Mount Avery Spur Road Special Use Permit Request

CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY / HERITAGE REPORT

Powers Ranger District

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

Prepared By: Dennis Gray; Cascade Research
INTRODUCTION

The Forest Service is proposed to issue a special use permit to Christian Futures, Inc. for the construction, maintenance and use of a private spur road extending off from NFS Road 5201-200 an additional 330 feet to the west in order to access their recently purchased timberland in Section 16, Township 32 South, Range 13 West (tax lot 413) within northern Curry County, Oregon. According to Forest Service information (Berner 2010):

“All construction of the gravel road would be to Forest Service specification...Construction would entail a 12 to 14-foot wide gravel road for approximately 330 feet and include a 30-foot right-of-way...the road would be constructed during dry conditions and used as snow allows.”

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is located within Section 22, of Township 32 South, Range 13 West in Curry County, Oregon approximately 15 miles east Port Orford (Appendix, Location/Transect Coverage Map). Christian Futures, Inc., pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, contracted with Cascade Research, LLC of Ashland, Oregon to conduct the cultural resource inventory. Fieldwork was accomplished September 5, 2012 by Dennis Gray.

Records Search

Prior to the field inventory, records at the State Office of Historic Preservation were reviewed concerning the location of known archaeological sites in the vicinity of the APE (Appendix, [Wisner 2012]); General Land Office and Donation Land Claim survey records were also examined.

Forest Service personnel have conducted several cultural resource inventories in close proximity to the current project area. These sample surveys have recorded mining related features, including cabins, and a sawmill, along with scattered mining debris. Also noted in the area is the site of a former fire lookout on Mt. Butler, an historic trail segment, and an historic cemetery (Appendix, Wisner 2012).

Native American Notification

The Confederate Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon and the Coquille Indian Tribe were notified as to the location and intent of the cultural resource inventory (Appendix). No formal response has yet been received.

Environmental Setting

The APE is located within the upper Sixes River watershed, an area noted for steep slopes (up to 75 percent) and dense conifer forests. The westward flowing Sixes River cuts through the Klamath Mountain Province on its way to the Pacific, and is fed by numerous tributary streams with steep gradients. The forest overstory of the drainage is composed of Douglas-fir, Port
Orford cedar, western hemlock, Pacific madrone, maple, tanoak, and myrtle. The understory includes salmonberries, salal, and huckleberries (Berner 2010, Minor 1988); also noted were trailing blackberries and sword ferns.

**Cultural Background**

There are two purposes to pre-field research. The first is to assess the general archaeological, historical, and ethnographic context within which any site must be evaluated; the second is to alert the researcher to particular cultural resources that are likely to occur on the property.

**Ethnography:** The Upper Coquille and the Quotoman, both Athapaskan-speaking groups, may have utilized the project area at the time of contact with Euro-Americans in the mid-nineteenth century (Beckham 1978:27). The upper Coquille had their primary settlements along the Coquille River, upstream of Beaver Slough, while the Quotoman inhabited the Port Orford area, along with the Elk and Sixes River drainages.

In general, villages were located on bars and meadows along the river, often at the confluence of streams. These villages served as semi-permanent habitation spots, where foods collected throughout the year could be stored for use in the winter. Fish from the river provided an abundant staple food, as did acorns, camas, and deer and elk (Drucker 1937:271). Houses constructed at the major village settlements were fairly substantial, consisting of semi-subterranean structures with bark or plank walls and roofs, and they were about 12 to 16 feet square. A larger structure within the village served as a sweathouse and lodge for men and boys; grass-covered shelters were used in temporary camps in the uplands.

Village inhabitants usually consisted of families related through the male lineage. Status within the group derived from wealth, measured in goods such as dentalium shells and woodpecker scalps. The wealthiest man was the leader, and an individual’s social standing depended upon the bride-price of his mother. Religion played an important part in aboriginal lives, and the shaman was a person of considerable consequence in the local group (Drucker 1937:257).

It is not known how long this way of life existed in the area before the time of contact, although the Athapascan speakers are considered relative latecomers to the region (Connolly 1986). The Athapascans may have brought with them a way of life more strongly oriented to the river’s resources, displacing groups who followed a subsistence orientation characterized by a heavier reliance on the uplands.

**Archaeology:** How far back in time these ethnographically described patterns of life existed in the region is a matter of some debate. Different theories regarding the timing and rate of change from an early foraging lifestyle to a more sedentary, semi-permanent village pattern have been postulated. (cf. Connolly 1986; Pettigrew & Lebow 1987; O'Neill 1989; Winthrop 1993). Beckham and Minor (1992) have proposed a generalized cultural sequence for southwestern Oregon as a whole, with dates that are rough estimates. As they observed:

> The archaeological record suggests that considerable variation existed in the nature and timing of prehistoric cultural developments in southwest Oregon. While general cultural
patterns are evident, the precise sequence and timing of developments apparently varied from one river valley to another (Beckham and Minor 1992:92).

In brief, the cultural sequence proposed by Beckham and Minor (1992:94) is as follows:

**Paleo-Indian** (12,000 BP to 10,000 BP): This is the earliest known human occupation of the region. Based on a few isolated finds of fluted spear points, it is presumed that small groups of mobile, big game hunters inhabited the area.

**Early Archaic** (10,000 BP to 6,000 BP): This era is characterized by leaf shaped and broad-stemmed spear and possibly atlatl projectile points, a mano and metate milling complex, and a relatively small, mobile population.

**Middle Archaic** (6,000 BP to 2,000 BP): It was during the Middle Archaic that the first moves towards collector and village subsistence and settlement patterns are noted in the region, including the first appearance of pit houses and the use of the mortar and pestle. The dart and atlatl are the primary weapon system; a variety of broad-neck projectile points are associated with sites of this time period.

**Late Archaic** (2,000 BP to 1,000 BP): This is the time period during which the bow and arrow, and associated small projectile points were introduced. Additionally, a sizeable portion of the Native population was settled in semi-permanent villages using hopper-mortar and bedrock mortar milling tools.

**Formative** (1,000 BP to Contact): This time period was probably very similar to the proto-historic period, although populations were probably higher and there was a short lived ceramic tradition in the region. Other prominent features of this era included dominance of Gunther-series arrow points, riverside pit house villages, and a wealth emphasis complex and status distinction.

**Protohistoric** (500 BP to Post-contact): Characterized by the ethnographically described way-of-life, the introduction of Desert side-notched projectile points, and probably populations lower than the previous era.

Relatively recent investigations at the Hayes site along the South Fork of the Coquille River near Powers (approximately 10 air miles northeast of the current APE) by Southern Oregon University recovered a variety of artifacts suggesting a long-term occupation of the area. As noted by the researchers (Tveskov 2004:85-86)

Southern Oregon University’s work at the Hayes site included the excavation of 16 individual 50 cm x 50 cm shovel test pits, 12 individual 1 m x 1m excavation units as well as the extensive mapping of the site’s natural and cultural features. This work resulted in the excavation of 9.25 m 3 of sediment covering less than 0.1% of the site. A rich assemblage of artifacts was recovered during this project, including 5,615 pieces of lithic debitage, 81 piece of animal bone, 100 individual chipped stone tools, 19 individual ground stone artifacts, and the identification of two large cultural features comprised of burned river cobbles that likely represent the remains of
roasting ovens. The recovery of several artifacts from the site by local collectors reminiscent of Gunther Pattern assemblages from elsewhere in southwest Oregon suggests that the Hayes site was in use during the last 1,700 years (c.f. Connolly 1991). However, the excavated assemblage of leaf-shaped and Coquille Series projectile points similar to other Glade Tradition assemblages in southwest Oregon (including sites on the Coquille River such as the Standley site) suggest the possibility that the site was in use during earlier millennia. Given that the immediate site area was described by early White pioneers as being used by Indian people as late as the early 1850s, it is perhaps not unreasonable to surmise that the Hayes site was in use either continuously or intermittently for at least the last 2,000 years.

Evidence from excavations in the region along the Rogue River, south of the project area, indicates that this area of southwestern Oregon was important not only to the Athapascan speakers, but to their predecessors. The Tiegetlintin site on the Illinois River, up river from Gold Beach, appears to include materials from the more ancient culture, possibly dating from two major time periods of use at 6,000 and 2,000 years ago (Tisdale 1987:106). Study at the Marial site (Griffin 1983, Schreindorfer 1984) on the Rogue River some distance inland from the coast, provided several radiocarbon dates beginning at 8,560 BP (Before Present), clearly establishing the antiquity of human life in southwestern Oregon.

**History:** Curry County, Oregon is a political entity located in the southwest corner of Oregon. It is bounded by Coos County on the north, Josephine County on the east, the State of California on the south and by the Pacific Ocean to the west. Rivers coursing through the county to the sea include the Winchuck River, Chetco River, Pistol River, Sixes River, Rogue River and the Elk River. Most of Curry County is extremely mountainous, with the Coast Range almost reaching the sea in some places (Loy et al., 2001). Arable land in the county is concentrated between the mountains and the ocean in the grassy valleys of the Chetco River, Pistol River, and Floras Creek.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, industrial development in Curry County centered in placer and lode mining, fisheries operation, and logging/milling along the Rogue River. Placer and lode mining in the Rogue River Canyon above Gold Beach raised the demands for lumber as did the salmon fishery at Gold Beach. Extensive flooding in 1861, 1890, and 1927 and subsequent years have periodically altered the riparian landscape along the Rogue River.

**Euro-American Settlement in Curry County**

The first approaches to the south coast came by sea when Spanish explorers Juan Rodrigues Cabrillo and Bartolome Ferrelo sailed northward along the coast in 1542-1543. In the 17th century, Spanish exploration may have brought Martin Aguilar and Sebastian Vizcaino close to the shoreline – the former claimed discovery of Cape Blanco and the latter of Cape Sebastian – but precise documentation is not available. In 1775, the Spanish explorers Bruno de Hezeta, Juan Perez and Juan Francisco de la Bodega y Quadra briefly stopped near the California-Oregon border before sailing north along the coast (Douthit 1999).

The earliest recorded contact with South Coast Indians by seagoing fur traders occurred in 1787 when a British ship landed at the mouth of the Umpqua River. In 1792 Captain George
Vancouver stopped offshore near the present Port Orford in Curry County. Jedediah Smith, the first known traveler to traverse the southerly coastal region by land, guided a group of fur trappers through the Gold Beach vicinity in 1828. Traveling north from California into the Oregon country, Smith’s party traveled as far north as the Umpqua River (Douthit 1999).

The discovery of gold in California in 1848 soon brought prospectors pouring into southwest Oregon on their way to the goldfields. In 1850-1851, miners found gold on Josephine Creek on the Illinois River and on creeks near Jacksonville in the Rogue Valley. While some miners staked claims in the Rogue, Applegate and Illinois watersheds, others worked placers on the coast at Ellensburg (present-day Gold Beach) and nearby where black sand held gold and platinum deposits. According to historian Stephen Dow Beckham, miners worked “terraces …as much as five miles inland from the Pacific Ocean” (Beckham 1978).

Trails along the coast were extremely poor and non-existent in some places. Miner Herman Francis Reinhart described his trip into Gold Beach in 1853:

Some places we had to go on the beach where the tide and breakers would wash our horses nearly away; sometimes would have to climb the hills out of reach of the breakers (Reinhart 1962:79)

Some Curry County newcomers turned to farming the grassy valleys of Chetco River, Pistol River and Floras Creek. Here farmers such as the Thrifts, Longs and Langlois grew vegetables, wheat and other grains. Stock raising and dairying flourished on the excellent grasses found in the open spaces on the hills. Early Gold Beach families included the Waddells, the Geisels, Thorpes, Holtons, and Rileys (Walling 1884). Along the Rogue River from below the mouth of the Illinois to Gold Beach a few scattered cabins sheltered stock-raisers, miners and farmers. Game and Indian trails and miners paths provided the sole travel routes in the canyon where upriver, families named Billings, Fry, Foster, and Walker eked out a subsistence living (Atwood 1978). Ivin Billings recalled:

We grew everything…We didn’t have any irrigation. We’d usually start about the first of March…. After working the ground, we’d plant our early vegetables. Lots of times we’d raise winter crops too. [Turnips] carrots and beans would stay in the ground all winter (Atwood1978:82).

The Territorial Legislature established Jackson County on January 12, 1852 from part of Lane County and Umpqua County. Officials set off Curry County on December 18, 1855 from the southerly part of Coos County, with Port Orford as county seat; in 1859 the seat shifted to Ellensburg, now Gold Beach (McArthur 1992).

**Curry County Economics**

Dairy farmers produced quality stock, milk and butter on the ample grass in the foothills. By the 1890s, Curry County creameries shipped these products to San Francisco. As the coast’s population increased, however, the area’s isolation forced residents to import flour and fresh produce to supplement local crops. Residents also hunted, fished, and grew home gardens.
In the Gold Beach vicinity, the commercial harvest of salmon, figured prominently in the economy. As early as 1857, workers salted fish at a processing plant on the Rogue River and packed them for shipment to San Francisco. Robert D. Hume bought Riley and Stewart’s sawmill at the mouth of the Rogue River and later built a cannery on the site. In 1893, Hume built a new plant on the river’s north bank, naming the location Wedderburn after an ancestral home in Scotland. At Wedderburn, Hume monopolized the commercial fish take on the lower Rogue during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Douthit 1999).

Logging provided a livelihood for many Curry County residents. To supply settlers who consumed wood for every day living and miners who built trestles and flumes, small logging operators skinned the timber from the foothills. Riley and Stewart’s sawmill in Gold Beach was one of the first sawmills in the County. The Rogue River’s treacherous bar prevented use of the port to import timber by water. According to historian Stephen Beckham, Curry County’s lumbering industry was long frustrated by the county’s isolation. Large mills did not exist until after World War II when U.S. Plywood Corporation build a big mill complex on the south bank of the [Rogue] river opposite the old ferry crossing at Bagnell’s (Beckham 1978).

Like logging, mining played a significant role in Curry County’s economy. By 1880, hydraulic mining upriver on the Rogue at Agness, Big Bend, Paradise Bar, and Mule Creek created a new economic boom. Hydraulic miners channeled water from a ditch above the mine through large pipes or “giants” to their placer site where they excavated gravels by a high-pressure stream of water shot from a nozzle and then ran the soil and water through screens to collect the gold. Hydraulic mining demanded substantial financial and physical investment. John Billings, one of the Rogue Canyon’s early settlers, worked with his son, George Billings, at hydraulic mining. A visitor described the Billings’s new flume and waterway:

The high trestle bridge across Mule Creek to receive the flume [is] a piece of work that would do credit to any bridge builder in the country. It was 83 feet high with a truss span of 40 feet across the center of the creek. The ditch is four and a half feet on top, four feet on the bottom, and two feet deep (Atwood1978:101).

Lode mining contributed to the 19th century economy as it grew in importance as a method of extracting gold. In this method, miners crushed the gold quartz with arrastras or stamp mills. Using an arrastra, miners pulverized the quartz between a circular, stone-paved bed and a granite slab using mules to turn the slab over the ore. Stamp mills pounded the ore with heavy mechanically-operated pestles or “stamps,” that rose and fell and crushed the ore with their weight. Major lode deposits were discovered in the Mule Mountain area of Curry County, upriver from Gold Beach. During the last two decades of the 19th century, the economic gain spread as Gold Beach merchants sold equipment and supplies to placer and lode mining operators.
SURVEY METHODS, RESULTS, AND FINDINGS

Survey Methods

The APE was accessed from the Star rock quarry at the present terminus of Forest Road 5201-200. At the quarry, the final, approximately one-half mile of Road 200 is blocked off with road gravel. The blocked off section of Road 200, although partially overgrown, leads to the proposed road extension area. The survey was conducted using two transects spaced five meters apart, beginning in the east and head westerly for approximately 100 meters; the second transect returned to the terminus of Road 200 (Appendix, Location/Transect Coverage Map and APE Photograph). Ground visibility varied. Although the APE is densely vegetated, an old skid and trail exposed a portion of the bare mineral soil (average 25 percent).

Survey Results

No prehistoric or historic sites or isolated finds were located during the inventory.

Analysis of Survey Findings

The lack of cultural resources in the APE is likely due to the extremely rugged terrain in the area and the lack of a nearby water source. Seventy percent slopes are common in the area and the vegetation is dense. Most of the area’s recorded sites, both historic and prehistoric, tend to be near waterways and in more accessible flatlands.

Recommendations

No prehistoric or historic sites or isolates were found during the course of the inventory. Consequently, no recommendations for the protection of cultural resources within the current boundaries of the APE are needed. However, no surface survey can guarantee that all possible archaeological remains have been found. Should historic or prehistoric material be discovered during the course of the project, work should be immediately halted in the vicinity of the discovery and a professional archaeologist contacted to evaluate their eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places. Any potential site evaluation would be conducted in consultation with a Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest archaeologist.
REFERENCES


APPENDICES

SHPO Records Search

Native American Correspondence

APE Overview Photograph

Project Location/Transect Coverage Map
Aug. 24, 2012

Dennis Gray
Cascade Research
271 Morton St.
Ashland, OR 97520

Dennis:

The following is a letter report summary of archeological survey and site documents reviewed during an Aug. 23 records search at the State Historic Preservation Office in Salem for your planned archaeological survey project within Section 22 of Township 332S, Range 13W, in Curry County, Oregon. This archive was consulted for location of known sites and previous surveys within an approximate 1-mile radius of the proposed project area.

Briefly, the SHPO archive showed several archaeological surveys and the reporting of numerous cultural resources and sites within the research parameter. The surveys were primarily timber sale related and conducted by Siskiyou National Forest personnel. Cultural resources noted provide indicators of what might be found during your proposed road-related survey. I am sending you via surface mail excerpts from selected surveys for your reference.

The closest survey to your survey area is SHPO Report No. 9308[a] for the South Sixes Timber Sale (Minor 1988). This survey covers portions of sections 21, 22, 23, 24, 24, 27 and 26, extremely close to your project area (refer to SHPO base map being sent to you via surface mail for survey boundaries). As part of that 250-acre survey (out of 1,570 acres in the project area), Minor recorded three historic sites: the Bogrett Mining Cabin, the Snook Cabin, and the Bogrett Sawmill. I refer to them by their Forest Service numbers here. The Bogrett Mining Cabin (SK-427) is on the Thompson Flat area in the south-central portion of Section 22, upstream from the confluence of Russian Mike Creek and the South fork of Sixes River. The Snook Cabin (SK-428) is in the Northeast quarter of Sec. 21. The Bogrett Sawmill (SK-429) also on Thompson Flat approximately 800-feet upstream from the confluence of Russian Mike Creek and the South Fork Sixes River. Please refer to site reports contained in Minor’s report, which are being sent to you via surface mail, for further details. None of these sites are listed on SHPO base maps.

Minor (1988) also notes 1980 site recordings that include the Lacy Mining Cabin (SK-028); Huckleberry Knoll Cemetery (SK-027); and the South fork sixes Lacey Claim (SK-193), all in Section 22. The cemetery is approximately one-half mile south of your project area.

As placer mining was common in the area, minor lists 13 registered claims for the area, primarily south of your present project. I will not list those claims in this letter. That list is being sent to you via surface mail as part of the excerpts from survey report 9308[a].

Minor’s report also notes finding scatter of miscellaneous cultural material that included: mining pipe; a valve for hydraulic mining; pieces of iron used for making nails; metal pans; glass bottles and tin cans.
Survey Report 9308[b] is a scattered timber buyback survey covering polygons to the south and east of your project area. No significant cultural resources were reported in that survey (Hallett 1988).

Survey Report 9579 (Helberg 1988), covers 240 acres (of 2,382 project acres) south and west of your project area. The report includes two sites, the Mount Butler Lookout site and trail (Northeast quarter Section 29 and Northwest quarter Section 28), and the Grassy Knob Trail, which runs through portions of sections 29, 28, and 33, south of your project area. Please see site report being sent to you via surface mail for more details.

Two additional surveys should be mentioned: Survey 8296 (Carlson 1987); Survey 9307 (Hallett 1988). Both surveys are considerably east of your project area and no significant cultural resources were reported near your project area. Please refer to SHPO base map being sent to you via surface mail for a visual of survey boundaries mentioned in this report.

The SHPO General Land Office archive also showed that no Donation Land Claims were filed in Section 22 in 1846 and in a GLO map recorded in 1909. Refer to GLO maps sent to you via surface mail for more details. The 1909 map does note that there were placer mines in sections 21 and 22, quartz mines in sections 23 and 24, and coal found in Section 23. The map also offers a detailed look at landforms at that time, and notes that numerous sections to the west of Sec. 22 were not yet surveyed.

The following is a bibliography for works cited in this letter.

Carlson, Vance  
1987  

Hallett, Joe  
1988  

1988  

Helberg, Christine  
1988  
On File with Oregon Historic Preservation Office, Salem, as Report No. 9579.

Minor, Kathy

This concludes my letter report. Please contact me if I have overlooked anything that you need, or if you need any additional information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

George B. Wisner
25124 Alpine Road
Monroe, OR 97456
August 21, 2012

Confederated Tribes Of Siletz
Robert Kentta
Cultural Resources Director
P.O. Box 549
Siletz, OR 97380

RE: Cultural Resource Survey

Cascade Research of Ashland, Oregon has contracted with Christian Futures, Inc. to perform a cultural resource survey of a proposed extension of Forest Service Road 5201-200 (the Mt. Avery Spur Road Project). The Area of Potential Effect, which is less than one acre in size (330 feet of new road), is located in Township 32 South, Range 13 West, Section 22 in Curry County. The proposed road extension project lies approximately 15 miles east of Port Orford, Oregon (see attached map).

If you have any specific concerns regarding this project that you would like me to include in the report, please let me know. I expect to submit the report within thirty days. Call me if you have any questions.

Regards,

Dennis Gray
August 21, 2012

Coquille Indian Tribe
Nicole Norris, Archaeologist
3050 Tremont Street
North Bend, OR 97459

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Regards,

Dennis Gray
APE Overview: View to 150 Degrees

Mt. Avery Spur Road Extension Survey