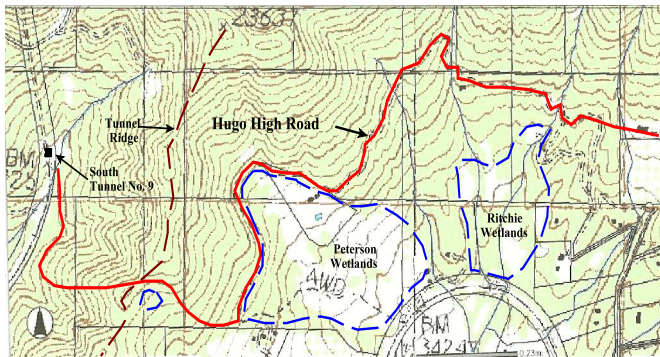


Hugo High Road Hypothesis

Congress granted lands to the O&C Railroad to help finance construction of a railroad from Portland, Oregon to the California border. Railroad construction started in 1869, and by December 1872 it was completed to Roseburg where it stopped. Construction was resumed from Roseburg in June 1881. Trains were operated to Glendale by May 1883 and to Grants Pass in December 1883, the same year that Tunnel No. 9, was completed.¹⁻²

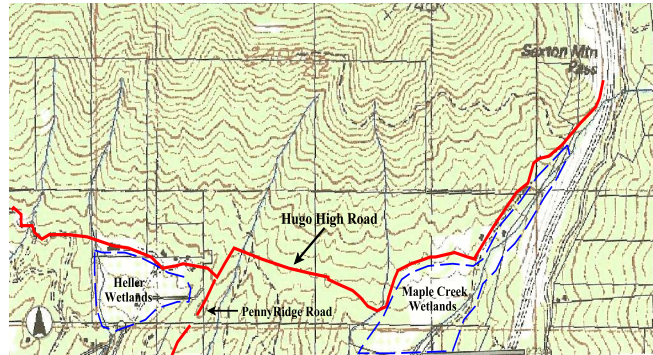


Hypothesis West Hugo High Road Above Peterson & Ritchie Wetlands

A hypothesis is that Tunnel No. 9 was constructed simultaneously from both its north and south ends ca., 1881 - 1883 in advance of the railhead. The construction effort needed a year around supply route to the south tunnel entrance (i.e., North Oxbow: White-Boldway Trace; Penny Logging Road; Heller Cut-off; Ahern Road; Holgate Road; and Tunnel No. 9 Trace).

Oregon & California (O&C) Railroad

Avoid Wetlands For better year around capability, the four-mile road from the Applegate Trail near the south Mt. Sexton Pass to the railroad at the south entrance to Tunnel No. 9 needed to be high on the south slope of the Grave Creek Hills away from the four major winter wetlands and the need for bridges and expensive road maintenance.



Hypothesis East Hugo High Road Above Heller & Maple Creek Wetlands

At its eastern end the Hugo High Road's elevation was 2,000 feet along the Applegate Trail at today's Mt. Sexton Pass. Traveling west the elevation rapidly dropped to between 1,600' and 1,800'. The elevation of the road stayed at this elevation until it traveled over Tunnel Ridge where it again attained 2,000' before dropping to the Tunnel Creek drainage and the south entrance of Tunnel No. 9.

1. Hugo Neighborhood, Josephine County Historical Society, & Rogue Advocates. 2007. *O & C Railroad*. Hugo, OR.

Year Around Access Road Avoids Wetlands

Soils/Elevation The two main soils at the 1,600' and 1,800' elevation for most of the route of the hypothesized Hugo High Road are 42D Holland Sandy Loam and 53D Manita Loam. These soils are on the fans and hills of Grave Creek Hills and above the four major wetlands.

1. Peterson Wetlands
2. Ritchie Wetlands
3. Heller Wetlands
4. Maple Creek Wetlands

Through their oral histories Hugo old-timers, Orville Dingler and Mary Ritchie, have both referred to a Tunnel No. 9 road.³⁻⁴

Early homesteading and cash entries occurred on lands the High Road passed through: Caroline Sexton 1870; Gross 1891; Triplett 1892; and Charles Sexton 1893.⁵⁻⁶

Want more information? Contact an officer of the *Hugo Neighborhood* on how you can become involved in your community history and land use.

2. Hugo Neighborhood, Josephine County Historical Society, & Rogue Advocates. 2007. *Applegate Trail & Pleasant Valley Cemetery*. Hugo, OR.

3. Hugo Neighborhood. 2004. *Orville Dingler's Hugo Memories: 1910 - 1920*. Hugo, OR.

4. Hugo Neighborhood. 1999. *Mary Ellen (Ritchie) Fitzpatrick's Hugo Memories*. Hugo, OR.

5. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Land Office (GLO) Records. 2007. Official Federal Land Records Site (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/>). Internet

6. Hugo Neighborhood. 2007. *Hugo Pioneers*. Map Of Federal Land Transfer in Hugo, Oregon. Hugo, OR.

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society's Mission

This information brochure is one of a series of documents published by the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making. The *Hugo Neighborhood* is an informal nonprofit charitable and educational organization with a land use and history mission of promoting the social welfare of its neighbors.

Land Use & History

The *Hugo Neighborhood's* land use mission is to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and to preserve, protect, and enhance the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors. It will act, if requested, as a technical resource assisting neighbors to represent themselves.

Its history mission is to educate, collect, preserve, interpret, and research its local history and to encourage public interest in the history of the Hugo area.

Volunteer membership dues are \$10.00 annually per family and normally used for paper, ink, envelopes, publications and mailings. Send us your e-mail address if you want to know what we are doing.

Email: hugo@jeffnet.org

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HUGO'S HIGH ROAD

Brochure 5 Of Hugo's Trails
Brochure Series



Hugo's High Road

November 23, 2007

**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society**