



# Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area *Interpretive Master Plan*

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# Section I

# Plan Overview

## Introduction

Fort Yamhill, located on a high hill in northern Polk County overlooking the South Yamhill River Valley, is a little known aspect of Oregon's history. After its closure in 1866, Fort Yamhill has slowly become lost over time. Today, only traces of the fort remain.



*Existing Conditions at Fort Yamhill*

The late 1840's brought the arrival of increasing numbers of settlers to the West. Their arrival also brought increased hostilities between the settlers and Indians. The passage of the Oregon Donation Land Law in 1850, which encouraged settlement onto Indian lands, further escalated the conflicts. Increased skirmishes with Indians led to the creation of reservation territories, part of the solution to ending Indian hostilities. The Grand Ronde Reservation was created in 1855 and the large-scale relocation of Indians to the Reservation happened during February and March of 1856.

Fort Yamhill, part of a larger system of multiple military posts, was established in 1856 to protect the Grand Ronde Agency as well as to provide a buffer between the

settlers and Indians. It was located at the edge of the Reservation where it could regulate the flow of traffic entering and leaving the fort.

With the onset of the Civil War, the Army considered closing the fort. However, settlers near the reservation opposed closure of the fort and the regular army was replaced by volunteers to keep the fort open. However, the volunteers only remained a few more years until the fort was closed in 1866, ending Fort Yamhill's short history.

## Site Features

The Fort was strategically located in a saddle between two hills perched above the South Yamhill River. This notch in the landscape was part of a major travel route between the Willamette Valley and Oregon Coast. The notch forced people through a narrow area and helped regulate who entered the reservation.

Situated on the gentle western slope of the hill, the fort offered magnificent views of both the Grand Ronde Valley to the northwest, with a view of Spirit Mountain in the background, and the Yamhill River Valley to the south and east. This view also provided the fort with direct views of the reservation below.

At the time the fort was present, the landscape was very different than it looks today. The landscape would have been mostly open oak savannah and grassland prairie, as well as groves of oak with scattered Douglas fir, which would have allowed the far-reaching, clear views. Today



# Goals of Interpretation

## Interpretive Goals

Through the network of interpretive opportunities proposed in this plan, park visitors will become more aware of the unique history of the site and the area and will develop an understanding of why the military fort was constructed and how it fits in with the larger context of the creation of Indian Reservations and settlement of the West. Visitors will also learn about daily life at the fort as well as the impact to the tribes of being relocated to the reservation and the effect it had on their daily life.

### **Celebrating Oregon's Heritage**

*Oregon's heritage is a legacy for the future, preserved among prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, and in historic buildings and landscapes. It is contained in the collective wealth of our museums and heritage institutions, and embodied in our public celebrations and anniversaries.*

*- From Goals of the Oregon Heritage Commission  
2005-2011*

The following general goals for managing interpretive resources have been developed to be used as a basis for recommendations for interpretive services for Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area.

### **Goal #1**

Enhance visitor appreciation of the area's cultural and natural resources by:

- “making the common place extraordinary”;

- relating historical events, concepts and features to visitors in such a way that the unknown becomes known;
- raising awareness of the impact the reservation had on Native Americans;
- increasing the visitor's understanding of the challenges and every day life facing the Native Americans;
- increasing the visitor's understanding of the unique aspects and challenges of everyday life for the military personnel who lived at the fort;
- exploring the greater context of the Fort and its related settlement of the west;
- providing an understanding of the prehistory of the site with an overview of the natural history;
- discussing how the site evolved after the fort was abandoned;
- increasing the visitor's knowledge of the interrelated natural features and processes found within the area and the effects human actions have on natural resources;
- emphasizing the evolution of the park from past, present and future.

### **Goal #2**

Preserve and protect cultural and natural resources from intentional and unintentional harm by:

- nurturing in visitors a land use ethic that promotes stewardship and public awareness of the value of our cultural and natural heritage;

## 2 Goals of Interpretation

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- increasing visitor understanding of the impacts of visitor use patterns on the park's resources and inhabitants;
- placing emphasis on protecting and restoring cultural resources;
- restoring, protecting and enhancing important cultural landscapes and views;
- reinforcing that the park is "in progress" and more is being discovered about the park through research.

### Goal #3

Enhance the recreational and interpretive opportunities of visitors and maximize accessibility throughout the site by:

- providing a full spectrum of universally accessible interpretive opportunities for as many visitors as practicable;
- developing an overall ADA policy for the park;
- developing an overall ADA access plan for the park;
- establishing safe access to the site while avoiding significant resources to the extent possible;
- increasing visitor access, through various forms of orientation media to services and facilities in the park and the surrounding area;
- developing standards for consistent interpretive signing and trail signing for the park.

### Goal #4

Restore appropriate site elements with historical accuracy by:

- recreating or restoring site elements based on historic accuracy where

appropriate for furthering the understanding of the Fort;



*Phil Sheridan Home, 1966. Copyright Yamhill County Historical Society, 2004.*

- restoring important views, vantage points, and cultural landscapes through selected vegetation management;
- coordination with Bonneville Power Administration to relocate power line corridor that impacts the Fort, including structural design to minimize visual impacts;
- conducting additional research and analysis of cultural resources;
- establishing partnerships with Oregon State University to host Archaeological and Historic Preservation Field Schools.

### Goal #5

Encourage partnerships by:

- continuing to pursue partnership opportunities between Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde

(CTGR), Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Polk County for future development;

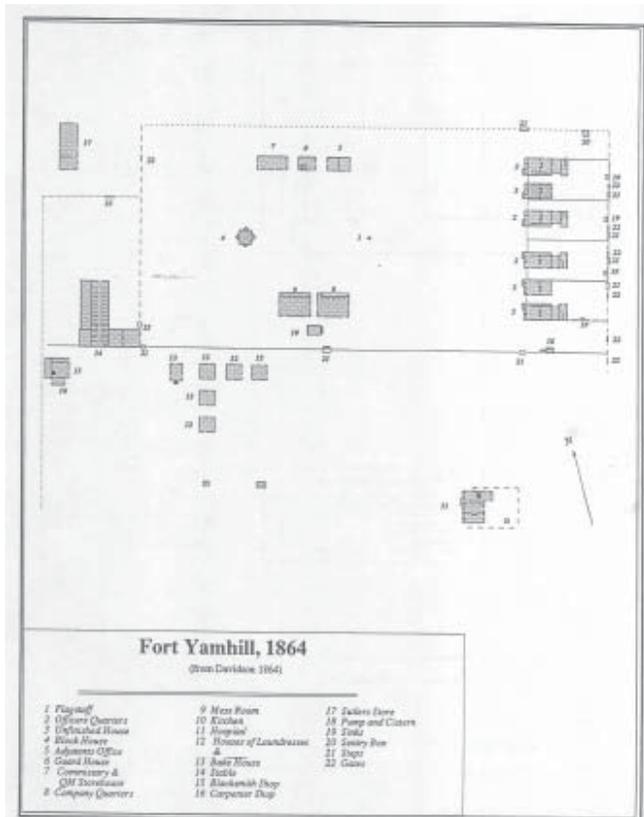
- identifying potential partnerships (other agencies and organizations in the area) to enhance the interpretive services provided to the public;
- developing relationships with nearby tourist attractions to provide opportunities to visit the Ft. Yamhill site;
- linking to other heritage sites in the area to promote cultural tourism;
- coordinating the site with the Regional Interpretive Plan to orient people and provide wayfinding;
- exploring opportunities with universities, schools, and educational groups;

- providing partnering opportunities with the Grand Ronde Casino;
- establishing a “good neighbor” policy to address issues brought forth by property neighbors;
- acquiring important properties, easements, or voluntary protection strategies;
- developing of a quality cultural and natural history program to serve educational and adventure groups of various ages.

**Goal #6**

Encourage development at the site that minimizes maintenance and operational needs and costs over the long term, but also provides expanded interpretive opportunities and improved services for park visitors by:

- developing self-guided, stand-alone outdoor interpretive experiences where appropriate;
- developing guided tour opportunities for more sensitive and/or remote areas that need to be protected from possible vandalism;
- developing an interpretive contact station;
- designing cost effective interpretive exhibits and related site improvements so that they require minimal maintenance;
- designing facilities that emphasize sustainability;
- working closely with the park rangers and maintenance staff on design solutions developed for the park;
- emphasizing protection as a priority in operations;
- maximizing volunteer resources;



The Davidson Map of 1864, redrawn (National Archives)

## 2 Goals of Interpretation

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- continuing to explore partnership opportunities between OPRD and CTGR for management and operations;
- partnering with CTGR representatives on tours and story telling.



*Existing Conditions at Fort Yamhill*

### Visitor Intended Outcomes

The following outcomes are expected to result from visitors' experiences at Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area interpretive sites – from the settings themselves; from exposure to the various media employed to communicate information and concepts; and from social interactions with other visitors, park staff, and volunteers.

#### Knowledge

As a result of their experiences at the park's interpretive sites, visitors will be exposed to the following ideas:

- The history of Oregon prior to Euro-American contact;
- How the landscape has changed over time;
- The importance of early transportation routes;
- The impact settlement had on the West;
- The impact Reservations had on Native Americans;
- Fort Yamhill was part of a larger system of military posts;
- The importance the fort had for providing a place for the Military, Native Americans, and settlers to interface;
- The daily life and hardships of Military personnel;
- The daily life and hardships of Native Americans on the Reservation;
- How local settlers viewed the Fort;
- The role the Civil War played at the Fort.

#### Actions

As a result of their experiences within Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area, visitors will be motivated to:

- share their knowledge and experiences with others in a positive manner;
- learn more about the cultural and natural history of the area by reading books, attending programs, and asking questions;
- exhibit respectful behavior towards the resources and facilities in the park;
- ask questions regarding resource use and management issues;
- participate as a volunteer or supporter of the park's interpretive program or other interpretive programs in the State Parks system;
- visit other State Parks interpretive sites with a similar or shared history.

## Opportunities for Interpretation at Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area

Interpretation at Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area will be based on a series of stories – all tied to a theme. This section of the report explores possible themes, as well as ideas for interpretation opportunities.

Visitors to Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area will be led through a series of experiences that address:

- orientation – where they are in relation to the park overall, as well as the region and other forts that served a similar purpose;



*Other State Parks in the Region*

- overview of the general history of the site and area;
- site specific interpretation related to the Fort that once existed at the site and tribal cultural history related to the Reservation;
- overview of creation of the Reservations and relocation of Native Americans to them;
- continued discovery of the park through additional research of cultural resources;
- general and site specific interpretation and stewardship messages related to the landscape of the park and surrounding area.

Interpretation at Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area will be successful by informing, involving, and inspiring visitors through:

- encouraging acts of stewardship and preservation;
- interpretation that addresses all perspectives related to the story;
- information and interpretation that includes and engages children;
- where practicable, the use of or cues to multi-sensory methods and experiences – sight, hearing, sense of touch, etc.;
- enticing and allowing visitors to discover and engage their curiosity;
- the use of appropriate “voice” – the sound, structure and feel of the written word;
- showing what can no longer be seen – especially with respect to the configuration of the Fort and Parade Grounds;
- enticing people to learn more after they leave the park.

## 2 Goals of Interpretation

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### Overall Vision Statement for Fort Yamhill

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, created the following statement as the overall vision for Fort Yamhill:

*To protect and interpret the cultural resources of Fort Yamhill and schedule the development of appropriate educational and recreation facilities by 2006, 150 years after the Fort was first opened.*

This vision has been broken down into smaller ideas and topics that support the overall vision statement. The topics and ideas have been developed by reviewing research material pertaining to the site as well as gathering feedback from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde as well as people familiar with the history of the site.

The initial research has encompassed a wide range of viewpoints. As with many aspects of history, the story may be told with different voices, further illustrating the richness of history and how it may be seen from different perspectives.

This document encourages the development of themes, plans and projects that are consistent with and reflect the values and perspectives of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and local communities.

### General Interpretive Opportunities for Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area

The following are the primary topics that have been developed from initial research. The topics are a starting point for further discussions with Stakeholders as to their importance in history and priority for interpretation at Fort Yamhill. These primary topics will also be used for theme development.

#### *Pre-History*

- Prior to Euro-American contact;
- The inhabitants of the valley and how they lived;
- How the landscape differs today and the importance of how it used to look.

#### *Old Killimuck Trail / Transportation Route*

- The importance of a transportation route to the coast;
- How transportation route changes over history and with the development of Fort Yamhill;
- The importance of the location of the Fort on the transportation route.

#### *Leading up to Fort Development*

- The process of clearing land claims from the Native Americans;
- Settlers were homesteading on Indian Land;
- How the passage of the Oregon Donation Land Law affected settlement;
- The effect increasing number of settlers had on the area;

- The increasing number of outbreaks of hostilities between settlers and Native Americans;
- The creation of Reservations and the treaties that helped create them;
- The relocation of Native Americans to the Reservations.

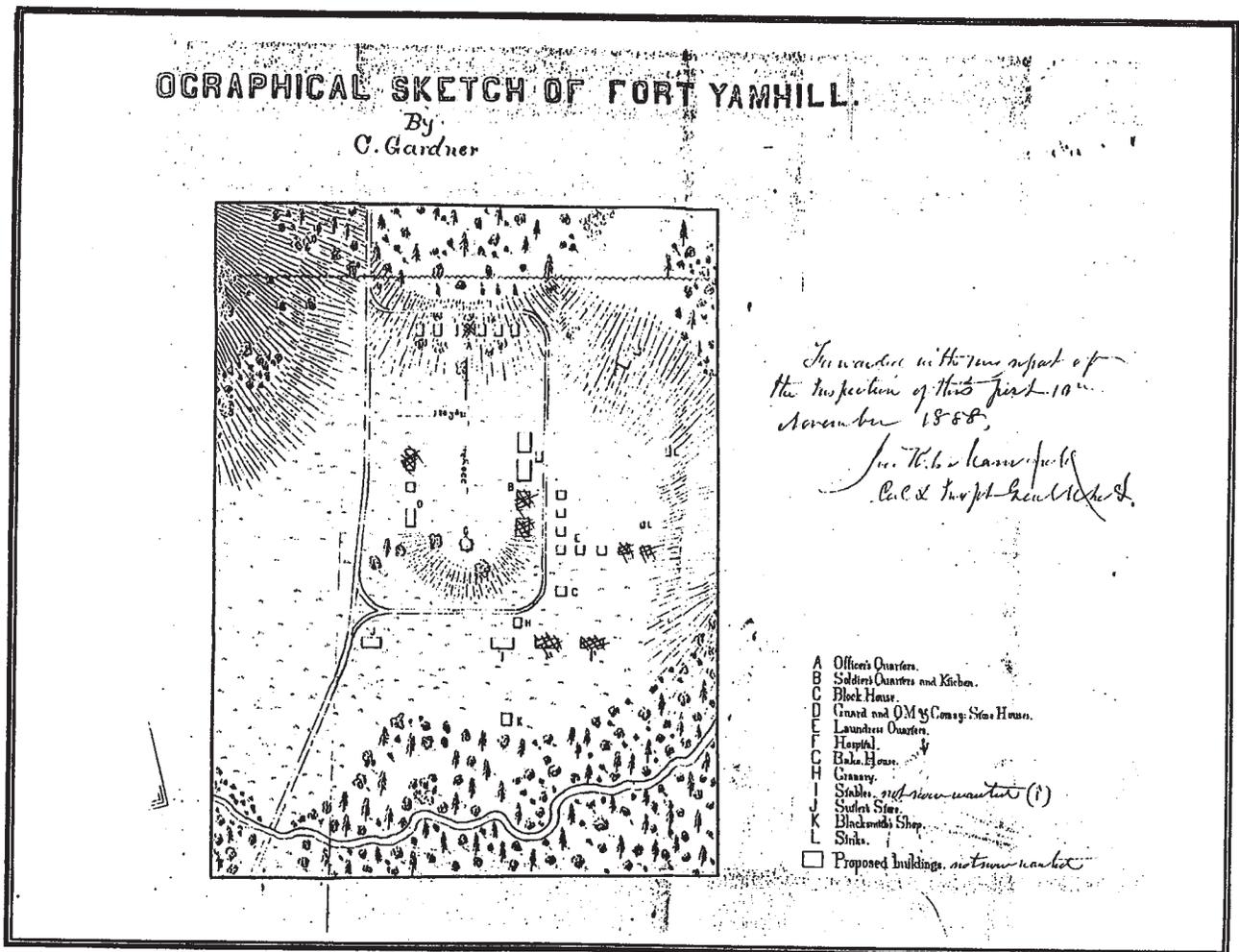
*Fort Development*

- Fort Yamhill was part of a larger series of Forts;
- Why the Grand Ronde valley was selected for a reservation site;

- Why the Fort was placed where it was;
- How the Fort served as a buffer between the settlers and Native Americans;
- How the Fort was built.

*Life at the Fort*

- Day to day operations at the Fort;
- The hardships and monotony the soldiers faced;
- The hierarchy between enlisted men and officers.



The Gardner Map of 1858 (National Archives)

## 2 Goals of Interpretation

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### *Life on the Reservation*

- The transition of Native Americans to reservation life and their hardships;
- How the Treaties that brought them there were broken;
- The regulations and restrictions they had to abide by, including rehabilitation efforts.

### *Life for Settlers*

- Their perspective of the importance of having the Fort;
- The services local citizens provided for the Fort;
- How the Fort and Military provided a buffer from the Native Americans;
- How the Fort served as a land mark and place for social interaction with the military.

### *Fort Features*

- Sutler's Store: its importance as the place for Military, Native Americans, and settlers to interface with each other;
- Blockhouse: its symbolism for the Fort;
- Parade Grounds: how the fence and parade grounds defined the Fort;
- Officer's Quarters: their symbolism and importance.

### *The Closing of the Fort*

- The role the Civil War played;
- The role volunteer citizen soldiers played to keep the fort open;
- The Public Auction of property.

### *Renewing the History of the Fort*

- Site has been known to CTGR and locals;
- Except locally, Ft. Yamhill is a little known aspect of Oregon's history;
- Features of the site are being rediscovered.

# Audience Analysis

## Section 3

### Purpose

The purpose of an audience analysis is to define the likely spectrum and quantity of visitors who will engage in the interpretive experience so that the interpretive plan can be tailored to fit their needs, interests, and expectations. It is important to understand the characteristics of potential visitors to Fort Yamhill, because they will be the audience for the interpretive experience. Interpretive approaches and exhibits should be designed to fit their needs and interests.

### Visitor Profile

The Fort Yamhill interpretive opportunities will attract an array of visitors. Local area residents, as well as travelers between the Portland and Salem metropolitan regions and the Oregon Coast can be expected. People of diverse cultures and backgrounds will be interested in the experience. American Indians, official tribal representatives, historians, educators, school children – all will expect a high quality interpretive experience with engaging and memorable exhibits.

The information below has been adapted from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's (OPRD) Regional Interpretive Plan, which described a series of likely types of visitors who experience Oregon state parks. Of those listed, the most likely types of visitors at Fort Yamhill are described. Additional categories were added to fit the specific geography and setting of the park.

### “Stop-Overs” on their Way to and from the Coast

Fort Yamhill is located along busy highway route 18, a frequent travel path between the metropolitan regions of Salem and Portland and the Oregon Coast. Thousands of people drive this route every day. People stopping to stretch their legs and take a break from the drive would be a likely category of visitors to the park. The provision of facilities such as a restroom, parking, and picnic tables will further help to encourage these types of visits, along with an outreach campaign that expands the public's awareness of the history and interpretive opportunities at the fort.

### “History Buffs”

These visitors seek opportunities to experience history in its fullest form and expect “high quality” interpretation. History buffs (either amateur or professional) and scholars of history and archaeological and cultural ways will take special, active interest in the interpretation at Fort Yamhill. The “history buff” category may include special tour groups and special interest groups that have specifically set out to experience the story of the forts of the region.

### “Family Mini Van Set”

This audience probably comprises most of OPRD's visitors, and it encompasses a range of ages and interests. Recent studies in the United States indicate that 35 percent of weekend travelers bring their children. These visitors will most likely be interested in an array of interpretive opportunities that appeal to children and adults.

#### School Groups

This audience typically includes school-age (K-12) children, but can include college students as well. This audience is most likely expecting a level of interpretation that is educational in a focused way. The visitation is seasonal, occurring most often in the spring of the school year. Physical spaces need to be designed to fit the needs of a group dynamic to accommodate school field trips, and areas for staging of school buses (off-site nearby). There are opportunities to forge partnerships between Fort Yamhill and regional school districts and education programs at the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde.

#### **Mission Area: Education**

*The Heritage Commission believes well-trained teachers, interpreters, and heritage professionals are essential to preserve Oregon's heritage. Working together with the education and heritage communities, the Heritage Commission strives to acquaint Oregonians with the wide range of heritage learning opportunities and to provide technical training to the stewards of Oregon's heritage.*

Oregon State Parks hosts over 3,500 school children each spring at Champoeg State Park who travel less than one-hour for history-based learning field trips. Often, the field trips include fourth-grade classes learning about Oregon history. Eighth-grade classes in Oregon include curriculum related to government, so they would be another target group for Fort Yamhill, where the experience will provide an opportunity to learn more about how tribal governments work and the

historic interactions between the US government and the tribes. Various grants and funding sources may be available for programs that involve school children and students from public school districts.

#### International Travelers

Portland is an international destination with a full service airport and attractions, accommodations, events, and services that appeal to visitors from all over the world. Oregon has become a popular destination for Asian and European travelers (especially Japanese and German visitors). International travelers enjoy a “high quality” interpretive experience. Europeans, and Germans in particular, have a strong interest in the history of the American West. Interpretation that engages international travelers must address language barriers. One effective method is to illustrate stories and information graphically as much as possible (through drawings, paintings, photographs, etc.). Also, companion guides and/or audio programs can be provided in multiple languages to accompany the interpretive exhibits and experience at the fort.

#### “Solitude Seekers”

These visitors want to get away from it all and enjoy a setting without the crowds, signs, or development. The Fort Yamhill setting does lend itself well to the needs of solitude seekers looking for a more passive and educationally enriching experience after a busy week at work in the nearby metropolitan regions. Within less than one-hour, visitors would be able to escape the intensity of the city and enjoy the pastoral and scenic setting of the park. Another likely scenario, as mentioned above, would be visitors on their way to the coast for a

“solitude seeking” weekend who may stop over at the park.

### **RVers**

These folks are typically looking for passive recreation and are often retired. They mostly prefer to experience the parks from the interior of their vehicles or on easily accessible trails. They often have a lot of time and a strong interest in history. RVers comprise an important sector of the visitors to the nearby casino.

### **Spirit Mountain Casino Visitors**

The nearby casino draws an average of over 3,000,000 annual visits – more than any other attraction or place in Oregon. The casino is in fact marketed as the busiest tourist attraction in Oregon since 1998! The casino offers a full range of facilities, including lodging (254 rooms), multiple restaurants, RV parking (visitors can stay in their RVs overnight), and family-oriented activities including “Playworld” and an arcade. The casino operates 7 days a week, 24 hours a day and shuttle service is provided from the surrounding metropolitan areas.

The mission of the casino is “to enhance economic self-sufficiency opportunities for the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, its members and surrounding communities and to promote economic diversification by the tribes to support a variety of housing, educational and cultural programs under the direction of the tribal council.”

The primary interest of visitors coming to the casino is to let off steam, gamble, and have fun. While the primary purpose of their visit would be for these activities, their spouses or others in their group may be looking to expand their experience. Through targeted

marketing and programs, casino visitors may be induced to expand and enhance their visit by participating in a tour of Fort Yamhill, particularly in the case of tourists planning a multiple-day visit to the area. A shuttling/ transportation program between the casino and Fort Yamhill would further reinforce the opportunities for cross-visitation. With over 3,000,000 visits annually, and the thematic relationship between the fort and tribal culture and history, a partnership program between the casino and State Parks that encourages, promotes and accommodates cross-visitation is recommended.

## **Visitor Needs and Expectations**

Visitors to Fort Yamhill will have some basic needs and expectations about what their experience should offer:

- Accessibility and Orientation
- Basic Facilities (parking, restrooms, picnicking facilities, benches, etc.)
- A Range of Interpretive Media
- Memorable Experiences

The OPRD Regional Interpretive Plan described anticipated areas that visitors in the Willamette Valley region may be focused on:

- Natural history
- Native American history
- Early settlement/agricultural lifestyles

The Fort Yamhill interpretation will appeal directly to those visitors with expectations to learn more about these topics by specifically addressing the overarching story of early Oregon settlement and Native Americans.

### 3 Audience Analysis

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The unique story of the fort and the remnants in the landscape that help to convey that story provide the opportunity for a rich and memorable experience.

Visitors who are specifically seeking out cultural enrichment and historic interpretation have high expectations. They are most interested in “history that comes alive” before their eyes.

Visitors who are on a mission to experience history expect interpretation to be conveyed to them accurately, clearly, and with vivid sensory appeal. As such, the most successful historic interpretive sites draw their audience through:

- Visual and graphic representations and illustrations of the historic events and activities that took place.
- Remnants of historic features and activities that can be seen in the landscape.
- Living history re-enactments or events.
- A telling of all perspectives of the history – accurately and clearly.

To physically be in a location where the history took place is most important and offers the most genuine of history-related interpretive experiences. Fort Yamhill is a unique site in the Pacific Northwest because it offers just this opportunity to visitors, in a relatively intact setting since the era of fort operation (i.e. undeveloped site and surroundings). Fort Yamhill will offer a similar experience for visitors to that found at several other Pacific Northwest parks where there are visible remnants of history or elements of the landscape that can help visitors visualize historic events that took

place there, including Champoeg, Fort Vancouver, Fort Hoskins, Fort Stevens (historic area), Fort Clatsop, and other locations. There is an opportunity to develop a marketing and outreach program that encourages cross-visitation between the historic sites that represent events that occurred during the era of settlement of the West. Oregon State Parks and Recreation should partner with other entities, such as the National Park Service, county parks, tribes, special history interest groups and others to strategically plan for this type of regional marketing and outreach.

## Anticipated Visitation Levels and Patterns

In order to project the approximate level of visitation that might be expected at Fort Yamhill once improvements are completed several sets of statistics were analyzed. First, visitation levels at the nearby casino and traffic volumes on Highway 18 in the vicinity of the site were collected.

<b>Sprit Mountain Casino</b>
<i>3,000,000 average annual trips</i>
<b>Highway 18</b>
<i>6,000 average daily trips</i>
<i>2,190,000 average annual trips (total volume of traffic)</i>

Next, visitation statistics were gathered for other state parks with similar historical contexts, as well as for some national park

Campoeg State Heritage Area
<i>339,944 visitors in 2003</i>
Willamette Mission State Park
<i>278,060 visitors in 2003</i>
Fort Stevens SP - Historic Area
<i>171,616 visitors in 2003</i>
Fort Vancouver NHP
<i>432,092 visitors in 2003</i>
Lewis and Clark National Historic Park (Fort Clatsop Unit)
<i>251,872 visitors in 2003</i>

forts in the region.

(Fort Hoskins, operated by Benton County Parks, was mentioned as a comparative experience to Fort Yamhill. No visitation statistics were available for Fort Hoskins for comparison purposes.)

In general, annual visitation at day use historical destinations in the general region vary widely, but typically is within the average range of 250,000 to 350,000 visitors annually.

Given that Highway 18 is a busy travel route to and from the Oregon Coast and the nearby casino experiences 3,000,000 visits annually, there is promising potential to attract annual visitation at the high end of the expected range.

### **Anticipated Visitation Patterns**

Given that Fort Yamhill provides an outdoor, day-use experience, the highest visitation levels would be expected in the months of May through October, with peaks on summer holiday weekends. Other long holiday weekends throughout the year may also experience spikes in visitation.

### **Anticipated Length of Stay**

For a day-use experience such as that offered

at Fort Yamhill, and given the characteristics of likely visitors, the expected average length of stay will likely be less than one hour. Many “stop over” visitors on their way to and from the coast may be looking for no more than a few minutes of activity. Field trips and the occasional visitor with specific educational, cultural, or historical interest would likely stay longer, perhaps half the day and plan for a picnic lunch on site. There will be visitors who come to Fort Yamhill as their primary destination, or who are visiting a list of regional historical sites covering similar periods of history. These types of visitors also would be expected to stay longer. Tour programs (such as those that might be developed in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and Spirit Mountain Casino) could offer a range of lengths of stay on the site to appeal to varying levels of interests.

Given these variable conditions in length of stay and the variable levels of interest in history of visitors, the facilities and interpretive exhibits at Fort Yamhill should be designed to provide a variation in experiences. Orientation information should be provided that can give visitors a sense of the history of the site within a few minutes. Routes of travel (expected flow patterns through the site) for visitors should provide various options, so that those visitors who want to stay longer and enjoy a fuller experience of the fort have that opportunity. Those visitors who just want to learn about the basics of the historical events that happened at the site while en route to another destination may only stay for a few minutes. Visitors should be able to grasp the essence of the site’s history even if only there for a brief amount of time. Short visits can be supplemented by a range of media (i.e.

interpretive panels, audio programs, printed materials, pre-visit website information, etc.).

In situations where visitation periods are typically shorter, the importance of providing a *quality, memorable experience* becomes more of a focus.

#### **Trends Analysis**

An analysis of trends in demographic conditions provides information helpful to the planning, design, and implementation of the interpretive experience at Fort Yamhill.

#### **Population Growth**

Another indication that Fort Yamhill likely would experience visitation patterns within the high end of the range for day use historical destinations includes the high level of population growth Oregon and neighboring states are experiencing.

As stated in the 2003-2007 Oregon Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plan (SCORP), Oregon was the 11<sup>th</sup> fastest growing state in the US between 1990 and 2000, surrounded by even faster growing states, including Washington (#10), Idaho (#5), and Nevada (#1). Much of Oregon's growth occurred in the Interstate 5 corridor between Portland and Salem. Several of the fastest growing cities and counties in Oregon are located within a one-hour drive from Fort Yamhill.

#### **Convenient and Flexible Experiences that Appeal to a Diverse Audience**

The 2003 Outdoor Recreation Report states that "lack of time" is the most stated barrier for the general population to participating in outdoor recreation opportunities. Other Federal and State Agencies are reporting the trends in visitor characteristics and demographics that also reinforce the need for

providing experiences that are convenient and flexible.

- Recreating public is older, more highly educated, with higher income levels, increasingly from urban living environments and increasing ethnic diversity.
- Public is becoming more conscious and interested in protection of natural, historic, and cultural resources.
- Visits to parks are becoming increasingly shorter. Families and individuals have less leisure time than in the past. People are visiting parks that are within shorter travel distance.
- Public increasingly expects high quality pre-visit information about their parks. Increasingly the public relies on the Internet as a primary source for information for trip planning.
- Recreating public wants family-oriented activities, to travel closer to home with more frequent but shorter stays.
- In Oregon, as in the US as a whole, minority populations are increasing at a rate well above total population growth. As a result recreation and interpretive providers in Oregon must consider the needs of an ethnically mixed population when planning for outdoor recreation and interpretive opportunities. During the decade the number of Hispanics, Oregon's largest minority group, more than doubled statewide.
- Other demographic changes in addition to the increasing Hispanic population, include the aging "baby boomer" cohort and an increase in single-parent families.
- After a period of decline following the events of September 11, 2001,

international travel is on the rise again in the United States. Visitors from Japan, Germany, and other European countries are among the most frequent to the Pacific Northwest and western America.

- Weekend travel is more popular than ever with half of all US adults – nearly 103 million – taking at least one weekend trip per year. More Oregonians will be interested in visiting locales in their own backyard.
- 35 percent of US weekend travelers bring their children.
- 20 percent of Americans take five or more weekend trips per year.
- 40 percent of weekend travelers report they are taking more day trips and/or weekend trips today than five years ago. This trend is projected to continue, although recent increases in fuel prices in the US may affect travel choices and patterns.
- As more of the “baby boomer” generation retires, the demand for recreation facilities with high amenities and accessibility is likely to increase with the growing technologies available in the travel industry.
- Sightseeing/Driving for pleasure was reported as one of the most significant areas for growth in participation in outdoor activities in the 2003 report.

### **Outdoor Recreation Trends in Region**

In OPRD’s Region 2 – which includes Fort Yamhill, the following outdoor recreation activities experience significant growth in participation according to the 2003 report:

- Big game hunting (154 percent)
- Nature/Wildlife Observation (254 percent)

- Sightseeing/Driving for Pleasure (69 percent)

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department reports a growing demand for RV camping, especially at the coast, as well as a growing demand for trails.

### **Cultural/Heritage Tourism in the United States and Oregon**

Cultural/heritage tourism can be defined as: *Purposeful and enjoyable travel that enables the traveler to learn about the history, heritage and lifestyles of others, while contributing to the conservation and restoration of cultural resources and the economic well-being of the community.*

Cultural tourism can be a major contributor to regional and community economic revenues. A 1999 study by the National Tour Association in the US indicated that 20 percent of tourism revenues are based on cultural tourism. More than 50 million adults said they visited a museum or historical site in the last year and 33 million US adults attended a cultural event. Cultural and historic travelers tend to spend more, stay in hotels more often, and visit more destinations.

#### **Mission Area: Promotion**

*The Heritage Commission works with the Oregon Tourism Commission and the tourism industry to develop and promote local and statewide cultural tourism events and destinations that reflect authentic Oregon heritage, and that highlight and celebrate the diversity of people and places that comprise Oregon’s cultural landscape.*

### 3 Audience Analysis

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Community cultural tourism requires integration of at least three essential components:

- The desire to share a cultural legacy with tourists.
- An intact cultural resource base that can provide the foundation for a cultural heritage project.
- An accessible travel market interested in visiting the community's heritage resources.

All of these components are available for the Fort Yamhill experience.

Other important statistics related to cultural/heritage tourism:

- One –third of all US adults (65 million people) include a visit to an historic site or cultural event in their pleasure travel plans. Of these 65 million travelers, 12.3 million have indicated that visiting historic sites and cultural events were the *primary* reasons for traveling.
- In 1998, 26.7 million travelers lengthened their trip because of cultural events and activities – 61 percent added part of one day; 30 percent added one night; 5 percent added two nights; and 4 percent added three or more nights.
- Travelers who enjoy cultural and heritage activities have higher household incomes and are more likely to be college educated, to have management and professional occupations, and to be married, more than the average pleasure traveler.
- Travelers who enjoy cultural and heritage activities spend more money per trip: \$210 more per trip than the average US

traveler; stay 1.4 nights longer; and are more likely to stay in commercial accommodations.

- One-third of international visitors enjoy heritage tourism sites.
- Tourism is a \$5.2 billion industry in Oregon and continues to grow by three to five percent per year.
- Nearly one-third (28 percent) of Oregon's domestic pleasure travelers enjoy historic sites and attractions, making this one of the state's top tourism activities.

The Oregon Heritage Task Force confirmed the state's commitment to cultural tourism through this statement published ten years ago:

*“Oregon’s heritage is one of its most valuable assets . . . a storehouse of memories, objects, buildings, sites, documents, books, photographs, and artwork that provides meaning to the human experience. It is a highly significant element in the economic stability of the state and a vital element in sustaining small businesses and communities in rural areas.”*

#### **The Outlook and Benefits of Cultural/Heritage Tourism**

- A growing number of tourists indicate authentic experiences of different cultures are an important factor in their travel decisions and expectations.
- Cultural heritage tourism will expand the offerings of rural Oregon and encourage travel to areas of the state unfamiliar to many visitors.
- Cultural heritage facilities create “off season” visitor opportunities and

complement many of Oregon’s outdoor activities.

- Cultural heritage resources provide opportunities for the travel and tourism industry to develop new tour packages, regional circuits, and thematic packages of attractions.
- Cultural heritage tourism development is a means of preserving the state’s cultural heritage for future generations.
- Cultural heritage tourism is an important educational tool for our children and newcomers to the state.

References: Oregon Tourism Commission, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Travel Industry Association of America.

### **Regional Cultural/Heritage Tourism Experiences**

In addition to the experience at Fort Yamhill, several regional parks and destinations provide cultural/heritage tourism opportunities. As previously suggested, partnerships with the management entities for these other sites could help foster a regional approach to marketing, educational outreach, and stewardship promotion. A strong regional heritage site tourism program may also reinforce visitation levels at all sites, as well as solidify greater funding opportunities from a diversity of sources. Here are just a few of the regional heritage sites.

#### *Champoeg State Park*

Located on the east side of the Willamette River this site is approximately 15 miles southwest of Portland, Oregon. On May 2, 1843, a vote taken here between American settlers and former employees of the Hudson’s Bay Company established the first

provisional American government of the Pacific Coast. This action may have been one of the factors leading to Oregon becoming a U.S. Territory in 1848. The Oregon State Parks Department administers this site.

#### *Fort Vancouver*

This fort, one of the first in the Pacific Northwest, served as the former department headquarters for the Columbia Department and is presently home to U.S. Army Reserve units. It is the oldest active military post in the Pacific Northwest, begun in 1849 and is now part of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve in Vancouver, Washington.

#### *Fort Hoskins*

Established in 1856 to protect the Grand Ronde and Siletz Indian Reservations from encroachment, this fort is open to the public as a county park in Benton County, north of Philomath, Oregon.

### **Summary**

Visitors to Fort Yamhill will have basic characteristics, needs, and interests that the interpretive plan and later detailed design of interpretive exhibits must respond to.

- Visitors will need orientation information – people like to know where they are and where they need to be in relation to basic needs.
- Visitors will be more likely to seek information before the trip. Pre-trip planning (also called “advance trip planning”) information needs to be available.
- Visitors will engage in continuous decision making. A continuous source of orientation is needed.

### 3 Audience Analysis

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- Visitors will expect information on prominent features.
- Recreationists will not necessarily be interested in interpretation, however some recreationists (i.e. wildlife watchers, sightseers, etc.) may visit the fort to enrich their experience while recreating in the area.
- Visitors have limited energy for absorbing information.
- Visitors have limited time.
- Visitors have varying educational backgrounds.
- Fort Yamhill visitors will seek a range of interpretive experiences that accommodate stays of varying lengths of time, but most often shorter periods from 10 to 15 minutes to less than one hour.

There is an opportunity to leverage the growing interest in the US and Oregon in cultural/heritage tourism and to develop a coordinated approach to marketing the historical experiences at regional cultural/heritage sites.

Fort Yamhill has the potential to draw from a substantial and diverse audience. Many factors are in place to contribute to its long term success as an interesting, engaging cultural/heritage destination in Oregon.

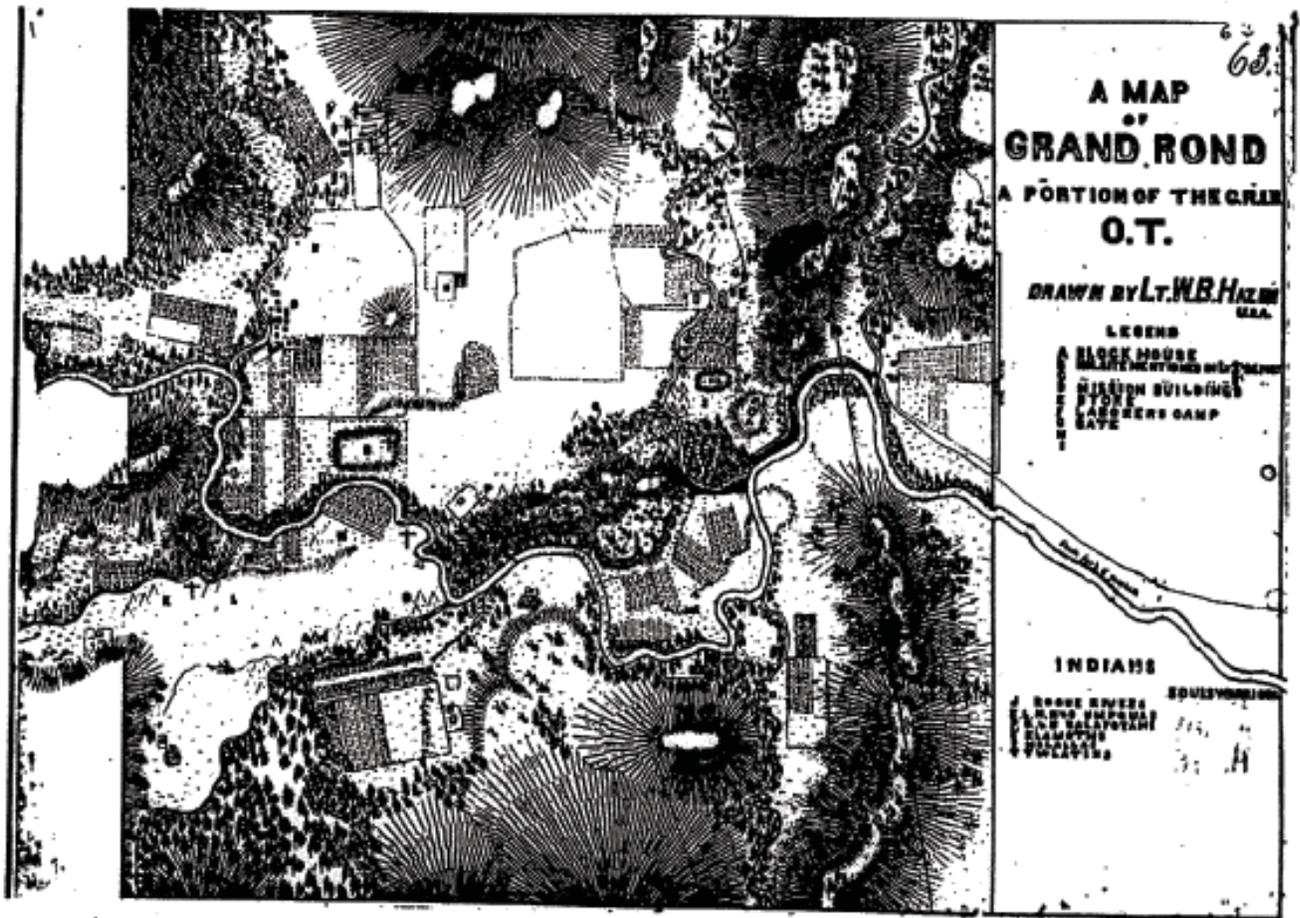
# Interpretive Themes and Opportunities

This section outlines the general and site-specific interpretive concepts and ideas that visitors will understand through interpretation and their own experiences within Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area. These concepts and ideas are expressed through interpretive theme statements that capture the essence of the message visitors should receive at specific interpretive exhibits or from a collection of exhibits. Opportunities for how the topics and themes can be best presented in a given context and

other interpretive recommendations are described in Section 5.

## Levels of Interpretive Network

A full range of interpretation will be provided to broaden visitor awareness of the extent of cultural and natural history present at Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area. A three-level network of interpretation is proposed:



*The Hazen Map of 1856 (National Archives)*

## 4 Interpretive Themes and Opportunities

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- Level 1 - Pre-visit and On-site Orientation
- Level 2 - Interpretive Hubs
- Level 3 - Interpretive Story Point Sites

The first level is general outreach designed to provide pre-visit and on-site orientation information. This will help guide visitors to the next level of the interpretive experience - interpretive hubs. Here, information and interpretation is concentrated in one focused area. The interpretation relates directly to the resources in the vicinity. The third level of interpretive experience, the most detailed, consists of story point sites. At these sites, a particular resource or message that is, or was, significant to a place is thematically illuminated through interpretation. At this level, the facility or program should combine a direct experience or visual cue with the interpretation.

### Pre-visit and On-site Orientation - Level I

A variety of media should be developed to provide general orientation information. Each form of media is designed to inspire visitors to seek out interpretive hubs and story point site locations. Following is a description of the opportunities for pre-visit and on-site level orientation.

- **Websites:** Update the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department website and postings on other agency websites to provide additional interpretive information about Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area, including event and program schedules, site conditions, and links to related interpretive sites throughout the area.
- **Short Range Radio Station:** Use local short range radio to inform visitors of specific events happening at the park.
- **Map:** Create a regional map for printing and distribution that shows the locations of trails, interpretive sites, and recreational opportunities.
- **Brochures:** Create publications on specific subjects, such as: cultural history, Native American culture, and the history of similar forts. Brochures with stewardship messages could also be created.
- **Newspaper:** Create or contribute to a newsletter, newspaper, or visitor's guide to showcase priority interpretive sites in this plan and provide maps, trail descriptions, interpretive programs, and event schedules for the park. A special issue or an insert of an existing newspaper could focus specifically on Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area.
- **Variable Message Signs/ Informational Signs or Kiosks:** Provide variable electronic or fixed signs displaying relevant information, management messages, and interpretive program schedules.
- **Directional and Wayfinding Signs:** Provide signs and symbols (according to standards) that clearly identify interpretive services and resources at the park.
- **Educator's Packet:** Develop a guide to help educators plan learning objectives that relate the cultural and natural history of the park to students of various ages.
- **Visitor Orientation Station:** Designate and develop a Visitor Orientation Station as a primary place people can go to get

information about the park. Visitors should be able to obtain or view a map of the park showing interpretive areas of interest, services, and schedules or to ask questions of staff at this location. The parking lot or Sutler’s Store site are possible locations to develop a Visitor Orientation Station at Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area.

## Interpretive Hubs - Level 2

Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area will have interpretive hubs where interpretation is focused on specific themes for each hub. The interpretation will relate directly to the resources in that vicinity.

In order to organize the interpretive themes and opportunities of this plan, we have subdivided Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area into three distinct interpretive areas (see map of Hubs in Appendix). These include:

- Sutler’s Store (Hub #1)
- Parade Grounds (Hub #2)
- Officer’s Quarters (Hub #3)

Each interpretive hub has a unifying concept and related themes that will be emphasized through interpretive media. The media will include opportunities based in some or all of



A Park “In Progress”

the three levels of interpretation: pre-visit and on-site orientation, interpretive hubs, and story point sites.

### Organization of Theme Statements

Topic: Subject of theme.

Theme: *Central idea or purpose.*

Goal(s): What you hope audience will understand or feel.

### Sutler’s Store (Hub #1)

This area includes the entrance, parking for both cars and RVs, bus drop-off, sidewalks, restroom, staging area, overlook, kiosk, and Sutler Store site.

### Unifying Concept

Hub #1 explores the on-going historical discovery of the fort, why and how the fort was created, and the different cultures at the fort.

#### Theme 1a

Topic: Why fort was created.

Theme: *Settlement of the West led to the displacement of Native Americans from their ancestral lands to a series of reservations created by the Government.*

Goal(s):

- For people to understand why Fort Yamhill was created and to understand it was tied to the settlement of the West.

#### Theme 1b

Topic: A park “in progress”.

Theme: *The history of Fort Yamhill continues to be renewed and awakened through continued research and analysis of the unique cultural landscape.*

## 4 Interpretive Themes and Opportunities

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Goal(s):

- For people to understand the history of the fort is being renewed and it is in the process of restoring the cultural landscape.
- For people to understand that additional research and analysis of cultural resources is occurring and will help shape the future of the park.
- For people to understand how the partnership between OPRD and CTGR allowed the park to be developed.

### Theme 1c

Topic: Negotiations between the Native Americans and the Government and the impact of treaties being broken by the Government.

Theme: *Tribes entered negotiations with the Government to cede their lands during a time of heightened tensions and the fear of extinction at the hands of the settlers.*

Goal(s):

- For people to understand the Native Americans felt they entered into negotiations as participants with power.
- For people to understand the dissatisfaction did not start until the government did not follow through on their promises.

### Theme 1d

Topic: The story of Fort Yamhill can be told through four distinct groups and their interaction with each other: Military, Native Americans, Grand Ronde Agency and Settlers.

Theme: *Fort Yamhill was a gateway between the different cultures of the Native Americans and Settlers with the Military acting as a safeguard between the two.*

Goal(s):

- For people to understand the complex interactions between the military, Native Americans and settlers whose lives were affected by the fort and what their roles were in relation to Fort Yamhill.
- For people to understand the interaction and differences between the Grand Ronde Agency and Fort Yamhill.

### Theme 1e

Topic: Sutler's Store

Theme: *The Sutler's Store acted as a crossing point of different cultures and accommodated a diverse group of people.*

Goal(s):

- For people to understand the Sutler's store was one of the few places where Settlers, Native Americans and the Military would cross paths.
- For people to understand the Sutler's store provided goods and supplies for Settlers, Military and Native Americans to purchase.



*Blockhouse, Copyrighted 1911, by J.G. Lewis*

**Parade Grounds (Hub #2)**

This hub encompasses the Parade Grounds of Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area and includes the Blockhouse, Flag Staff, Adjutant’s Office, Guard House, Commissary, Quarter master’s Storehouse, Company Quarters, Mess Room and Kitchen. This area will also include benches for resting and enjoying the views.

**Unifying Concepts**

The hardships of daily life for both the Native Americans and military personnel.

**Theme 2a**

Topic: Blockhouse

Theme: *The imposing outline and high visibility of the Blockhouse stood as a strong reminder that the fort served to provide protection and enforcement of Agency regulations and military policies.*



*Blockhouse, Dayton City Park, 2005*

Goal(s):

- For people to understand the blockhouse was originally built to provide protection and was an imposing symbol for the fort.

**Theme 2b**

Topic: Transition of Native Americans to reservation life, the living conditions of the reservation and their daily hardships.

Theme: *The Native Americans experienced daily hardships and were required to adapt to regulations and restrictions that forced them to change their cultural habits.*

Goal(s):

- For people to understand the Native Americans dealt with desperate conditions and did not receive what had been promised by the Government.
- For people to understand the Native Americans had to live within regulations and restrictions that tried to force them to give up their culture.
- For people to understand who required the regulations and restrictions and how they were enforced.

**Theme 2c**

Topic: The Guard House was used as a place of punishment for the enlisted men and Native Americans.

Theme: *Both Native Americans and enlisted men were punished at the Guard House, sometimes for the same offense. However, the punishment was rarely the same.*

Goal(s):

- For people to understand the role of the Guard House in maintaining discipline and order, for both enlisted men and Native Americans, at the Fort.
- For people to understand that the same offense would have different punishment

## 4 Interpretive Themes and Opportunities

for the Native Americans than the enlisted men .

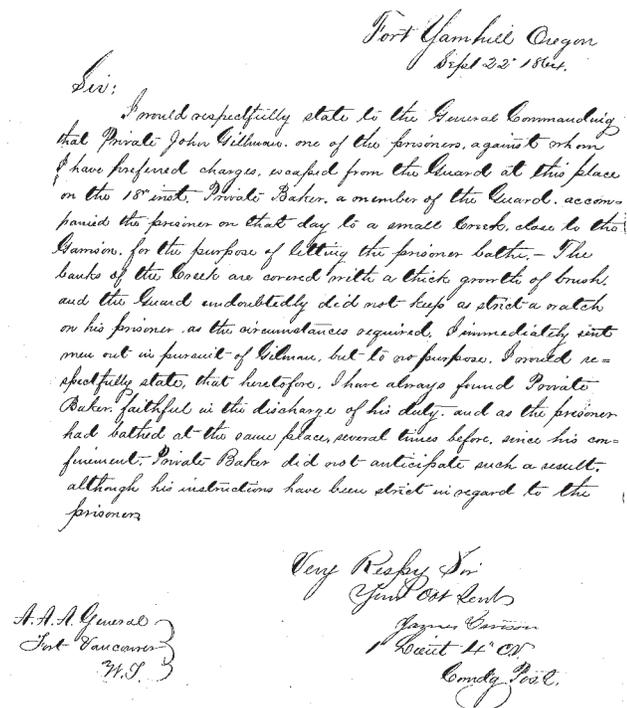
### Theme 2d

Topic: Daily hardships and monotony for military personnel and the hierarchy between enlisted men and officers.

Theme: *Fort Yamhill was a remote outpost where soldiers experienced a life of hardship, monotony and boredom.*

Goal(s):

- For people to understand the monotony of daily life at Fort Yamhill.



Letter from a soldier stationed at Fort Yamhill

### Theme 2e

Topic: The rapid evolution of Fort Yamhill.

Theme: *Rapid changes in history with the onset of the Civil War led to changes in personnel and the eventual closing of the fort.*

Goal(s):

- For people to understand the short history of the fort was tied to the changes and history taking place in other parts of the country.

### Officer's Quarters (Hub #3)

This hub encompasses the upper portion of Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area and includes the Officer's Quarters, Sentry Box, Historic Travel Route, and the Cistern.

### Unifying Concept

The location of the fort along a major travel route and the importance of the placement of the Officer's Quarters and Sentry Box.

### Theme 3a

Topic: Officer's Quarters

Theme: *The separation of the Officer's Quarters from the rest of the fort buildings mirrored the isolation of the Officers from the enlisted men.*

Goal(s):

- For people to understand the symbolism of the Officer's Quarters and the difference between their living quarters and those of the enlisted men's.

### Theme 3b

Topic: Historic travel route to the coast played an integral role in the location of the fort.

Theme: *The military seized the opportunity to place the fort on a main travel route, allowing them to restrict traffic at the main entrance to the valley.*

Goal(s):

- For people to understand the importance of the travel route to the coast and the significant history of the trail in relation to the short history of the fort.
- For people to understand the importance of locating the fort on a major transportation route to the coast in order to restrict access to the reservation.



*Signs of historic travel routes still remain.*

**Other Interpretive Themes and Topics**

With future planning and design, especially with further discovery of additional cultural resources, other potential interpretive topics and themes should be further explored.

**Management and Stewardship Themes**

Themes related to management and stewardship can also be conveyed to visitors at the interpretive hubs. Some appropriate messages may be:

- Over the history of development and management of Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area, there has been a strong focus on resource stewardship - please respect this heritage.

- This is a cultural resource site – please treat it with respect.
  - Don't litter.
  - Stay on trails in areas designated as culturally sensitive.
  - Leave no trace of your visit.
  - Don't bother or disturb plants and animals.
- Vandalism to public property hurts everyone – especially the people who pay for these facilities – you and me!
- Littering is a crime against the environment punishable by law.
- Dogs must remain on leash. Please pick up after your pet.
- Removal of found artifacts is prohibited. Leave artifact and notify parks staff of its location.

**Story Point Sites - Level 3**

**Sutler's Store (Hub #1) Related Story Point Sites**

**Theme 1a**

*Settlement of the West led to the displacement of Native Americans from their ancestral lands to a series of reservations created by the Government.*

Topics for story points and/or sub-themes:

- 1 Settlement was causing the conflict with the Native Americans.
- 2 People's perception of what a fort should look like and that it was not designed to be a permanent fort.
- 3 Location of other forts/reservations.

## 4 Interpretive Themes and Opportunities

- 4 Regional orientation of Fort to significant features in the area.
- 5 Agency was started prior to the Fort and was driven by the settler's fear of being killed by the Indians, as well as the concern that settlers would over-run the Native Americans.
- 6 Explain Oregon Indian Bill / Donation Land Claim Act.
- 7 Settlers were homesteading on land that did not belong to them.
- 8 The closure of Ft. Yamhill.

### Theme 1b

*The history of Fort Yamhill continues to be renewed and awakened through continued research and analysis of the unique cultural landscape.*

Topics for story points and/or sub-themes:

- 1 A comparison of how the landscape has changed over time; how the cultural landscape of the Native Americans was actively managed (Kalapuyan word for Grand Ronde was "burned place").
- 2 Research will be on-going and part of the educational aspect of the park.
- 3 The process of restoring a cultural landscape.
- 4 The history of the Officer's Quarter building and the process of restoring it (*will move to Hub 3 when the building is relocated*).
- 5 The importance of archaeology in uncovering the history of the site as well as preserving it.



*Fort Site circa 1940s (Salem Public Library Photo Collection)*

### Theme 1c

*Tribes entered negotiations with the Government to cede their lands during a time of heightened tensions and the fear of extinction at the hands of the settlers.*

Topics for story points and/or sub-themes:

- 1 Tribal Nation vs. American Nation.
- 2 Native Americans experienced a drastic change in how they lived over a short period of time.
- 3 The difference in the concept of land ownership between Native Americans and the Government.
- 4 Indian Treaty negotiations of 1853: the collection of Indians with similar habits and customs onto reservations that were removed from white settlements.

### Theme 1d

*Fort Yamhill was a gateway between the different cultures of the Native Americans and Settlers with the Military acting as a safeguard between the two.*

Topics for story points and/or sub-themes:

- 1 Native Americans provided labor for settlers (letters requesting Indians as servants to white farmers).
- 2 Settlers provided support services for Fort Yamhill.
- 3 Military strategy for maintaining peaceful relationships.
- 4 The role of the Grand Ronde Agency.

**Theme 1e**

*The Sutler’s Store acted as a crossing point of different cultures and accommodated a diverse group of people.*

Topics for story points and/or sub-themes:

- 1 The Native Americans were facing starvation even though they had made agreements with the Government to be provided with supplies, which were being provided to the store.
- 2 Native Americans were promised supplies as part of payment but given junk. The good merchandise ended up in the Sutler’s store where Native Americans had to “buy it twice”.
- 3 Sutler’s store was source of alcohol and other vices.

**Parade Grounds (Hub #2) Related Story Point Sites**

**Theme 2a**

*The imposing outline and high visibility of the Blockhouse stood as a strong reminder that the fort served to provide protection and enforcement of Agency regulations and military policies.*

Topics for story points and/or sub-themes:

- 1 Blockhouse was the first permanent structure at the fort and is one of the few surviving buildings.
- 2 The difference between Agency regulations and military policies.

**Theme 2b**

*The Native Americans experienced daily hardships and were required to adapt to regulations and restrictions that forced them to change their cultural habits.*

Topics for story points and/or sub-themes:

- 1 Regulations and restrictions the Native Americans had to live by and who required them and enforced them.
- 2 The Government tried to eliminate the culture of the native Americans through assimilation, but the culture has survived in spite of it.
- 3 Failure of the Government to uphold terms of treaties.
- 4 Difficulties of tribes to communicate with each other through language barrier and the creation of a common language through jargon.

**Theme 2c**

*Both Native Americans and enlisted men were punished at the Guard House, sometimes for the same offense. However, the punishment was rarely the same.*

Topics for story points and/or sub-themes:

- 1 The killing of Agent Ben Wright and the hanging of the Indian Enos for it (Enos spent some time in the Guardhouse/ Blockhouse before his so-called trial and execution - See Palmer papers for story).

## 4 Interpretive Themes and Opportunities

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- 2 One of the main reasons for incarceration was for abuse of alcohol (ties back to Sutler's Store).
- 3 Soldiers got into trouble out of boredom; Native Americans got into trouble for wanting to return to their homeland.
- 4 The role volunteer soldiers played to keep the fort open.
- 5 The Civil War not only freed black slaves but the captive native slaves in Indian culture.

### Theme 2d

*Fort Yamhill was a remote outpost where soldiers experienced a life of hardship, monotony and boredom.*

Topics for story points and/or sub-themes:

- 1 Some soldiers were sympathetic to the Native Americans.
- 2 Treatment of enlisted men vs. freedom of officers.
- 3 Fort Yamhill was not a choice assignment for Officers wanting advancement.
- 4 Festivities were few and far between; when they did happen, it was a big event.
- 5 The excitement of the Civil War made it harder for the enlisted men to tolerate the monotony of Ft. Yamhill.

### Theme 2e

*Rapid changes in history with the onset of the Civil War led to changes in personnel and the eventual closing of the fort.*

Topics for story points and/or sub-themes:

- 1 Who or what provided buffer between Native Americans and Settlers after the Military left.
- 2 Correlation between what was being fought for in other parts of the country was being taken away from the Native Americans.
- 3 It was a time of transition.



*Conjectural Drawing of Officer's Quarters, Drawn by Gregg Olson, July 2003*

### Officer's Quarters (Hub #3) Related Story Point Sites

#### Theme 3a

*The separation of the Officer's Quarters from the rest of the fort buildings mirrored the isolation of the Officers from the enlisted men.*

Topics for story points and/or sub-themes:

- 1 The role Sheridan played at Fort Yamhill.
- 2 Comparison of how the officers lived compared to the enlisted men.
- 3 Hierarchy of the Officers and how their quarters were placed on a hill overlooking the parade grounds.

- 4 The story of how the house survived and how locals always thought it was part of the Officer's Quarters.
- 5 How the house was constructed and how it ties in with the construction of the Fort.
- 6 Restoration work and continued research of the area.

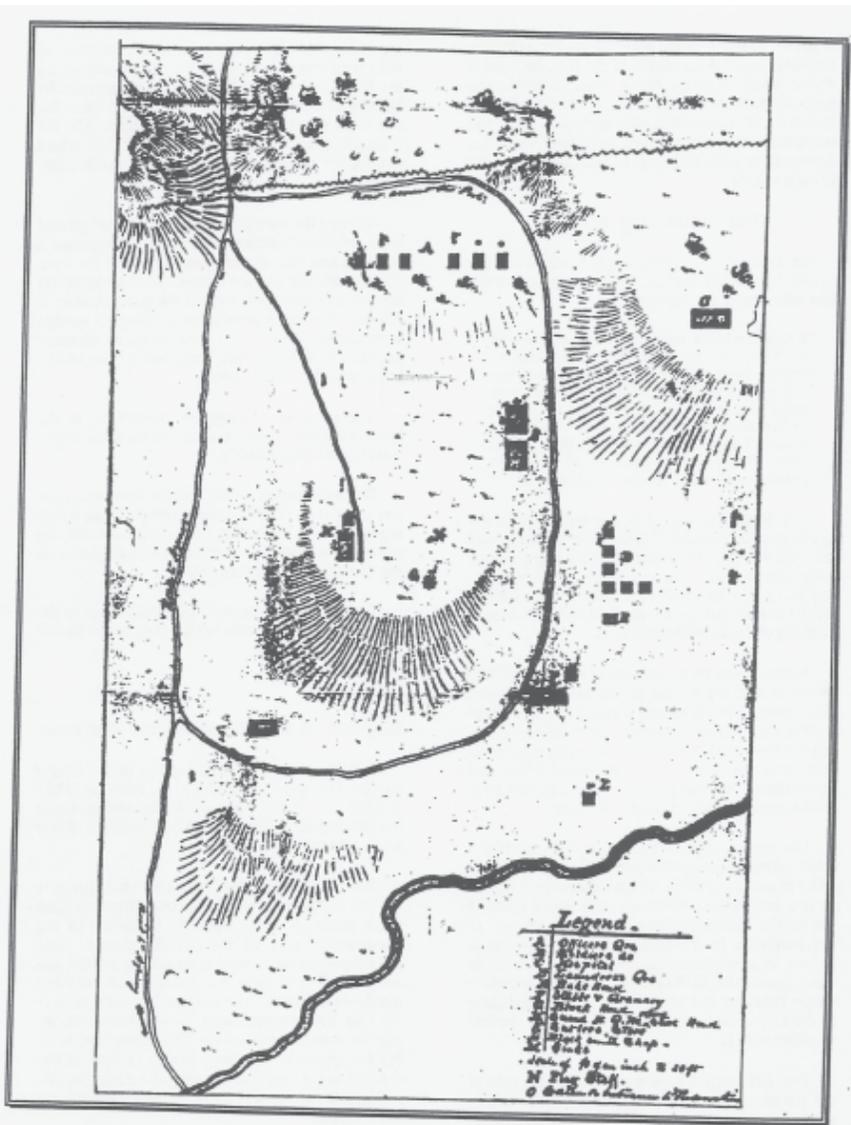
*the fort on a main travel route, allowing them to restrict traffic at the main entrance to the valley.*

Topics for story points and/or sub-themes:

- 1 The history of the travel route and how it was used prior to the fort.
- 2 The trail was a difficult travel route.
- 3 The history of the travel route continued beyond the life of the fort.

**Theme 3b**

*The military seized the opportunity to place*



*The Smith Map of 1856 (National Archives)*

## 4 Interpretive Themes and Opportunities

	Interpretive Experience						
	Website	Map	Brochure	Kiosk	Information Panel	Educators Packet	Interpretive Staff
<b>Theme 1a</b>							
1 Settlement was causing the conflict with the Native Americans.		◆			◆		◆
2 People's perception of what a fort should look like and that it was not designed to be a permanent fort.				◆			
3 Location of other forts/reservations.	◆	◆					◆
4 Regional orientation of Fort to significant features in the area.		◆		◆		◆	
5 Agency was started prior to the Fort and was driven by the settler's fear of being killed by the Indians, as well as the concern that settlers would over-run the Native Americans.		◆	◆				◆
6 Explain Oregon Indian Bill / Donation Land Claim Act.		◆	◆		◆		◆
7 Settlers were homesteading on land that did not belong to them.		◆	◆				◆
8 The closure of Ft. Yamhill.		◆	◆				◆
<b>Theme 1b</b>							
1 A comparison of how the landscape has changed over time; how the cultural landscape of the Native Americans was actively managed.		◆		◆	◆		◆
2 Research will be on-going and part of the educational aspect of the park.	◆		◆		◆	◆	◆
3 The process of restoring a cultural landscape.			◆				◆
4 The history of the Officer's Quarter building and the process of restoring it.			◆	◆	◆		◆
5 The importance of archaeology in uncovering the history of the site as well as preserving it.			◆				◆
<b>Theme 1c</b>							
1 Tribal Nation vs. American Nation.			◆				◆
2 Native Americans experienced a drastic change in how they lived over a short period of time.			◆	◆			
3 The difference in the concept of land ownership between Native Americans and the Government.			◆		◆		◆
4 Indian Treaty negotiations of 1853: the collection of Indians with similar habits and customs onto reservations that were removed from white settlements.			◆	◆	◆		◆
<b>Theme 1d</b>							
1 Native Americans provided labor for settlers.				◆			
2 Settlers provided support services for Fort Yamhill.				◆			
3 Military strategy for maintaining peaceful relationships.				◆			
4 The role of the Grand Ronde Agency.		◆			◆		

	Interpretive Experience						
	Website	Map	Brochure	Kiosk	Information Panel	Educator's Packet	Interpretive Staff Audio/Visual
<b>Theme 1e</b>							
1 The Native Americans were facing starvation even though they had made agreements with the Government to be provided with supplies, which were being provided to the store.				◆			
2 Native Americans were promised supplies as part of payment but given junk. The good merchandise ended up in the Sutler's store where Native Americans had to "buy it twice".				◆			
3 Sutler's store was source of alcohol and other vices.						◆	
<b>Theme 2a</b>							
1 Blockhouse was the first permanent structure at the fort and is one of the few surviving buildings.				◆			
2 The difference between Agency regulations and military policies.		◆		◆			◆
<b>Theme 2b</b>							
1 Regulations and restrictions the Native Americans had to live by and who required and enforced them.		◆		◆			◆
2 The Government tried to eliminate the culture of the Native Americans through assimilation, but the culture has survived in spite of it.		◆		◆			◆
3 Failure of the Government to uphold terms of treaties.		◆		◆			◆
4 Difficulties of tribes to communicate with each other through language barrier and the creation of a common language through jargon.				◆			
<b>Theme 2c</b>							
1 The killing of Agent Ben Wright and the hanging of the Indian Enos for it.							
2 One of the main reasons for incarceration was for abuse of alcohol (ties back to Sutler's Store).						◆	
3 Soldiers got into trouble out of boredom; Native Americans got into trouble for wanting to return to their homeland.				◆			
<b>Theme 2d</b>							
1 Some soldiers were sympathetic to the Native Americans.				◆		◆	
2 Treatment of enlisted men vs. freedom of officers.				◆			
3 Fort Yamhill was not a choice assignment for Officers wanting advancement.						◆	
4 Festivities were few and far between; when they did happen, it was a big event.						◆	
5 The excitement of the Civil War made it harder for the enlisted men to tolerate the monotony of Ft. Yamhill.						◆	

## 4 Interpretive Themes and Opportunities

	Interpretive Experience							
	Website	Map	Brochure	Kiosk	Information Panel	Educators Packet	Interpretive Staff	Audio Visual
<b>Theme 2e</b>								
1 Who or what provided buffer between Native Americans and Settlers after the Military left.				◆	◆			
2 Correlation between what was being fought for in other parts of the country was being taken away from the Native Americans.				◆				
3 It was a time of transition.						◆		
4 The role volunteer soldiers played to keep the fort open.				◆	◆			
5 The Civil War not only freed black slaves but the captive native slaves in Indian culture.				◆				
<b>Theme 3a</b>								
1 The role Sheridan played at Fort Yamhill.						◆		
2 Comparison of how the officers lived compared to the enlisted men.				◆	◆			
3 Hierarchy of the Officers and how their quarters were placed on a hill overlooking the parade grounds.						◆		
4 The story of how the house survived and how locals always thought it was part of the Officer's Quarters.		◆				◆	◆	
5 How the house was constructed and how it ties in with the construction of the Fort.			◆				◆	
6 Restoration work and continued research of the area.	◆		◆	◆	◆		◆	
<b>Theme 3b</b>								
1 The history of the travel route and how it was used prior to the fort.		◆		◆	◆			
2 The trail was a difficult travel route.		◆		◆				
3 The history of the travel route continued beyond the life of the fort.		◆		◆				

# Section 5

# Interpretive Recommendations

The following recommendations are to be used as a guide in the development of interpretive programs, projects and services within Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area.

## General Interpretive Media at Hubs

Following are descriptions of general interpretive media that could be developed at selective interpretive hubs and story points at Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area.

- **Interpretive Hub Network Map:** Maps would provide visitors with quick orientation to interpretive hubs found at the park, through the use of symbols, location names, and a legend.
- **Orientation/Interpretive Panel(s):** Thematically designed orientation interpretive panels would introduce the themes of the hub and provide easy access to information about features and recreational opportunities at the hub.
- **Interpretive Panel(s):** Thematically designed interpretive panels would identify, describe, and illustrate a variety of messages to be communicated at nearby interpretive sites and viewpoints.
- **Live Interpretive Programs:** Interpretive programs given by park interpretive staff or other interpretive specialists (e.g. rangers, researchers, volunteers, teachers, etc.) would include impromptu programs given during roving duties.
- **Audio/Visual Media:** Interpretive tools such as video programs, slide shows, and audio headphone sets provide visitors with a broader variety of interpretive experiences. These activities could occur at a Visitor Center.
- **Fireside Programs:** Park rangers could provide fireside programs for special events at Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area. Fireside programs are a possible way to accommodate larger groups.
- **Personal Contact:** Visitor contact with uniformed or identified parks interpretive staff would take place at information areas, while roving, or at interpretive facilities.
- **Interpretive Trail:** A self-guided trail (or trails) utilizing brochures or interpretive panels would convey informational and thematic messages to visitors.
- **Historic Events:** Special events, such as re-enactments, historic groups, military history, or Oregon Settlement Days could be hosted at the site.

## Program Recommendations for Orienting Visitors

As discussed in Section 4, Level 1 interpretive media are recommended to provide pre-visit and on-site orientation for visitors. Various forms of media are recommended for Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area. Specific suggestions for

## 5 Interpretive Recommendations

adapting these media to Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area are provided below.

### Partnership Programs

Park staff should identify and pursue opportunities for partnerships to assist in development and implementation of interpretive programs and projects. Potential partners in the park area might include the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, historical societies, and area schools.

### Website Enhancements

The Internet is fast becoming a preferred resource for vacation and trip planning throughout the world. There are several opportunities for OPRD to take advantage of this medium:

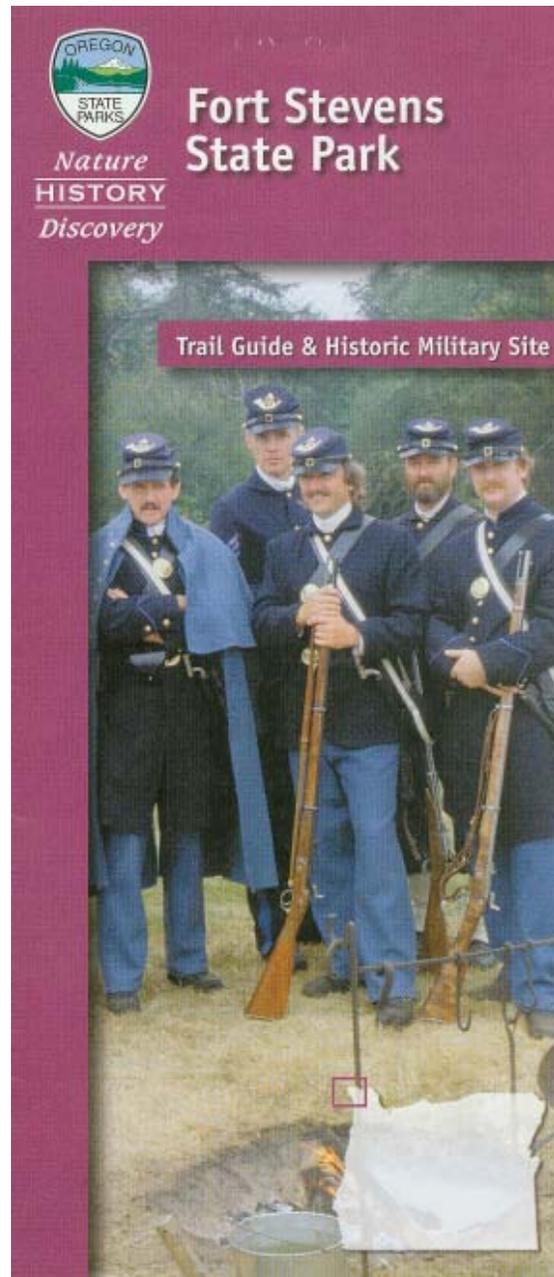
- Expand current State Parks website to include more information about fort history, with a specific link to Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area from the State Parks homepage.
- Continue to work with other state and local agencies and tourism organizations to develop links to State Parks information from their website, such as the State Tourism Office's website ([www.traveloregon.com](http://www.traveloregon.com)).

### Overall Park Map

This map could be developed for distribution to park visitors and displayed at interpretive hubs. The map image could also be used in Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area publications as a primary orientation tool. The map should identify the major highway route, interpretive hubs, restroom facility, nearby campgrounds, picnic areas, ADA accessible facilities, and priority interpretive story point sites.

### Park Trails Map

Design and publication of a brochure that provides spatial orientation, trail descriptions, and access to interpretive resources found within Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area is needed. The map should identify the trail locations throughout the site and identify which ones are ADA accessible.



Example of an Oregon State Park brochure

**Brochure**

Research, design and publication of brochures with information related to Native American culture, fort history, other forts in the area, the settlement of Oregon, stewardship messages and other themes prescribed in this plan should be completed.

**Educator’s Packet**

Packets could be developed and distributed to educators to encourage program development within Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area. A Junior Ranger program could also be started at the park.

**Newsletter**

Design and publication of a seasonal newsletter would showcase priority interpretive resources of Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area, provide orientation to visitor services/trail system, and advertise visitor interpretive events and programs. Coordination with local, state, and national media representatives is also highly encouraged.

**Directional Signing and Wayfinding Plan**

In order to develop consistent and effective orientation to Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area’s facilities and resources, supplemental directional signing and wayfinding cues are needed. A specific plan should be developed for where directional and wayfinding signs and elements should be located. This would involve coordinating with ODOT on the planning and installation of standard ODOT recreation orientation signs along the highway to provide clear orientation to the park. On-site orientation and wayfinding signs and elements are also needed.

**Visitor Orientation Stations**

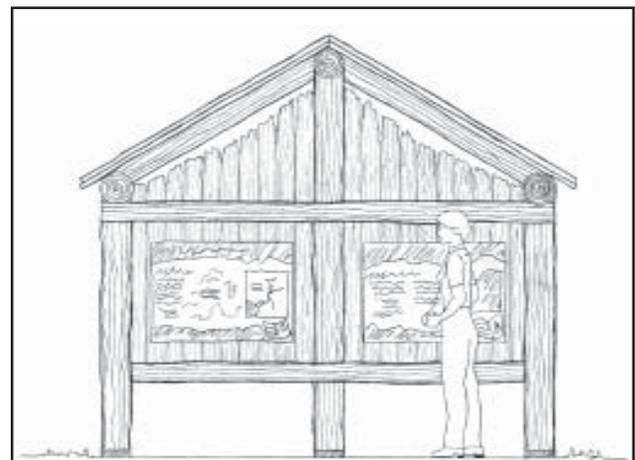
A primary visitor orientation station is recommended for Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area. Visitor orientation could be provided through an orientation/ interpretation panel or panels installed either as separate exhibits or on a kiosk. Maps, brochures, and other visitor information also should be made available in these three areas.

**Multi-lingual Information**

Information and interpretation for non-English speaking visitors should be provided as practicable, particularly at high-use areas.

**Outdoor Interpretive Exhibit Design for Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area**

Outdoor Interpretive Exhibit Design for Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area should be designed to be compatible with the park and surroundings. Use of natural materials or materials that would have been found at the fort when it was active are encouraged to blend with the setting and to relate to the historic setting at the park.



*Large Timber Kiosk*

## 5 Interpretive Recommendations

Timber kiosks would be appropriate for the setting at Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area. The figure on the preceding page illustrates a larger timber kiosk, which is designed to display four 30" x 42" panels (two on each side). The figure on this page illustrates a smaller timber kiosk, designed to display two 30" x 42" panels (one on each side).

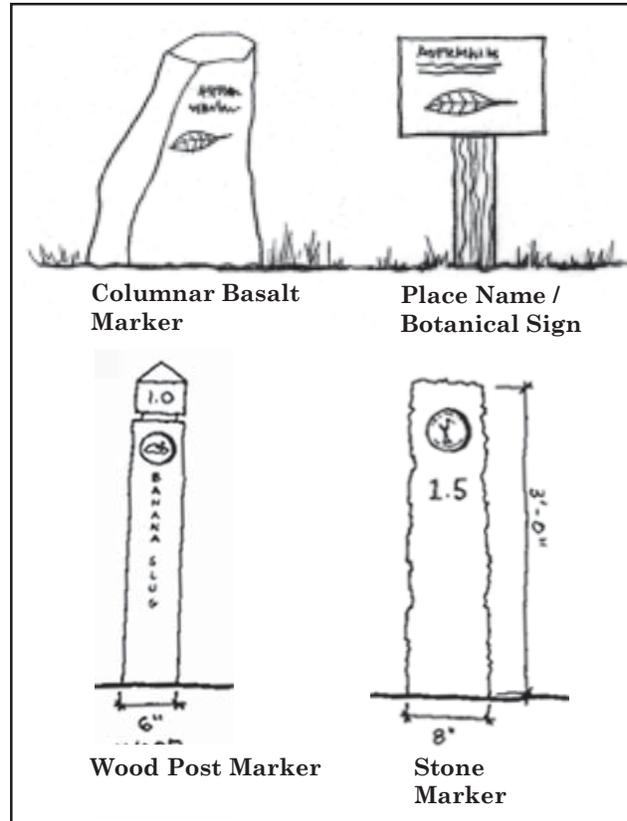


*Small Timber Kiosk*

In addition to interpretive panels and kiosks, trail markers and small signs that display place names, views and other information could be installed in the park. Trail markers, such as posts with distance information can serve to help people find their way and mark their progress along the trails in the park. Figures on this page illustrate recommended designs for trail markers and small signs as wayfinding tools for the park.

### Technical Considerations

Technical considerations include factors that affect how interpretation is written, designed, and presented to its audience. A



*Trail Markers and Small Signs*

broad audience is anticipated, with an increase in domestic travel forecasted for the United States over the near term. It is anticipated there will be an increased demand for interpretation and visitor facilities with the increase in domestic travel.

People from throughout the United States and abroad, in all age groups, with a wide range of reading and comprehension abilities, and from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, will be coming to enjoy themselves at state parks and other visitor facilities.

Given what we know about this broad audience, the following recommendations should be applied to interpretive exhibits.

- Exhibits should be written to appeal to and be understood by a diverse audience.

- Text should be written to appeal to an 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade reading level (on average). This is a little higher than science-related interpretive writing because historical interests and attractions generally draw an older audience.
  - Interpretation should be written in an active, concise voice. Keep the length of sentences to a minimum, but make use of action verbs and descriptive adverbs and adjectives.
  - Interpretation should be written to avoid complex sentences and too many prepositional phrases. Avoid words that are not well known or easily understood.
  - Provide information in pieces that is easy for readers to comprehend and absorb. The use of quotes, information boxes, banners, and other graphic devices will help break up the text within the exhibit so readers are not overwhelmed with information.
  - Some of the most frequent languages likely to be used by visitors include: English, Spanish, German, and Japanese. Where possible and feasible interpretation and information should be provided in multiple languages.
  - Native American languages from the tribes of the region also could be featured as part of the interpretation.
  - Exhibits should provide a variety of experiences and accessibility alternatives, such as:
    - tactile experiences where possible,
    - illustration of stories through graphics,
    - font styles and type sizes that are easy to read and high contrast, meeting or exceeding accessibility standards,
    - audio devices where possible, and
    - clear, discernible wayfinding cues.
  - Interpretive exhibits should be designed with the following characteristics in mind:
    - durability and lasting character;
    - cost effectiveness, both with initial development costs and long-term maintenance costs; and
    - made of parts and pieces that are easy to maintain and replace.
- Additional technical design guidance related to interpretive exhibits can be found in the following documents:
- *National Park Service Design Guidelines for Wayside Interpretive Exhibits*
  - *Signs, Trails, and Wayside Exhibits: Connecting People and Places*. University of Wisconsin Press, by Gross and Zimmerman
  - *Designing Sidewalks and Trails for Access – Best Practices Design Guide, Part 2*, US Department of Transportation
  - *Universal Access to Outdoor Recreation – A Design Guide*, PLAE, Inc. of Berkeley, California, MIG Communications, 1802 Fifth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710

### Recommended Programs and Projects

Initial recommended interpretive programs, projects, and services at Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area are listed below for each specific interpretive hub.

- Sutler’s Store (Hub #1)
- Parade Grounds (Hub #2)
- Officer’s Quarters (Hub #3)

A map of the Hubs and Interpretive Theme locations has been provided in the Appendix. Interpretation should focus on the unifying theme and specific themes identified for each hub in Section 4.

#### Initial Interpretive Development

While a full interpretive program will not be implemented at the time of the park opening, an initial phase that explains the overall story of the fort is expected to be in place. The information outlined in the following Hub sections are initial recommendations, with the understanding that as the park progresses the interpretive exhibits will be expanded. It is estimated that eight or nine interpretive panels will be installed in time for the park opening. The focus of these panels should be on the elements of the fort’s history that are instrumental for people to

understand the story of Fort Yamhill. Some panels may be temporary with the understanding that permanent panels will be designed at a later time as more information is discovered.

Brochures should be developed and available at the opening of the park to supplement the initial interpretive information. The main brochure should include a map of the park for people to reference while they are walking the site.

As part of future interpretives, a series of brochures can be developed that provide additional information about the park and explore topics in more depth. Three ideas for brochures are:

- A complete time line/history of Fort Yamhill.
- The importance of archaeology in the preservation of cultural resources.
- The importance of Fort Yamhill in local Native American history.

In addition to brochures at the park opening, interpretive staff could be on hand to help orient people and explain the rich history of Fort Yamhill. A partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde can lead to an even more in-depth interpretive



*View from Officer’s Quarters*

experience with tribal members also providing interpretive services.

Trails need to be built to provide access to the interpretive panels. A trail master plan has been developed as part of this project but further survey work and location of cultural resources will need to be conducted prior to the construction of the trails. A Trail Master Plan has been included in the Appendix.

The trails can be phased over time, with a minimum route developed initially as then expanded as the park progresses. Trail markers should be added to designate which trails are ADA accessible as well as to provide directional signage.

ADA accessibility is a very important aspect of providing an experience that all people can participate in. If the designated ADA trail is not one of the initial trails built in time for the park opening, an alternative method for getting people from the parking lot to the parade grounds will need to be provided, such as a golf cart that park staff can use to help people navigate the site.

Other site improvements would also be beneficial to the interpretive experience. The corners of the parade ground could be marked with a “shadow” fence to indicate the shape and expanse of the parade grounds. The fence could also be added to the edge of the parade ground where pathways enter to indicate to people that they are entering the parade grounds. Culturally sensitive areas will also need to be designated in order to protect the resources.

### **Sutler’s Store (Hub #1)**

#### **Unifying Concept**

Hub #1 explores the on-going historical



*Looking down at Fort Yamhill*

discovery of the fort, why and how it was created, and the different cultures at the fort.

### **Proposed Interpretation and Improvements**

The proposed day use area at Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area includes the entrance, parking for cars and RVs, bus drop-off, sidewalks, restroom, staging area, overlook, kiosk, and Sutler Store site. The proposed day use improvements are expected to be completed by opening day of the park.

The following initial visitor orientation and interpretation exhibits are recommended for Hub #1. It is expected more exhibits will be developed as the park progresses. Additional information related to this area is described in Section 4.

#### **Visitor Orientation Station**

A primary visitor orientation station should be developed at the day use area, near the existing restroom and parking area. A small kiosk, or space permitting, a larger kiosk could be installed here to display maps, information and interpretation to orient visitors to locations of key features and interpretive opportunities at Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area. Information and locations of visitor services and facilities

## 5 Interpretive Recommendations

offered within the park should be displayed on maps here.

An interpretive panel describing why the fort was created (*Theme 1a*) should be developed for placement at the kiosk as part of the initial visitor orientation. This panel can



Detail from the Hazen Map of 1856 (National Archives)

explain the settlement patterns of the West and how it led to the displacement of the Native Americans from their ancestral lands to a series of reservations created by the Government. The basic question people will want to have answered is why the fort was created.

A second panel should also be placed at the kiosk explaining that the park is “in progress” (*Theme 1b*) and that the history of the fort continues to be explored through continued research. This panel can also explain the process of restoring a cultural landscape and the importance of the protection of cultural resources

The overlook is a good opportunity to explain the negotiations between the Native Americans and the Government (*Theme 1c*) and the impact that was felt by the Native Americans of treaties being broken by the Government. It is important for people to understand the Tribes entered negotiations with the Government to cede their lands during a time of heightened tensions and fear.

At this location people will be able to look out over the landscape to the location where the Indian encampments were. A map showing their locations would be beneficial.

The area close to the Sutler’s Store and adjacent to the travel route provides an opportunity to explain that four distinct groups were involved at Fort Yamhill, the Military, Native Americans, Grand Ronde Agency and Settlers, and that their relationships to each other were complex (*Theme 1d*). Fort Yamhill acted as a gateway between the different cultures but also provided strong regulation between the

different groups.

People also need to have an understanding of the interaction and differences between the Grand Ronde Agency and Fort Yamhill, a topic that can also be addressed at this location.

### Initial Story Point Sites

The following are initial story points that could be developed to help support and illustrate the themes for Hub #1:

- Settlement was causing the conflict with the Native Americans.
- A comparison of how the landscape has changed over time; how the cultural landscape of the Native Americans was actively managed (Kalapuyan word for Grand Ronde was “burned place”).
- Tribal Nation vs. American Nation
- Native Americans experienced a drastic change in how they lived over a short period of time.
- The Native Americans were facing starvation even though they had made agreements with the Government to be provided with supplies, which were being provided to the store.

## Parade Grounds (Hub #2)

### Unifying Concepts

The hardships of daily life for both the Native Americans and military personnel.

### Proposed Interpretation and Improvements

This hub encompasses the Parade Grounds of Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area and includes the Blockhouse, Flag Staff, Adjutant’s Office, Guard House, Commissary, Quarter Master’s Storehouse, Company



*Moving the Blockhouse to Dayton*

Quarters, Mess Room and Kitchen. This area will also include benches for resting and enjoying the views.

The following initial visitor orientation and interpretation exhibits are recommended for Hub #2. It is expected more exhibits will be developed as the park progresses. Additional information related to this area is described in Section 4.

Once people complete the walk up to the Parade Grounds, their first interpretive experience is likely to be the Blockhouse (*Theme 2a*). It is important to tell the story of the Blockhouse and how it served to provide protection and enforcement of reservation and military policies.

The location of the blockhouse at the top of the hill also provides an area to talk about the transition of Native Americans to reservation life and the desperate conditions they lived with (*Theme 2b*). It should also be explained that the Native Americans had to live within regulations and restrictions that tried to force them to give up their culture. From this vantage point you will also be able to look down to where the Native American encampments were.

Also in the Parade Grounds, the location of

## 5 Interpretive Recommendations

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the Company Quarters is a good place to describe the daily hardships and boredom the enlisted men faced (*Theme 2d*). The barracks area a good place to explain the routine monotony the soldiers faced and how their lives differed from those of the Officer's.

### Initial Story Point Sites

The following are initial story points that could be developed to help support and illustrate the themes for Hub #2:

- Regulations and restrictions the Native Americans had to live by.
- The Government tried to eliminate the culture of the Native Americans through assimilation, but the culture has survived in spite of it.
- Some soldiers were sympathetic to the Native Americans.

### Officer's Quarters (Hub #3)

#### Unifying Concept

The location of the fort along a major travel route and the importance of the placement of the Officer's Quarters and Sentry Box.

#### Proposed Interpretation and Improvements

This hub encompasses the upper portion of Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area and includes the Officer's Quarters, Sentry Box, Historic Travel Route, and Cistern.

The following initial visitor orientation and interpretation exhibits are recommended for Hub #3. It is expected more exhibits will be developed as the park progresses. Additional information related to this area is described in Section 4.

The interpretation regarding the Officer's Quarters (*Theme 3a*) will primarily focus on

the restoration of the house when the park first opens. The initial location of this panel will be in Hub 1 where the house currently sits and will move to Hub 3 when the house is moved to where the Officer's Quarters are located.

At a later date the content for the Officer's Quarters should be expanded to illustrate the separation of the Officers from the enlisted men, both in rank as well as a physical separation between living quarters.

The historic travel route to the coast played an important part in where the fort was placed and should be one of the initial stories that is told (*Theme 3b*). The travel route allowed the military to restrict traffic at the main entrance to the valley and reservation.

It's also important for people to understand the significant history of the trail in relation to the short history of the fort and that the trail remained after the fort was closed. Another exciting aspect of the historic travel route is that parts of it are still intact.

### Initial Story Point Sites

The following are initial story points that could be developed to help support and illustrate the themes for Hub #3:

- The role Sheridan played at Fort Yamhill.
- The history of the travel route and how it was used prior to the fort.

### Additional Interpretation

As plans for Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area develop further, additional needs for interpretation and other potential interpretive themes and topics may be identified.

# Section 6

## Steps Toward Implementation

Implementation is essential to the success of the Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area. This section presents an implementation strategy for the projects prescribed in this plan.

### Implementation Strategy

Plan development will be a phased process. Upon approval, the recommendations for interpretive services/media prescribed in this plan will be reviewed with cooperative entities. The purpose of this review is to develop an integrated approach to assist in prioritization, design, and funding strategies for interpretive projects.

Each project will undergo three identifiable stages of development.

- Stage 1: Secure Funding (budget, grants, non-profit cooperation - could be ongoing during Stage 2.)
- Stage 2: Research and Design
- Stage 3: Fabrication/Installation, Publication, and/or Construction

### Interpretive Projects

Table 6.1 is a list of interpretive projects prescribed within this plan. The “date to be complete” is subject to change upon further review. This list is intended to help provide a scope of work for future project prioritization.

### Other Site Improvements

The parking lot and supporting visitor facilities and site improvements have been planned and designed for Fort Yamhill State

Heritage Area. A construction document package has been completed for the initial phase of construction. This includes entrance, parking for both cars and RVs, bus drop-off, sidewalks, restroom, staging area, overlook, and host sites. A trail master plan has also been completed but will need further survey work prior to construction.

### Next Steps

As funding is secured, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department will take projects through design and development. Partnership opportunities will continue to be explored with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. Since conceptual planning is complete, projects can move forward with final design and construction. As each project moves forward, local agencies and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde will be involved.



*Existing conditions at Fort Yamhill*

## 6 Steps Toward Implementation

Table 6.1 - Future Ft. Yamhill State Heritage Area Interpretive Projects

Description Completed	Location	Estimated Cost	Date to be Completed
<b>Sutler's Store (Hub #1)</b>			
Proposed day use parking area with restroom	As shown in plan	\$185,000 -or- \$230,000	Phase 1 - Construction 2005 for 2006 opening
Orientation Kiosk with interpretive panels	Adjacent to parking lot	\$15,000 -or- \$30,000	Phase 1 - Construction 2005 for 2006 opening
Additional Interpretive Panels at this Hub (3)	As described in plan	\$15,000 (\$5,000 each)	Phase 1 - Construction 2005 for 2006 opening
Visitor Orientation Center	Sutler's Store Site	unknown	Phase 2 (2006+)
Officer's Quarters Restoration	Initially as located, Hub 3 in the future	unknown	Phase 2 (2006+)
Trails	As shown on Trail Master Plan	unknown	Phase 1 and Phase 2 (2006+)
<b>Parade Grounds (Hub #2)</b>			
Interpretive Panels at this Hub (5)	As described in plan	\$25,000 (\$5,000 each)	Phase 1 - Construction 2005 for 2006 opening
Blockhouse reconstruction	As described in Master Plan	unknown	Phase 2 (2006+)
Flagpole reconstruction	As described in Master Plan	unknown	Phase 1 - Construction 2005 for 2006 opening
Initial fence markers	As described in plan	unknown	Phase 1 - Construction 2005 for 2006 opening
Fence reconstruction	As described in Master Plan	unknown	Phase 2 (2006+)
Foundation Markers	As described in Master Plan	unknown	Phase 1 - Construction 2005 for 2006 opening
Trails	As shown on Trail Master Plan	unknown	Phase 1 and Phase 2 (2006+)
<b>Officer's Quarters (Hub #3)</b>			
Sentry Reconstruction	As described in Master Plan	unknown	Phase 3 (2006+)
Officer's Quarters Relocation	As described in Master Plan	unknown	Phase 2 (2006+)
Interpretive Panels at this Hub (2)	As described in plan	\$10,000 (\$5,000 each)	Phase 1 - Construction 2005 for 2006 opening
Relocation of Fire Pond	As described in Master Plan	unknown	Phase 3 (2006+)
Trails	As shown on Trail Master Plan	unknown	Phase 1 and Phase 2 (2006+)

# Evaluation Procedures

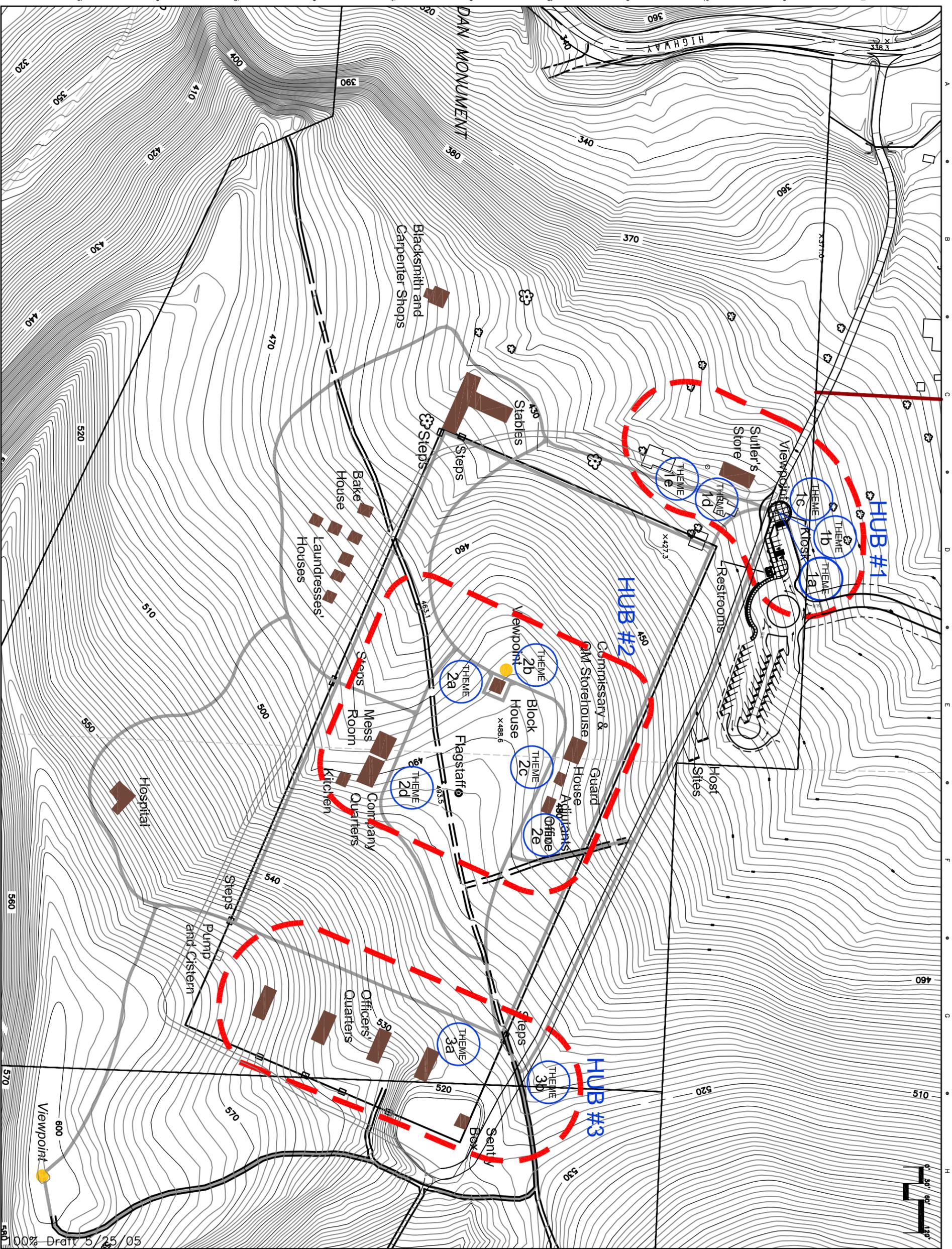
## Section 7

It is recommended that the status of implementation of this interpretive master plan be reviewed annually by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, including the Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area management staff, to ensure that all goals and objectives (intended visitor outcomes) prescribed within this plan are met.

### Monitoring and Evaluation of Visitation

In order to further evaluate and address the needs of visitors to Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area, it is recommended that the following studies occur within the next four years:

- An area specific market survey (analysis) should be conducted to research potential visitation to Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area during the 150th anniversary of the Fort's establishment, to be celebrated in 2006. A new baseline of data, useful for future interpretive planning and implementation, should result from this survey.
- An evaluation/survey of visitor preferences associated with the interpretive facilities in the park should be completed. This survey should include visitor attendance patterns, programming preferences, and visitor demographics in order to provide long-term understanding of visitor preferences and effectiveness of the services provided.
- A review of all interpretive services within the park and surrounding area (including interpretive signs, information boards, and current field interpretive programs) should be conducted annually to determine consistency with this plan.
- Ongoing surveys and questionnaires monitoring visitor impacts on Fort Yamhill's cultural and natural resources should be implemented to assure proper preservation.
- An evaluation of the effectiveness of the interpretive elements that are implemented should be conducted annually. Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area staff should evaluate interpretive programs and projects as they are implemented to make sure the goals of this plan are being met.

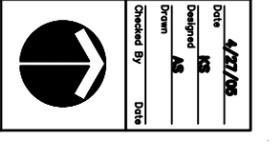


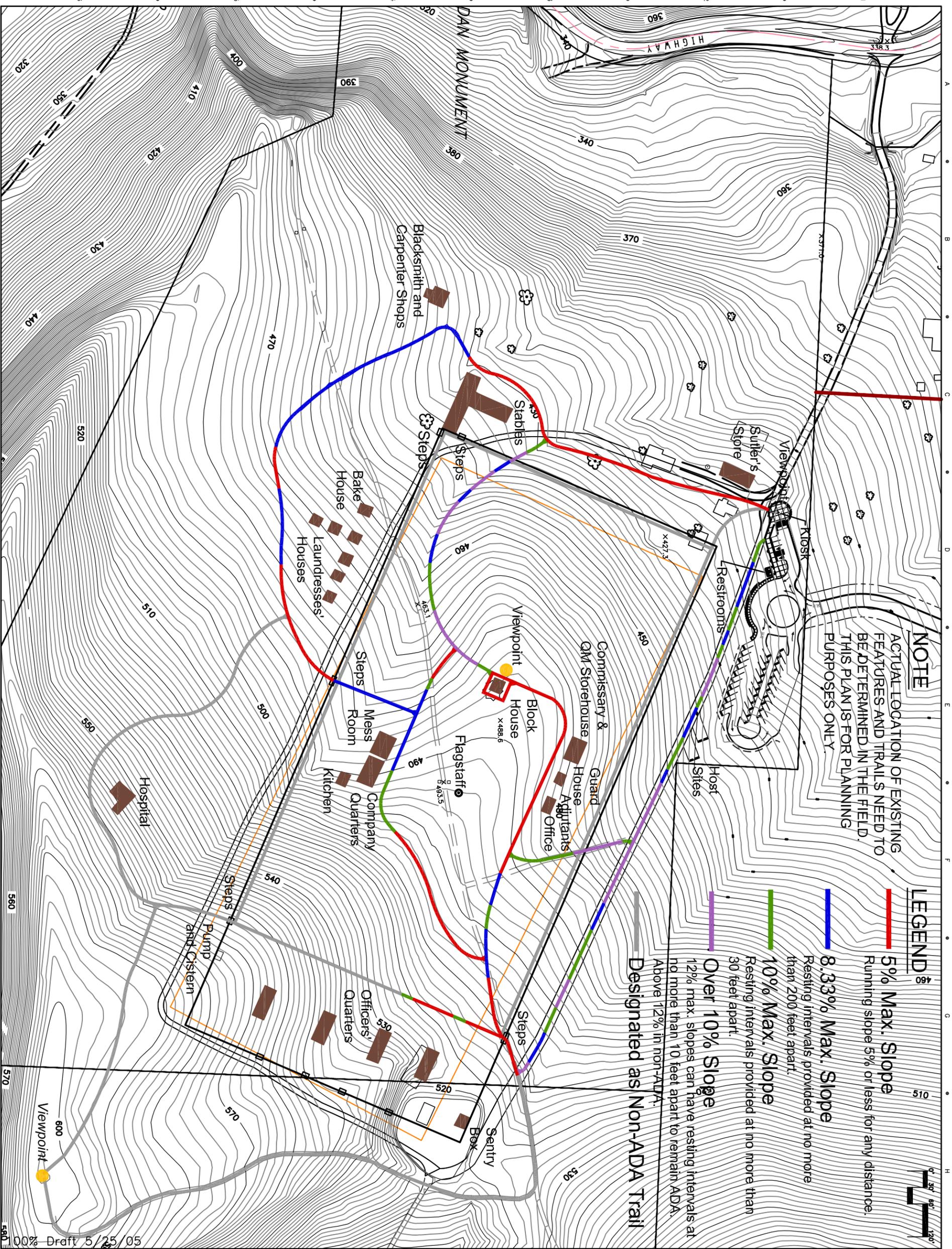
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 Project No. 13268  
 File No. 200401300  
 Exhibit 3  
 Sheet No. 100 ©

**Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area**  
 Grand Ronde, Oregon  
 Oregon Parks and Recreation  
 Salem, Oregon

**Interpretive Plan**

Date: 4/27/05  
 Drawn: AS  
 Checked By: Date





**NOTE**  
 ACTUAL LOCATION OF EXISTING FEATURES AND TRAILS NEED TO BE DETERMINED IN THE FIELD. THIS PLAN IS FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY.

- LEGEND**
- **5% Max. Slope**  
Running slope 5% or less for any distance.
  - **8.33% Max. Slope**  
Resting intervals provided at no more than 200 feet apart.
  - **10% Max. Slope**  
Resting intervals provided at no more than 30 feet apart.
  - **Over 10% Slope**  
12% max. slopes can have resting intervals at no more than 10 feet apart to remain ADA. Above 12% in non-ADA.
  - **Designated as Non-ADA Trail**

<p>00% Draft 5/25/05</p> <p>Sheet No. 1</p>	<p><b>Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area</b>          Grand Ronde, Oregon</p> <p><b>Oregon Parks and Recreation</b>          Salem, Oregon</p>	<p><b>Trail Master Plan</b></p>	<p>Date: 4/27/05          Drawn: AS          Checked By: [blank]          Date: [blank]</p>
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