

PIT Traveler

Passport In Time Newsletter



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"It's Dirty Work, but Someone Has To Do It"

By: Brent H. McBeth, Forest Supervisor
Ashley National Forest, Utah

I have had a budding interest in cultural and historical resources on the National Forests throughout my 22 year career. I have seen us chain and pile juniper and piñon woodlands without regard for possible heritage sites during a period before we had an understanding or appreciation for these valuable resources. When we hired our first archaeologists, we considered them a necessary evil that sometimes got in the way of "progress." When they found artifacts, we quickly secured them (the artifacts, not the archaeologists!) in the darkest corner of the basement, sealed the files, and avoided the sites to protect them.

Today, through programs like Passport In Time, we have literally moved heritage resources in the Forest Service out of the dark ages. I have had the great opportunity to work on several forests where these cultural and historic resources are a vibrant and living part of our resource management. Both the public and cross-sections of our employees are getting involved even on their own time to help survey, excavate, and analyze sites and artifacts. Now we are moving forward to display and interpret these sites in the context of other resources and cultures that are our National Forests.

As Forest Supervisor, I took a few hours to help with the excavation of a Fremont period storage site. The site is just down stream from the Flaming Gorge Dam on the Green River in Utah. We crossed the river from the popular spillway boat launch and caught the opposite bank before the river swept us too far downstream. The site is about 50 vertical feet up from the river and is protected by a huge overhanging rock outcrop. The crew had been working most of the week

and had uncovered six to eight storage pits that had been dug into the cave floor. Some of the pits were rock lined with rock lids, some had clay linings with finger prints still evident in the hardened clay wall, some were lined with grass, and others were even connected below the surface. All were empty, their contents of corn and nuts having been stolen by artifact hunters. The archaeologists assigned me to a meter square next to the wall of the cave.

My first task was to remove the loose overburden and locate the hard original floor. I started with a trowel, but soon moved to a shovel. As I neared the original floor, I went back to a trowel and brush and located the tops of pine needles sticking out of the floor
(continued on next page)



Regional Forester Butch Marita learns about the McDougal Lake Site in MN from Forest Archaeologist Gordon Peters.
(photo courtesy of Kathleen Schamel, CEHP Incorporated)



Passport In Time (PIT) is a program of the USDA Forest Service. Under contract to the Forest Service, CEHP Incorporated, a professional firm in Washington DC, serves as the Clearinghouse. All PIT projects are conducted under the direct supervision of the Forest Service Heritage staff and in many cases in conjunction with universities.

("Dirty Work" continued from page 1)

in a circle about 10 to 12 inches in diameter. I had discovered another storage pit! Carefully removing the loose soil from within the ring of needles, I came across the most exciting discovery. I began to expose the tops of corn cobs with the kernels still intact! The rest of the pits had been empty, a significant find, but not as exciting as finding a pit full of corn stored there by Fremont Indians as early as 1300 years ago! I was a bit covered with dust, but the feeling of being connected to a people that knelt in that same place as they carefully stored their crop is without description.

It's dirty work, but even a Forest Supervisor can take some time to do it.

Passport In Time and People with Disabilities

We try to make Passport In Time available to as many people as possible. The level of accessibility ranges from most difficult to easy depending on the activity and location of the project. If you have specific questions about accessibility or physical requirements on any of the projects, please call the clearinghouse at (202) 293-0922. If they can't answer your question, they will put you in touch with the project leaders who will do their best to accommodate your needs.

We hope everyone will challenge their abilities in Passport In Time and have a great time in the process!

Jill A. Osborn
National Coordinator, Passport In Time
US Forest Service

What is Passport In Time?

Passport In Time, also known as "PIT," provides opportunities for individuals and families to work with professional archaeologists and historians on historic preservation projects. Archaeological excavation, historic structure reconstruction, and oral history are just some of the possibilities. There is **no** registration fee or cost for participating. The *PIT Traveler*, announcing the current season's opportunities, is published twice a year in March and September.

As a PIT volunteer, you will take part in vital environmental and historical research on national forests across the nation. Your participation will directly contribute to the understanding of the human story in North America and to the preservation of the fragile sites that chronicle that story. You will share in new discoveries, learn about the science of archaeology, and meet many new friends.

Jill A. Osborn, National Coordinator, Passport in Time
US Forest Service

Kathleen Schamel, PIT Clearinghouse Coordinator
CEHP Incorporated

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Arizona

Coconino National Forest

Loy Canyon Rock Art Documentation

April 17—28, 1995
Must commit 5 days.

Join the archaeologists of the Coconino National Forest to record the largest known pictograph site in the beautiful Red Rock Canyon country near Sedona, Arizona. About 150 panels, encompassing several thousand individual elements, have been counted. They range from simple to highly complex designs that span the entire range of human occupation in the Red Rock country. Beginning with the early scratched style of the Archaic Period of around 6,000 - 8,000 years ago, there are 12 other styles to document. These represent other Archaic styles, as well as the Southern Sinagua, Yavapai, Apache, Hopi, and early Anglo settlers from the 1880's to 1930's. The documentation techniques will include photography, videotaping, plane table mapping, photo tracing, and scale drawing.

Special Skills: Artistic skill and experience in photography, video camera, and mapping techniques helpful; experience in designing and working with computer spreadsheet (LOTUS and QUATRO PRO) and database (PARADOX and DBASE) programs needed. Must be 18 years old.

Facilities: Camping area with drinkable water and chemical toilets available; motels in Sedona.

Location: 12 miles from Sedona.

Applications Due: February 1.

Coronado National Forest

Return to Camp Rucker

March 27—31, 1995
Must commit 5 days.

Explorations continue at Old Camp Rucker, a small military post and later a cattle ranch nestled in the Chiricahua Mountains of southeast Arizona. Camp Rucker, established in 1878, supplied Indian scouts in search of hostile Apaches. The camp was used periodically until 1886, when Geronimo's surrender ended the Apache wars. Ranchers used the site as a headquarters in

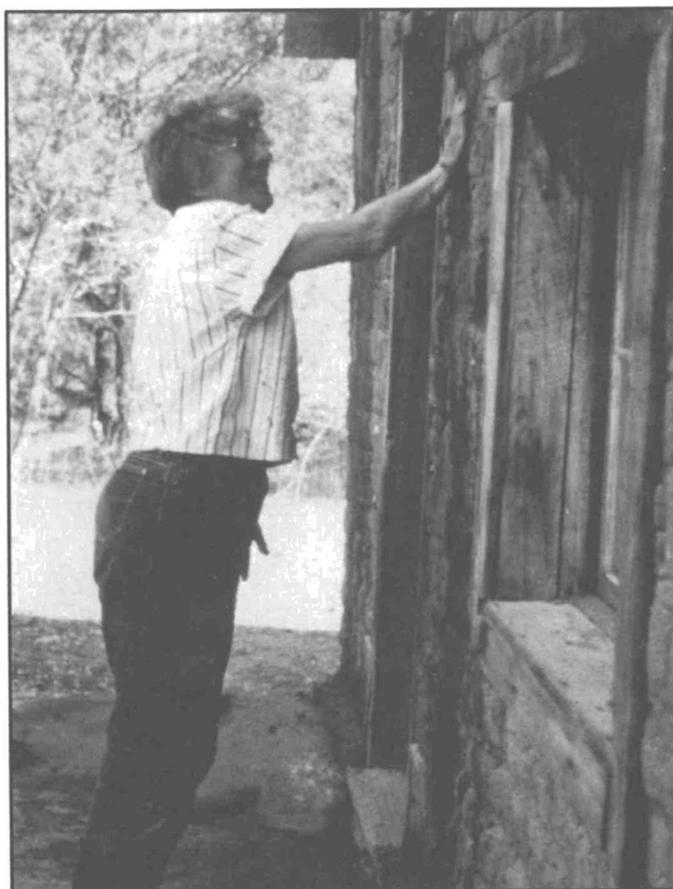
the late 1800's. Volunteers will record archaeological features that have been vandalized and those will contribute to research.

Special Skills: Interest in history, archaeology, or experience in mapping, excavation, drawing, or stabilization welcome. Must be 16; under 18 must be accompanied by or have written permission of an adult.

Facilities: Camping, potable water, picnic tables, grills, outhouses, and a dump station at Camp Rucker campground; showers may be available at Forest Service administrative site; motels and hotels in Douglas.

Location: 35 miles from Douglas.

Applications Due: December 1.



Stabilization work at Camp Rucker.

(Photo courtesy of Coronado NF)

Kaibab National Forest

Ash Fork Rock Art Survey and Recording

May 1—5, 1995
Must commit 5 days.

Best known as the "Flagstone Capital of the World," the area north of Ash Fork also contains some of the finest and most numerous examples of Western Archaic, Cohonina and, possibly, Pai style petroglyphs in Arizona. Some of the petroglyphs may be as old as 5,000 years. Recently, increasing vandalism to these fragile sandstone rock art sites has revealed that the rock art density is far greater than archaeologists imagined. Volunteers will assist in surveying, locating, and recording rock art sites.

Special Skills: Archaeological survey and rock art recording experience preferred. Must be 18.

Facilities: Camping spaces with modern facilities; motels and restaurants within one mile.

Location: One mile west of Williams; 33 miles east of Flagstaff.

Applications Due: February 1.

Tonto National Forest

East Verde River Pictograph Documentation

April 17—21, 1995
Must commit to 5 days.

Originating in the shadow of the Mogollon Rim of central Arizona, the East Verde River and its tributaries cut through sedimentary rock, leaving numerous rock shelters and caves



Kaitlin Penry, age 9, works on Nye Cabin excavation, Mendocino NF. (Photo courtesy of Mendocino NF)

that contain prehistoric pictographs. These delicate paintings, some of which may be thousands of years old, were made from clays, minerals and charcoal by the area's inhabitants. Volunteers will join the Heritage Program staff in documenting the rock art at two recently identified sites. Work will include site mapping, photography, and scale drawings of the pictographs. Results from this project will offer an opportunity to help preserve a fragile resource and to better define the early people who inhabited this area of Arizona.

Special Skills: Photography, artistic skills, and mapping experience helpful, but not required. Must be 18.

Facilities: Numerous camping facilities nearby; motels in Payson.

Location: 3 miles from Payson.

Applications Due: February 1.



California

Cleveland National Forest

Laguna Mountain Project

March 8—22, 1995
Must commit 4 days.

Laguna Mountain is the ecological dividing line between the prehistoric cultures of the coastal foothills and desert. Most known sites appear to be from the late prehistoric, a period associated with the arrival of cultural innovations such as pottery, possibly from the Colorado River valley. Volunteers will help with test excavation, artifact analysis, and site monitoring. This work will be used to nominate the Laguna Mountain Archaeological District to the National Register of Historic Places.

Special Skills: Skills in sketching artifacts are desired. Must be 18.

Facilities: Primitive camping at Laguna Campground; lodges at Mt. Laguna; motels in Pine Valley.

Location: 12 miles from Pine Valley.

Applications Due: December 1.

Plumas National Forest

Heritage Resources Laboratory Management Project

December 2, 1994—May 31, 1995
Must commit 5 days.

The Plumas National Forest has recently moved its historic collections into a new archival storage facility. Historic maps, photographs, and artifacts must be organized. Volunteers will inventory historic material and compile a computer database that will allow researchers to complete computer searches, quickly locate specific items, and most importantly, provide tools to manage our important heritage resources.

Special Skills: Training provided. Must be 18.

Facilities: Campgrounds at Bucks Lake and Snake Lake; two RV campgrounds 1 to 2 miles from office; motels within walking/driving distance. Volunteers must provide own food and transportation to site.

Location: In Quincy.

Applications Due: October 1 for December 2—January 31; December 1 for February 1—March 31; February 1 for April 1—May 31.

Sequoia National Forest

Live Oak Campground Excavation

April 26—29, 1995
Must commit 4 days.

Today's campgrounds are in beautiful locations, usually with good

views and water nearby. Not surprisingly, people thousands of years ago sought the same amenities. Milling stones and fragments of stone tools have been found in two prehistoric sites in the Live Oak Campground. These sites may actually be one that has been divided by the Old State Road that bisects the campground. Volunteers will help test excavate the sites to determine their age, extent, and verify if they are indeed one site. Since the project is in a popular campground, volunteers will have the opportunity to interpret the site and the excavations to visitors.

Special Skills: Knowledge of excavation techniques desired but not required. Under 18 must be accompanied by or have written permission of an adult.

Facilities: Live Oak Campground; hotels within 1 to 12 miles of the site.

Location: Wofford Heights about 5 miles north of Lake Isabella; 5 miles south of Kernville.

Applications Due: February 1.

Sequoia National Forest

A Trail into the Past: Survey of Part of the Pacific Crest Trail

May 1—15, 1995
Must commit 5 days (no weekends).

Stretching 2600 miles from the Mexican to Canadian borders, the Pacific Crest Trail passes through some of the most scenic country in California. Advocates first proposed construction of a "Pacific Crest Trail" in 1926 but American Indians had been using portions of the

route for thousands of years, followed by the early European explorers. A Spanish coin from the late 1700's was recently found on a portion of the trail adjacent to the project area. Volunteers will help conduct an archaeological survey of six miles of the trail searching for evidence of human use—from prehistoric campsites to mining camps of the old west.

Special Skills: Photography, illustration, mapping, and a general knowledge of archaeology skills useful. Should be in good health and able to hike at high elevations in hot weather. Must be 18.

Facilities: "Base camp" will be set up and water, coolers, and stove provided. Volunteers responsible for their own camping equipment and food.

Location: 30 miles from South Lake.

Applications Due: February 1.

Colorado

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest

Rangers and Range Riders of the Plateau

December 1994—March 1995
Must commit 10 days, not necessarily consecutive.

Various files, newspaper articles, and oral history tapes exist about early pioneers, ranchers, and Forest Service Rangers who lived on and managed the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests. Volunteers will study these and organize them by topics. The final product will be an organized

and interesting forest history for book and brochure publication, interpretive talks, and future research. Time permitting, more oral history interviews may be done with several informants who can share a wealth of knowledge and experiences. We also may work on historical photo displays.

Special Skills: Passion for history, reasonable research and writing skills required. For oral history, an ability to relate to elderly people required. Must be 18.

Facilities: A small house in Paonia is available during the winter. It has heat, beds, and cooking facilities for up to three volunteers at a time.

Location: Collbran, Paonia, Grand Junction, Delta (could work in all four).

Applications Due: October 1 for December 1—January 31; December 1 for February 1—March 31.

Louisiana

Kisatchie National Forest

Testing Haikey's Creek

April 5—8; 10—13 1995
Must commit 4 days.

The Haikey's Creek drainage contains several small Native American sites situated at the juncture of the hilly pine uplands and the low lying Red River Valley. The 1994 PIT volunteers tested three of these sites and recovered information that dated the occupations from as early as 500 B.C. to as recent as A.D. 1600. In 1995, volunteers will test additional sites within the drainage.

They will assist by excavating 1x1 meter units, screening, drawing profiles, collecting samples, processing collections, and recording other data as encountered.

Special Skills: Must be in good physical condition. Archaeological skills welcome but not required. Must be 17; under 18 must be accompanied by or have written permission of an adult.

Facilities: Hotels, motels, and restaurants in Alexandria in central Louisiana. Kincaid Lake Recreation Area, campsites with electrical and water hookups and toilet facilities with showers about 10 miles away. Less developed campsites in the immediate area.

Location: 12 miles from Alexandria.

Applications Due: February 1.

New Mexico

Gila National Forest

Burro Mountains Pithouse Village Excavations

April 2—7, 1995
Must commit 6 days.

Volunteers will help with site documentation, mapping, and test excavations at prehistoric pithouse village sites in the Burro Mountains of southern New Mexico. We will examine how prehistoric people adapted to this somewhat harsh intermontane/desert environment 1,000 years ago. Volunteers will learn how to formally evaluate sites for the National Register of Historic Places.

Special Skills: None required. Must be 15; under 18 must be accompanied by or have written permission of an adult.

Facilities: Primitive camping on site; water and portable toilets provided. Food purchase and cooking will be done as a group.

Location: 25 miles from Silver City.

Applications Due: February 1.

Gila National Forest

Tularosa Cabin Excavation

April 30—May 12, 1995
Must commit 5 days (no weekends).

Archaeologists will uncover the past through the excavation of historic deposits beneath the floor of a one room ranger cabin built in 1906. Volunteers will assist the Forest Service with plans for additional cabin stabilization and discover how early rangers and their families spent their time when New Mexico was no more than a territory.

Special Skills: None required. Must be 15; under 18 must be accompanied by or have written permission of an adult.

Facilities: Undeveloped campgrounds four miles from site, two motels in Reserve, NM.

Location: Eight miles from Reserve.

Applications Due: February 1.

Oregon

Deschutes National Forest

Displaying Crescent's Artifacts

Mid-January through mid-March 1995

Must commit 5 days.

PIT volunteers and the forest's heritage crew will finish cataloging artifacts collected during archaeological surveys over the last few years. They will photograph artifacts, develop display themes, choose the appropriate artifacts to use in displays, and produce graphics and text to accompany them. At least one of these small displays will be portable for taking to schools, fireside talks, and other "show me" occasions.

Special Skills: Cabinet making, drawing, or organizational skills welcome. Must be 18.



Volunteer works the screen during the Deschutes PIT Project in Oregon.
(Photo courtesy Deschutes NF)

Facilities: Work will be at the Forest Service Office in Crescent. One field trip will be taken to a local museum. Two motels available in Crescent, as well as, RV parks.

Location: In Crescent.

Applications Due: October 1 for January; December 1 for February 1—March.

Malheur National Forest

Bear Valley Cultural History Project

February 6—17, 1995
Must commit 5 days.

Come out to the sunny "dry side" of Oregon this winter and help work on the puzzle of Eastern Oregon archaeology. The Bear Valley Cultural History Project completed its first season of test excavation during the summer of 1994. This winter volunteers will help sort and analyze material recovered from the test units. With this information forest staff will decide whether or not to proceed with more extensive excavations. Volunteers will complete two to four interviews with local elders recording those interviews on audio and video tape. We will also continue locating and compiling local historic documents, concentrating on turn-of-the-century newspaper accounts.

Special Skills: Must be 15; under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Facilities: Several motels in town; we will try to get dormitory type housing.

Location: In John Day.

Applications Due: December 1.

Umatilla National Forest

Historic Records Inventory on the Umatilla National Forest

November 1994—May 1995
Must commit 5 days.

The Umatilla National Forest has long been putting boxes of historic documents and records aside in attics and other nooks and crannies hoping someday to go through them and create a catalog of their contents. Many of these records relate to forest practices from as early as 1920's to as late as the 1960's. With the new emphasis on ecosystem restoration, it is even more important to know what has happened to the land in the past. Volunteers will help us sort through the documents. We will coordinate and arrange the records of past range use, timber sales, and historic land use, will do some database work too.

Special Skills: Computer skills, such as WordPerfect and Paradox, helpful but not required. Must be 18.

Facilities: Pendleton is a full service community with motels and bed and breakfasts.

Location: In Pendleton.

Applications Due: October 1 for November—January 31; December 1 for February 1—March 31; February 1 for April 1—May 31.

Umatilla National Forest

Range Oral History Project

November 28—December 10, 1994
Literature research focusing on information interpretation

March 20—April 7, 1995
Interviews, information Management and Interpretation
Must commit 4 days.

The history of range use on the Heppner Ranger District dates back to the 1870's and continues to bind local communities and ranches to the mountain pastures of the Forest. Preliminary interviews with local senior citizens have explored topics on historic sheep stock driveways, construction of range facilities by the Civilian Conservation Corps, sheep and cattle war conflicts, wool collection by Columbia River Indians for Depression-era income, long turkey drives to Heppner and historic socio-economic changes in the livestock industry. However, more information is needed from local people. Volunteers will do oral histories and will work at research facilities at university libraries, local museums, and businesses, such as the Pendleton Woolen Mill. This information will help us understand the area's unique range history and the people involved in this traditional way of life.

Special Skills: Persons with oral history, interview, writing, research, or transcription skills are preferred. However, anyone with a general knowledge of ranching and interest in range history on Federal lands is welcome. Must be 21.

Facilities: Heppner is a full service community with motels, bed and breakfast, restaurants, and an RV park.

Location: Project activities based out of Heppner, OR. Travel to homes to conduct interviews would require day time travelling. Travel to gather research information from museums and libraries may include overnight stays in Oregon communities.

Applications Due: October 1 for November 28—December 10; February 1 for March 20—April 7.

Umatilla National Forest

Catalog Collected Artifacts

November 1994—May 1995
Must commit 5 days.

After artifacts are collected during surveys or excavations, they must be properly cleaned, described, and stored in order to preserve them and the information about their context for future display or research. The Umatilla National Forest discourages collecting artifacts during cultural resource surveys, but some have been collected under special circumstances. These artifacts and those collected during the past three PIT excavations, will be described and accessioned into the Forest collections system. Volunteers will also enter the information into a computerized database.

This may sound like the paper-work side of archaeology and it is, but you will be able to see and handle all the artifacts without the dirt and the hot sun beating down on you!

Special Skills: Computer skills, i.e. WordPerfect and Paradox, helpful but not required. Must be 18.

Facilities: Pendleton is a full service community offering motels and bed and breakfasts.

Location: In Pendleton.

Applications Due: October 1 for November—January 31; December 1 for February 1—March 31; February 1 for April 1—May 31.

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Artifact Analysis and Curation

December 3—18, 1994
Must commit 3 days.

Here is an opportunity help answer the often asked question, "What do you do with all the 'stuff' you dig up during the summer?" Under the direction of a professional archaeologist, volunteers will record, catalog and curate prehistoric and historic artifacts and photographs, enter artifact descriptions into a computer database, and assist in analyzing the artifacts. You will work in a well heated, well lit archaeology laboratory in Baker City, Oregon. All of this is in addition to great skiing less than an hour away; Hells Canyon National Recreation Area two and a half hours away; the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center just outside town; the Oregon Trail Regional Museum; and historic buildings and homes right in Baker City.

Special Skills: Hand writing that is legible to someone other than yourself is mandatory. Ability to sketch or draw, typing, computer skills helpful but not required. Must be 18.

Facilities: Many reasonably priced motels are nearby.

Location: In Baker City.

Applications Due: October 1.



Artifacts from Summit Springs Project in Utah.
(Photo courtesy of Ashley NF)

laboratory work, and background research.

Special Skills: Woodworking, note-taking skills, and mechanical drawing are desirable. Must be 18.

Facilities: Free Forest Service bunkhouse provided at the site; motels and lodges within 15 miles.

Location: McKenzie Bridge hamlet three miles west; Blue River 12 miles west; city of Eugene 50 miles west.

Applications Due: October 1 for January 1—31; December 1 for February 1—March 1.

records documenting this unique historic period. We will attempt to summarize those materials into a localized history. We will also visit a uniquely well-preserved reload site and the old Pelican Bay logging camp.

Special Skills: Ability to read topographic maps is desirable, but not required. Must be 16; under 18 must be accompanied by or have written permission of an adult.

Facilities: Chiloquin Ranger Station bunkhouse is available for up to two persons 27 miles north of Klamath Falls. Many motels in Klamath Falls.

Location: Work site is Winema National Forest Supervisor's Office in Klamath Falls.

Applications Due: December 1.

Willamette National Forest

Hogg Railroad Dump Cart

January 1—March 1, 1995
Must commit 4 days (M-TH).

Volunteers and Forest Service Heritage professionals will analyze and catalog parts from a 19th-century construction dump cart used in the building of Hogg Railroad in western Oregon. After cataloging is complete, we will design and fabricate replica wooden parts and reassemble the cart using the original hardware. Historic photographs showing the same vehicle in various stages of deterioration will be studied extensively to aid in the reconstruction. For those not interested in, or qualified to use power woodworking tools, there will be other jobs to do, including videography of the project, historical archaeology

Winema National Forest

Railroad Logging History

March 12—18, 1995
Must commit 5 days.

The northwest logging boom around the turn of the century is the stuff of books and movies and the Winema National Forest and former Klamath Indian Reservation were part of it. Pelican Bay Lumber Company built the first mill, soon followed by a profusion of other mills. They harvested through the lucrative World War I market and into the 1920's. In one area, logging continued uninterrupted from 1928 through 1946, a period of transition in technology from railroads to trucks. Archaeologists have surveyed almost 2,000 miles of logging railroads from this period. Volunteers will work with the survey notes, maps, and other historical

Winema National Forest

Lake of the Woods Cabin Fever

January 22—28, 1995
Must commit 5-7 days.

As an incentive to use the National Forests in the 1910's, people were allowed to build small summer cabins along picturesque lakes and streams. Many of these are of unique construction or may have belonged to famous individuals. Volunteers will help review historic records for a variety of recreational facilities on the Klamath Ranger District, a place of great beauty, majestic mountains, and lovely lakes and streams that has long attracted recreationists. We will compile available historic information on each facility and enter data in a computerized inventory. This information will help the Forest

design future facilities to preserve the history and share it with visitors through interpretive activities and displays. Although most areas are closed in winter and snow bound, there are many opportunities to cross-country ski.

Special Skills: Computer skills and ability to read topographic maps are desirable, but not required. Training provided. Must be 16; under 18 must be accompanied by or have written permission of an adult.

Facilities: Motels in Klamath Falls.

Location: In Klamath Falls.

Applications Due: October 1.

South Dakota

Black Hills National Forest

Milbar and Yellow Jacket Project Analysis

January—March 1995
Must commit 5 days.

The Milbar Mining Complex is a late 19th century mining and town site. Many historic artifacts excavated in by PIT volunteers need to be analyzed, cataloged, and illustrated. The Yellow Jacket Site is a prehistoric site excavated by PIT volunteers this summer. It also has many artifacts that need to be analyzed. Volunteers will have access to resources including library collections and archaeological repository collections. Discover the analysis side of archaeology where we uncover questions and even some answers!

Special Skills: Literature research and artifact illustration skills desired; however, some training will be avail-



PIT crew in the pits during excavations at Kenzy Site, South Dakota.
(Photo courtesy of Black Hills NF)

able. Must be 18.

Facilities: Government housing available for three individuals at a time during the three months. Local hotels often have weekly rates during the winter season.

Location: In Spearfish, SD.

Applications Due: October 1 for January; December 1 for February—March.

Texas

National Forests & Grasslands in Texas

The Old Aldridge Sawmill & Townsite (1903-1921)

March 11-19 or 19-26, 1995
Must commit 5 days.

The Old Aldridge Sawmill and Townsite is on a high terrace next to a bend of the Neches River in the pine forests of eastern Texas. It was

likely a shipment point for rafting logs down the Neches River to the coastal city of Beaumont since the 1840's. A mill and the "company town" was built in 1903 but was abandoned in 1927 after several fires. A 1911 map of the sawmill and town shows 124 residences arranged in six different areas, three for "white" and three for "colored"; the layout of the mill and town buildings; and the railroad and tram network. Using the 1911 map, volunteers will survey the townsite using the Global Positioning System, magnetometers, and metal detectors. Volunteers will also test excavate some of the residences, process artifacts and conduct preliminary analysis. We may also do archival research and conduct oral histories with the older residents of the area who remember Aldridge.

Special Skills: Archaeological fieldwork, history, interviewing senior citizens, surveying, photography, videography, and laboratory methods helpful. Must be 14; under 18 must

be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Facilities: Primitive camping on site. Boykin Springs Recreation Area has developed camping for tents or RVs with picnic facilities, cooking grills, showers, water, and toilet facilities. Other Forest camping areas available near and around Lake Sam Rayburn. Hotels and motels are in Lufkin (40 minutes north-west), Nacogdoches (50 minutes north), or Jasper (30 minutes south-east).

Location: 10 miles from Zavalla.

Applications Due: December 1.

Utah

Ashley National Forest

Summit Springs Rockshelter

February 20—24, 1995
Must commit 1 day.

For four years volunteers have worked to unearth the unique pre-historic record at this high altitude hunting camp. Winter volunteers will assist in piecing together the puzzle of what occurred at the site. Volunteers will help archaeologists analyze the stone, ceramic and other artifacts to understand who visited the area, what were they eating, and how long they stayed there.

Special Skills: Must be 16; under 18 must be accompanied by or have written permission of an adult.

Facilities: Forest Service dormitory in Dutch John with kitchen and bathroom facilities.

Location: 45 miles from Vernal.

Applications Due: December 1.

Ashley National Forest

Vernal District History

May 15—19, 1995
Must commit 1 to 5 days.

Butch Cassidy, the Wild Bunch, Matt Warner, and others are just a few of the names found in the colorful history of Northeastern Utah. Early Forest Service history is no less colorful as rangers wore guns and occasionally used them, bootleggers hid stills, and outlaws ran off prospectors. Today, ranger stations may hide cowboys' graves. Volunteers will choose their own projects to help collect the history of the Forest. Projects will range from gathering oral histories of retired Forest Service employees to writing articles for the Outlaw Trail Journal.

Special Skills: Writing and research experience desirable. Must be 16; under 18 must be accompanied by or have written permission of an adult.

Facilities: Colton Ranger Station with bathroom and kitchen. Forest Service transportation available to Uintah County Library and other locations as needed.

Location: 20 miles from Vernal.

Applications Due: December 1.

Manti-LaSal National Forest

Anasazi Artifacts of the Abajos

March 19—26, 1995
Must commit 5 days.

This laboratory session will be dedicated to sorting and cataloguing artifacts gathered from the Monticello Ranger District in Southeastern Utah. The ancient Anasazi people used the Abajo Mountains for agriculture and pottery production during some periods and for hunting during other periods. Archaeologists collected hundreds of artifacts—pottery, projectile points, agricultural tools—during past survey and excavation projects. These are in the local state-run museum in San Juan County. Volunteers will sort, catalog, analyze, repackage, enter data in the computer, and describe each object in detail. The work will allow



Volunteer Kim Young takes charcoal samples at the Summit Springs Project.

(Photo courtesy of Ashley NF)

future researchers to find and study the collections. Volunteers will work in the spacious new, heated laboratories of the Edge of the Cedars Museum, under the supervision of museum and Forest Service archaeologists. Field trips to visit local sites will be included, weather permitting.

Special Skills: Typing, illustration, sketching, and office skills helpful. Must be 12; under 18 must be accompanied by responsible adult.

Facilities: Campgrounds within 20 miles; motels in Blanding and Monticello.

Location: Blanding, about 80 miles from south of Moab.

Applications Due: December 1.

Washington

Wenatchee National Forest

Lake Chelan Archaeological Project

April 3—9, 1995
Must commit 2 days.

Volunteers will join the Wenatchee's heritage program crew as it takes advantage of low water conditions to relocate lost rock art and search for archaeological sites along Lake Chelan. This 50 mile long fjord served as a travel way for Indians from the coastal area of Washington across the Cascade Range to the interior waterway of the Columbia River. Volunteers will learn archaeological survey methods, recording,

and mapping skills. For some of the work, we will be in sea kayaks or canoes to search the cliffs for pictographs.

Special Skills: Artistic skills desired. Strong kayaking or canoeing skills are required for those surveying cliff areas. Volunteers must supply own wet/dry suits, life jackets and emergency equipment for kayaking. Must be 16; under 18 accompanied by a responsible adult.

Facilities: Hotels, bed and breakfast, RV Park and State Park facilities available in or near Chelan.

Location: Chelan.

Applications Due: February 1.



PIT crew from Humboldt NF.

(Photo courtesy of Humboldt NF)

Project Summaries

"ARCH 5-2, WHERE ARE YOU?"

Angeles National Forest, California, 1994

By: Michael McIntyre, Forest Archaeologist

"Angeles, this is Arch 5-2 in-service" crackled over the airwaves each morning as the PIT survey crew checked in with Radio Dispatch before starting their day. The radio check-in was part of the safety plan devised for the project as this group of volunteer backpackers, led by an expert in mining history contracted by the Forest Service, spent nine days hiking from one historic mining site to another in the rugged Sheep Mountain Wilderness. Being in the wilderness for nine straight days meant that all the gear and food needed to be packed-in from the start of the project. There was an attempt to use llamas as pack animals but it could not be arranged in time. However, this did not deny our experienced backpackers some comforts of home. One of the crew celebrated his sixty-second birthday during the project, and a birthday party was held complete with cake, candles, and card, all of which were packed in, as well as drinks with umbrellas fashioned from field note paper, twigs and first aid tape.

By the time the crew finally hiked back to the start point at the finish of the project, they had visited five previously known but undocumented mining sites. The site records they filled out will provide useful information for the ongoing planning process for the Sheep Mountain Wilderness. None of the archaeological or historical remains in the Wilderness had been formally documented before, so this project accomplished a first. A highlight for the crew was the discovery of an intact ball mill at one site that was unknown to local informants who have visited the site over the years.

The crew developed a respect for the people who mined in this area over the last 100 years when they saw the amount of labor and energy the miners expended constructing buildings complete with hot and cold running water, using ore carts on rails, and having items like iron stoves to make life in the wilds more bearable. It was not lost on them that all these items had to be brought in over the same rugged terrain that they had been hiking. "How did they get that up here?" was heard more than once during the course of the project. A resounding chorus of that statement was heard when the mystery of the "Car" was solved. A

hiker's log kept at one of the cabins the volunteers visited had repeated references to the "Car" by hikers over the years. The "Car" was later found and was a 1918 Packard with wooden-spoke wheels but "How did they get.....?"

Some of the memories that the crew took out of the wilderness included seeing several Big Horn Sheep and meeting a local miner who preferred crashing through the brush to get from place to place rather than taking hiking trails. On their way out they came upon the "Bridge to Nowhere," a bridge built on private property for a road that was never built. There they saw hundreds of Bungee-Jumpers tempting fate by challenging gravity.

"Angeles, this is Arch 5-2 out-of-service" ended the project as volunteers hiked out of the wilderness with memories of their previous nine days and dreams of a hot shower, under the watchful gaze of Big Horn Sheep silhouetted against the skyline by the setting sun.

I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE...

Kisatchie National Forest, Louisiana, 1994

By: Alan Dorian, Forest Archaeologist

..an archaeologist? Well, more folks than you might think would like to be one and they will travel surprisingly long distances for the opportunity. The Evangeline Ranger District was the scene of the first PIT project held on the Kisatchie National Forest in central Louisiana. Volunteers from as far away as Alaska, Florida, and Iowa converged on the district to fulfill lifelong dreams of working as part of an archaeological research team.

The team of volunteers and the Kisatchie archaeologists investigated a series of Native American archaeological sites located at the juncture of the pine uplands and the valley of the Red River. Initial evidence indicated that occupation may have begun as early as 500 B.C. Some of the materials recovered from the sites include debris from the manufacture of stone tools and fragments of pottery vessels. Ceramic sites are relatively rare on the Kisatchie, but they represent important information about the people. Ceramic designs sometimes change through time and thus are useful in dating the occupation of a site. None of the volunteers had ever worked on an excavation before, although many had read about them and watched documentaries on

television or had seen *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. They soon found themselves carefully digging, shoveling out dirt in 10 centimeter levels, taking notes, screening the earth to recover artifacts, taking notes, bagging artifacts, filling out forms, taking notes, making drawings of the walls of their test units, testing colors of the dirt, and taking more notes. Soon they learned that archaeology is not about finding “neat” things, though it is fun when you do, but about recording information about the people who lived here before us, information that is easily and irreversibly damaged by the wrong actions.

Unseasonably cool temperatures graced our visitors, although our Alaskan friends did manage to break a sweat at 71 degrees. Forest botanist Susan Carr treated volunteers to presentations on Kisatchie bog communities; biologist Mary May accompanied the group and explained an endangered red-cockaded woodpecker colony; and district archaeologist John Mayer demonstrated flint knapping to illustrate how many of the recovered artifacts were originally made. A group outing for boiled crawfish brought the volunteers out of the woods for a little local culture, and a “PIT” cake on the last day completed everyone’s introduction to Louisiana cuisine.

High Lakes Haven
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Washington, 1994

By: Ian Ritchie, Forest Archaeologist

The “common knowledge” about the history of this area was that the Native Americans had not used the high country much. Well, in our High Lakes Haven project, we have shown they did indeed. In the three weeks of our high elevation project in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness atop the Cascades east of Seattle, we found several locations used by Indian people during prehistoric times. We did it hiking about 10 miles a day, all the while swatting at flies and mosquitoes alternating our hiking with crawling on all fours—even to us it seemed like some weird archaeological biathlon competition—hike, find the archaeological site, then hike again, all the while following a no-impact

ethic. We plan on using this initial data to get a feel for how, where, and why people used the High Lakes region of the Cascades. We will report back to the Skykomish community and local tribes about our findings.

Arnold’s Valley Excavations
Thomas Jefferson National Forest, Virginia, 1994
By: Eugene Barfield, Forest Archaeologist

Millions of years ago, in a geological fault, stones of quartz and iron ore were ground into bits, then mixed with a water solution and hardened into an attractive, multi-colored stone called “jasper.” This phenomenon formed a jasper quarry in Arnold’s Valley, Virginia, only a short distance from Natural Bridge. The jasper offered Native Americans a natural resource for their weapon and tool kits for thousands of years. It is similar to glass when broken; sharp edges made it a very desirable resource. People used the quarry for probably 9,000 years and maybe even longer.

We usually imagine quarries with great ledges or cliffs of stone. This one, however, is nothing more than boulders and stones lying about a small knoll in the Jefferson National Forest. Archaeologist classified the site as a quarry and tool workshop. It is unique because while hundreds of tools have been found



Haikey's Creek PIT crew.

(Photo courtesy of Kisatchie NF)

during the 1993 and 1994 PIT excavations, only one spearpoint about 9,000 years old was found with these tools. Jack Gary a student at Northside High School in Roanoke, Virginia, who plans to be an historical archaeologist was the lucky finder of this spearpoint. The tools tell a story. Hidescraping tools, knives, and meat choppers indicate a bountiful supply of animals near the quarry. Twenty volunteers from Georgia to Massachusetts worked 640 hours gathering and adding data for a book on the prehistory of this small valley along the western slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Thanks to all volunteers and students.



Jack Gray becomes an instant celebrity.

(Photo courtesy of Eugene Barfield, Thomas Jefferson NF)

Two Dragon Camp Project
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
La Grande Ranger District, Oregon, 1994
By: George R. Mead, Project Leader

While the folks in town were sweltering under a two-week spell of 100-109 degree heat, day and night, the temperatures of the Two Dragon PIT Project fell to 40-45 degrees a night and stayed around 72-76 during the day. The six volunteers and group of high school students were grateful for the reprieve as they excavated during the two week PIT project. The project was targeted at investigating and understanding the Chinese vernacular architectural styles and concepts at Two Dragon Camp. The site was occupied about 1865-1880 when placer mining activities were at their height in northeastern Oregon.

The PIT volunteers' work provided a rare insight into a little understood aspect of Chinese mining culture and the life a Chinese miner. Little is reported in the literature so far. The work accomplished shows very clearly that their approach toward building structures and so-called "tent platforms" was uniquely Chinese rather than a copy of existing structures used by the non-Chinese miners.

Volunteers and students not only learned about Chinese mining, they were also exposed to a more recent innovation called MRE's, "Meals, Ready To Eat,"

provided by the Fire Shop, and eaten by all the volunteers, on a voluntary basis, were an endless source of discussion and wonderment for the entire two-week period of the PIT project.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Two Dragon Camp project.

Tukaytesp'e: Place of Skipping Stones
Across the Water
Clearwater National Forest, Idaho, 1993
By: Steve Armstrong, PIT Project Leader

During the 1970's, the Clearwater National Forest in north central Idaho, began acquiring lands along the Clearwater River as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. One such property contained the Tukaytesp'e site. The property held both prehistoric and historic artifacts.

The Nez Perce Tribe, the Clearwater National Forest, and the Laboratory of Anthropology at the University of Idaho have conducted excavations at this site on three occasions. The most recent was in May 1993 when PIT volunteers and University of Idaho archaeology field school students worked together at the site.

Excavations indicated the site was used from 3,800 years ago to about 730 years ago. Artifacts recovered include projectile points, generally associated with

hunting or food procurement; scrapers associated with hideworking; perforators, a sharp pointed tool for leather working; spokeshaves, to make wooden or bone tools; and stone knives, a general, all-purpose tool. Several fishing net sinkers also have been recovered as well as larger and more stationary artifacts such as mortar bases

At least one, and up to three, house floors have been identified at this location, indicating the presence of pithouses. The occupants excavated a shallow, basin-shaped depression and constructed a tipi-like shelter over the pit. Whether these houses were covered with animal skins, bark, or woven mats is not known.

Analysis of the artifacts paints an image of everyday life. They manufactured stone tools from locally available stone such as basalt, chert, or opal. They fished for salmon in the rapids below the camp. They hunted deer, rabbit, and various birds. Plant foods were prepared in an open-bottomed basket situated over the mortar bases. Other plants used as a food, such as camas and other roots may have been baked or roasted in one of the stone-lined hearths. Ceremonial, religious, or medicinal activities may have taken place here. However, specific artifacts associated with these practices may be difficult to distinguish.

Further excavations are not scheduled. Most of this small river terrace where this intriguing site is located has been preserved for future generations and possibly future research.

Camp #5 Resurgence Project
De Soto National Forest, Mississippi, 1993
By: Robert E. Reams, Zone Archaeologist

The sounds of laughter and shovels moving dirt echoed through the woods as a quiet section of the De Soto National Forest was invaded by volunteers, the local media, and several older men who had seen these woods with younger eyes. All of them converged on one of the first Civilian Conservative Corps (CCC) camps in Mississippi, Camp #5 or F-5. Some came in the interest of the CCCs', while others came for the first PIT project in Mississippi. All enjoyed themselves.



Former CCC enrollees return to Camp #5 to help PIT volunteers relocate buildings.

(Photo courtesy of De Soto NF)

On November 19, 1933, Company 232 occupied the present site of Camp #5, fourteen miles outside of New Augusta, Mississippi. The Company was made up of young men from Fort Jay, New York, who moved to Salmon, Utah, by July 17, 1935. During 1936 and 1937, a real construction program was started by men who had moved from Company 5415, Camp #6. A new portable-type school building and infirmary were assembled and completed for use. By June 1, 1937, the whole camp had been reworked and beautified. In the summer of 1942, the camp was dismantled and the buildings transported to military bases.

In September 1993, PIT volunteers cleared nine building foundations of sixty years of brush and vines that had over grown the camp. This work was helped immensely by the ex-CCC men from Camp #5. These men had pictures of the camp before the buildings were moved. They walked through the camp several times with the volunteers, pointing out which foundation went to which building. They provided many descriptions of the general happenings at the camp.

In an extra effort to promote archaeology, Passport In Time, and the CCC, the local media was invited to attend. We had one newspaper from Biloxi (50 miles away), two local television stations from Biloxi and Hattiesburg (25 miles away), and the public

channel from Jackson (112 miles away). Reporters talked to the ex-CCC men and the volunteers, at least the ones who were not camera shy. We even had one of our older volunteers sing while the camera was rolling!

Thanks to all of the volunteers, the ex-CCC men, the local media, and Wayne McCardle. You helped make the De Soto's first PIT project a success.

***Tale of A Potsherd: The Elk Ridge Project
Manti-LaSal National Forest, Utah, 1993***

By: Leigh Ann Hunt, District Archaeologist

Once there was a potsherd, a bit of broken pottery lying on the ground on a mountain side overlooking the upper end of Comb Ridge, in what is now the Manti-LaSal National Forest, Monticello District. Recently this sherd and thousands of others appeared in the Edge of the Cedars Museum in Blanding. How it got there and what happens next is an interesting tale.

Sometime around the year A.D. 850, a woman belonging to the early Pueblo people living on the flanks of Elk Ridge near the Blue Mountains in south-east Utah, made a nice, thin clay bowl. She covered it with fine white clay and painted a delicate, spidery black design with small black triangles on the inside. She might have made it right there on the mountain near her family's farmstead with its corn and bean fields. Or perhaps she made it in the winter, when her people moved to larger villages lower on the mountain, and carefully packed it up to the mountain farm to use for special occasions.

In any case, before long the bowl was dropped and broken. Perhaps the woman sadly brushed the pieces off of the terrace in front of her store rooms, adding them to the scatter of daily debris--ashes from the fire, bits of broken twine, lots of plain cooking pot fragments, chips from making arrowheads--that surrounded the camp. In a few months the black and white clay bits became part of the landscape. Several decades later, the family moved away from the farmstead and new trees grew up in the fields.

In the late 19th and early 20th century, the sherd lay among the shrubs and pinon trees on the mesa near what became known as Elk Ridge. A few people came and cut fence posts nearby, and sheep and cattle visited the site. Several times thoughtless people dug

up parts of the ruined farmstead looking for complete pots to sell, tumbling some of the walls and breaking other artifacts, but the little black and white potsherd survived.

In 1973, a group of student archaeologists from Brigham Young University (BYU) came across the top of the Point. They were part of the Elk Ridge Archaeology Project, and were mapping all of the sites they could find that summer. They came upon the group of upright stone slabs at the site, some set in squarish outlines. Recognizing the foundation of an early Pueblo wattle-and-daub house, the archaeologists spread out looking for artifacts, hearths, and other features associated with Pueblo I farms. They wanted to gather as much information as possible about this site and the dozens like it in the area, so they photographed it and took notes on what they found.

The archaeologists wanted to know how many people had lived up near Elk Ridge during which years, and they knew their best source of time-specific information was the pottery that lay scattered around. So they gathered up a bag of potsherds from the surface of the ground, including the little black and white bowl fragment. Later, at BYU, other archaeologists studied all the pottery and identified the little sherd as the style known as "Piedra Black-on-White" made in Pueblo I times. They put the sherd in a box with others and, because there was no place to store these artifacts in San Juan County at that time, they left it at the college.



Pottery from Manti-LaSal PIT project.

(Photo courtesy of Manti LaSal NF)

In 1993, the Edge of the Cedars Museum in Blanding opened a new storage and research addition and the Manti-LaSal National Forest decided it was time to bring the Elk Ridge project artifacts to the museum for long term care. The 80 cartons of ceramics were moved to the museum a few months later. A crew of volunteers working with the Forest Service's Passport In Time program helped sort and repack the sherds. When the box of black and white pottery from the little farmstead was opened, the archaeologists immediately recognized that the "Piedra" style pottery was part of a newly identified Pueblo I variety of Piedra known as "White Mesa Black-on-White," in honor of where it was first recognized.

White Mesa Black-on-White appears to have been made mainly in San Juan County. The archaeologists were pleased to see the White Mesa sherds; they were like new friends. The sherds confirmed that the sites on Milk Ranch Point had been part of a culture that lived both above and below the Blanding region in Pueblo times. Carefully, archaeologists packed the little sherd in a bag with the others from the site, ready for a future researcher to use.

A.D. 2050: What does the future hold for the little White Mesa potsherd? With hundreds of other artifacts from the Elk Ridge Project and other places, it waits for scientists to think of questions to ask of it. Perhaps they will find a way to identify the place the clay or the grit in the potsherd came from; then we would know where it was made. Perhaps a chemical test will be found to quickly identify trace substances sticking to the sherd; then we might be able to tell what it was used for—storing corn? serving stew? Perhaps someone will want to know what plant pollens are found in the dirt particles clinging to the artifacts; then we might get a clue about the environment the Pueblo I people lived in.

If we knew what other pottery types and artifacts were found with this sherd, we would know something about what the people were doing at their mountain farm on the National Forest. There may be no end to the tales the potsherd could tell us, as long as we take care of it and the site it came from!

Jemez Archaeological Survey and Mapping Project **Santa Fe National Forest, New Mexico, 1993**

By: Carol Raish, District Archaeologist and Marian Revitte, Forest Archaeologist

Ten volunteers from as far away as Annapolis, Maryland, and Portland, Oregon, worked from June 19-26, 1993 conducting archaeological survey and mapping on the Jemez Ranger District of the Santa Fe National Forest. They were part of the Forest Service's Passport In Time volunteer program which completed its third year on the district this past year.

The survey's research goal focused on improving understanding of the land use patterning on Stable Mesa surrounding the large ancestral Jemez Pueblo site of Stable Mesa Ruin (A.D. 1300-1700). Volunteers surveyed about 160 acres and recorded 10 previously unrecorded archaeological sites. These included one unidentified wall alignment, one sherd scatter, seven small masonry structures referred to as fieldhouses, and a possible rock garden. Fieldhouses are associated with large pueblos and may have been used as agricultural outposts, hunting and gathering stations, or lookouts. Identification of these sites provides valuable information on the extent of prehistoric populations in the area and on the nature of local subsistence practices.

Mapping and ceramic analysis increased understanding of the horizontal stratigraphy of the site and of cultural groups that may have been present on the site in early historic times. Since we have very little information on this time period on the Jemez District, study of this site was particularly important. The site was completely mapped and a sherd sampling was analyzed. The site appears to be primarily historic in nature (A.D. 1725-1775) and may have been occupied by ancestors of Zia Pueblo. There is also evidence of an earlier (A.D. 1150-1250) occupation.

Evening campfire entertainment and educational sessions were presented on other archaeological projects in the area and on flint knapping. Jemez Tribal leaders also met with the volunteers to discuss Jemez culture and belief systems. The project was very popular with the volunteers who all expressed an interest in joining future PIT projects.

Illinois River Archaeological Expedition Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon, 1993

By: Michael Keown, PIT Project leader

The Illinois River Archaeological Expedition was a resounding success. Taking place along the "wild" section of the Wild and Scenic Illinois River located on the Siskiyou National Forest in southwest Oregon, the eight day river expedition mapped and tested three housepit complexes, a large lithic scatter, and a rock shelter.

The rock shelter contained a stone cache, which is unique among the archaeological sites of southwest Oregon. This site also contained a human burial. Consultation with Native Americans is taking place regarding this sacred site.

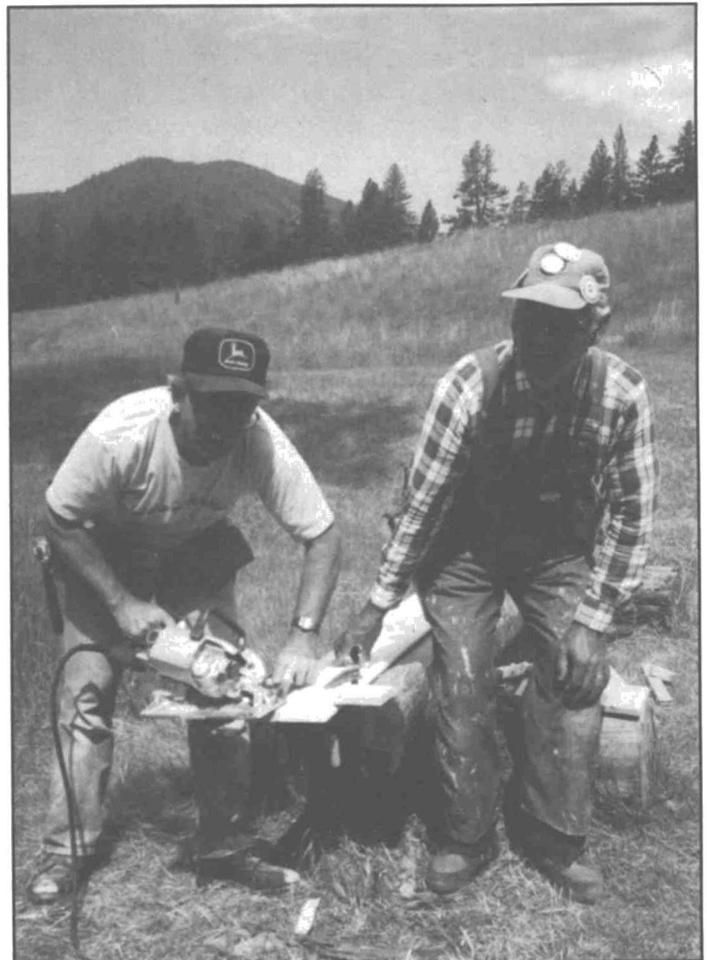
The expedition was an extension of previous PIT projects at the Gallaher and Pine Flat prehistoric sites, also on the Illinois River. Our discoveries significantly increased the knowledge of prehistoric occupation along the wild section of the Illinois River and will add to our knowledge of southwest Oregon prehistory as a whole. Archaeological investigation to date has centered on coastal (Athapaskan) and interior valley (Takelma) sites. The Illinois River area is transitional between these two areas and is poorly understood archaeologically. Data collected during this survey will serve as a baseline for any future archaeological investigation. In this regard the trip was extremely satisfying.

One interesting site was a housepit complex located on a bluff high above the river. This site contained 22 housepits located on two successive terraces. The area had been burned over 1987 and was quite open. The depressions were very discernible. We found extensive lithic scatters within and around the depressions and it was easy to imagine a thriving village community with salmon drying on racks on south slopes, canoes on quiet waters, and other aspects of village life.

The entire expedition took place by white-water raft. We rafted such rapids as Boat Eater, the Green Wall, Submarine Hole, and Prelude. However, the guides would not let us novices raft Submarine Hole. We had only to sit high above the hole and watch the comedy below. After three rafts made it through with great effort, the fourth raft capsized and a guide was

left high and dry on a rock in the middle of the rapid after he calmly stepped out of the raft. Another guide, stranded on the side of the river, flung himself on the raft in an effort to keep it from turning over. We had never seen such dedication! It soon became obvious that rafting and archaeology were made for each other.

There were last minute concerns about river levels; the go-ahead came just a few days before the trip was to begin. Normally April is a month of rain and cold but the project was blessed with exceptional weather. Other amenities included osprey, steelhead salmon, bear, owls, waterfalls, water fights, practical jokes, and all the other superlative aspects of a wild river. It was quite a chore to break camp in a beautiful river setting, shoot some rapids, and then map and test a prehistoric site on a beautiful spring day. But someone has to do it!



Hogback Homestead, MT, volunteers Rodger Free and Joe Offutt cut interior trim for PIT project.

(Photo courtesy C.M. McLeod, Lolo NF)

Homesteading in the Oregon Coast Range

Siuslaw National Forest, Oregon, 1993

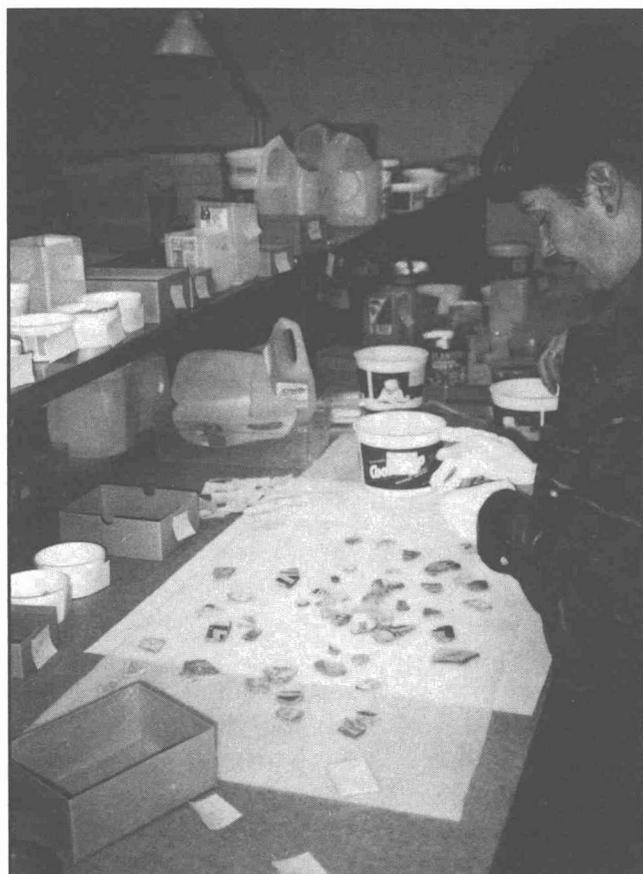
Partners: Benton County Historical Museum

By: Ken McCall, PIT Project Coordinator

The Alsea Ranger District office and compound hosted a two week PIT project in August 1993 to solve the mystery of "Who is Old Billy?" Historical records show early land claims staked and recorded in 1852 and 1853. Notations on an 1856 General Land Office survey map included "Old Billy's House" and "Indian Trail" in the location of the current district compound. PIT volunteers joined historians and archaeologists from the Benton County Historical Museum and the Forest Service to discover clues to the location of "Old Billy's" house and to the life of early pioneer residents of the valley. The project also tested methods of historic research, archaeology and metal detecting in order to refine our survey strategy for investigating the rich heritage of historic homesteads on the Siuslaw National Forest.

Volunteers camping on the district compound were pleased to find such luxuries as cooking facilities and showers. The seasoned PIT veterans in this group noted that these accommodations are not available on all PIT projects! The good company, cooperative coast range weather, and excitement of the project were enjoyed by volunteers, visitors, and employees of the host district alike. Numerous artifacts were recovered during the excavation and historic research continued to yield facts about the previous residents of the site. When the project ended we had not solved the "Old Billy" mystery but had learned that the site was home to both early settlers looking beyond the Willamette Valley for farmlands and earlier prehistoric residents of Oregon's coastal valleys.

An interpretative display in the district office showed visitors artifacts and photographs from Alsea's pioneer past. Most of the items were loaned to Alsea's District employees and local residents. The spreading limbs of a walnut tree offered a shady setting for the "High Noon at Alsea" lecture series. Guest lecturers from the local community, Benton County Historical Museum, Siuslaw National Forest and the Forest Service Region Six Headquarters joined the crew and visitors for daily talks. The subjects included living history, native and introduced plants, homesteading, geology, uses of the native plants and fibers, genealogy and Coast Range history. Over 200 people enjoyed the



Lab analysis of artifacts from PIT excavation.

(Photo courtesy of Manti-LaSal NF)

lectures. Our two on-site interpreters were Judy Juntunen, historian from Benton County Historical Museum, and Phyllis Steeves, archaeologist from the Siuslaw National Forest. They offered visitors daily site tours and information on the project.

The project was well received locally and a hit with drop in visitors thanks to the efforts of a fine volunteer crew and a lot of cooperation and support by all involved. Work on the rich homesteading history of the Siuslaw National Forest continued with a 1994 PIT project.

*We need your ideas, suggestions, letters, photographs for the **Volunteers and Moosellaneous Sections!** Please send to the Clearing-house address shown on the application form.*

From the Volunteer

“From Couch Potato to Scientific Explorer”

Coconino National Forest, Arizona, 1994

By: Marsha Scott, First Time PIT Volunteer

Archaeology was always something we wanted to do but couldn't afford, until we found the Passport In Time Program. We are full time RVers and have been traveling the U.S. for two years in a 27-foot Winnebago motor home—car and dog in tow. We saw the PIT project included in a catalog called “Helping Out in the Outdoors” published by American Hiking Society. This is it! This seemed to be a way to make fantasy reality. All of those hours watching the Discovery Channel and now we could actually step into the picture. From couch potato to scientific explorer! Cool!

We had looked into professional archaeology schools or archaeo-tours and found them unacceptably expensive. But if we couldn't buy our way in, why would anyone want us on a professional dig? We have no academic or practical training in archaeology, but the PIT program seemed to be designed for “real” people like us.

We sent in the short form from the back of the catalog and threw in our standard resumes and a cover letter that indicated we would be sensitive and careful with the aged objects. The next thing we knew we had been invited to a site near Sedona, Arizona.

There we found a diverse group—a shrink, two students (one still in high school), a nurse, a criminal lawyer, a geologist, a sign painter, a media buyer, a concierge, a rancher. We were ages 15 to 80, equal number of men and women, from all parts of the country. Some had been here or at other sites before; a few had not. But we all learned how to establish a grid, measure a room, use a plane table, read a compass, conduct photo and graphic documentation, erect an army field tent, and use a sun shower. The training was great. We could all do it.

We also got a graduate level, intensive education in the history of the peoples of the Southwest from field archaeologists. They hauled a resource library to the site, showed slides (using our RV generator for power), and took us to nearby sites. They even brought in an expert in lithics to explain obsidian dating and flint

knapping. (Ah ha! Do you know what that is? I do. Now. And have a homemade arrowhead to prove it.) And why would they go to such lengths? The more educated the crew, the more expertise we can lend to the project. The training of the volunteers is an investment in the preservation of the resource and the future of many scientific projects.

As a result of our experiences on our first dig, we're going on another one—this time in Montana, where we'll be participating in an actual excavation. And next year we hope to return to Arizona and take technical training at a reasonably priced field school. So, in addition to fulfilling a lifelong dream, we've been able to acquire real field skills and begin to work toward avocational archaeological certification.

In our opinion, Passport In Time is exactly the type of program the government should be funding. The Forest Service benefits by creating a knowledgeable public, the volunteers get a superb education from the most experienced field archaeologists, and some scientific work proceeds that may not have happened otherwise. Thank you PIT project. And get out there and dig, all you first timers out there!

Wind River

Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Washington, 1993

By: Pat Paeper, PIT Volunteer

Shortly after lunch the temperature at ground level was 109 degrees. When it gets that hot they turn the sprinklers on the young trees growing at the Forest Service Wind River Nursery above Carson, Washington. How hot was the air temperature? I didn't want to know even if an intermittent breeze did keep it a few degrees cooler. We'd spent the previous day in class, learning practical tips that would help with the excavating and interesting facts about the area, its history and prehistory. Now we were at work.

For the next two days we altered layers of sun screen and dirt as we dug and screened. (True luxury is an honest-to-goodness shower waiting in the bunk house.) The fourth day we layered on clothing when the temperature dropped way down. A brilliant lightning storm the night before brought some rain and a chilling wind.

We took most of the one meter square test pits down 80 centimeters - in the disturbed areas that was 30 centimeters below the plowed depth - and found surprisingly little. None of the pits came close to showing the expected results. For years the nursery workers had been reporting artifacts turned up by the plows and the debitage should still be there. We sunk a total of six test pits in various locations and it wasn't! Not in a reasonable quantity. Negative information often provides the answers, but in this case we were left with a large puzzle. Hopefully it will be solved over time.

The information might have been negative, but the experience was most positive. The crew had fun and the Forest Service people were great to work with. Plus, we were given a field trip as a consolation prize.

On our final day Rick McClure, Forest Service Archaeologist had a surprise for us. We packed our lunches and he headed our van toward an unnamed

destination. Rick parked in a cleared area, had us bring our lunches and follow him across a creek and into a clearing. We ate lunch sitting on the edge of a large circular depression; surrounded by 23 similar depressions. He had brought us to the almost perfectly preserved remains of a pit house village. As we sat in the mountain sunshine it seemed we could hear the vanished residents going about their daily routines. We finished the trip with another drive and a short hike to some beautiful and well preserved, but not well known, pictographs.

Memories to treasure! A big thanks to Rick McClure, Cheryl Mack, Grady Caulk and the Forest Service for making this sort of week possible through Passport In Time.



Volunteer and student make careful records of project findings.

(Photo courtesy of Deschutes NF)



APPLICATION FOR WINTER 1994/SPRING 1995 PIT OPPORTUNITIES

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Day Phone () _____

Evening Phone () _____

Age (if under 18) _____ Have you ever applied for a PIT project before? (Yes/No) _____

PIT Project Application

Forest Name _____

Project Name _____

First Choice of Dates _____

Second Choice of Dates _____

Special interests, skills, relevant courses, past experiences (i.e. geology, soils, computers, drafting, public speaking, etc.)

Return to: *Passport In Time Clearinghouse*
PO Box 18364
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 293-0922 Voice/TTY; (202) 293-1782 FAX

Passport In Time Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 18364
Washington, DC 20036



Cathy Lindberg
Supervisor's Office-Willamette NF
PO Box 10607
Eugene, OR 97440

FIRST CLASS

SEP]

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