

# LOWLAND TAKELMA INDIAN TRAIL AT MT. SEXTON PASS: FIELD TOUR

July 21, 2014



**Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS)**  
**Josephine County Historical Society**



Stand on the very spot in the Rat Creek drainage where the Lowland Takelma Indians traveled over Grave Creek Hills from the Jumpoff Joe Creek side in Hugo to the Grave Creek side in Sunny Valley. This is the way it was for thousands of years.<sup>1</sup>

## LOWLAND TAKELMA NATIVE AMERICAN RESOURCES

### Hugo Native American Program

([http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/Hugo\\_Native\\_American\\_Program.htm](http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/Hugo_Native_American_Program.htm))

- *Hugo Native American Team*
  - *NA-18AB Gray's Dan-mologol or Medicine Rock*
    - *Sapir's Old Rock Woman: Takelma Texts*
- *Takelma Indians: An Essay on Native Americans in the Rogue River Area*
  - *John Peabody Harrington's Takelma Indian Field Notes: Outline*
- *Lowland Takelma Indian Trail & Rock Old Woman At Sexton Mountain Pass*
  - *Indian Trail Over Grave Creek Hills: 1855 (Chapters I - V & VI - IX)*

### Applegate Trail Inventory

(<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/applegat.htm>)

### Applegate Trail Inventory

#### Points of Interest for Applegate Trail

(<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/inventorybrochures.htm>)

- *Applegate Trail: Mt. Sexton Pass*
- *JR Of Applegate Trail: South Rat Creek (JA-15)*

### Education Resources For Applegate Trail at Mt. Sexton Pass

[http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/miscellaneous\\_research\\_papers\\_and\\_documents.htm](http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/miscellaneous_research_papers_and_documents.htm)

The Hugo Native American Team acknowledges the Hugo Emigrant Trails Committee's Applegate Trail work at Sexton Mt. Pass. Without this work the information about the Lowland Takelma Indian Trail over Grave Creek Hills would be general rather than survey specific.

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Footnote 1. An interpretation based on the science of a 1855 government survey and a 1933 professional interview of Lowland Takelma Gwisgwashan. Most importantly it is believe to be a true statement by the Hugo Native American Team based on its research. Review their research and you decide.

**FIELD HISTORY TOUR:** 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (1 hour total driving, and 2 hours easy touring). The field tour will begin at the west parking area for the Hugo I-5 Interchange. It will include a short drive to Sexton Mt. Pass and then a walking tour to the location of the old Takelma Indian Trail located under the 1855 Applegate Trail and 1913 Pacific Hwy.

## DRIVING

Driving Stop One. Gathering Area at West Parking Lot Hugo I-5 Interchange.

Driving Stop Two. Sexton Mt. Pass: Park vehicles.

## HIKING

### Hiking Tour

Approximately 1,100' of the Lowland Takelma Trail under the Applegate Trail.

**Lowland Takelma Gwisgwashan (i.e., Frances Johnson)**



*Francis Johnson*

Frances Johnson was a Lowland Takelma informant for two ethnographers and linguists, John Peabody Harrington and Edward Sapir. Sapir interviewed Frances in 1906. In 1933 Harrington interviewed her and brought her to the Rogue River region on a short automobile trip to assist in place name identification.

Frances' village was in the Jumpoff Joe Creek drainage and she would have personally traveled over the Sexton Mt. Pass along the Indian Trail by medicine rock. She had many personal memories of the Rogue River, her village, Rainie Falls, the medicine rock, and Grave Creek. She was 21 years old in 1856 when she and some of her tribe walked to the Siletz reservation; she was 98 years old in 1933 when she was interviewed by Harrington. Of critical importance was that Francis Johnson was accepted as a credible informant on the Lowland Takelma Indians by two professional ethnographers/linguists: in 1933 by John Peabody Harrington and in 1906 by Edward Sapir, as well as Historian and Anthropologist Stephen Dow Beckham, and Archaeologist Dennis Gray.

During the 1933 trip Frances reported that the part of the Applegate Trail at Sexton Mt Pass (i.e., including purpose of the tour, an existing 1,060' segment) was originally the location of the old Indian Trail/old emigrant road, and that Rock Old Woman had been located at Sexton Mt. Pass.

Frances Johnson's Takelma name was Gwisgwashan. Mrs. Johnson's native village was located somewhere north of the Rogue River; the HNA&HS believes it was in the Hugo area. Sapir gives the name of Dak'ts!asin in the neighborhood of Jumpoff Joe Creek, and near a local medicine rock (dan-mologo) as her native village. The rock was at the Sexton Mt. Summit. In Harrington's 1933 notes Johnson stated she was born at Rib Creek (i.e. Grave Creek), a place just the other side of Medicine Rock, or maybe at the falls of the Rogue River.

Frances Johnson identified medicine rock, the old Indian Trail/old road downhill from U.S. 99/old Pacific Highway during the 1933 place name identification automobile trip while at Sexton Mt. Pass on the old paved Pacific Highway. Harrington recorded her statements in three sketch maps (Maps 3 - 5). Map 4 is unique in that it was the only sketch map that located the old Indian Trail and old emigrant road as being the same pathway.

*“Thompson’s fence; old Ind. Trail & old road; Pac - Hw.”*

## MAPS

- Map 9. Indian Trail Over Grave Creek Hills: 1855
- Map 10. Hugo's Indian Trail

*John Peabody Harrington's Takelma Indian Field Notes: Outline*

- Map 1. Takelma Lands In Southwestern Oregon
- Map 2. Takelma Indians
- Map 3. Harrington Map 460 Takelma Villages
- Map 4. Harrington Map 560 Medicine Rock
- Map 5. Harrington Map 583 Medicine Rock
- Map 6. Harrington Map 876 Medicine Rock

**WARNING!** There is a personal risk the individual assumes anytime he ventures into the "wilds" of Hugo. Just for fun let us describe the "wilds" as any place where an individual has left paved roads. When leaving paved roads the driver is probably on a public logging road of some sort. Please be alert as these roads can be dangerous anytime, but especially in near vertical terrain (i.e., narrow, steep, curvy, blind corners, edge of cliff, poor road material, overhanging vegetation, mud holes, loose rocks, changing conditions, etc.). Please remember that while having fun there are dangerous roads and other environmental elements to prepared for: "real" common concerns are hot summer heat, ticks, poison oak, and rattlesnakes; there are other concerns too numerous to list.

Sponsorship and publications are not recommendations by the *Hugo Neighborhood* to citizens that an activity will be safe. In fact, if the individual does not take reasonable prudent responsibility for his actions the activity could easily be dangerous. If individuals go on sponsored field trips and/or use information contained in these publications, it is their personal responsibility to make sure that the facts and general information contained in them are applicable to their situation. The *sponsors* assume no liability for information provided, nor any harm that may result from individuals traveling into the "wild."

# LOWLAND TAKELMA INDIAN TRAIL AT MT. SEXTON PASS

## Map 5. North Sexton Pass I-5 East: 1940

*"Thompson's fence; old Ind. Trail & old road; Pac - Hw."* Francis Johnson (1933)

The 1,040' of Lowland Takelma Indian Trail is under the Applegate Trail (*Trail*). It is in two sections.

- Section 1. 380' - 1855 - c.a. 1911 - 1915  
*Trail/Pacific Hwy*
- Section 2. 760' - c.a. 1911 - 1915 *Trail/Pacific Hwy* - 1920 - 1921 Paved Pacific Highway

### Map 5. Applegate Trail I (ATI) North Sexton Pass I-5 East (1,040'): 1940<sup>1</sup>

January 11, 2012

**"Y" Intersection** - In October 2011 center of "Y" was 33' from center of concrete pad for U.S. Weather Bureau storage building. Building has been gone for a several years.

**New Access/Fire I-5 Road (200')**

**Applegate Trail I (ATI) For North Sexton Pass I-5 East (1,060')**

"Y" ROAD NO. 1 to "Y" Road No. 2 (760') &  
"Y" Road No. 2 to Clearing Before I-5 Sign (300')  
Clearing Before I-5 Sign to I-5 Sign (80')

**Applegate Trail II (ATII) For North Sexton Pass I-5 East (1,300')**

"Y" ROAD NO. 1 to "Y" Road No. 2 (760') &  
"Y" Road No. 2 to Highway Marker Post (540')

**Applegate Trail III (ATIII) For North Sexton Pass I-5 East (1,853')**

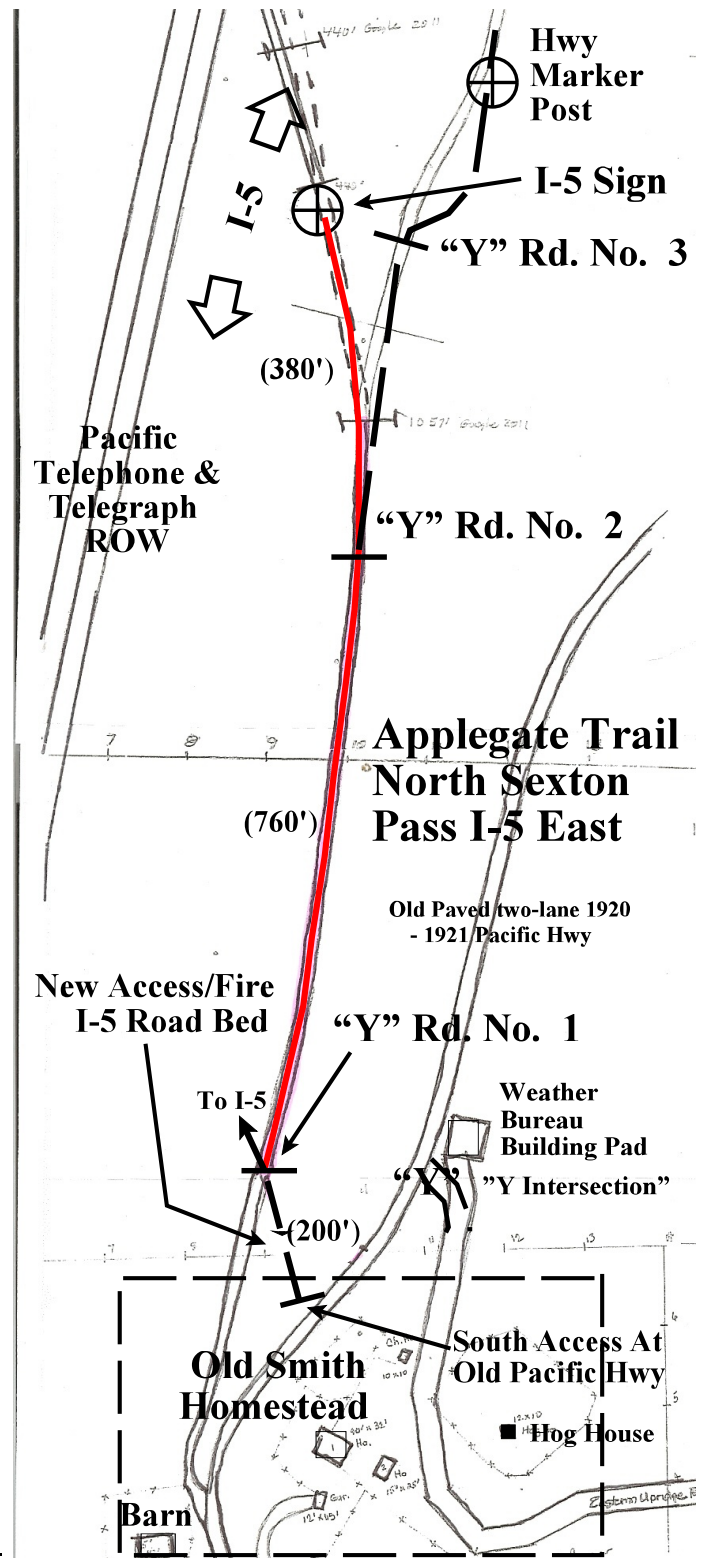
"Y" ROAD NO. 1 to "Y" Road No. 2 (760') &  
"Y" Road No. 2 to beyond the Highway Marker Post at I-5 Ditch (1,093')

**North Sexton Pass Under - 250'**  
I-5 pavement 80' wide from 1998 Topo.

**North Sexton Pass I-5 West - 440'**

Footnote 1. Base map is Oregon State Highway Department. August 1940. *Right of Way Map, Sexton Mt. Section. Pacific Highway, Josephine County.* Scale 1" = 100'. Part 1 of 2, Drg. No. 5B-28-11.

New Cut in 2013 for I-5 passing lane.



**1940 Highway Base Map<sup>1</sup>**  
Map Developed January 2012