnessed the "final" major uplift of the Klamath Mountains. The "rain shadow" effect of the young High Cascades had a pronounced impact by the mid-Pliocene Epoch; by then the basic topography of the Pacific Northwest was similar to that of the present day. Few fossil localities are known for this period (aside from marine shells near Cape Blanco, freshwater mollusks near Klamath Falls and tapir in Curry County), but the climate was cooling and drying. (Early human-like species were developing in Africa during the mid-to-late Pliocene.)

Circa 2 million to 250,000 years ago (portion of the Cenozoic Era; Quarternary Period, Pleistocene Epoch).

The Pleistocene Epoch witnessed the continued build-up of the crest of the High Cascades as large composite volcanoes (e.g., Rainier, Adams, Hood, Mazama) erupted and grew along a major fault series of north-south lineation. Mt. McLoughlin began its initial build-up ca. 700,000 years B.P.; Mt. Shasta started to form less than 300,000 years B.P. The Pleistocene Epoch was characterized by intervals of glaciation in the higher elevations of the Cascades and the highest peaks of the Klamath Mountains (i.e., the "Ice Age" sequence). The lower elevation climate was much cooler than present, as indicated by fossils of coldwater marine shells near Cape Blanco, freshwater and possibly anadromous (?) fish from now-dry glacial lake beds of central Oregon, and large mammals (the Pleistocene "megafauna") from several locations in Oregon.

Circa 250,000 to 12,000 years ago (final portion of the Pleistocene Epoch).

Volcanic events during this period included continued eruptions and flows from major peaks of the High Cascades. More recent local developments were the build-up of Robinson Butte (ca. 30,000 to 20,000 years B.P.), Brown Mountain (ca. 20,000 to 15,000 years B.P., including the extensive lava fields south and east of Fish Lake), and some late flows (ca. 15,000 years B.P.) on the north slope of Mt. McLoughlin. The continued glacial/interglacial sequence in the Pacific Northwest left evidence in the form of U-shaped canyons, till soils, moraines, cirque lakes, etc., in the southern High Cascades and, to a lesser extent, in some sections of the Klamath Mountains. There was on-going erosion and alluvial deposition (including gold placers) in the Klamath Mountains. The climate was generally colder than present, but Pacific Northwest glaciers retreated to near present size by 12,000 years B.P. due to warming trend (leaving deep glacial canyons like those of the Middle Fork-Rogue River and Red Blanket Creek). Late Pleistocene turtles and mastodons were buried by debris flows and stream flood deposits in the foothills of the Siskiyou Mountains near present-day Ashland and Jacksonville; the remains of large ground-sloths are now exposed in similar deposits near Roseburg. The megafauna probably became extinct shortly after 12,000 years B.P. During the very late Pleistocene, Oregon experienced a milder climate and increasing dominance of Douglas-fir forest in the western part of the State.

Humans evidently crossed the Bering Straits land-bridge from Asia during a glacial maximum, possibly as early as 40,000-30,000 years ago. Reported "Clovis-like" fluted spear-points from the Green Springs and Butte Falls areas in the southern Cascades may indicate human presence in the Rogue River drainage by very late Pleistocene/early Holocene times. Well-documented archaeological evidence from other areas of the Pacific Northwest, radiocarbon-dated at around 13,000 years B.P., makes an early, "Paleo-Indian" occupation of southwestern Oregon-northwestern California seem quite likely.

Circa 12,000 to 4,000 years ago (portion of the Holocene, or "Recent" Epoch)

Geologic events in the High Cascades included eruption of lavas, formation of cinder cones and deposition of volcanic mudflows in the Sky Lakes area between 12,000 and 6,600 years B.P. (e.g., Big Bunchgrass Butte, Imagination Peak, Gooseneck Mountain-Scoria Cone chain). The major event was the massive explosion and collapse of (and wide-spread deposition of pumice and ash from) Mt. Mazama, which formed the caldera now containing Crater Lake, about 6,600 years ago. Some 50-60 cubic miles of volcanic material was blown into the air. As a result of this cataclysm, "glowing avalanches" of Mazama pumice filled the main drainages and tributaries of the Rogue River from Crater Lake to present-day Lost Creek Reservoir; much of this material remains in the upper portion of the drainage (e.g., Crater Creek, Castle Creek and other "incised pumice canyons" northeast of Union Creek). Water-borne pumice was deposited along the Rogue River south of Prospect; the Prospect-Union Creek "Flat" was overlain by water- and air-borne pumice. The deeply dissected topography in the Klamath Mountains and Western Cascades resulted in on-going massive landslide activity during this period and later. Climate was relatively mild and moist until around 8,000 years B.P., evidently changing into a 3,000-4,000 year-long period of drier, hotter weather (which reached its climax about 6,000 years B.P.); Douglas-fir forest was at minimum, oak woodland at maximum extent during this "Altithermal" period.

The first humans almost certainly were in southwestern Oregon by at least 9,000-8,000 years B.P. (Big-game hunting culture of late Pleistocene/ early Holocene may have been present earlier.) A somewhat generalized hunting/gathering "Archaic" culture developed in southwestern Oregon during this period. It exhibited chipped stone tool styles and assemblages generally similar to contemporaneous evidence found in the Great Basin, Columbia Plateau (e.g., "Windust" and "Cascade" phases) and northern California (e.g., "Borax Lake Complex"). Large-sized and wide-necked projectile points (stemmed-and-shouldered, leaf-shaped "Cascade", "Bitterroot" side-notched varieties) probably indicate use of atlatl (dart-thrower) for hunting game. Milling stones (edge-ground cobbles, etc.) evidently reflect the processing of edible bulbs, roots and nuts.

Circa 4,000 to 200 years ago.

A short climatic interval around 4,000 B.P. brings more effective precipitation, causing a period of canyon down-cutting which is evidenced in the Columbia Plateau as well as the Rogue River Basin. Later, the climate became increasingly like that of the present time. Aboriginal inhabitants (Hokan-speakers?, ancestral Takelma?) continued adaptations to long-term

occupation of the area. The "Archaic"-like hunting/gathering economy stabilized but did experience change over time, probably including increased dependence on acorns and anadromous fish (for an abundant and preservable food supply). This apparently led to focus of semi-permanent settlement along major rivers (with seasonal occupation of adjoining foothills ?), and possible development of early "Shasta Complex"-like culture in southwestern Oregon before 2,000 B.P. Basketry and other technologies were refined and may have reflected increased differentiation among groups, due partly to more sedentary life-style. The bow-and-arrow replaced the atlatl by about 1,000-2,000 years ago (evidently reflected in the reduced size and neck-width of projectile points, such as the small, triangular "Desert" side-notched and corner-notched "Gunther-barbed" points). Basket/rock-slab "hopper mortars" may have begun to replace bowl mortars for crushing acorns around this time also. Winter "villages" were probably composed of one or several extended-family bands, which dispersed into the uplands as smaller groups during warmer seasons.

Territorial boundaries continued to fluctuate over the long-term, due to the expansion of resident human populations and the intrusion of new groups (?). Possible arrival of Athabascan-speakers from northern Canada onto the southern Oregon coast by about 1,500-1,000 years ago (?). Between 1,000 and 500 years B.P. the local inhabitants became heavily influenced by the lower Klamath River and coastal cultures: emphasis on personal wealth and prestige, apparent changes in tool and house styles (rectangular, wood-planked structures, possibly replacing the earlier semi-subterranean pit-houses in some areas). Cultivation of tobacco and limited use of crude clay figurines and pottery ("Siskiyou utilityware") by the late prehistoric period. The nineteenth century territorial boundaries and "ethnographic patterns" of the Takelma, Klamath, and other groups were probably fairly well-developed by about 300-400 years B.P., with major changes occurring ca. A.D. 1790-1840, due to the effect of European trade goods (e.g., iron, gunpowder) and diseases. Arrival of the domesticated horse in southwestern Oregon-northwestern California about A.D. 1830. Final disappearance of bison herds from central Oregon and of pronghorn antelope from Rogue River Valley during the protohistoric/contact period.

A.D.

1542: Spanish explorers Cabrillo and Ferrello explore portions of the California coast; Ferrello may have sailed as far north as the mouth of the Rogue River.

1577-

1578: Englishman Francis Drake sails north along the Pacific Coast (after raiding a number of Spanish settlements), perhaps as far north as the southern Oregon coast.

1602-

1603: Spanish explorers Vizcaino and Aguilar sail along the northern California (and possibly the southern Oregon) coast in search of harbors and a "City of Gold."

1774-

1775: Spanish explorers Perez, Heceta and Bodega sail along the Oregon-Washington coast, making landfalls and naming various points, such as Cape Sebastian and Cape Blanco.

1776

1780: Englishman Capt. James Cook's "Third Voyage" takes him to the North Pacific coast in search of the "Northwest Passage"; he first sights Oregon coast near Yaquina Bay; his crew trades metal objects with Vancouver Island natives in exchange for furs, which prove to bring astonishingly high prices in the Chinese port of Canton---resulting in the birth of the Northwest Coast fur trade.

1785-

1804: Development of maritime fur trade along the Oregon coast; Englishman Capt. George Vancouver explores Puget Sound and other coastal areas in 1792; "discovery" of Columbia River by American Capt. Robert Gray in same year. Maritime traders include English, Russian, Spanish, French, American, Dutch and Austrian ships; Canadian Alexander MacKenzie reaches the Pacific Coast by overland route in 1793. Rivalries between Spain, England and others lead to the Nootka Sound Convention of 1793 and rapid Spanish withdrawal from the area. Americans (called "Bostons" by the native inhabitants) increase their trading activity in lower Columbia River and other coastal areas.

1805: Lewis and Clark expedition reaches mouth of Columbia River on November 14, having travelled overland from St. Louis, Louisiana Territory; spends winter near present-day Astoria, making short forays south along the coast as far as Tillamook Head, before returning eastward.

1808-

1810: Trappers of the Montreal-based Northwest Company are active in the upper Columbia River drainage.

1811: Employees of John Jacob Astor establish Astoria, a trading post of the Pacific Fur Company, at the mouth of the Columbia; post transferred (1813) to the Northwest Company during the War of 1812; some exploration/trading parties ascend the Willamette River drainage during this period.

1818: Northwest Company trappers, under Alexander Ross, travel as far south as the upper Umpqua River drainage; hostilities with the (Umpqua or Takelma) Indians result.

1820: Thomas McKay establishes small Northwest Company outpost/rendezvous point on Umpqua River.

1821: Northwest Company is absorbed into the rival Hudson's Bay Company; Fort Vancouver is established on the north side of the Columbia (near the mouth of the Willamette) in 1824; long reign of H.B.C. Chief Factor, Dr. John McLoughlin, begins.

1825-

1826: Thomas McKay and Finan McDonald, H.B.C. trappers, enter the upper Klamath River Basin from the north; several H.B.C. parties enter the Umpqua River drainage during the mid-1820s.

1826-

1827: Peter Skene Ogden's H.B.C. brigade travels west along the Klamath River and crosses north into the Applegate/Rogue River drainage in February 1827; party under Francois Payette follows Klamath River downstream to vicinity of Happy Camp or Orleans before rejoining Ogden. (Ogden's party is first recorded group of whites in the upper Rogue River Basin; Payette's group may have passed north through the headwaters of the Applegate River, in the vicinity of Red Buttes.)

1828: American trappers under Jedediah Smith travel northwest through mountains of California to reach the Pacific Ocean at the mouth of Smith River, just north of present Crescent City area; they continue north along the Oregon coast to present-day Reedsport area, where most are massacred by Umpqua Indians.

1829: Alexander McLeod's H.B.C. brigade travels south through the Rogue River Valley and then returns north over the Siskiyou Summit during winter; H.B.C. fur brigades (many led by Michel LaFramboise) continue to use this route through the 1830s and early 1840s; intermittent conflict with local Indians.

1836: H.B.C. establishes Fort Umpqua, a trading post on the lower Umpqua River, replacing a small up-river post which Thomas McKay had built in about 1828-29. American missionaries active among various Indian groups in the Columbia Basin during late 1830s and early 1840s.

1837: Ewing Young and other American trappers/settlers drive a herd of 700 cattle north to Willamette Valley from California missions, passing through the Rogue River Valley; Young had brought horses and mules along the same route in 1834.

1841: Lt. George Emmons' party, part of the Wilkes Pacific Exploration Expedition, passes south through the Rogue River Valley on the H.B.C. trail, naming "Emmons Peak" (now Pilot Rock) on its way to the Sacramento Valley.

1846: Applegate brothers (Jesse and Lindsay), Levi Scott and other upper Willamette Valley settlers lay out the Southern Emigrant Road of the Oregon Trail ("Applegate Cutoff"); portions of it parallel Emigrant Creek and Bear Creek. Great Britain gives up territorial claims to the Oregon Country south of the 49th Parallel; Capt. John Fremont, Kit Carson and others at Upper Klamath Lake; outbreak of Mexican War leads to American annexation of California as a state.

- 1848: Discovery of gold in the American River near Sutter's Fort (Sacramento Valley, California)--beginning of the "gold rush." Many Willamette Valley settlers head south through Rogue River Valley to the California gold fields.
- 1849: Oregon Territory organized by Congress; Joseph Lane becomes first territorial governor.
- 1850: U.S. Congress passes the Oregon Donation Land Act, further stimulating settlement of the Pacific Northwest.
- 1851-
- 1852: First discoveries of gold in southwestern Oregon, beginning of mining boom in Siskiyou Mountains and first permanent agricultural settlement in Rogue River Valley; communities of Jacksonville and Ashland Mills are established; continuing conflict between American settlers and Indians.
- 1853: "Treaty of Table Rock" establishes Table Rock Reservation for the Takelma and other local Indians.
- 1855-
- 1856: Final phase of the Rogue River Indian Wars; Indian survivors moved to Siletz and Grande Ronde Reservations on the north Oregon coast; initial influx of Chinese, Hawaiians and other ethnic groups. Trans-Cascade railroad surveys occurring in southwestern Oregon.
- 1857: Construction of stage/wagon road from Crescent City to Jacksonville; Oregon constitution denies the vote to "Chinese, Negroes, mulattoes."
- 1858-
- 1859: Development of stage/wagon road over the Siskiyou Summit, linking central California and western Oregon; Oregon gains statehood in 1859.
- 1860-
- 1863: Anti-Chinese laws enacted in Jackson County mining districts; Col. Charles Drew develops Rancheria Trail in 1863 as military wagon road to Klamath Basin; Fort Klamath established.
- 1864-
- 1865: Klamath Indian Resevation is established; Capt. William Sprague develops the Union Creek Trail in 1865 to replace the Rancheria Trail; "John Day Trail" along upper Rogue River to north-central Oregon gold mines built at same time.
- 1866: Construction of the railroad south from Portland begins; Oregon-and-California Railroad land grant approved.
- 1869-
- 1870: Transcontinental railroad completed in northwestern Utah; construction of Dead Indian Road by Klamath Indians under Oliver C. Applegate; large-scale hydraulic mining getting underway in the Applegate Valley.

- 1870s: Discovery of Dead Indian Soda Springs by local hunter; sawmill built near future site of Prospect; Chinese companies mining in the Siskiyou, especially on old placer claims abandoned by whites. The Modoc War in California lava beds, southeast of Rogue River Valley, creates economic boom for Jacksonville, Ashland and Linkville (Klamath Falls).
- 1882: Chinese Exclusion Act prohibits additional Oriental laborers from entering the United States.
- 1883: Oregon-and-California Railroad (built by Chinese laborers) reaches Rogue River Valley from the north; new town of Medford is established as a shipping point.
- 1887: Completion of railroad between Oregon and California; "golden spike" ceremony, held at Ashland in December, marks completion of circum-continental railroad loop; Rogue River Valley's economic development accelerates after this date.
- 1888: Judge John B. Waldo, of Salem, and his party travel south along the crest of the Cascades between Mt. Jefferson and Mt. Shasta, examining the country for possible Forest Reserve withdrawal; they were first known group to follow general route of what is now known as the Pacific Crest Trail.
- 1891: Congress gives President power to establish Forest Reserves; railroad logging commences in southwestern Klamath County around Pokegama.
- 1893: Cascade and Ashland Forest Reserves established by Grover Cleveland's presidential proclamation; controversy in local communities over the Forest Reserve concept.
- 1897: Gifford Pinchot, John Muir and others in southern Cascades on Forest Reserve inspection tour; Congress authorizes management of the Reserves and makes appropriations for hiring personnel.
- 1899: First "rangers" hired for duty on the Cascade Forest Reserve (South Division); development of irrigation water project at Fish Lake is underway; John Leiberg's timber survey of Cascade and Ashland Reserves sponsored by U.S. Geological Survey. Nathaniel Langell appointed first supervisor of Cascade (South) and Ashland Forest Reserves; he establishes first headquarters at the Prospect Hotel.
- 1902: Smith C. Bartrum appointed supervisor of Cascade (South) and Ashland Reserves; Supervisor's Office is located in Roseburg.

1905-

1907: "Bureau of Forestry" of U.S. Department of Agriculture is reorganized as the Forest Service. Forest Service takes over administration of Reserves (renamed "National Forests") from General Land Office (USDI). Cascade (South) Forest Reserve (changed to "Cascade [South] National Forest" in 1907) continues under supervision of S. C. Bartrum. Expanded Ashland Forest Reserve (changed to "Ashland National Forest" in 1907) comes under supervision of M. J. Anderson (Supervisor of Siskiyou National Forest, headquartered in Grants Pass) in April 1907. Mazama (soon renamed "Crater") National Forest created in March 1908 out of portions of Cascade (South) and expanded Ashland NFs; first supervisor to follow S. C. Bartrum and M. J. Anderson is C. J. Buck, in March 1908, followed by Martin L. Erikson in November 1908. Big Elk Guard Station, first FS structure in Crater NF, is built near Fish Lake in 1908; first Supervisor's Office is located on second floor of Jackson County Bank Building, Medford.

1908-

1910: Ashland promoting itself as a health spa; Blue Ledge Mine copper boom is at its peak; large-scale development of Rogue River Valley fruit orchard industry is underway; Klamath Basin pine mills and logging railroads expand into Upper Klamath Lake area; additional portions of "Ashland Forest Reserve" (Applegate RD) included in Crater National Forest.

1910: Numerous large forest fires in southwestern Oregon and throughout the Pacific Northwest during the tinder-dry summer; first train reaches Butte Falls on Pacific and Eastern Railway; timber homesteading boom reaching its peak in the southern Cascades; FS reconstructs Crater Lake and Diamond Lake Roads.

1911: Star Ranger Station is built; first reforestation project on Crater NF, at Cat Hill Burn; Supervisor's Office is moved to "Schemerhorn and Palm Building" on South Fir Street, Medford.

1912: Reorganization of O&C Railroad Grant Lands; much of this acreage reverts to Federal ownership in 1916.

1916: Supervisor's Office is moved to third floor of newly-built Federal Building (Federal Courthouse) on West Sixth and Holly Streets, Medford.

1917-

1918: United States enters the First World War; several Crater NF rangers join the 10th Engineers (Forestry) Regiment for duty in France. Lookout (cupola style) built on Mt. McLoughlin.

1919: Hugh B. Rankin succeeds M. L. Erikson as Forest Supervisor.

1920-

1923: Medford airfield serves as base for U.S. Army planes on Air Fire Patrol flights over southwestern Oregon-northwestern California forests; Hershberger Mtn. lookout built in 1922; Union Creek Resort becoming popular way-station on Crater Lake Road; completion of Pacific Highway (Hwy 99) in 1923.

- 1924: Owen-Oregon Lumber Company (now Medford Corporation) takes over the Fourbit Creek Timber Sale from defunct Brownlee-Olds Lumber Company and extends logging railroad east from Butte Falls (first commercial timber sale within present boundary of RRNF.)
- 1927: Fish Lake fire; lookout built at Dutchman Peak; municipal watershed management agreements with cities of Medford and Ashland go into effect during the late 1920s.
- 1929: "Crash" of stock market and onset of the Great Depression; many local people turn to mining and trapping to supplement their incomes; Fish Lake Road built by FS in 1929-30 from National Forest boundary to Lake-of-the-Woods.
- 1932: Name of Crater NF changed to Rogue River National Forest (to lessen confusion with Crater Lake National Park); other names considered are: Jackson, Jefferson, Harrison, McLoughlin, Hamilton, Roosevelt, Big Pine and others.
- 1933: Beginning of Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal"; Civilian Conservation Corps establishes first camp in Region Six ("Camp Applegate F-41" at Seattle Bar); CCC begins numerous forestry and recreation projects.
- 1934-
- 1938: Blister Rust Control ("Ribes Eradication") initiated on the Prospect Ranger District; first "backcountry" designation for Sky Lakes Area; CCC crews develop recreation sites at Union Creek, Natural Bridge, McKee Bridge, Wrangle Camp and elsewhere: they undertake construction of FS administrative and residential buildings at Union Creek, Butte Falls, Star Ranger Station, etc. Karl L. Janouch replaces H. B. Rankin as Forest Supervisor in 1934; Bureau of Agricultural Engineering (now Soil Conservation Service) initiates its snow survey (water quantity forecast) program in the western U.S. with construction of South Lake (Seven Lakes Basin) snow survey cabin in summer of 1935; 1937 land exchange with Rogue River Timber Company brings four miles of Crater Lake Hwy scenic strip under FS control; same year sees passage of O&C Grant Lands-Sustained Yield Act.
- 1939-
- 1943: Beginning of large-scale timber sales on all Districts, especially Prospect; United States enters Second World War in December 1941 and CCC is disbanded soon thereafter. Aircraft Warning Service enacted (lookouts manned year-round to spot enemy aircraft) in 1942; Army Corps of Engineers builds numerous bridges in Applegate RD (used for training purposes and for timber harvest in war effort). War Production Board prohibits mining for gold and other "non-strategic" minerals for the duration of the conflict.
- 1946: Abbott Creek Research Natural Area designated.
- 1947: New "White City Industrial Park" (on site of former World War II Army training base) inaugurates expanded timber industry in the Rogue River Valley; Forest Pest Control Act enables increased emphasis on combatting insect and disease infestations.

1951-

1955: L. G. Jolley replaces K. L. Janouch as Forest Supervisor in 1951; Jack H. Wood succeeds Jolley the following year; Willow Creek Reservoir built in 1952; 1955 flood damages many sites in the Rogue River Basin including McKee Bridge Campground on the Applegate River. Multiple-Use Mining Act of 1955 passed (stimulated by the Alsarena Mine controversy on the Prospect RD), 1955 Mill Creek Fire.

1956: National Forest lands in Green Springs and Ruch areas transferred to jurisdiction of Bureau of Land Management (created in 1947).

1957-

1961: Carroll E. Brown succeeds J. H. Wood as Forest Supervisor in 1957; "Operation Outdoors" leads to new recreation site developments; 1959 Ashland Ridge Fire threatens the city and its watershed; Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960 formalizes FS land management philosophy; Klamath Ranger District of Rogue River NF transferred to newly-established Winema NF in 1961; construction of timber access roads accelerates.

1962: Columbus Day windstorm blows down large amount of timber (approx. 113 MMBF) on the Rogue River NF; initial development of FS Air Tanker Base at Medford Airport.

1964: Very destructive flood in Rogue River Basin damages roads and facilities on Applegate and Ashland RD's; Mt. Ashland Ski Area opens; Congress passes Wilderness Preservation Act.

1967: Supervisor's Office is moved to the two upper floors of the new Federal Building, Medford.

1969: Harvey M. Seeley succeeds C. E. Brown as Forest Supervisor; National Environmental Policy Act passed, leading to significant changes in FS planning process. "Counter-culture" groups and individuals settling in and near the Rogue River NF.

1970-

1975: Youth Conservation Corps Act passed in 1970; 1971 acquisition by FS of Squaw Lakes recreation area; Rustler Peak becomes first FS lookout fitted with solar-powered radio transmitter (1973). Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE I); new timber harvest methods (e.g., helicopter and multi-span skyline) come into use on or near Rogue River NF; Donald H. Smith replaces H. M. Seeley as Forest Supervisor in 1975. Shelterwood system becomes major timber harvest method in use on Rogue River NF.

1976-

1979: National Forest Management Act of 1976 leads to modifications in planning and management practices on National Forests (including limitations on size of clearcuts); RARE II recommends wilderness designation for Sky Lakes Area and further study for Red Buttes area; development of Medford Forest (now J. Herbert Stone) Nursery (40 MM seedling capacity) on purchased land, west of Medford. Intensive timber management practices become formalized as part of land management planning; Upper Rogue River Trail (a National Recreation Trail) is completed between Prospect and Boundary Springs; Gin Lin Trail (historical interpretive trail) opens on Applegate RD. Soapstone mine on Elliott Creek Ridge produces large quantities of this material for sale to native carvers in Alaska, Hong Kong, Japan and elsewhere.

1980-

1982: May 18, 1980, explosive eruption of Mt. St. Helens and later earthquake "swarms" near Mt. Shasta remind area residents of the possibility of renewed volcanic activity in the Southern Cascades. Robert J. Devlin succeeds D. H. Smith as Forest Supervisor in 1980; Applegate Dam (Army Corps of Engineers) completed (2.5 million dollars in gold recovered by contractors during construction phase), new recreation sites at the reservoir open to the public; Union Creek Historic District is listed on National Register of Historic Places; transfer of some Prospect RD lands to Crater Lake National Park, transfer of Ashland RD lands north of Hwy 140 to Butte Falls RD. Increased applications for leasable minerals, hydroelectric and geothermal energy exploration permits. FS enters period of budgetary austerity; severe downturn in lumber market affects NF timber sale program; a major land management planning program, with heavy reliance on computerized data base, is underway.

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