

**W**ant to retrace the frontier history of the West? Southern Oregon and Northern California are crossed by historic routes emigrants followed on their way west. Rediscover these highways of history.

**I**magine the difficulty of the wagon trek across the unforgiving terrain of the high desert, and over the treacherous peaks of the Cascades and Siskiyou Mountains. Raiding parties and highwaymen added to the natural obstacles.

**F**rom crude wagon trails of yesterday to the swift and scenic highways of today, visitors can get a glimpse of how it appeared to the first Anglo explorers and settlers.

**T**ravel through the region is much easier now than it was for the 50,000 emigrants of the last century. And while the hardships are long gone, the natural beauty and splendor of the region remain.

**H**istoric trails parallel some of the region's modern highways, from US 395 to Hwy. 299, Oregon 66 to Interstate 5. It's easy and fun to follow the steps of the pioneers.

**T**read **Lightly** and respect the historic nature of these sites. Remember that removal of artifacts is forbidden. Also, keep in mind that some sections of these historic trails are on private property. Landowner permission is required before crossing their land.

**Tread Lightly** is like the "Leave No Trace" ethic of the hiker. It means that you provide the next user the same experience that you enjoyed by staying on the trail, picking up litter, practicing trail courtesy and respecting public as well as private property. It's a small but thoughtful price to pay for the well being of our outdoor environment!

## Bonus Points

**I**nterested in seeing what the land looked like when the first pioneers arrived? Like to take in the same view as some of the West's most famous mountain men? Follow in the footsteps of the legendary Kit Carson and the rest.

- Consider biking or hiking the length of the many historic trails in the area. The Bureau of Land Management and other agencies can give you more details, and a number of published guides have excellent maps of the old emigrant routes. **Information: Bureau of Land Management, Alturas Resource Area, 530-233-4666.**
- Enjoy breathtaking views of the Warner Mountains, Goose Lake, and Devil's Garden as you retrace the path of the Lassen and Applegate trails along present-day Hwy. 395. A number of stops mark the route. Be sure to see the marker at Chimney Rock where enterprising pioneers netted fifty-five fine trout from the Pit River with a wagon cover. **Information: Bureau of Land Management, Alturas, Resource Area, 530-233-4666.**

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*We would like to thank Bureau of Land Management,  
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### **Suggestions or New Ideas:**

*Please contact Klamath County Dept. of Tourism  
1-800-445-6728*

VISIT THE SOUTHERN OREGON VISITOR ASSOCIATION  
HOME PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
THE REGION AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

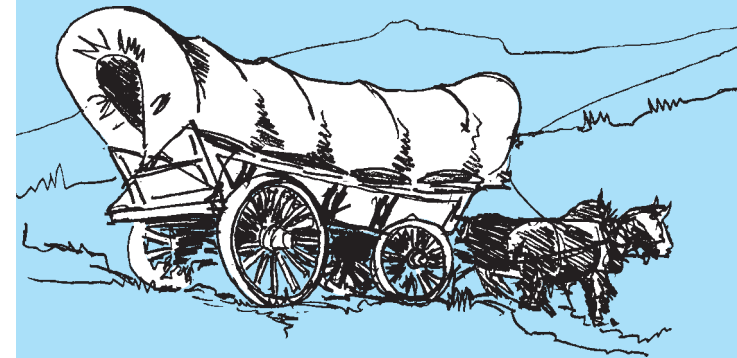
[www.sova.org/klm/](http://www.sova.org/klm/)

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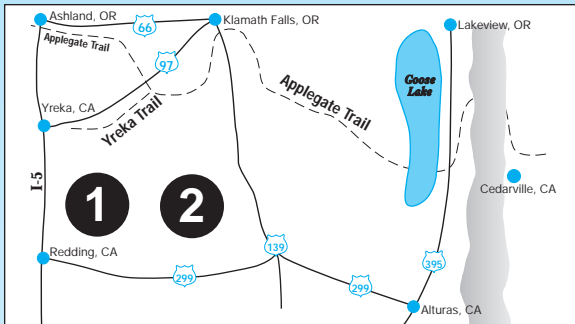
# HISTORIC TRAILS



Klamath,  
Lake,  
&  
Modoc  
Country

Southern Oregon & Northern California

# Historic Trails



## Applegate Emigrant Trail

Between Surprise Valley, CA and Ashland, OR

Also known as the South Road, this National Historic Trail was laid out by the Scott-Applegate party in 1846 and served as a popular southern route of the Oregon Trail. From the Trail's beginning near Nevada's Humboldt River, emigrants followed the Applegate on their way to Grants Pass and the Willamette Valley.

Contemporary accounts of the trek describe the hardships of the terrain and encounters at such places as Bloody Point, Surprise Valley, and Fandango Pass.

Oregon Hwy. 66 follows one section of the Applegate over the Cascades between Klamath Falls, OR and the Ashland area. Numerous sites in both states are marked and portions of the trail are accessible from highways or roads. There is an Applegate Emigrant Trail Monument off Hwy. 97 at the California/Oregon border.

Stop at the Klamath County Museum before setting out on your trek, for more information.

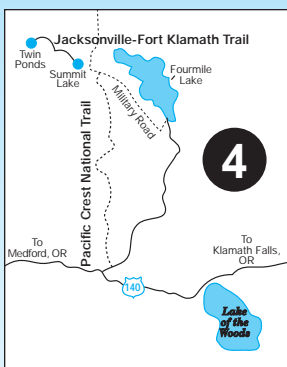
**Information:** Klamath County Museum, Klamath Falls, 1-800-445-6728, or Bureau of Land Management, Alturas Resource Area, 530-233-4666 or, Modoc National Forest, 530-233-5811.

## Yreka Trail

Hwy. 97 S of Klamath Falls, OR, to Grass Lake.

As a branch of the Applegate Trail, this trail opened the Northern California border region to gold-seekers after the discovery of the precious metal near Yreka in 1851. The 73-miles of wagon road wound through rugged Siskiyou County from its start near Lower Klamath Lake, and crossed present day Hwy. 97 near Grass Lake.

**Information:** Gooseneck Ranger District, 530-398-4391.

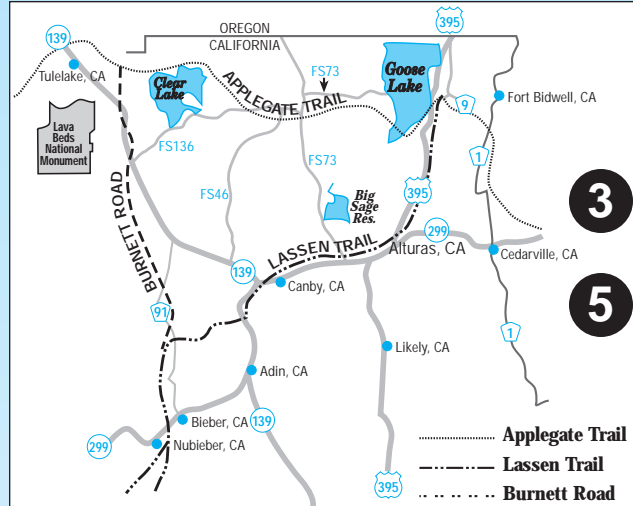


## Jacksonville-Fort Klamath Military Road

35 mi. W of Klamath Falls, OR, on Hwy. 140, N 6 mi. on Forest Service Rd. 3650 to Fourmile Lake Campground.

A section of this old road between Twin Ponds and Summit Lake, once supplied the frontier military camp at Fort Klamath from 1863 to 1899, now serves as a popular recreation trail, intersecting with the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and providing easy access to the Sky Lakes Wilderness. Camping is also available at nearby Fish Lake and Lake of the Woods Campgrounds.

**Information:** Klamath Ranger District, 541-885-3400.



## Lassen Emigrant Trail

U.S. 395 between Davis Creek and Bieber, CA.

Peter Lassen, leading a group of 12 wagons, pioneered this trail in 1848 from the Applegate Trail at Goose Lake. This monument marks a route popular with 49ers on their way to the gold fields of the Sacramento Valley. There are a number of marked sites along Highway 395/299 where you'll find more information and be able to retrace the Lassen Party's descent into Goose Lake and California. The views are spectacular.

**Information:** Bureau of Land Management, Alturas Resource Area, 530-233-4666.

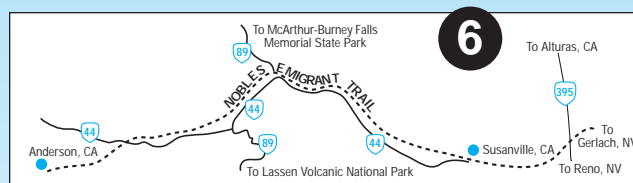
## The Burnett Road

Leaves the Lassen Emigrant Trail N of Beiber, CA on Hwy. 91, continues N intersecting Hwy. 139 W of Clear Lake, then connects with the Applegate Trail E of Tulelake, CA.

When word of a gold strike in California reached the Oregon settlements, a party of 150 gold seeking Oregonians with 46 wagons, commanded by Peter Burnett, left the Applegate Trail near the northeastern corner of Rhett (Tule) Lake and struck off southward.

Burnett (who would become the first governor of the State of California), reached the Pit River in Big Valley, spotted wagon tracks and decided to follow them. Burnett's party caught up with the struggling Lassen party about 40 miles above the Sacramento Valley. Burnett joined with Lassen, and continued to mark the route of what is known as the California-Oregon Road. The route was "cleared by a brigade of eighty axe-swingers." By luck or design, the trail ended on a ridge that made its way down to Lassen's Rancho, marking the end of the Lassen Emigrant Trail.

**Information:** Modoc National Forest, 530-233-5811.



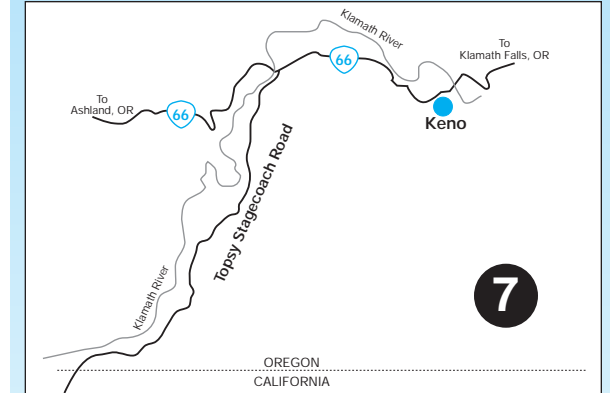
## Noble's Emigrant Trail

Follows Hwy. 44 from Susanville, CA to Anderson, CA.

Noble founded this trail in 1851 when he was prospecting in the area with eight other men. This trail was a cutoff of the Humboldt Trail in Nevada. It crossed the Black Rock Desert and the Northern Sierras into what is now known as Susanville, CA. The trail follows what is now Hwy. 44 all the way to Anderson, CA.

This Emigrant Trail prospered in the mid 1850's since it was a shorter and more direct route to the Sacramento Valley, than the earlier established Lassen Emigrant Trail. Noble's Emigrant Trail became a main thoroughfare of settlers traveling over the Northern Sierras and established Susanville as a major town in the region. Visitors can take a step back in time and follow Noble's Emigrant Trail since present day roads approximately parallel the trail.

**Information:** Bureau of Land Management, Eagle Lake Resource Area, Susanville, CA, 530-257-0456.

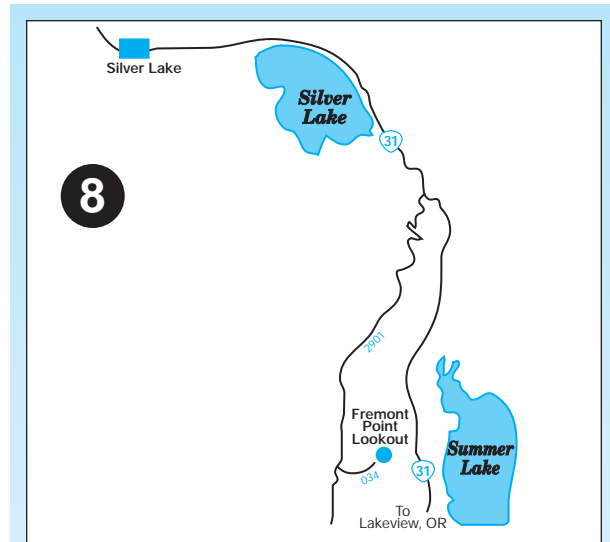


## Topsy Stagecoach Road

18 mi. W of Klamath Falls, OR, follow the signs to Topsy Campground from Hwy. 66.

Explore the past and enjoy the beauty of the Klamath River Canyon on an old stagecoach route from Yreka, CA, to Klamath Falls, OR. Its condition has not changed much since it was constructed more than 100 years ago. **This is a great four-wheel drive or mountain bike adventure.**

**Information:** BLM, Klamath Falls Resource Area, 541-883-6916.



## Fremont Point Cabin

From Silver Lake, OR, S on Hwy 31 for 18 mi., and right on Forest Service Rd. 2901. Proceed 18 mi. to Road 034 left, and 2 mi. to parking area.

Pathfinder John C. Fremont played an important role in the earliest exploration of the West. Many landmarks in Klamath, Lake, and Modoc Country still bear the names given by this adventurer. A rental cabin on Winter Rim on the Silver Lake Ranger District commemorates the overlook where Fremont's party viewed Summer Lake some 3,000 feet below.

**Information:** Silver Lake Ranger District, 541-576-2107.