

**An Environmental and Cultural History of the
Grouse Creek Watershed**
[1994]

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This paper was first published in 1994 as the cultural resources input section of the Six Rivers National Forest Grouse Creek Watershed Assessment. I have placed a copy on the web to make it more easily accessible to researchers and the general public.

Authors Note:

I wrote this paper in 1994 as a member of an interdisciplinary team (including biologists, botanists, foresters, hydrologists, and archaeologists) studying the ecosystem of the Grouse Creek watershed. For further cultural information on this region refer to the Pilot Creek Watershed Assessment and a number of papers on "Pilot Ridge Country" that are found at my web site:

www.solararch.org

I have tried to refrain from making changes to the original text except for minor editing. I have, however, in a few places included in text boxes or in brackets comments due subsequent research that in some way (for better or worse) has led me to change or modify my data or conclusions.

TK

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Three Rivers, CA.

Introduction

The environment of the Grouse Creek watershed had been influenced by human activities for thousands of years. The land-use activities of both the hunter and gathers inhabiting the region during the prehistoric era and the ranchers, homesteaders, hunters, and others from the historic period have all had a profound effect on the environment of the Grouse Creek watershed. The purpose of this study is to present a brief overview of the prehistory and history of this region with an emphasis on past human land-use activities and how these land-use activities influenced and shaped today's environment within the Grouse Creek watershed.

The Paleoenvironment

Pollen analysis and paleoclimatic data for the interior regions of northwestern California indicate that over the last 10,000 years interior regions of the North Coast Ranges have experienced significant shifts in climate. An overview presenting the paleoclimatic data and pollen studies relevant to this region is presented in the Pilot Ridge watershed Analysis (Keter 1994c).

It is likely, given the paleoclimatic and pollen core data for this region, that the distribution of plant species across the landscape has varied through time. During the warmer and drier climate of the Xerothemic Period (lasting from about 8,500 B.P. to about 3,800-2,300 B.P.), it is likely that tanoak were either a minor component or not found within the

watershed. Paleoclimatic data also suggests that the distribution of Douglas-fir was greatly reduced and that the extent of the oak woodland association of white and black oaks was greater than it is today see Keter 1994a, [1995, 1997]). Given the differences in vegetation species as well as their distribution across the watershed it is likely that during the mid-Holocene animal populations would have also been somewhat different than today in their distributions (and possibly their presence or absence) across the landscape.

Prehistory

The archaeological record suggests that humans first entered this region about 5,000 year ago. During the Early Period (5,000 B.P.-3,000 B.P.) the region was inhabited by peoples living in small highly mobile bands utilizing a "foraging" resource procurement strategy focusing on big game (elk and deer) and the collection of hard seeds that require little processing time. As climatic conditions changed during the Middle Period (3,000 B.P.-1,500 B.P.) land-use patterns also changed. It appears that there was a decline in the intensity of use of upland regions and the peoples inhabiting the area shifted to a "collector" based subsistence strategy emphasizing sedentary or semi-sedentary villages, procurement of a wider range of resources and storage of foods for at least part of the year.

During the Late Period (after 1,500 B.P.) population continued to increase and there was a further intensification in the collection of lowland subsistence resources (fish, acorns). Human land-use activities by this time were significant factors influencing the distribution of plants and animals across the landscape.

Refer to the Pilot Ridge Watershed Analysis (Keter 1994c) for an overview of the prehistoric era in this region.

The Ethnographic Period

The Grouse Creek watershed is situated at what might be termed an environmental transition location. To the north the great conifer forests of the northwest increasingly dominate. Stretching to the south from the head of the drainage at Last Chance Ridge and Whiting Ridge, the oak woodlands begin to increasingly eclipse the stands of Douglas-fir. To the west of the Pilot Ridge/Kinsey Ridge divide, the maritime climate results in dense stands of redwood and Douglas-fir as well as tanoak. To the east of the South Fork of the Trinity the precipitation gradient falls steadily and the madrone, tanoak and other mesic species decline in numbers. In some sense then, during the ethnographic period this region was a transition zone environmentally between ecosystems at the province level, and, given the ethnographic record as presented below, the region was also a transition zone culturally with a number of native groups from the surrounding region utilizing at least seasonally some portion of the watershed..

From a cultural perspective, the groups to the north and directly to the west were riverine oriented depending for a large part of their subsistence resource base on anadromous fish.

The aboriginal peoples from this region lived in relatively permanent village sites located along the major water courses. Groups living to the south of the watershed in the Pilot Creek region and to the east of the South Fork of the Trinity River were less dependent on fish and depended on a wider array of upland resources. The prehistoric peoples living in these regions were less sedentary and spent at least some portion of each year living in temporary camps away from their winter villages.

Comments concerning the ethnographic data contained in the Grouse Creek Watershed Assessment

During my research over the last 20 years or so since this paper was written, in my interaction, discussions, and consultations with numerous Native Americans living in the Willow Creek/Salyer area of eastern Humboldt and western Trinity Counties it became clear that the following ethnographic section is problematic.

Quoting from a paper presented to the SCA in 2009 [see References Cited], I noted that there was:

...a problem related to tribal recognition and ethnographic territorial boundaries ...centered on the confluence of the South Fork Trinity River with the Trinity River several miles to the east of Willow Creek. In discussions with members of the Tsnungwe tribe whose territory is located just to the south of Hupa territory in eastern Humboldt and western Trinity Counties it became apparent that their documented tribal history is often in direct disagreement with the existing ethnographic literature. Information provided by tribal members makes it clear that the Tsnungwe were not simply the “South Fork Hupa” an offshoot of what might be termed the “greater Hupa tribe.”

...Despite the existing ethnographic record, the Tsnungwe, through their own outstanding research efforts, have provided sufficient evidence to the Bureau of Indian Affairs BAR (Branch of Acknowledgement and Research) for the agency to determine, as they note in their response to the Tsnungwe, that there is a “reasonable basis to assume that when your petition is evaluated during ‘active consideration’ we will conclude that your ancestors were recognized as a tribe as late as 1864” (BIA letter to Tsnungwe Tribe December 4, 1995).

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Ethnographic data specifically covering the cultural use of the Grouse Creek watershed is essentially non-existent. The ethnographical literature for the aboriginal groups inhabiting the region includes only minor references to the Grouse Creek watershed. What is clear from a review of the literature is that several ethnographic groups claimed at least some portion of the watershed as being within their territory.

Various ethnographic studies (see Kroeber 1925, Baumhoff 1958, Elsasser 1978, Wallace 1978) have included all or portions of Grouse Creek within the ethnographic territory of several different ethnographic groups. These groups include; the Athabascan speaking Hupa, the South Fork Hupa [Tsnungwe], Whilkut, and Nongatl, as well as the Penutian speaking Wintu. In addition, given the proximity of the territory of the Chimariko, whose language was a member of the Hokan stock, and given the lack of ethnographic data, it is possible that portions of the Grouse Creek Watershed may also have been used by this group.

Martin Baumhoff (1958) summarized the ethnogeographic data (primarily the field notes of Pliny Goddard, C. Hart Merriam, and the published ethnographies of Alfred Kroeber) for the Athabascan speaking groups whose territory included portions of the Grouse Creek Watershed. Map 1 presents the ethnographic boundaries of the various groups occupying portions of the Grouse Creek Watershed as outlined by Baumhoff. According to Baumhoff (1958:208) portions of the watershed were claimed by the South Fork Hupa [Tsnungwe], the Kloki Whikut, and the Nongatl. In addition, although not labeled on the map, Baumhoff infers that the lower portion of the watershed south of Grouse Creek from about Bear Creek east to the South Fork of the Trinity was within the territory of the Hayfork Wintu. Although no specific maps outlining this region as Wintu territory could be located, Kroeber's map of the region (1925:110) suggests that Wintun territory may have extended this far to the north and west. To summarize, it is clear that the tribal boundaries as they are outlined in the ethnographic literature are somewhat conflicting and given the lack of specific ethnogeographic data for the Grouse Creek watershed and the overall paucity of ethnographic research in this region renders these boundaries questionable.

Part of the problem with defining the territorial boundaries in this region is related to differences in world view and cultures between the anthropologists who documented group boundaries and the Indian people. To the anthropologists working in the area:

...defining boundaries was a product of western logic conceived as strict demarcations that were well defined and agreed upon. However, as George Foster (1944:157) noted, "in the minds of the Indians exact boundaries were never known" (Keter 1993:44).

It is likely, therefore, that the territorial boundaries of the peoples living in this region were more complex and ambiguous than the lines confidently drawn on maps by ethnographers. Keter (1993:48) discusses the problem related to delineating ethnographic boundaries in this region:

No doubt certain portions of their homelands were well defined. For example, ownership extended to the immediate area surrounding the village. This might change, however, if another, related community was in need of resources controlled by a particular village. In that case cooperation and resource sharing would occur. Also ownership was sometimes claimed and territory defended by a particular extended family or community at a

location rich in a particular subsistence resource within what might be termed their core territory...In other instances, territory was claimed by two or more groups further complicating the efforts of ethnographers.

For the reasons outlined above, in many instances there were no hard and fast "tribal" boundaries especially in more remote areas well away from home villages. Rather, boundaries between groups and communities were dynamic and shifted over time based on the relations between individuals, families, and among communities. It is suggested here that the boundaries delineating the territorial claims of the various ethnographic groups within the Grouse Creek watershed as outlined by the ethnographers are unreliable. Therefore, these ethnographic boundaries should be viewed as indicators that the various groups mentioned knew about the region and utilized it. It is likely that over a period counted in centuries there was an ebb and flow of these frontier boundaries among the various groups and that the ethnographers captured what might be termed a "snapshot" of what was viewed as tribal boundaries by a few elderly informants many decades after the ethnographic era.

No village sites located within the Grouse Creek watershed have been identified in the ethnographic literature. The nearest village site to the watershed was the South Fork Hupa [Tsnungwe], village of *tah-choo^{ch}-tung* (Merriam's spelling) located along the South Fork of the Trinity about two miles below the mouth of Grouse Creek.

Whichever ethnographic groups utilized the Grouse Creek watershed archaeological evidence from the surrounding ridgelines suggests that the use was extensive. This use, however, appears to have been seasonal in nature. Tangible evidence of this use includes numerous ridgeline sites containing Early, Middle, and Late Period materials, including Borax Lake, Trinity side notch, and Gunther barbed projectile points. This archaeological evidence is outlined in the heritage resources management section of the Pilot Ridge Watershed Report (Keter 1994).

Subsistence Activities

Given the fact that almost no ethnographic data exists for the Grouse Creek watershed it will be necessary to present two alternative subsistence based resource procurement strategies. In this region, resource procurement strategies can be divided into two major types. Kroeber (1925;898-899) discussed these types in his *Handbook*. The more coastal or lower river-oriented groups (the Tolowa, Yurok, Kuruk, Hupa) in northwestern California practiced subsistence strategies and had cultural affinities with the aboriginal groups extending north along the coast into Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. These groups were dependent on anadromous fish as a major subsistence resource. For this reason, they tended to inhabit permanent village sites located along the major waterways within their territory. To the south of the northwest culture area (about where the Grouse Creek divide with Pilot Creek lies) begins what has been termed the California Culture Area. Here, southern Athabascan territory begins. These groups have cultural characteristics more in common with the aboriginal groups within greater California--

including a more generalized subsistence resource procurement strategy.

The southern Athabascan subsistence strategy was referred to as the "seasonal round." This subsistence strategy involves movement through the environment across one's territory in order to secure subsistence resources as they become seasonally available. Under this procurement strategy, people leave their winter villages which are usually located along the major water courses in the spring and spend some portion of each year camping in the higher mountainous country away from the river. It is likely that the Nongatl and the Wintu practiced some form of the seasonal round. A subsistence resource procurement model of the seasonal round has been described for the Nongatl elsewhere (Keter 1994c).

The riverine oriented resource procurement model was that followed by the Hupa and Whilkut was classified by Kroeber as being within the "Northwest Culture Area." As described earlier, this type of resource procurement strategy was utilized by the Hupa (and the South Fork Hupa) as well as Whilkut. The following seasonal resource strategy is that described for the Hupa but should suffice to provide a general model of river-oriented resource procurement strategy used in this region.

Hupa Subsistence Strategy

Hupa territory occupied the lower portion of the Trinity River from just below its confluence with the Klamath, south to Chimariko territory which began on the Trinity River just to the east of the mouth of the South Fork. The South Fork Hupa occupied the lower portion of the South Fork south to Wintu territory. Hupa village sites were located along the Trinity River on river terraces. While most of the major village sites were located within Hoopa Valley there were a number of villages located to the south along the Trinity. On the South Fork, as noted earlier, the most southerly village was only a couple miles to the north of the mouth of Grouse Creek. The Hupa villages were permanent with substantial houses. The rectangular houses were semi-subterranean and were usually made of Cedar planks (Wallace 1978:166).

The principal subsistence resources utilized by the Hupa were anadromous fish and acorns. There were runs of salmon and steelhead several times each year including in the spring and fall. Acorns were collected in the fall. The Hupa preferred tanoak acorns but other species were also collected. Wallace (1978:165) writes that "although their land was rich in game, the Hupa did not exploit this source of food extensively." Hunters did occasionally hunt deer and elk as well as other small game. The Hupa were known for the beauty and quality of their baskets and the plant materials needed for their fabrication were secured at various locations within their territory including the higher country (for example, beargrass). In general, it appears based on the ethnographic data that the Hupa spent less time in the hills away from their main village sites than those groups located to the south.

Given the two possible subsistence strategies practiced by the ethnographic groups in the

Grouse Creek region, it is likely that the most intensive use of the area would have been in the summer and fall. However, due to the lack of ethnographic data this is by no means certain.

Subsistence Resources available in the Grouse Creek Watershed

Regardless of who inhabited the Grouse Creek watershed there was a significant number of resources available for procurement. Grouse Creek had runs of both salmon and steelhead (GWI#1) and the upper ridges were a major summering area for deer and possibly elk. There were tanoak acorns as well as lesser amounts of Oregon oak and a few black oak acorns, grass seeds and other plant resources. Taken together it is a logical and reasonable assumption that the watershed provided a resource rich habitat for aboriginal groups and was regularly visited at least on a seasonal basis.

Historical Development of the Grouse Creek Watershed

It is not known just when Euro-Americans first entered the Pilot Creek watershed. It is possible that this may have occurred as early as 1828 when the Jedediah Smith Party passed near here. Max Rowley (Rowley Ms.) who has researched the route of the Smith party and read Smith's diary suggests that Smith traveled south from the mouth of the South Fork of the Trinity to Grouse Creek, then near the mouth of Grouse Creek where the river narrows Smith and his men traveled a short distance up Grouse Creek and headed up and over Simms Mountain on an old Indian Trail (the Simms Mountain Trail possibly).

The first development within the watershed occurred in the early 1850s. At this time, the coastal ports of Union (Arcata), Humboldt, Buck's Port and (the soon to be) Eureka were competing for the shipping business which was rapidly expanding to meet the needs of the gold miners in Trinity County. The first inland trail, the Humboldt-Hyampom Trail (see Map 2), connected Humboldt Bay with Hyampom Valley and continued on to Weaverville. It crossed into the Grouse Creek watershed in the northwestern portion of the drainage and crossed the southern slopes of Grouse Mountain. From here, the trail continued east dropping to the future location of Wise Station (see below) and then on to the Hyampom Valley.

During the first decade and a half that the trail was open there were numerous skirmishes with the local Indians. Many of these confrontations are discussed in *Indian Wars of the Northwest* (Bledsoe 1885). The violence escalated and between about 1862 and 1864 the "Two Years War" between the settlers and Indians was being waged throughout interior sections of Humboldt and Trinity Counties). During this period the Board Camp Mountain area and the Pilot Creek and Grouse Creek watersheds were refuge locations where local Indian groups hide out to avoid the soldiers and parties of armed civilians who were searching for Indian encampments. The conflicts when they occurred were nearly always

one-sided with the stoneage weapons and lack of organization among the aboriginal groups no match for the firearms of the settlers and the well supplied army troops

By 1865 the last of the violent conflicts with the interior Indian tribes had ended and this event opened up interior sections of Humboldt County (including Grouse Creek watershed) to development and settlement. The earliest used of the region by the new inland settlers of Humboldt County was for the grazing of cattle. As economic conditions changed during the early 1870s, sheep increasingly replaced cattle on the rangelands of Humboldt County. In the Grouse Creek watershed the best grazing lands were along the ridgelines stretching from Grouse Mountain in the northwest and then south along Kinsey Ridge and Pilot Ridge and along Whiting and Last Chance Ridges that form the southern divide of the watershed. It appears from interview data (GCWI#1, PCWI#1, PCWI#2) and the data collected for the Pilot Ridge Watershed Historical Overview (Keter 1994c) that the Grouse Creek watershed when compared to the Pilot Creek watershed and regions directly to the west did not contain as rich a rangeland environment for cattle grazing.

It is likely that it was for this reason, that the Grouse Creek watershed was not homesteaded nor utilized in any other manner to the extent of the Pilot Creek watershed and areas of the Mad River drainage directly to the west. Throughout the 1870s and 1880s sheep grazing continued to be the primary land-use activity taking place within the Grouse Creek watershed. As the number of homesteads increased to the south and west of the watershed the open range needed to run large bands of sheep was rapidly disappearing. This resulted in a reduction in the numbers of livestock grazing on public lands in the Grouse Creek/Pilot Creek Watersheds after the turn of the century. In addition, economic conditions (ending the tariff on wool), bad weather (the winter of 1889-1890 decimated the bands of sheep in interior sections of Humboldt County), and the increasing loss of sheep to predators (principally coyotes) was resulting in a change back to the running of cattle. In this area, along Pilot Ridge and the area directly to the south, the Korbel Brothers raised cattle for their many employees who worked in their lumber mills at Blue Lake. The loggers, railroad men and other laborers took meals in large cookhouses and consumed prodigious amounts of beef. [For a more complete overview of the economics of livestock production and homesteading under the Forest Service Homestead Act see Keter 1994c].

During this era, a few parcels of land (see Map3, Table 1) were acquired within the Grouse Creek Watershed. One of the earliest parcels to be acquired was by rancher Joe Russ (1886). Some of the early parcels were claimed by ranchers in order to control the springs since control of the water in a region often meant control of the nearby rangelands which were of little use without a nearby water source for livestock. Several other parcels were claimed before the turn of the century. Most of these parcels were acquired under the Timber and Stone Act (meaning that they must contain mature timber--not agricultural lands) and a few under the 1864 Homestead Act. When compared to areas to the west and south there was comparatively little homesteading activity within the Grouse Creek watershed prior to the turn of the century. (For a more in-depth overview of the ranching and homesteading activities within an economic and historical context in regions adjacent to Grouse Creek see Keter 1994b, 1994c.)

1900 to 1950 Homesteading and the U.S. Forest Service

In April of 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt signed legislation creating a number of Forest Reserves including the Trinity Reserve which encompassed the public lands within the Grouse Creek Watershed. As noted in the Pilot Creek Watershed Analysis Report (Keter 1994c), this event signaled a major change in the management of public lands by the federal government and increased the regulation of human land-use activities within the watershed. In addition, steps were taken to establish and maintain a trail system, control wildfire, and to establish communications links between the Forest Service guard stations, lookouts and local homesteads (the Forest Service supplied each homestead with a phone and telephone line---homesteaders supplied the batteries to operate it).

Subsequent to the establishment of the Forest Service a few more homesteads were settled within the watershed and additional parcels were acquired under the Homestead Act. Most of the private lands within the watershed were, however, acquired just prior to establishment of the Forest Service. Most of these parcels (see Map 2 and Table 1) were acquired between 1901 and 1904 under provisions of the Timber and Stone Act (approximately 45 of the 57 private parcels acquired within the watershed).

Perhaps the most important and certainly the best known homestead to be established within the watershed was that of G. Monroe; later the site of Wise Station. A homestead patent was granted to George Monroe in 1903 and was later conveyed to E.J. Wise in 1904. It was at this time that Wise built his cabin that is today known as Wise Station. Wise Station served a dual purpose, that of a stopping place for pack trains on the Humboldt-Hyampom Trail and as a line station for the Mountain Power Company (see site record 05-10-53-1 on file Six Rivers National Forest).

At the turn of the century, the Mountain Power Company constructed power lines from a hydroelectric dam on Canyon Creek in Trinity County to Eureka. The reason the power was needed was that although Eureka had electricity it did not have enough to power street cars. Much of the route follows the current PG&E right-of-way. Wise worked for the power company and maintained the line within the Grouse Creek drainage and west to Snow Camp. In about 1950, the PG&E line cabin was built to the west of Wise cabin. The company replaced the Wise Cabin as a maintenance center for the power lines crossing the watershed. The power for PG&E was generated at Shasta Dam.

Other settlers in the Grouse Creek watershed in the early twentieth century included William Michaelson (Homestead entry 8/01/1906), and men named Dickerson (near the mouth of Grouse Creek), and Greenwood (near Greenwood Creek). There were overall few homesteaders in this watershed due to the lack of good level ground and open prairies on which to settle. One interviewee (GWA1#1) indicated that the reason for lack of homesteads was not only the heavy timber but that many of the south facing slopes are steep and brush and the canyon is very rough terrain.

After 1950: Timber harvesting and Road Building

The first major road in the drainage was constructed in about 1949 (Rowley Ms.) This road was constructed to put in the new high voltage line. Later in the 1950s this road was used as a haul route by the logging companies harvesting timber on private lands within the watershed. It was during the later 1950s and 1960s when the majority of timber on private lands was harvested within the watershed. In the early 1980s a paved road replaced the jeep road along the crest of Kinsey, Pilot, Whiting and Last Chance Ridges. This road was a major haul route and a number of Forest Service timber sales were harvested within the Grouse Creek watershed during this decade.

Trails within the Grouse Creek Watershed (see Map 2)

By the 1940s there were numerous trails within the Grouse Creek watershed. Despite reviewing a number of maps (old USGS maps, county maps, Metkser's County Map, etc.) the names of a number of the trails could not be found. These trails are identified on Map 2 as "unnamed trails."

[For a more in-depth overview of historic trails see Keter 2011; *Historic Trails of the Pilot Ridge Country* at solararch.org]

Humboldt Hyampom Trail

As noted earlier this is the oldest trail in the watershed. Portions of this trail still exist. Parts of the trail, however, have been lost to road construction.

Deadman Ridge Trail

This trail connects Last Chance Ridge with lower portions of the Grouse Creek watershed. While no date of construction could be found it appears this trail predates the Forest Service.

Pilot Ridge Trail

Along the crest of Pilot Ridge. This trail dates back to the 1850s.

Simms Mountain Trail

Connects from Simms Mountain south and downslope to Grouse Creek near Wise Station.

Heritage Resources Management

The following section summarizes the current status of heritage resources management activities within the Grouse Creek watershed. This information includes:

- * The number and kinds of prehistoric sites that have been recorded within the watershed.
- * Where, in general terms, archaeological reconnaissance surveys have been undertaken.
- * A listing of all properties or districts determined eligible or listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- * Current research needs as related to the prehistoric record and heritage resources management.

Compared to other nearby watersheds (for example Pilot Creek), the Grouse Creek watershed has received only a minor amount of archaeological survey work. For this reason the number of sites recorded within the watershed is minimal. The principal work accomplished was along Kinsey, Pilot, Whiting, and Last Chance Ridges in conjunction with the construction of Forest Highway 1. In 1980, Glenn Gmoser directed an archaeological field crew that surveyed the above named ridges and identified dozens of sites. These sites were for the most part task-specific seasonal camp locations (such as hunting camps, or butchering sites). Several (such as CA-HUM-546) were more complex and may have been multi-functional sites inferring seasonal family encampments.

The Pilot Ridge Archaeological and Historical District containing all of these ridgetop sites has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (Gmoser and Keter 1983). (See Keter 1994c for a more comprehensive overview the kinds of sites and specific numbers.)

Archaeological Survey

Archaeological reconnaissance of the Grouse Creek watershed is limited below the major ridgelines. The watershed's private lands have not been surveyed at all except in the right-of-way areas related to the construction of Forest Highway 1. On Forest Service lands only a relatively small percentage of the watershed has been surveyed.

At this time approximately ten project related inventories have been undertaken covering about 1,600 acres.

Archaeological Sites Recorded within the Grouse Creek Watershed

In addition to the prehistoric and historical sites recorded for the Pilot Ridge survey few sites have been recorded within the watershed. A cursory search of archaeological site records indicates that only three prehistoric and one historic site have been recorded within the watershed. Interview data (GCWI#1) and input from Forest Service employees working within the watershed indicate that some sites do exist along the course of Grouse Creek.

Heritage Resources Management and Archaeological needs

Due to the lack of even baseline data for the Grouse Creek watershed and recognizing its importance as a transitional region between the Northwestern Culture Area and the California Culture Area, the primary need to improve our understanding of the prehistory of this area is to undertake a more comprehensive inventory of the watershed. Once this is complete some inferences can then be made regarding the relationship between the high altitude sites along the ridgelines and the (potential) sites recorded along Grouse Creek and the lower slopes of the watershed.

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Maps

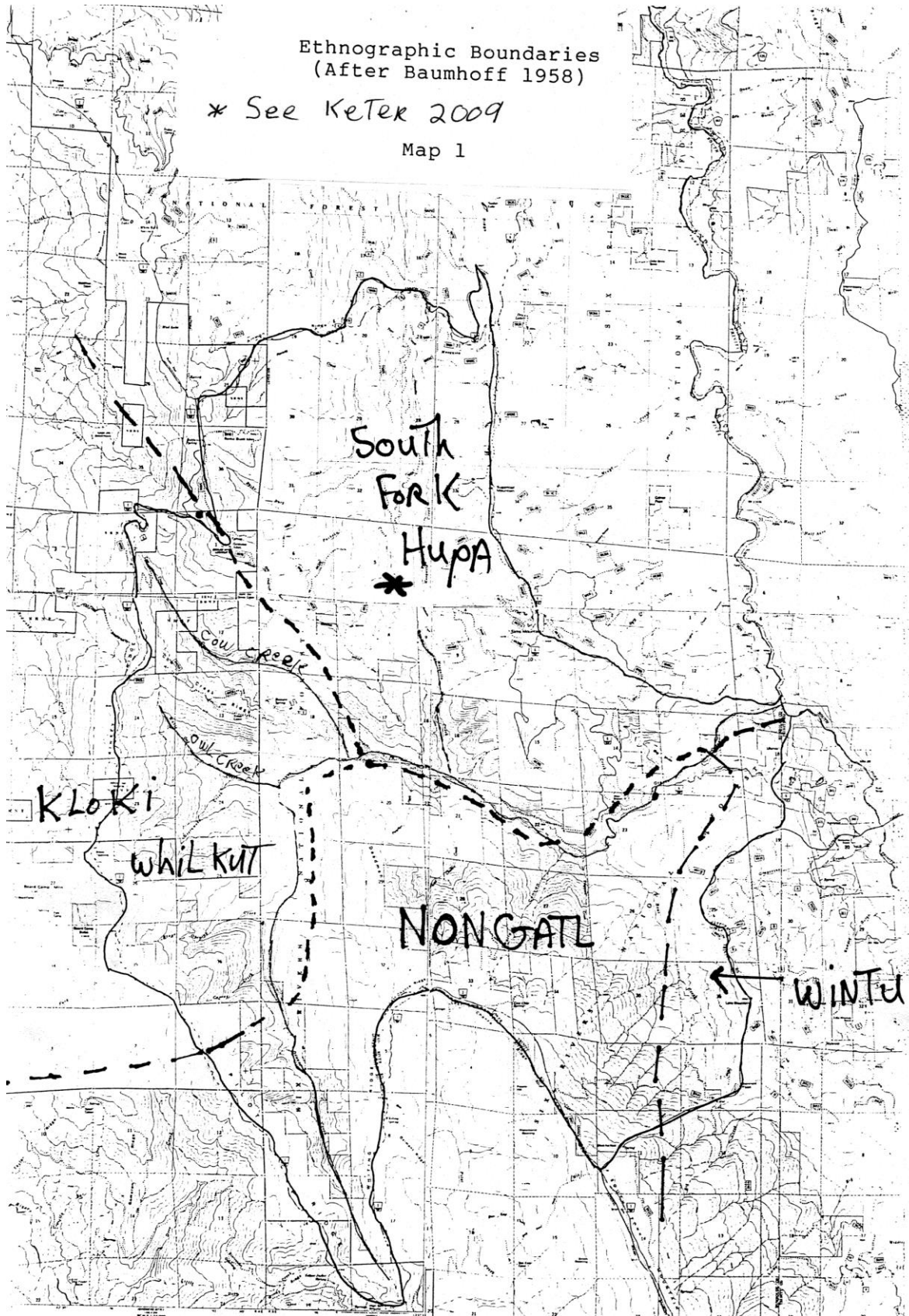
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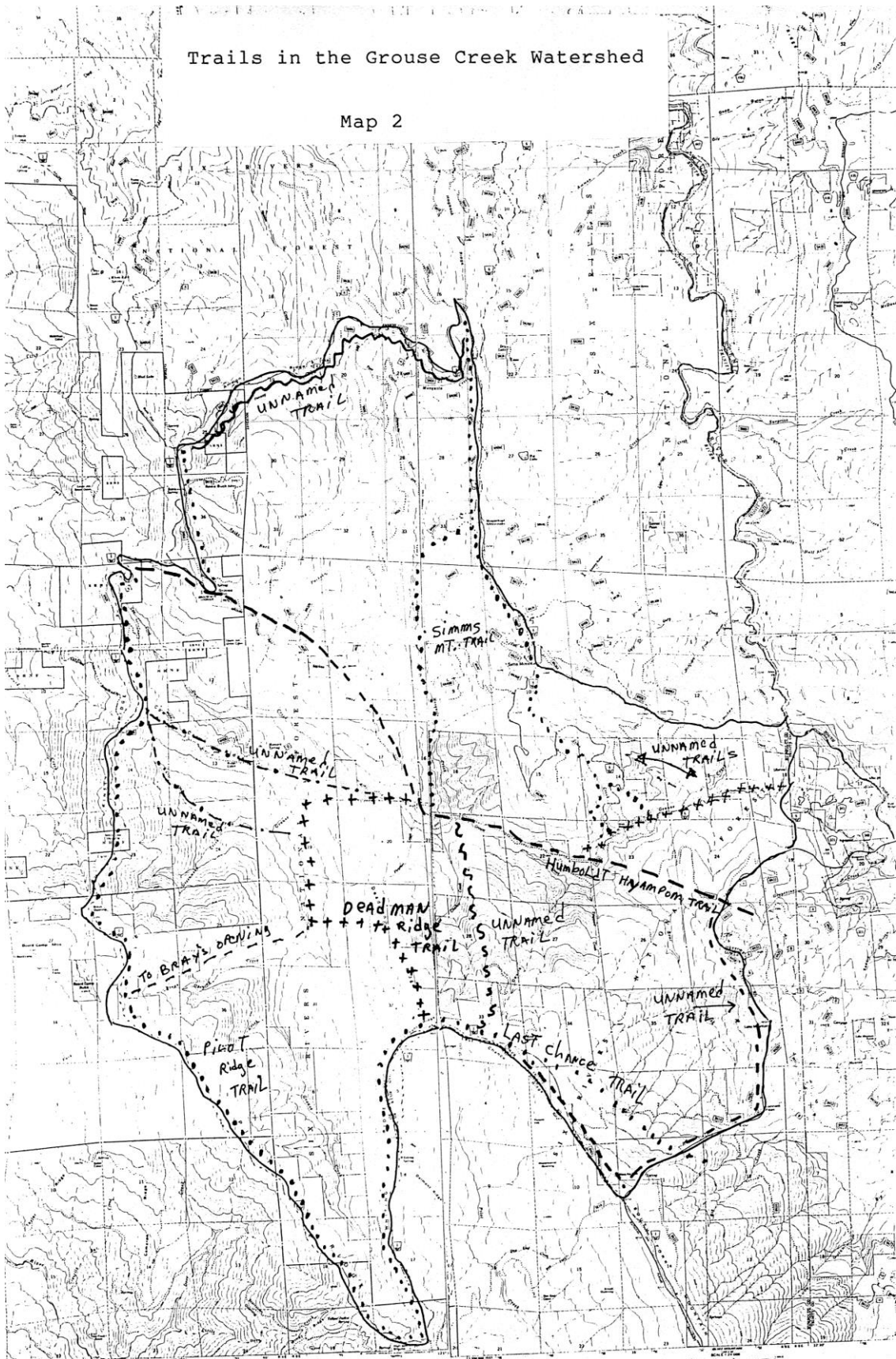
History of the Pilot Ridge area. On File Heritage Resources, Six Rivers National Forest, Eureka.

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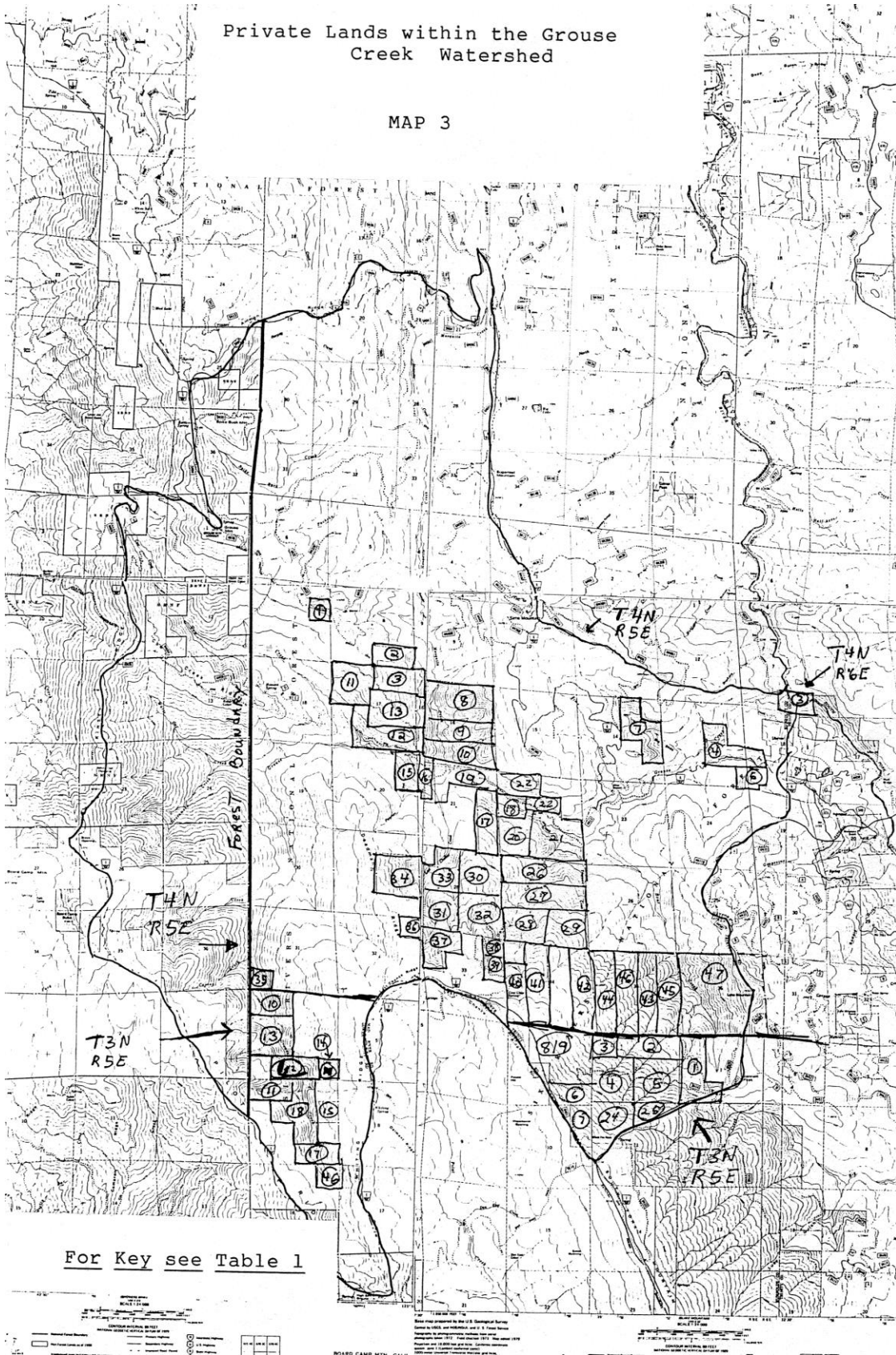
Trails in the Grouse Creek Watershed

Map 2



Private Lands within the Grouse
Creek Watershed

MAP 3



For Key see Table 1

Table 1

Lands acquired in the Grouse Creek Watershed under the Homestead Act, Timber and Stone Act, and Cash Entry.
 (Source: Land Status Atlas, on file Six Rivers National Forest)

T4N, R5E

| Parcel | Name | entry | Date | Acreage | Remarks |
|--------|------------------------------|-------|----------|-------------|----------|
| 1 | Joseph Russ | S.P | 2/27/86 | 40 | |
| 2 | Ernest H. Chambers | H.P | 3/12/04 | 80 | |
| 3 | " " " | H.P. | 7/23/02 | 80 | |
| 4 | William D. Miller | H.P. | 8/05/86 | 120 | |
| 5 | William Michaelson | H.P | 8/01/19 | 20 | |
| 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | George Monroe | H.P. | 7/07/96 | 160 | |
| 8 | Austin W. Bohall | S.P. | 2/24/03 | 320 | |
| 9 | Thomas D. Petch | S.P. | 3/04/03 | 160 | |
| 10 | " " | S.P | 7/13/03 | 160 | |
| 11 | Melissa Doyle | Cash | 2/08/86 | 160 | |
| 12 | James A Doyle | Cash | 2/08/86 | 160 | |
| 13 | Issac T. Chambers | H.P. | 7/27/98 | 160 | |
| 14 | Oak Park Released admin site | | | | |
| 15/16 | Walter F. Doyden | T.P. | 12/12/03 | 160 | |
| 17/18 | Thomas H. Young | T.P. | 1/13/03 | 120 | |
| 19 | Della W. Loveland | T.P. | 12/01/93 | 160 | |
| 20 | Nellie C. Libby | T.P. | 10.20/02 | 160 | |
| 21 | Phillias Petch | T.P. | 10/24/02 | | |
| 22 | Milo Bohall | T.P. | 4/24/03 | 160 | |
| 23 | | | | | |
| 24 | Jeno P. Lind | T.P. | 2/23/03 | 160 | |
| 25 | Frands W. Anderson | T.P. | 12/23/03 | 160 | |
| 26 | Laura B. Kildale | T.P. | 10/23/02 | 160 | |
| 27 | Alfred W. Kildale | T.P. | 4/23/02 | 160 | |
| 28 | Herbert A. Tyrell | T.P. | 10/28/03 | 160 | |
| 29 | Ransel S. Tyrell | T.P. | 10/28/03 | 160 | |
| 30 | Robert Copland | T.P. | 11/03/02 | 160 | |
| 31 | August Brand | T.P. | 11/23/02 | 160 | |
| 32 | Mary L. Coffin | T.P. | 11/03/02 | 120 | |
| 33 | Lina H. Hirsh | T.P. | 12/08/03 | 160 | |
| 34 | Anna R. Panger | T.P. | 12/03/03 | 160 | |
| 35 | Lillian A. Lyons | T.P. | 1/11/04 | 40 | |
| 36/37 | Emma McPherson | T.P. | 5/25/04 | 40 | |
| 38 | Mary L. Coffin | T.P. | 2/03/03 | 40 | |
| 39/40 | Murdock A McLeod | T.P. | 10/21/03 | 160 | 40 & 120 |
| 41 | Chester I. Young | T.P. | 7/14/03 | 160 | |
| 42 | Sidney . Cuthbertson | T.P. | 10/26/03 | 160 | |
| 43 | Lillian B. Lever | T.P. | 12/31/03 | 160 | |
| 44 | Lizzie B. Smith | T.P. | 12/31/03 | 160 | |
| 45 | Fannie B. Lincoln | T.P. | 12/31/03 | 160 | |
| 46 | Eurania B. Smith | T.P. | 12/31/03 | 160 | |
| 47 | D.E. Cooper | S.P. | 11/27/03 | <u>640</u> | |
| | | | | total 5,740 | |

3N, 5E [NEXT PAGE]

Table 1 (continued)

3N5E

| | | | | |
|-------|--------------------|------|----------|-----------|
| 1 | Charles Marsh | H.P. | 10/21/03 | 160 |
| 2 | Elizabeth M. Marsh | Cash | 10/21/03 | 160 |
| 3 | Chloe L. Campbell | Cash | 11/23/03 | 40 |
| 4 | Jennie Merryman | Cash | 10/22/03 | 120 |
| 5 | Mabel Mitchel | Cash | 3/02/04 | 160 |
| 6 | Oliver c. Mulvaney | Cash | 10/22/03 | 82 |
| 7 | " " | Cash | " " | 83 |
| 8 | Chloe L. Campbell | Cash | 11/23/03 | 131 |
| 9 | Margret Hower | Cash | 11/23/03 | 163 |
| 10 | Lillian A Lyons | T.P. | 1/11/04 | 81 |
| 11/12 | Harvey A. Trask | T.P. | 1/11/04 | 160 |
| 13 | Mary E. Perry | T.P. | 1/11/04 | 162 |
| 14/15 | Joseph H. Parker | S.P. | 2/27/05 | 80 |
| 17 | Nathan E. Yocum | Cash | 1/04/04 | 80 |
| 24 | Lelah Worthington | T.P. | 10/21/03 | 160 |
| 25 | Nellie E. Gannett | T.P. | 12/05/05 | 120 |
| 46 | Nathan E. Yokum | Cash | | <u>80</u> |
| | | | total | 2,022 |

4N, 6E

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|------|---------|-----------|------------|
| 3 | Thomas D. Petch | T.P. | 1/22/04 | <u>40</u> | (80 total) |
| | | | total | 40 | |

* Total acres acquired in all townships----7,802

[The following interview is on file at Six Rivers National Forest. For that reason I have left it unedited. The interview was scanned from the original document.]

Grouse Creek Watershed interview #1

Date of Interview: June 7, 1994

Interviewee A: Mman in his 60s
(Former Forest Service employee and local historian)

Interviewed by: Thomas S. Keter USFS

Reason for interview: To gather historic information on the Grouse Creek Watershed.

The meeting was held outside on the deck at Cinnabar Sams in Willow Creek. A began by giving some background information on the ethnographic groups living in the Grouse Creek area. From his studies (he is a long time researcher of local history) he concluded that perhaps several Indian groups may have occupied various portions of the Grouse Creek drainage. He noted that Kroeber in his *Handbook* (1925:141) indicated that the head of the drainage was within Whilkut territory but that it is likely that portions of the area may have been claimed by or used by the Wintun and Chilula and possibly even the Chimariko. He was not sure about use of the area by the Hupa or South Fork Hupa and thought that they may not have been in the area but indicated it was possible. He also indicated that if the extreme lower portion of the creek was used by the Wintu that there was a natural divide from the upper portion of the basin as a rugged canyon exists from just upstream from the mouth for a considerable distance before the stream channel widens out.

A indicated that he had seen several prehistoric sites prior to the 1955 and 1964 floods along Grouse Creek. For example, there was a large site at the mouth of Cow Creek with midden soils and many artifacts including mortars and pestles and other groundstone artifacts (including apparently slab metates). There was also a site at the mouth of Misquito Creek. He noted that the cabin at Wise Station also had artifacts (groundstone) around the porch and that there may have been a site at this location also. From Wise Station to the mouth of Grouse Creek it was steep rough country and the possible locations for sites was limited.

He indicated that the first white men to visit the area were members of the Jedediah Smith party in early May of 1828. He has studied the diaries of Smith and the descriptions of his route through the area indicate that he traveled downstream on the South

Fork of the Trinity to about Grouse Creek--where below this spot the river canyon narrows and is impassible--the party then headed up Grouse Creek a short distance and swung up over Sims Mountain [perhaps on an old Indian trail which predated the historic trail at this location] where they passed the location of the Ammon Ranch and eventually dropped down to the mouth of the South Fork of the Trinity.

The next appearance of whites in this area was related to the gold rush. In about 1850 (or 1851), the first trail from the Humboldt Bay region to the Trinity mines passed into the Grouse Creek Watershed around the southern slope of Grouse Mountain dropping down a long ridge (see Map 1) to Grouse Creek and eventually to Hyampom and then on to the Trinity mines. This trail was named the Humboldt/Hyampom Trail. (There is an old marker, a cedar post sharpened at one end, for this trail probably over 100 years old. it was collected by A off the trail within the Grouse Creek Watershed and is now on display in front of the Lower Trinity Ranger Station.)

There were a number of skirmishes within the Grouse Creek Watershed between the miners and the Indians during the 1850s and early 1860s. These were mostly along the trail or at campsites (see for example the story on Buhner SP???). (Bledsoe in *Indian Wars of Northwest California* see pages 125, 126, 127 only pages Grouse Creek area is mentioned.)

During the time that packers passed through the GCW (Grouse Creek Watershed) there were numerous camp sites. A noted that almost any spot with a spring was probably a camping location two camps that he remembers were Robinson Camp and Maple Camp.

Wise Station and Electric Power

In about 1907 or 1908 Jessie Wise settled at what is now called Wise Station. This was the location of a "line cabin". The reason it was established at this time was because of the desire in Eureka to have street cars. While the town already had electricity they did not have enough to power street cars. For that reason, power was supplied by the Mountain Power Company. The hydro-electric dam was in Canyon Creek near Junction City and the line ran west to Grouse Creek up the creek (roughly the same route as today's PG&E line) and over to Snow Camp and on to Eureka. This line was constructed in a similar fashion to the phone lines--that is--insulators were, where possible, attached to trees. A remembers that it was said the line broke often in winter snows and was so low in places that a cowboy would have to bend over to get past the line. The Mountain Power Company supplied power until about 1950 when PG&E took over. There was another line cabin just to the east in Eltapom Creek (check???) and the next one to the west was located at Snow Camp (PG&E still maintains a building at this location).

When PG&E came in about 1950 they built a new line on the approximate route of the original. The power for this line came from Shasta Dam. This was a major construction project with a cleared right-of-way and large transmission lines. They also moved the maintenance cabin to a new location known as Ridge Cabin--this station still maintains the line and has a snow cat for winter travel.

Homesteading and Ranching

The grazing history and homestead history of the area is identical to that of the Pilot Creek Watershed. However the region was more heavily timbered in some areas (for example the headwaters area of Grouse Creek above Oak Creek) and in some southern oriented slope areas brushy and steep. For that reason, there were somewhat less homesteaders in this area. The main region for grazing was along the upper reaches of the watershed and not so much in the rugged sections of the lower drainage. Ranchers who used this area included those from Hyampom to the east and the Russ Comapny and others with ranches to the west.

A indicated that he did not have many of the names of the early homesteaders in the area but that one of them Michelson was a bachlor and that Greenwood may have had a hunting lodge in the area. Wise settled on what probably had previously been the Sims Place and Sims moved to Montana.

Logging

Starting in the early 1950s just after completion of the power line there was a major logging boom in the area. A indicated that the numerous private parcels were "butchered, slaughtered, destroyed" by extremelly intensive, abusive, and destructive logging practices from about Owl Creek to the headwaters of Grouse Creek. Much of this logging took place in the late 1970s or early 1980s by the Eastern Logging Company for the largest private landholder in the area--Champion International. From the perspective of an ex-Forest Service employee knowledgeable about logging practices, A indicated that the logging practices were very poor and destructive.

Prior to logging and the 1955 and 1964 floods Grouse Creek was and excellent salmon stream. At one time it was also full of trout--so many in fact you could catch as many as you wanted or needed.

Trails

There were numerous trails in the area in addition to the original Humboldt/Hyampom Trail (which A noted is overlain by a steep jeep

trail which still follows much of the original route of the trail). One of the trails dropped down into the watershed from Last Chance Ridge along Deadman Ridge. He also mentioned that the Hardscrabble Trail shown on the historic maps heading north from Grouse Mountain (and just to the north of the watershed) was a very old trail and that parts of it were still there in the 1970s. There was also a trail from around Sugarloaf south past Sims Mountain that dropped down to Wise Station and that Stravation Camp was located up near Sims Mountain probably along or near this trail.