

Dan-mologol or Rock Old Woman

Gray's Research: Dan-mologol or Medicine Rock¹ On a localized level some supernatural beings were directly associated with particular natural objects, including rocks, trees, and mountains. It was to these specific objects that offerings of food and valuables, as well as prayers, were often made. An example of the practice was Gray quoting



Sapir and Harrington in regard to Dan-mologol or Medicine Rock. This spirit was localized in a **large rock** located in Lowland Takelma territory near **Sexton Mountain** (page 43).¹

Tannaxule-tha: "Medicine Rock, it is like a round table." "Tannaxule-tha is the locality where the Medicine Rock was, 'where the rock sits down' . . . where the Medicine Rock is of Altawaykhaw Mountain, **a trail ran past Tannaxule-tha.**" This site is in the **vicinity of Sexton Pass** near present day Interstate 5 (page 79).¹

'Altawaykhaw' Mountain: Sexton Mountain

"Where the Medicine Rock is." "On my way back to California from Siletz, **I stop in the evening on top of Sexton Mountain** at the place where the rock is with the maple growing out of it" (page 81).¹

Sapir's Research²⁻³ The site on Sexton Mt. is Dan Mologol which in Takelma means Rock Old Woman." There is no mention of Medicine Rock being Dan-mologol

A local mountain spirit ". . . was the **dan mologol (Rock Old Woman) addressed as "Grandmother," and closely associated with a rock of about three feet in height and with an elongated round top** . . ." (page 45)

1. Gray, Dennis J. (1987). The Takelmas and Their Athapascan Neighbors: A New Ethnographic Synthesis for the Upper Rogue River Area of Southwestern Oregon, University of Oregon Anthropological Papers, No. 37. Eugene: Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon.

Sexton Mt. Pass Trail Rock (Trail Rock)

Harrington's Research There is non-referenced information that Harrington identified Medicine Rock being Dan-mologol.⁴

JR Of Applegate Trail: Maple Creek Site JA-14A

In 1855 the Applegate Trail was south of *Trail Rock* within approximately 50' of the course of the *Trail*.⁵

Chain Tree⁶ A moderate size chain is embedded in a 25" dbh Ponderosa Pine near the bottom of the 310' segment of the *Applegate Trail* at the south slope of Mt. Sexton Pass.⁷ It is 18' east from Maple Creek at the toe of the side hill castings from building I-5⁵.

One hypothesis as to its purpose was that it was part of a toll gate near the pass. Another hypothesis provided during a July 23, 2010 field trip by Chelsea Rose, Staff Archaeologist, Southern Oregon University, related to the feasibility of it being an anchor chain to control a wagon's steep descent.

Trail Rock There is a vertical standing oblong shaped rock about 25' southwest of Chain Tree that is 12' east from Maple Creek at the toe of the side hill castings from building I-5.⁸ It has a shape ranging in width from 4' - 5' which is 5' tall out-of-the-ground on its downhill side. It has a flat 3.5' diameter top. This description fits Sapir.²⁻³



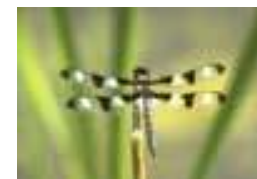
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2. Sapir, Edward. 1909. *Takelma Texts*. Anthropological Publications, Volume 2. University of Pennsylvania.
3. Sapir, Edward. 1907. *The Religious Ideas of the Takelma Indians of Southwestern Oregon*, Journal of American Folklore. Volume 20:33-49.
4. Harrington, John Peabody. 1981 *The Papers of John Peabody Harrington in the National Anthropological Archives of the Smithsonian Institution 1907-1957*. Reel number 28. Kraus International Publications. Millwood, New York.

Altawaykhaw Mountain = Sexton Mountain

Summary Chain Tree and *Trail Rock* being at the toe of I-5 side hill casting indicate they were there before the I-5 road building projects. *Trail Rock* is in the same location as Chain Tree on natural sloped ground not part of road building. The Takelma evidence from Gray¹ is that Medicine Rock and Dan Mologol was a large rock in the locality of Sexton Pass along the Applegate Trail, and it was like a round table. Sapir² states a rock associated with Rock Old Woman is about 3' in height with an elongated round top. *Trail Rock* satisfies these criteria.

Continuing Research There is no direct evidence that *Trail Rock* is Medicine Rock and/or Dan Mologol. It is intriguing that *Trail Rock* matches most of the information we know about Medicine Rock and/or Dan Mologol. This brochure will be updated as new information becomes available. Of special interest is reviewing Harrington's field notes.⁴



Dragonfly

Want more information? Contact a member of the HNAT and never trespass.

5. Hugo Neighborhood Association. March 7, 2010. *JR Of Applegate Trail: Maple Creek (JA-14A)*. Brochure 18A of Applegate Trail GLO Surveys Brochure Series. Hugo, OR.
6. Hugo Neighborhood Association. July 26, 2010. *JR Of Applegate Trail: 2010 Chain Tree At Mt. Sexton Pass*. Brochure 18J of Applegate Trail GLO Surveys Brochure Series Hugo, OR.
7. Hugo Neighborhood Association. April 21, 2010. *Applegate Trail: Mt. Sexton Pass*. Brochure 18B of Applegate Trail GLO Surveys Brochure Series. Hugo, OR.
8. Josephine County Historical Society, Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society, & NW Chapter Oregon-California Trails Association. August 31, 2011. *Minutes of Field Trip To Sexton Mt. Pass Trail Rock (Trail Rock) of Applegate Trail*. 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.

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Sexton Mt. Pass Trail Rock



Brochure NA-54 Of Hugo's
Native American Brochure Series



South Face of Sexton Mt. Pass Trail Rock

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**Hugo Neighborhood Association &
Historical Society
Josephine County Historical Society**