

Baselines: Archaeological Input

For: Jerry Marmon Region 3 (South Half)

From: Carolyn McAleer, Archaeologist (Regions 3, 4, and Columbia River Gorge)

US 199 Expressway Upgrade Key # 14019

T36S, R5W, Section 19; T36S, R6W, Section 22, 23, 24,26 & 27

Josephine County

ODOT is presently reviewing alternatives for this project. The following information should be used to guide planners and managers.

A review of the SHPO database files shows no previous archaeological surveys within the Area of Potential Impact (API). However, the Rogue River lies less than a mile north of the project area. Numerous archaeological sites are located along the southern floodplain of the Rogue. While a large portion of the API has been previously disturbed due to road and building construction, there are locations which appear to have intact, undisturbed ground, suggesting that intact archaeological deposits may lie within the project area. In addition, the project area is in the vicinity of several freshwater sources. These features are considered high probability areas for archaeological deposits which reinforces the need for adequate archaeological pedestrian surveys and shovel probing.

In addition to the SHPO file search, a search of the BLM General Land Office maps was conducted. No historic features were identified during this search, however a portion of the Old Trail to Jacksonville runs north/south less than a mile west of the project area. While this historic feature is not within the API, it clearly illustrates Euro-American occupancy within the vicinity of the project dating to the 1850s.

Survey and probing (Phase 1) is necessary and will take place once the project plans have been finalized. In addition, Phase 2 testing maybe required if archaeological sites are identified within the project area in order to determine significance and eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. If significant sites are found, every effort should be made to avoid these sites. If this is not possible then mitigation measures must be sought.