

The Butte Falls Mill Site  
Development Feasibility Study

**R E P O R T**

prepared for  
Town of Butte Falls  
and  
Rogue Valley Council of Governments

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## Table of Contents

Acknowledgements .....	1
1 Introduction.....	3
2 History of the Butte Falls Sawmill .....	5
2.1 1827-1899 "A Gloriously Dense and Majestic Forest." .....	5
2.2 1900-1918 "A Fine Mill Privilege" .....	6
2.3 1919-1925 "Together With the Sawmill Upon Said Premises" .....	12
3 Characterizing the Mill Site .....	15
3.1 The Archaeological Survey.....	15
3.2 Interpreting the Mill Site.....	18
4 Evaluation Process .....	21
4.1 Evaluation Criteria.....	21
4.2 The Evaluation Process .....	22
5 Development Proposals .....	25
5.1 General Considerations.....	25
5.2 The Park Option .....	29
5.3 Historic Interpretation Option .....	31
5.4 Environmental Education Option .....	35
5.5 Extensive Recreation Option .....	38
5.6 Hydroelectric Generation .....	39
6 Conclusions .....	41
Notes .....	43

## Figures

Figure 1:	Regional Overview:	following page 3
Figure 2:	Butte Falls Mill Site:	following page 17
Figure 3:	Archaeological Features:	following page 19
Figure 4:	Proposed Development Features:	following page 29

## Tables

Table 1:	Potential Option Linkages:	page 41
Table 2:	Cost Estimates by Option:	following page 47
Table 3:	Sources of Funding:	following page 47
Table 4:	Sources of Information:	following page 47

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Butte Falls Lumber Company sawmill, which ceased operations in 1919, was located adjacent to the falls on the South Fork of Big Butte Creek. This land is owned by the Superior Lumber Company of Glendale, Oregon. The Town of Butte Falls is interested in acquiring the historic mill site. To explore the potential uses of the parcel, the Rogue Valley Council of Governments contracted with Cultural Solutions of Ashland, Oregon to facilitate and prepare a feasibility study of development options under the direction of a committee of Butte Falls residents. The study had three components: (1) a history of the mill; (2) an archaeological survey of the mill site; and (3) an assessment of the feasibility of various development options for the site, prepared in close consultation with a town steering committee.

This report first recounts the historic development of the mill on Big Butte Creek (Section 2) and describes what remains of the mill structure today (Section 3). Section 4 outlines the criteria that the project's steering committee used to evaluate potential development ideas. Section 5 assesses five possible options for the mill site parcel: development as a park, as a site for historic interpretation, as a site for environmental education, as part of a regional system for extensive recreation, and as an area for hydroelectric development. For each option the report describes essential tasks, issues of siting and design, appropriate phasing, estimated costs, opportunities and constraints, and comparable projects. Finally, Section 6 reviews these options against the criteria identified by the steering committee.

Redevelopment of the mill site as a park, a site for historic interpretation, and a site for environmental education are all feasible options. Furthermore, the three approaches are compatible and potentially mutually reinforcing. The mill site could also serve as one element in a regional network of recreational sites. The option of developing a hydroelectric generating plant at the falls is not advisable, both because of the project's impact on scenic values, and because of regulatory obstacles.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study has been a thoroughly collaborative effort. Chief thanks go to the members of the town's Falls Park Committee: Charleen Brown, Alan Buchta, Joyce Hailicka, Richard Harrington, Tom Hayes, and Janice Schultz. They spent long hours in discussing the history of the mill / falls site and appropriate directions for its redevelopment. They have shaped this study in both style and substance.

We would particularly like to acknowledge the courtesy of Ron Winehold and B. J. Rogers of the Superior Lumber Company, which owns the Butte Falls mill site, in allowing access for the archaeological study.

Kathy Helmer of the Rogue Valley Council of Governments' Community Planning and Development Department had overall charge of this study, as well as specific responsibility for the critical area of community involvement. She has been supportive, enthusiastic, and effective in moving this project forward. It has been a pleasure to work with her and the Council of Governments.

Alan Buchta of the Bureau of Land Management's Butte Falls resource area also provided invaluable help on the history and technology of the Butte Falls lumber mill, as well as applying a critical eye to successive drafts of the study. Mr. Buchta and his colleague Dave Orban strengthened the project significantly by using the Bureau of Land Management's GIS technology to create the project vicinity map (Figure 1) and the base map for the other maps in this report.

Steve Nelson of the Jackson County Assessor's Office gave the committee very useful information regarding zoning and property tax issues.

We would also like to express appreciation to the following individuals, who patiently answered numerous questions in our research for the feasibility portion of the study: Frank Bird (National Marine Fisheries Service); Scott Clay (Jackson County Planning Department); Alex Liston Dykema (Southern Oregon Land Conservancy); Michelle Ferry (WolfTree, Inc.); Bill Fleeger (RealCorps); Chuck Fustish (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife); Paul Galloway (Rogue River National Forest); Phil Garr (Jacksonville Woodlands Association); Steve Gies (Ashland City Parks Superintendent); Mark Grenbremer (Oregon Water Resources Department); Ashley Henry (Oregon Trout); Dave Hill (Southern Oregon Timbers Industries Association); Paul Korbulic (Jackson County Parks); Pete Lovrovich (Ashland Electric Department); Julie Osborne (Oregon State Historic Preservation Office); Bob Ratcliff (Bureau of Land Management); Mike Savage (Jackson County Planning Department); James Simpson (Oregon Water Resources Department); Martin Thompson (Boston Mill Society); and Dennis Wiley (Champoeg State Heritage Area).





# 1 INTRODUCTION

The Town of Butte Falls is considering the acquisition of a parcel of land adjacent to the falls on the South Fork of Big Butte Creek (see Figure 1). To explore the potential uses of the parcel, the Rogue Valley Council of Governments contracted with Cultural Solutions of Ashland, Oregon to facilitate and prepare a feasibility study of development options under the direction of a committee of Butte Falls residents.

This report first recounts the historic development of the mill on Big Butte Creek (Section 2) and describes what remains of the mill structure today (Section 3). Section 4 outlines the criteria that the project's steering committee used to evaluate potential development ideas. Section 5 assesses five possible options for the mill site parcel: development as a park, as a site for historic interpretation, as a site for environmental education, as part of a regional system for extensive recreation, and as an area for hydroelectric development. For each option the report describes essential tasks, issues of siting and design, appropriate phasing, estimated costs, opportunities and constraints, and comparable projects. Finally, Section 6 reviews these options against the criteria identified by the steering committee.

The mill site is located on the southwestern edge of the creek, just north of the Town of Butte Falls (see Figure 2). Big Butte Creek drops approximately 20 feet over exposed basalt bedrock to form the falls. The site of the sawmill is adjacent to the falls on a relatively flat stream-side terrace. The terrace, like the falls, is of basalt with a thin cover of silty soil. At the downstream end of the mill parcel there is a lower terrace at stream level, the site of a low concrete dam that serves as the takeout point for the Eagle Point Irrigation District canal. The upper terrace in the vicinity of the falls has been logged several times in the past century, and a number of two-track roads cross the terrace.





The vegetation on the parcel consists primarily of a second- or third-growth overstory of Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine, with a few Pacific madrone and small oaks; blackberries cover the ground surface. The area has been used as an informal recreation area, and modern debris is ubiquitous.

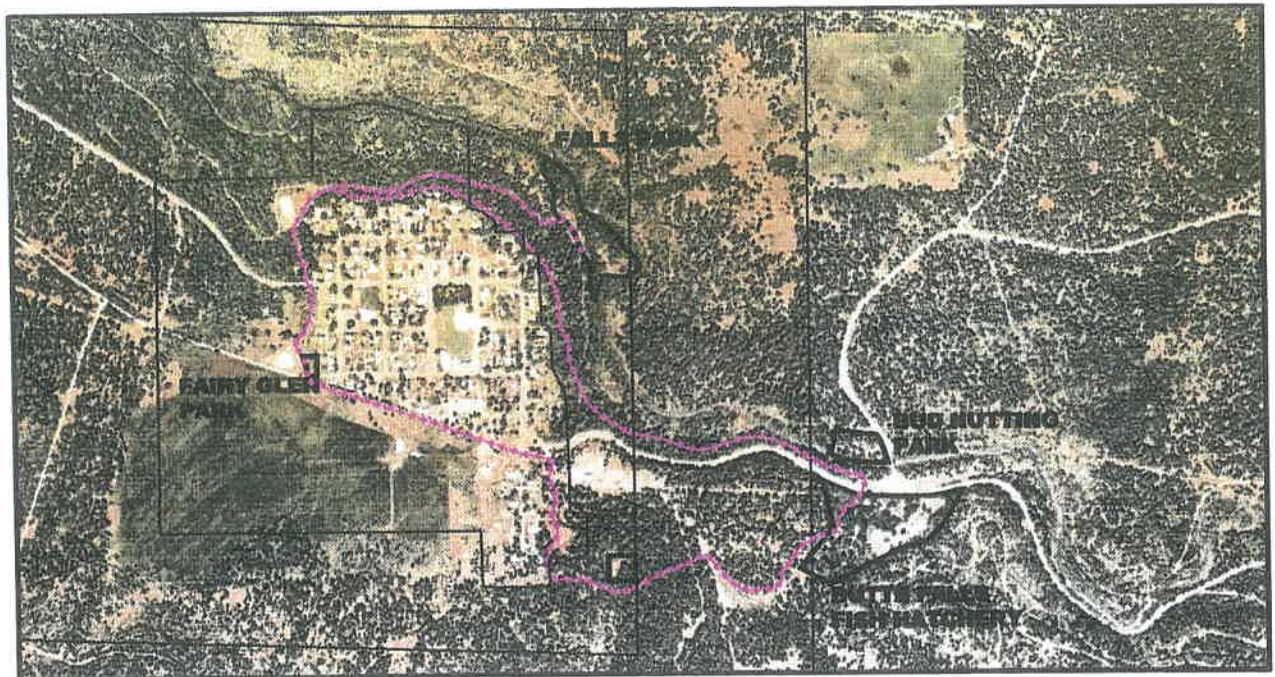
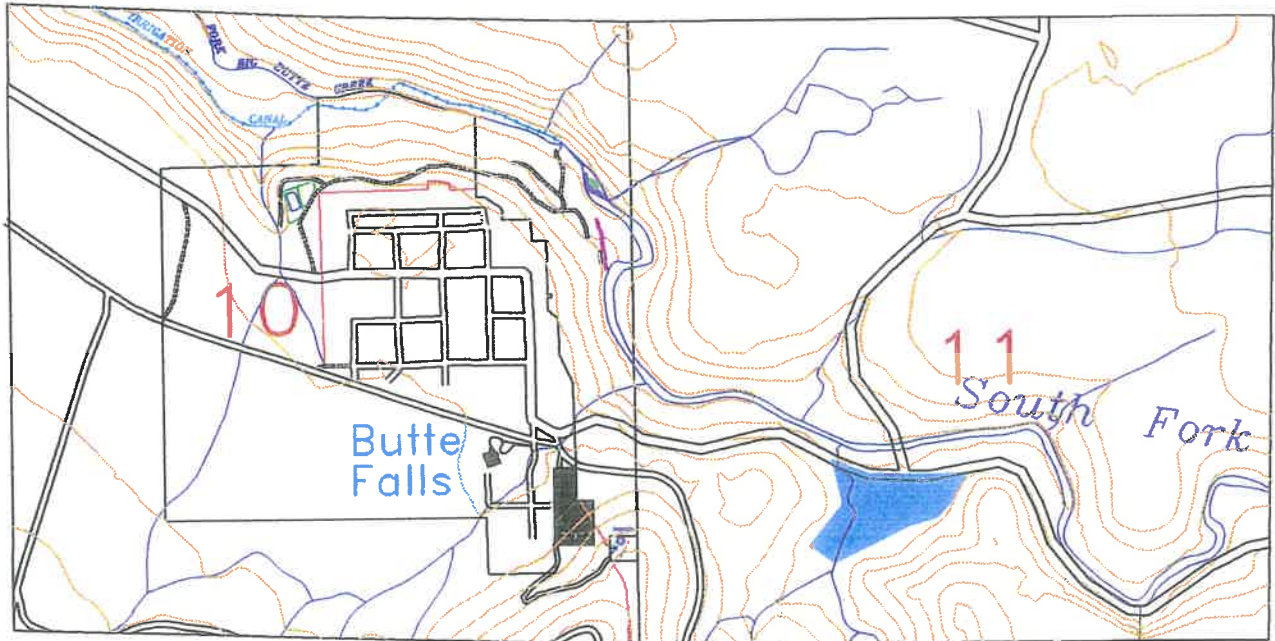
**Figure A (on facing page): Plat of the Town of Butte Falls, 1906.**





The mill site is indicated by the rectangle in the upper right-hand corner, adjacent to the words "Butte Falls."

# Figure 1: Regional Overview

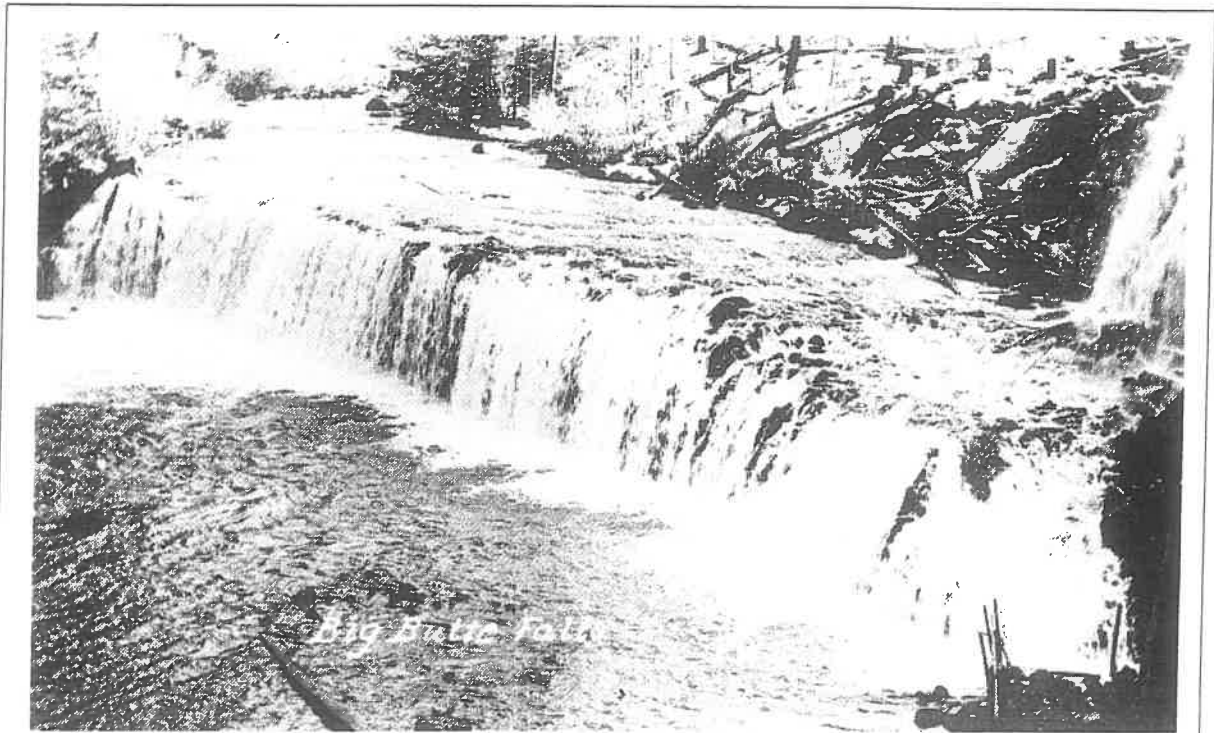


-  Stream
-  City Limits
-  Fish Hatchery
-  20' Contour Line



-  Proposed Trail
-  City Limits
-  Areas of Intrest
-  Section Line

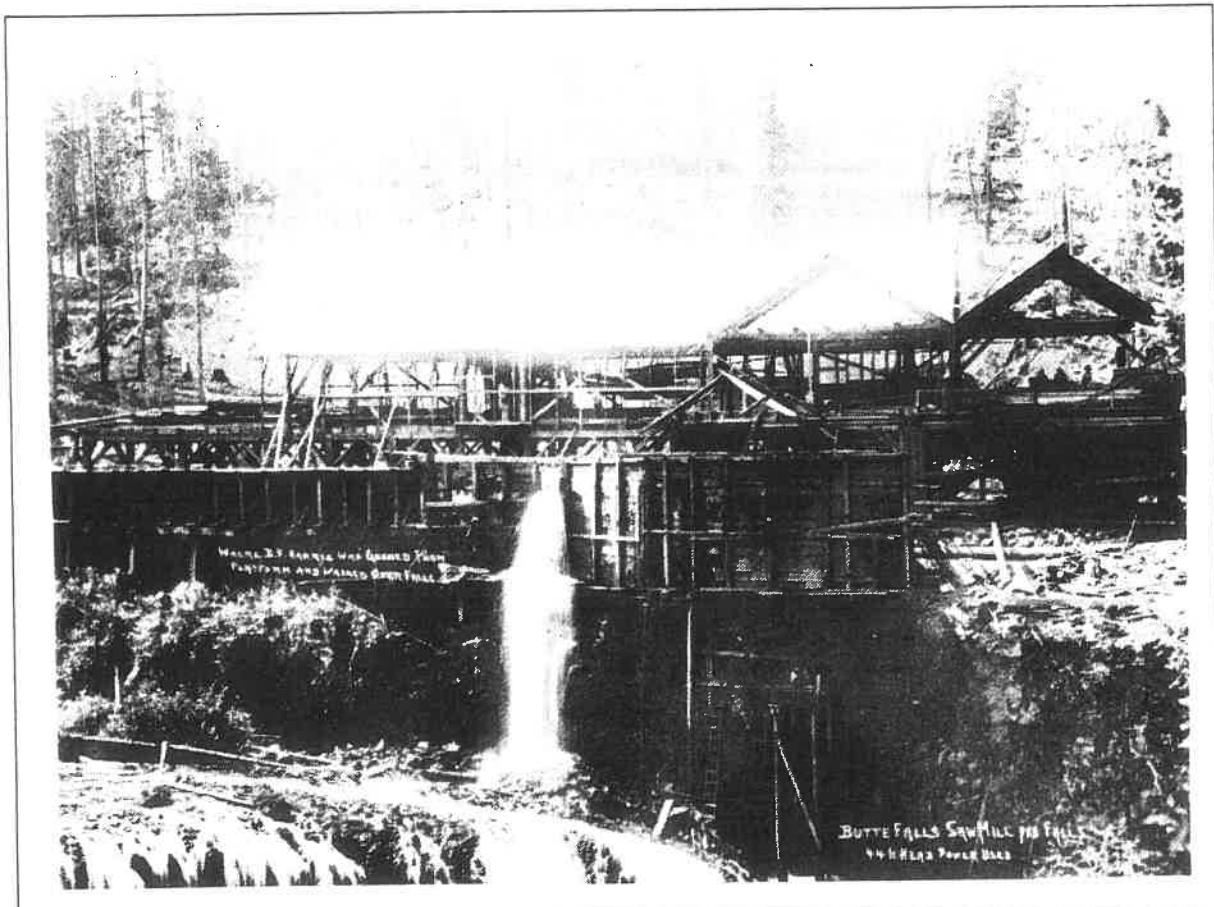
The history of the Town of Butte Falls is directly intertwined with that of the sawmill on Big Butte Creek. Long after the mill ceased operations town residents and visitors have come to the falls, drawn by the scenic beauty of the site. Both the committee and consultants hope that this study can be a first step toward protecting and enhancing the historic significance and scenic value of this important site.



**Figure B: Falls on Big Butte Creek**

Courtesy of Southern Oregon Historical Society. Negative # 15437.

## 2 HISTORY OF THE BUTTE FALLS SAWMILL



**Figure C: Mill Seen Across Big Butte Creek**

Timber enters mill from left. The boxlike structure overlooking the creek conveyed water from the flume to the power wheels, mounted to the right. Courtesy of Southern Oregon Historical Society. Negative # 2822.

### 2.1 “A Gloriously Dense and Majestic Forest”<sup>1</sup>

People have used the falls on Big Butte Creek for thousands of years. During these millennia Native American bands found the area supplied with fish, game and edible vegetation. Euro-Americans have occupied the area for the past 150 years. Early in the twentieth century entrepreneurs built a sawmill near the falls and harnessed the

stream for power. This overview traces the history of the sawmill and its relationship to the founding and development of the Town of Butte Falls, Oregon. (The full report by Kay Atwood appears as Appendix 1.)

In the 1820's, members of the Hudson's Bay Company fur brigades were possibly the first white people to visit the Big Butte Creek watershed and explore the stream.<sup>2</sup> Within a few years settlers followed these trappers in Southern Oregon. They named Big Butte Creek for the mountain from which it rises - the peak they knew as Snowy Butte. Now called Mount McLoughlin, this 9,500 foot promontory rises fourteen miles away, southeast of the falls. The area soon became known as the Big Butte country.<sup>3</sup>

Although hunters and trappers from the lower valley visited the Big Butte country early in the 1850s, the first known written description of the falls appeared in 1855, when the General Land Office surveyor recorded the boundary line between Sections 10 and 11, Township 35 South Range 2 East. He noted the "timber, pine and fir open woods" as he descended Big Butte Creek to the falls.<sup>4</sup>

Upon passage of the Homestead Act of May 20, 1862, additional public land became available and settlement in the Big Butte country increased. Early settlers came frequently to the Big Butte country to cut sugar pine shakes, cedar posts and cordwood for sale in the valley. The roads were seasonal and hauling done by ox or horse team over a network of trails. The main route through the area was the Rancheria road, a wagon road developed from Jacksonville to Fort Klamath in 1863 that passed near the later site of Butte Falls.<sup>5</sup> The addition of a post office on May 9, 1878 further enhanced communications with the Rogue Valley and beyond.<sup>6</sup>

A few sawmills appeared in the Big Butte Creek area between 1870 and 1900 when workers in small logging operations harvested the first timber from forests in the Big Butte forests. They cut sugar pine and ponderosa pine (yellow pine) from hillsides in proximity to the sawmills. The high plateau timber remained mostly untouched, except for occasional felling of large sugar pines for shakes.

## 2.2 1900-1918 "A Fine Mill Privilege"

Following the arrival of the railroad in Southern Oregon in 1884, the potential for the sale of products to outside markets rapidly increased. By 1900 both local residents and outside speculators were acutely aware of the vast wealth lying in the thousands of timbered acres in the high country. Between 1900 and 1915, homestead claimants used existing land laws such as the Timber and Stone Act of 1878 to purchase potentially valuable timberlands. LaLande explains, "The [period] witnessed America's last and greatest rush for free land."<sup>7</sup>

On April 26, 1904, the Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company, initiated a water right claim and planned construction of a ditch to bring 15,000 cubic inches of water to the sawmill site under a six-inch pressure.<sup>8</sup> Laborers began gouging out earth and rock for the ditch that was to be twenty-one feet at the top, seven feet width at the bottom and seven feet deep. The grade of fall, in feet per 600 feet (the length of the flume), was two inches.<sup>9</sup> Late that year, workers began building a log dam and a wooden flume to lead from the pond to the sawmill at the falls.<sup>10</sup>

On July 8, 1904 the *Medford Mail* reported that B. H. Harris had completed a preliminary survey for a railroad into the Big Butte timber area to ease transportation.<sup>11</sup> By late December 1904, the newspaper reported the founding of the Medford and Crater Lake Railroad Company with J. D. Olwell, Bert Harris and others as officers.<sup>12</sup> Eastern investors, including L. K. Parkhurst, secured a right-of-way to build the railroad from Medford to the land just above the mill at the falls on Big Butte Creek, and ground was broken on April 4, 1905. After Luin Parkhurst's unexpected death on May 30, 1905, Bert Harris turned the railroad franchise over to local investors.<sup>13</sup>

On May 15, 1905 the Big Bend Milling Company sold their large holdings along Big Butte Creek to the Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company, "an Oregon corporation with head offices at Medford."<sup>14</sup> With Bret Harris acting as manager, the Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company was quick to promote development.

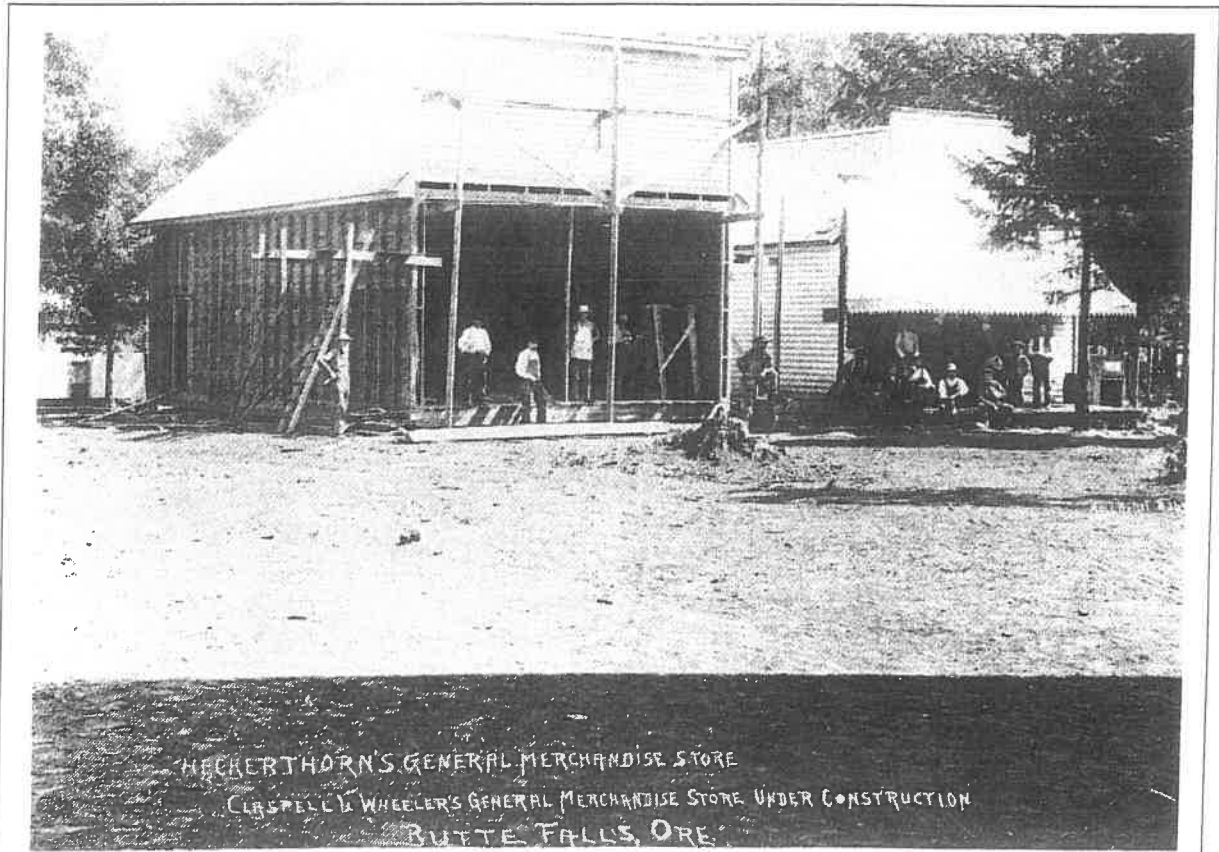
Throughout the cold winter, workers toiled on the flat above the falls. Ernest Smith, early Butte Falls resident, recalled that the company's first sawmill was a small steam mill, built to cut material for a larger mill. Two circular saws for the headrig were hauled to the site.<sup>15</sup> The *Medford* newspaper reported, "The machinery for a mill with a capacity of 20,000 feet per day has been hauled in and set up ready to run, and it is expected that the mill will start about the middle of December."<sup>16</sup>

In early December 1905, Harris, now president of the Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company, completed drawings for a townsite on the wooded terrace above the falls, where the mill workers had been living in tents. Harris planned broad streets, a centrally located city park, commercial district and residential areas, with the mill supplying lumber for the new company town.<sup>17</sup> Track for the Medford and Crater Lake Railroad reached Eagle Point that December and led to the anticipation of rapid completion of the line to Butte Falls.

Officials recorded the plat Bert Harris filed for Butte Falls on January 22, 1906.<sup>18</sup> The plat indicated the location of the new sawmill, the proposed route of the Medford and Crater Lake Railroad, as well as the town's outline.

The townsite comprises some fifty-five acres, divided into business lots of 25 x 130 feet and residence lots of 50 x 150. The town is laid out so that the center is a plaza of 300 feet square. On each side of this plaza are twelve business lots of the size above mentioned, separated from the public park by a street eighty feet in width. All

the streets in the new town are eighty feet wide and the alleys twenty feet.<sup>19</sup>



**Figure D: General Merchandise Store Under Construction (ca. 1906)**

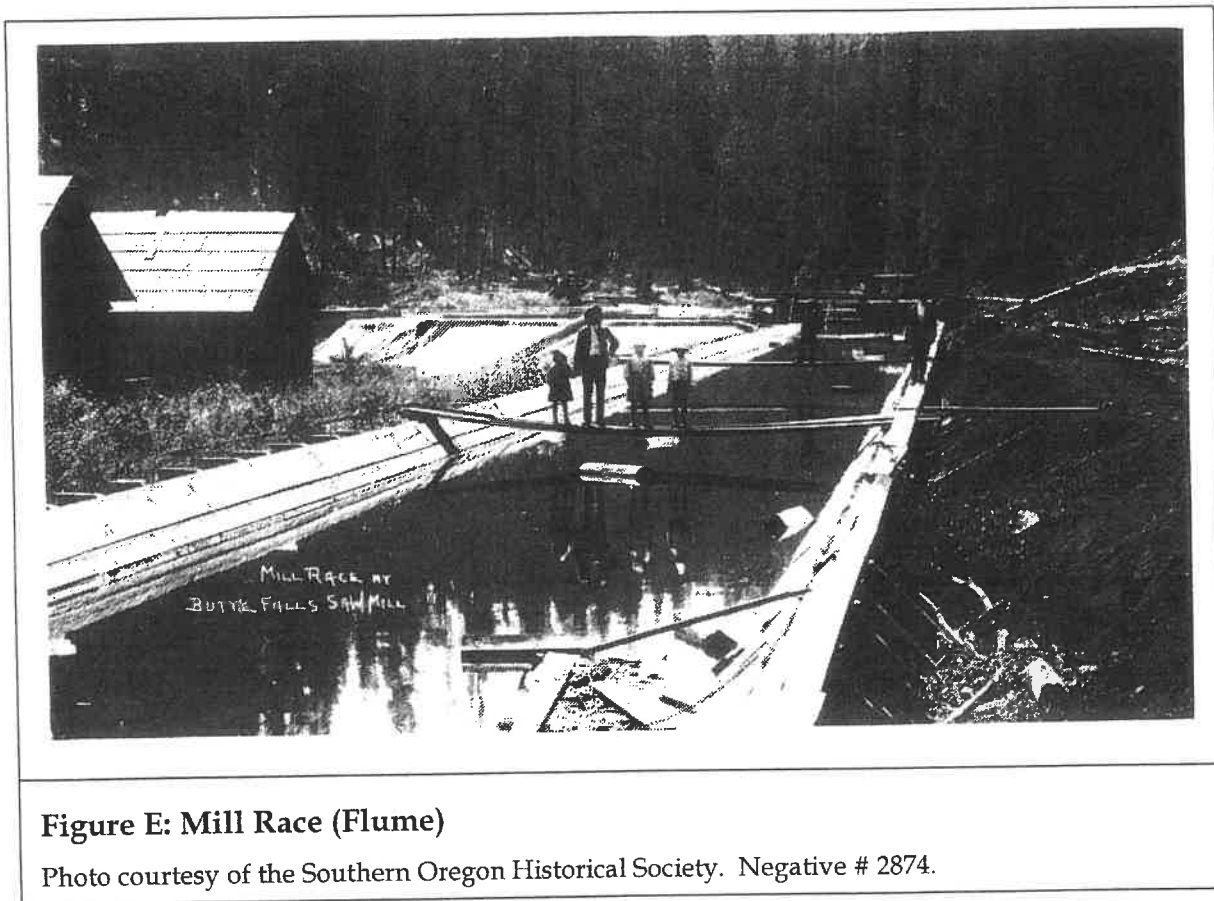
Photo Courtesy of Southern Oregon Historical Society. Negative # 2878.

By early February 1906, the mill was cutting 16,000 feet per day, which was used for local building on the dams, flumes, the big mill, and the new town.<sup>20</sup> Several lots were sold in town, including the proposals for a shingle and planing mill.<sup>21</sup> Workers logged off the townsite and cut the timber on both sides of Big Butte Creek, almost to the current fish hatchery location using the donkey engine, log chutes and cables to get the timber to the mill.<sup>22</sup> Elga Abbott, longtime Butte Falls resident, recalled the log chute that carried the logs from the hillside down to the stream was built of logs and the dam was constructed of fir logs and lumber.<sup>23</sup>

Bert Harris continued to work on the problem of transporting materials, realizing that although the Butte Falls Company now controlled over 10,000 acres of timber, success depended on rapid completion of the Medford and Crater Lake Railroad.<sup>24</sup> In

March 1906, investors increased their financial backing for the Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company with assurances of imminent railroad service.<sup>25</sup>

By early 1907 the Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company suffered financial problems, due to the expenses of developing the sawmill on Big Butte Creek, the bleak prospects for the recently renamed Pacific and Eastern railroad to reach Butte Falls, and the national financial panic after a period of excessive speculation. In May, much of the land was sold to W. S. Dewing, a prominent lumberman from Kalamazoo, Michigan, his brother Charles A. Dewing and D. F. Atland of Detroit.<sup>26</sup> Financially weakened and facing competition from smaller operations, the Butte Falls Sugar Pine Lumber Company was declared bankrupt in October 1907, by the U.S. District Court in Portland.<sup>27</sup>



With new money coming in, however, from Dewing Brothers and other investors, work at the falls went on. While the precise date of completion of the large sawmill has not been determined, early Butte Falls resident Ernest Smith recalled that in 1907 the new mill was operating on the site, sawing approximately 25,000 board feet a day and employing twenty to thirty men.<sup>28</sup>





**Figure F : The Sawmill Seen from the Southwest (ca. 1904)**

Photo courtesy of the Southern Oregon Historical Society. Negative # 2820.

In the spring of 1909 a small ditch and reservoir were constructed to obtain additional water from Ginger Creek, a tributary of Big Butte Creek.<sup>29</sup> By July of that year, progress on the railroad had increased. The *Medford Daily Tribune* reported "... over three miles [of 17 total miles] of roadbed has been graded and a mile of track laid. The work will be carried on through the summer or until Butte Falls is reached."<sup>30</sup> The new promises resulted in growing realty and timberland transactions for Eagle Point and Butte Falls. Sawmill production increased with the line's construction. Ernest Smith recalls that the mill "cut a lot of railroad ties for the P and E Railroad..."<sup>31</sup>

In 1910, with rail transportation into Butte Falls imminent, W. S. Dewing and his associates were ready to develop their interests. In October 1910 the Dewing Brothers and two associates incorporated the Butte Falls Lumber Company with \$100,000 capital stock.<sup>32</sup> Three weeks later, on November 15, 1910 the first Pacific and Eastern train

arrived in Butte Falls.<sup>33</sup> When finally completed, the line did not run adjacent to the sawmill at the falls, but to a depot across town. The railroad leased Ginger Creek waters from the Butte Falls Lumber Company for use in its water tank at Butte Falls.<sup>34</sup>

Through July 1911, Butte Falls Lumber Company sawmill employees worked steadily to meet the construction's demand for lumber. <sup>35</sup> The lumber company continued to increase the sawmill's capability, sell lots in Butte Falls and construct rental houses for workers. At the end of July, the sawmill closed down operations to install new equipment.<sup>36</sup> Construction began on a new penstock and workers reconstructed the flume to increase the grade to two feet over its six hundred-foot length. Plans also called for new water wheels. One was a McCormack wheel that used 3326 cubic feet per minute; the other wheel consisted of a pair of twenty-three inch Sampson Turbines that used 7520 cubic feet per second.<sup>37</sup>



**Figure G: Young Women by the Mill Pond (1915)**

Left to right: Ella Wright, Hilda and Gertrude Abbott. Photo by Elga Abbott. Photo courtesy of Alan Buchta.

On August 1, 1911 Butte Falls citizens "voted in favor of incorporation... at one of the most hotly contested elections ever held in that section of the county."<sup>38</sup> At the time of incorporation Butte Falls had a school, general store, post office, bank, hotel, hardware store and several homes.<sup>39</sup> The town was soon granted water rights on Ginger Creek and a water system was installed. A reservoir provided ample water pressure through gravity flow.<sup>40</sup> Following incorporation the Butte Falls Lumber Company deeded to the Town of Butte Falls, Lot 1 in Block 15 for "a Jail, Town Hall and Hose House exclusively."<sup>41</sup>

In the years before World War I, the mill cut materials for building construction that boomed as a growing population sought materials for new homes. Workers cut sugar pine for patterns and yellow pine for fruit packing boxes. Mill employees additionally cut and shipped countless loads of firewood for shipment to the Southern Pacific Line and San Francisco.<sup>42</sup>

During World War I, the mill, with a 50 MBF capacity, worked steadily cutting pine lumber and Douglas-fir railroad ties for shipment to France, yarding the logs down the slopes to Big Butte Creek with their steam powered Tacoma donkey engine.<sup>43</sup> Elga Abbott, who worked during the War taking lumber off the saw and lining it up for the edger, estimated that the mill employed twenty to twenty-five men making fifty cents per hour.<sup>44</sup> Charlie Patton recalls a long, hard working week of six, ten hour days.<sup>45</sup>

Much of the year, the road down to the mill and the hillside above it were too wet to haul lumber up to the railroad in town. The Butte Falls Lumber Company built a narrow gauge railroad line up the incline and hauled logs up on an endless cable. The material was then hauled by a hard-tired truck to a lumberyard and planing mill at the end of Oak Street, where the old Forest Service complex still stands. From there the lumber went out on the Pacific and Eastern Railroad to Medford. <sup>46</sup>

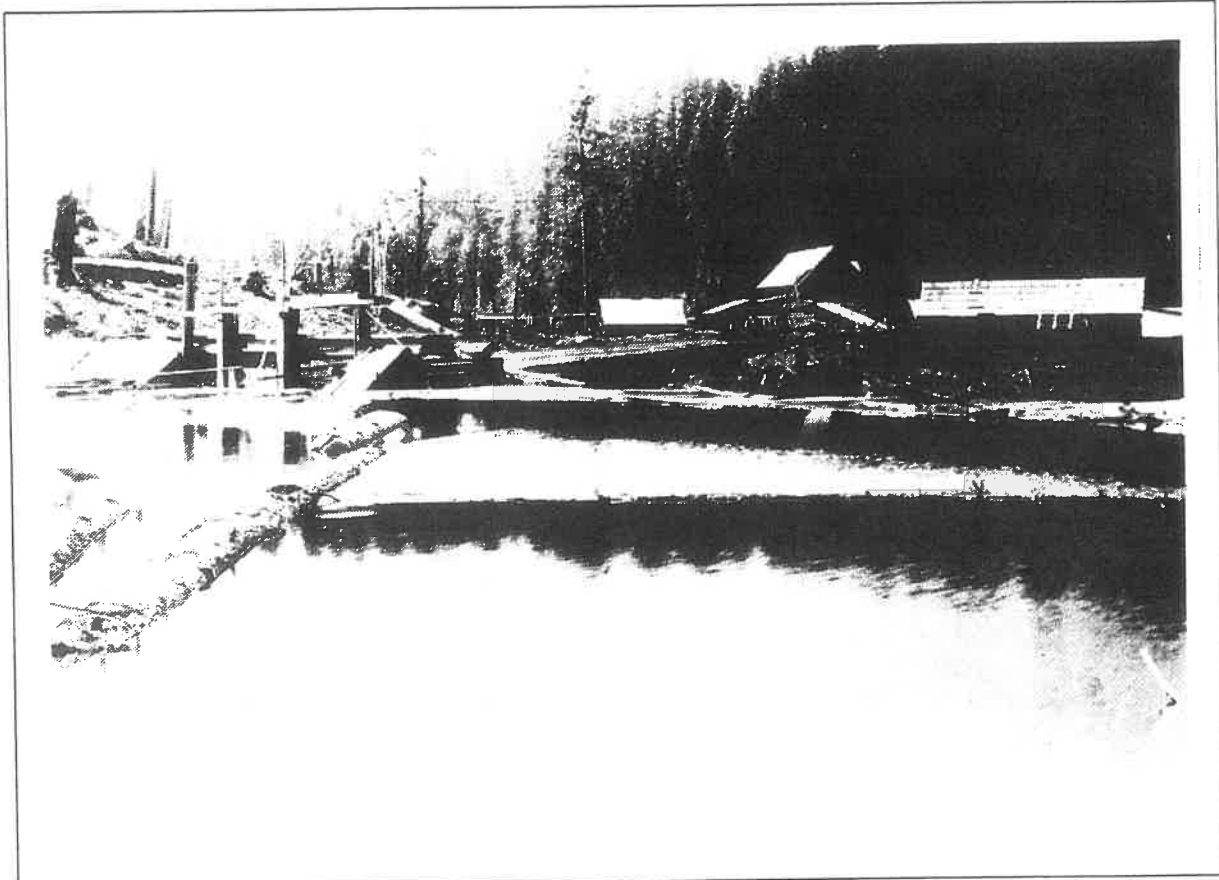
After the end of World War I, the mill continued operating for a time, but work soon slowed. Historian Jeff LaLande explained, "By 1918 the company had exhausted its reserve of accessible timber and the mill permanently closed down. The same year the Pacific and Eastern... stopped regular rail service. The picture at Butte Falls suddenly looked bleak."<sup>47</sup>

### **2.3 1919-1925 "Together With the Sawmill Upon Said Premises"<sup>48</sup>**

The closing of the Pacific and Eastern Railroad line was the final blow. January 30, 1919, the *Medford Mail Tribune* reported the ceasing of operations and the plans to sell the railroad within a fortnight. The following day's report spoke of the 100 men laidoff, and the financial strain the closing of Butte Falls Mill would have on the entire county. <sup>49</sup>

The Butte Falls Lumber Company retained ownership of the property and continued to sell lots in the town. Elga Abbott recalls that he and other men went down

to the mill and cut up logs that remained in the pond and “sent them down the flume to the sawmill.”<sup>50</sup> Although restarted at that time in order to mill the logs remaining in the mill pond, the mill above the falling water stood quiet for several years.



**Figure H: Mill Race (Flume) and Sawmill (1908)**

Photo courtesy of the Southern Oregon Historical Society. Negative # 1377.

In the early 1920s James N. Brownlee, owner of a pine mill in Mississippi, and Millard D. Olds, a wealthy lumberman from Michigan, bought the Pacific and Eastern Railway in addition to tracts of timber in the Butte Falls area.<sup>51</sup> They held ownership briefly until 1924, when John S. Owen of Eau Claire, Wisconsin bought Brownlee-Olds sawmill and railroad. With other northern Wisconsin lumbermen, Owen incorporated the Owen-Oregon Lumber Company.<sup>52</sup> In addition to large timber tracts acquired before the First World War, most of the Butte Falls Lumber Company holdings in the Big Butte Creek watershed were held by the Owen-Oregon Lumber Company, resulting in a consolidation of approximately 50,000 acres of timberland.<sup>53</sup>

On January 14, 1924 the Butte Falls Lumber Company filed documents with the State of Oregon Corporation Department, withdrawing from business in the state. In

October of that year the Owen-Oregon Lumber Company purchased the remaining Dewing property, along with water rights to Big Butte Creek.<sup>54</sup>

Interested solely in timberlands and with its own large mill in Medford, Owen-Oregon Lumber Company had no need for the old Butte Falls Lumber Company sawmill. Elga Abbott recalls helping dismantle the structure. Various parts were transported to other sawmills. The buildings were torn down and the materials hauled up to Butte Falls where they were recycled for use in the construction of two houses and a garage.<sup>55</sup>

In the late 1920s, increased timber cutting on the high plateau east of Butte Falls brought new development in the community. The Butte Falls Highway was graded and graveled to provide year-round access to valley markets for vehicles and 1926 saw construction of a new, modern high school.<sup>56</sup>

The Great Depression, however, brought hard times. In 1931, Owen-Oregon Lumber Company passed into receivership. In August 1932 the company was sold to the Baker-Fentress bondholders' committee and immediately reorganized as the Medford Corporation.<sup>57</sup>

World War II and the post-war years brought new demands for wood products. The Medford Corporation flourished for several decades. In later years, the Medford Resources Company, composed of several separate organizations, took over Medford Corporation holdings. Superior Lumber Company took responsibility for the former Butte Falls Lumber Company mill site and the surrounding area.<sup>58</sup>

Today, the mill site remains above the falling water. Concrete footings that extend over an extensive area reveal the former structure's footprint. As they have for the seventy-five years since the mill came down, people visit to admire the falls or for occasional fishing.<sup>59</sup> In the years since Native American culture ended and settler culture evolved, this site on Big Butte Creek has seen many changes. While there have been great differences in human activity at the falls, there has also been continuity. From fishing resource to sawmill, this site above Big Butte Creek has played a critical role in the area.

## 3 CHARACTERIZING THE MILL SITE

### 3.1 The Archaeological Survey

As part of the feasibility study for the redevelopment of the Butte Falls historic mill site, Cultural Solutions contracted with Cascade Research of Ashland, Oregon to undertake a cultural resource inventory of the parcel by means of an archaeological survey and background research. The investigation was limited to historic resources.<sup>60</sup> (The complete cultural resources report appears as Appendix 2.)

The records of the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office in Salem, Oregon were researched for previous cultural resource inventories and recorded sites in the area. In addition, the files of the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management were reviewed for recorded sites in the area. Several surveys have been conducted by the Bureau of Land Management in the Big Butte drainage within two miles of the project area, and several prehistoric lithic scatters have been reported and/or evaluated within the drainage. No sites have been previously recorded within Section 10.

The project area is situated along the southwest bank of the South Fork of Big Butte Creek, adjacent to Butte Falls. The terrain within the project area is generally flat and covered with a second growth forest of mixed conifers and hardwoods. Overstory species consist of Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, black oak, Pacific madrone, and along the creek edge, willow. Shrubs and ground cover include Oregon-grape, Himalayan blackberry, bracken and sword fern, as well as mosses and grass.

The falls on Butte Creek adjacent to the project parcel cascade over bedrock basalt and have created a lower terrace at modern creek level below the falls. The soils overlying the basalt bedrock within the parcel appear to be thin, and have been heavily disturbed in the past by the construction and operation of a sawmill, as well as by multiple logging episodes. Other disturbances to the parcel include the construction of several two-track dirt and gravel roads, and the use of the site as an informal recreation area.

Due to the relatively small area involved, and with the knowledge that remains of the 1907 sawmill were located within the proposed project area, the entire parcel was intensively inventoried.

A pedestrian survey of the area of proposed effect (APE) was performed on November 30, 1998 by Dennis Gray and Robert Winthrop; recording of the mill site features was accomplished on December 4, 1998. Transects spaced five meters apart

were walked northeast to southwest between Big Butte Creek and the two-track road that bounds the APE to the southeast. The Eagle Point Irrigation District Dam formed the survey boundary on the downstream end of the parcel, and the junction of the old flume ditch and Butte Creek bounded the survey on the upstream side of the survey area. Ground visibility (25%) was adequate for recording the extant historical resources. David Orban of the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management redrew Gray's data using the Medford District's geographic information system (GIS) and ground verified the findings. Map data were also collected using a tape and compass.



**Figure I: Overview of Sawmill, Seen from the Northwest**

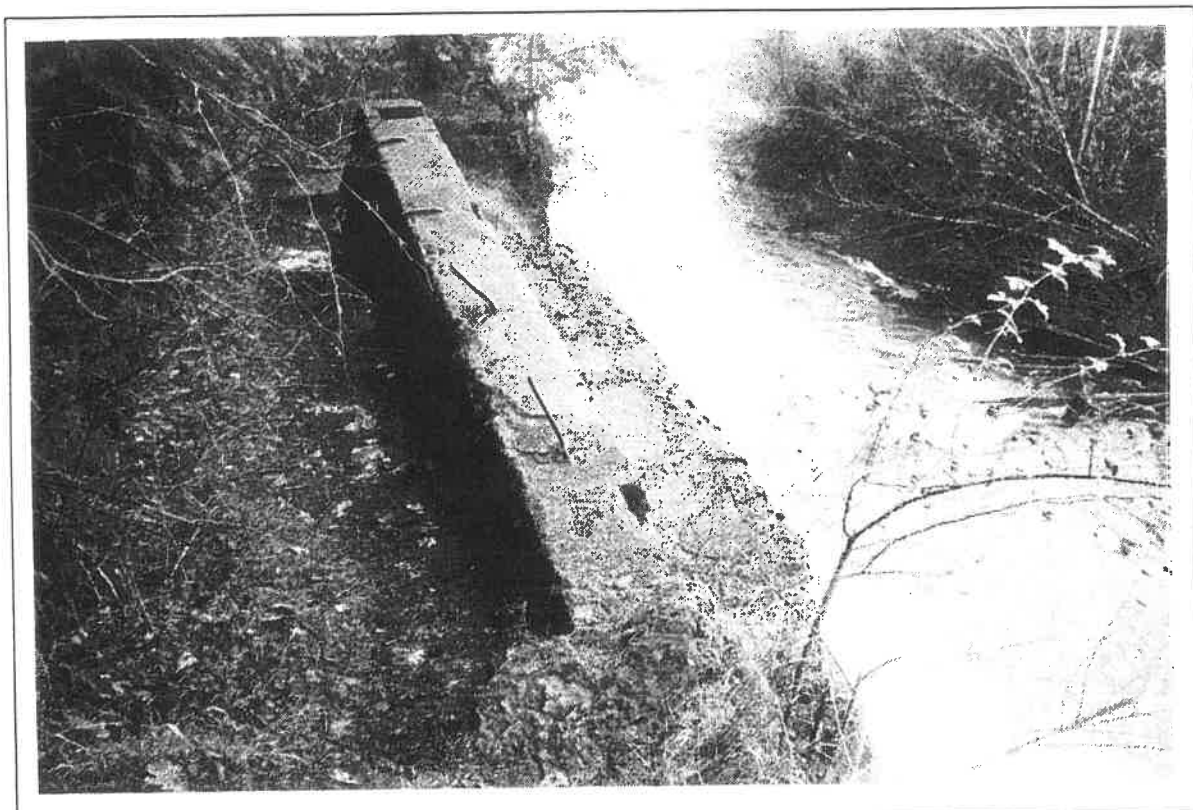
Compared with Figure E, this shows a later stage of the mill's development. Logs carried on the flume entered the mill along the ramp to the right. The higher elevated track in the background carried wood waste from the mill. Photo courtesy of the Southern Oregon Historical Society. Negative # 14375.

The site consists of the remains of the Butte Falls Lumber Company sawmill (ca. 1907-1918). A number of features were identified during the course of inventory, including about 50 concrete piers and foundations (see Figure 2), the ruins of a concrete and rubble structure that once housed a boiler, a 20 foot wide ditch that formerly

contained a wood flume that brought water to the mill from Butte Creek, and a few large (12 inch x 12 inch) timbers that have washed down from the mill site and were deposited on the lower terrace. The most prominent feature consists of concrete foundations adjacent to the falls where the water wheels were positioned.

Most of the piers are approximately two feet square and either had a 12 inch by 12 inch inset to support a post, or a metal 3/4 inch or 1 inch threaded bolt positioned in the center. The foundation remains were of various sizes and shapes, and were likely the supports for various types of mill equipment. The piers and foundations are spread over a fairly extensive area adjacent to the falls, west of the end of the flume ditch.

With the exception of a few five-gallon fuel tins and a barrel hoop that may have been associated with the mill, no other historical resources were noted. Modern trash (e.g., broken glass and plastic) was in evidence throughout most of the survey area. Also noted were the remains of a plywood and plastic living shelter and a few pieces of wire rope from past logging episodes.

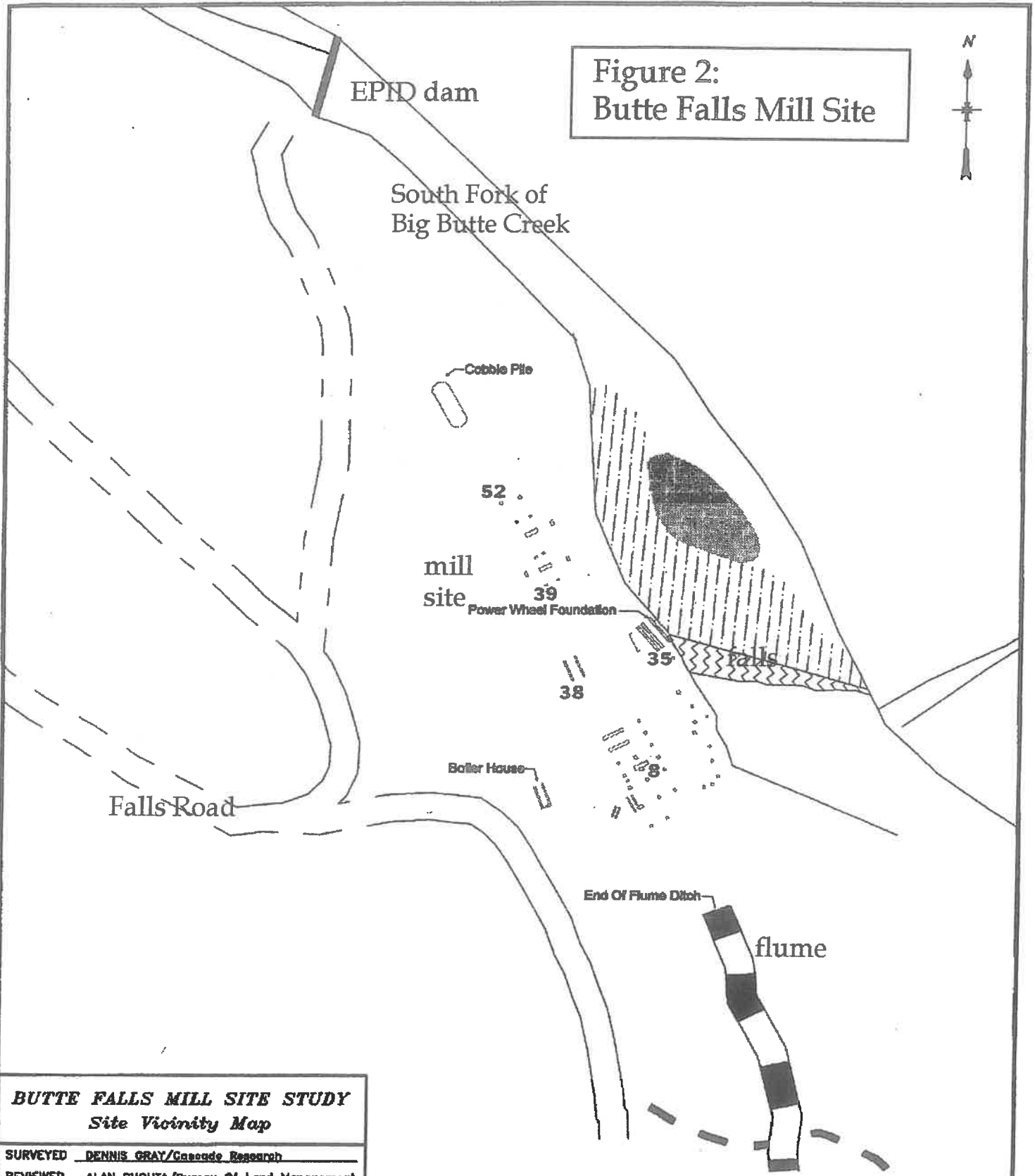


**Figure J: Power Wheel Footing (Feature 35)**

Photo: Dennis Gray.



**Figure 2:  
Butte Falls Mill Site**



<b>BUTTE FALLS MILL SITE STUDY</b>	
<i>Site Vicinity Map</i>	
SURVEYED	DENNIS GRAY/Gaede Research
REVIEWED	ALAN BUCHTA/Bureau Of Land Management
APPROVED	ROBERT WINTHROP/Cultural Solutions
DRAWN: DAVID ORBAN/Bureau Of Land Management	
DATE: 12/08	SHEET 1 OF 1

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## 3.2 Interpreting the Mill Site

A thorough analysis of the mill site for the purposes of historic interpretation goes beyond the scope of this project. Nonetheless, many of the necessary elements for an interpretive program have been assembled here, including Atwood's history of the mill (Section 2), and the archaeological survey. Alan Buchta's 1997 videotaped interview with Elga Abbott provides another source of insight into the operations of the mill.

The archaeological survey showed considerable patterning in the design details of the footings and piers. As shown in Figure 3, three types of construction are found: piers designed to support 12 x 12 inch posts; footings secured to now-vanished vertical members with  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch steel bolts; and footings secured with 1 inch steel bolts. The areas marked "A," centered on Feature #8, supported 12 x 12 inch posts. These are found nowhere else on the site. The areas marked "C" used 1 inch bolts. These footings appear to have supported the power wheel assembly (the area of Feature #35) and the penstock paralleling the creek bank which carried water from the flume to the power wheels. The 1 inch bolts were also found only in these areas. Finally,  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch bolts were used in the areas marked "B," including the northern complex of features and a small cluster of footings south of Feature #8. Because of the consistent patterning, these differences in design appear deliberate, suggesting either different periods of construction, different engineering requirements, or both.

In February 1999 the Falls Park committee spent considerable time discussing the findings of the archaeological survey and the operations of the mill. The more important points of that discussion are noted here.

1. Feature #54, the "boiler house," was apparently the fire box of the steam boiler. The rest of the boiler would have been on top of this structure. According to Alan Buchta, the original water-powered drive for the mill had sufficient power, but did not allow some mill components to operate at an efficient speed. The steam engine in the area of Feature #54 was constructed to solve this problem.
2. The heavy sawing operations probably occurred in the area of Feature #8. Trimming of the lumber by use of an edging saw probably occurred in the area of features 37 and 38. Sized lumber was probably stored immediately west of this area.
3. There was considerable speculation regarding the functions of the area delineated by Features 39 through 52. One suggestion was that this area housed (additional?) finish-sawing operations.

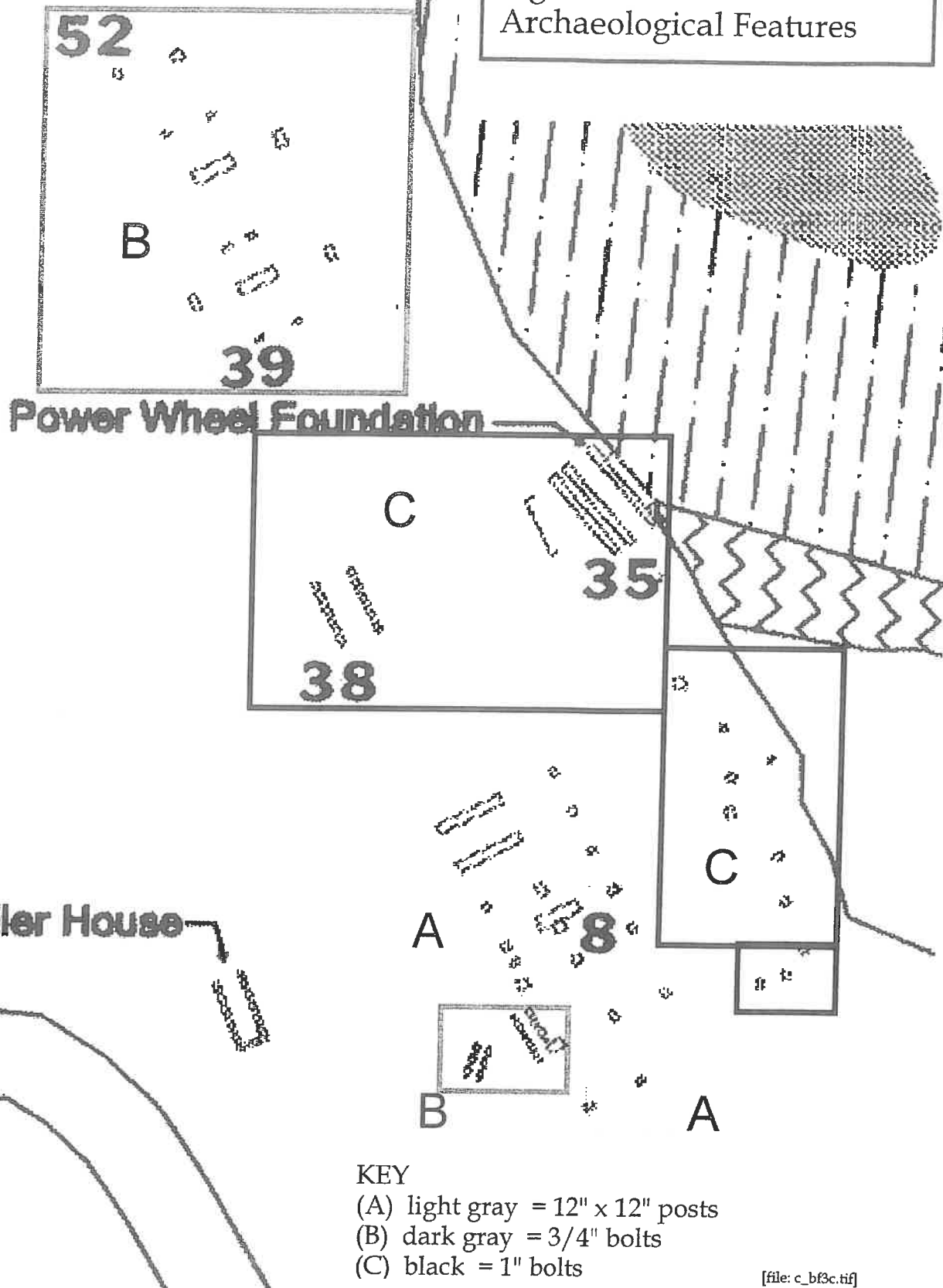
4. There was considerable discussion regarding the route of the cable drive that hauled finished lumber up the hillside. Charleen Brown recalled a trail that ran steeply down hillside, which she believes was the route of the cable drive. The route of the trail intercepted or nearly intercepted the boiler house (Feature #54). Based on that logic, the cable drive would have run almost due south from the boiler house. How far it would have extended to the north is unclear. It was suggested that the engine that powered the cable may have been located in the area of Feature #39 or perhaps west of Feature #38.
5. The power wheels in the area of Feature #35 were mounted horizontally. Those piers supporting the power wheel assembly that were actually in the creek were reinforced by boulders to prevent them from being washed out by timber and other debris coming downstream.
6. Some committee members suggested that the cobble pile (Feature #53) was the result of ground clearing efforts.



**Figure K : Boiler House (Feature 54)**

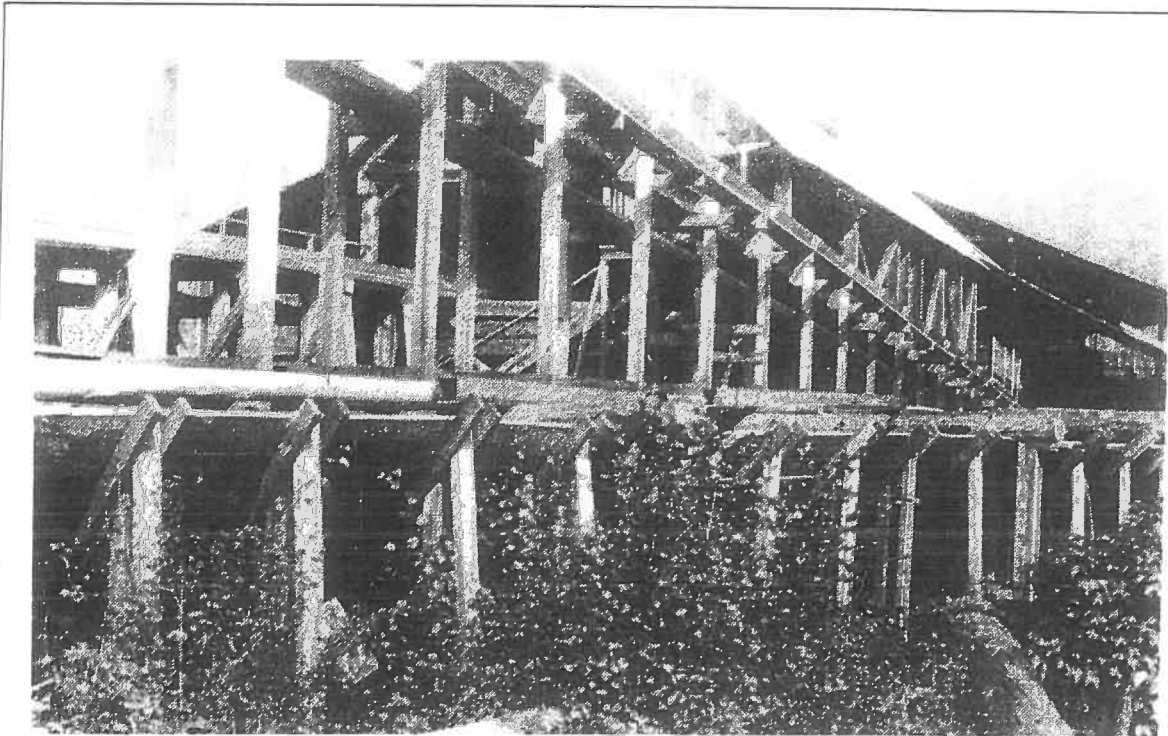
Photo: Dennis Gray.

Figure 3:  
Archaeological Features





Finally, the cultural significance of the mill site goes beyond the period of 1905 to 1918 when the sawmill was in operation. Both the mill site and the adjacent falls are important traditional use areas for Butte Falls, linked through associations of work and play to the collective memory of the town. These recollections should form an essential part of any effort at site interpretation. This also suggests a larger point. The “experts” regarding the cultural significance of the mill parcel are the past and present residents of Butte Falls. While it may be appropriate to retain specialists in industrial archaeology or mill technology to reconstruct through plans, narratives, and models how the mill functioned, much of the task of interpretation should if possible be left to the people of Butte Falls. Because employment in Butte Falls has centered on the timber industry for several generations, there is expertise in place that could be very valuable in fashioning displays or programs aimed at explaining the history and operations of the mill.



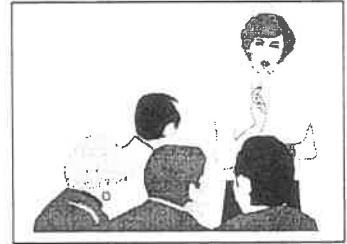
**Figure L: Scaffolding South of Mill**

This detail shows the southeast corner of the mill. The level structure brought water from the millrace (flume) to the power wheels. Above it is an inclined ramp that carried wood waste from the mill. Photo courtesy of the Southern Oregon Historical Society. Negative # 2814.

## 4 EVALUATION PROCESS

### 4.1 Evaluation Criteria

Working with project consultants, the Falls Park committee agreed on a set of criteria with which to evaluate all proposals for redevelopment of the mill site. Most of these criteria would be likely to be found in any comparable feasibility assessment. They include the following.



- Projected demand. Development options should be assessed in relation to the expected use of the facility.
- Relative cost / benefit. Development options need to be assessed not only in terms of absolute cost, but also in the relationship between costs and the numbers of individuals benefited.
- Likelihood of Funding. Options should be financially realistic.
- Compatibility with other project objectives. The mill site potentially allows several types of use. The optimal project would allow the greatest number of compatible uses.
- Absence of categorical conflicts. The evaluation process should screen out those development options that would encounter major legal or technical obstacles.
- Economic development potential. The preferred option or mix of options should contribute to the economic development of Butte Falls.
- Intangible benefits. The preferred option or mix of options should provide intangible benefits in quality of life and aesthetics.
- Compatibility with project values. Development options should also be judged against criteria specific to the community of Butte Falls (see below).

Committee members also identified nine values specific to the town or the project that should guide the selection of development options.

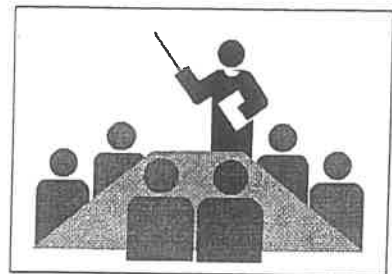
- Minimal adverse environmental impacts. The mill site has an exceptionally attractive setting, including wooded hillsides, Big Butte Creek, and the falls. Any development at the mill site should protect, and possible enhance, its natural setting.



- Linked to town's heritage. The mill site represents an essential aspect of the history of Butte Falls. Any development at the site should convey to the visitor some sense of this history.
- Does not require large initial capital costs. The Town of Butte Falls has very modest financial resources. While it may be appropriate to seek outside funding to support development of the mill site, any development must nonetheless be scaled to the capacities of the community.
- Operations and maintenance costs sustainable. The costs of on-going operations and maintenance for any development at the mill site must not exceed the capacities of the town and any potential public or private partners.
- Can be linked to off-site development plans. The town and its surrounding area contain a number of other recreational sites now existing or in the process development. Committee members felt that any development at the mill site should be compatible with and linked to other sites and features, such as the Butte Falls Fish Hatchery, Bud Nutting Park and the former railroad right-of-way.
- Impacts of tourism limited. While development at the mill site should provide an attraction for visitors, it would not be appropriate to propose development intended to draw large numbers of people.
- Compatible with traditional informal uses of site. The falls and mill site have long been used for recreation, and even as the site of more elaborate events such as weddings. Development of the mill site should not preclude the continuation of these informal uses.
- Will not damage or obscure remaining mill features. The mill site remains a critical link to the town's history. Any development at the site must protect and maintain access to the remaining features of the mill.
- Allows a gradual pace of change. Any development proposed for the mill site must be appropriately scaled and phased.

## 4.2 The Evaluation Process

The evaluation process had a number of steps. In September 1997, Mayor Sara Beck led held a community meeting to identify potential uses of the mill site. These ideas provided the starting point for this feasibility assessment. The historical and archeological studies reported in Sections 2 and 3 provided critical information regarding the mill site against which these development preferences could be weighed. The discussions of the Falls Park committee clarified and refined the ideas for



redevelopment suggested in the 1997 town meeting. Under the guidance of the committee, project consultants grouped these ideas into a limited number of objectives, primarily concerning recreational use, historic interpretation, and environmental education.

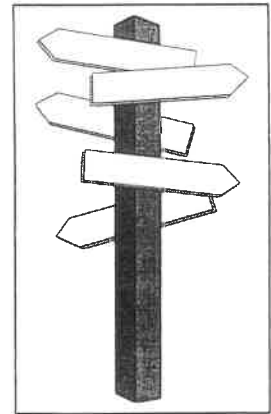
For each objective, committee members and the consultants identified critical information, including development options, phasing, estimated costs, potential partners, potential funding sources, legal and technical constraints, and comparable projects. Committee members also assessed the compatibility of each objective with the others. The feasibility assessment synthesized this information. The final step of recommending a preferred development plan is the responsibility of the Falls Park committee.



## 5 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

### 5.1 General considerations

The Falls Park committee identified five primary development options for the mill site, the falls, and their surroundings. These include creation of (1) a park, (2) a historic interpretive site, (3) an environmental education site, (4) a site emphasizing more extensive recreation use, and (5) a hydroelectric plant. The first four options all involve acquiring the mill site property and potentially the forested hillside immediately west of the mill site adjacent to the Town of Butte Falls. We consider here issues potentially relevant to any of the first four development options: land acquisition, road access, parking, and provision of utilities (sewer, water, and electric service). Estimates of the major costs associated with each option (land acquisition excluded) are tabulated in Table 2.



#### Land acquisition

The mill site parcel is owned by the Superior Lumber Company of Glendale, Oregon. The area described in this report as the "mill site" is a relatively flat parcel including the remains of mill structures, the flume ditch, and some surrounding land. The parcel examined in the archaeological survey contains approximately five acres. This area is bounded by the Eagle Point Irrigation District dam to the north; the South Fork of Big Butte Creek to the east; the junction of the flume ditch and the creek to the south; and the roads running north and south from the end of Falls Road to the west. For the purposes of site planning, however, it would be more useful to expand the western boundary slightly, to the foot of the hillside abutting the town.

Acquisition the mill site parcel is a matter for future negotiation between Superior and the Town of Butte Falls. Superior Lumber Company has made no commitment to sell or donate the parcel. Based on committee discussion, a multi-party land exchange might also be worth consideration.

Committee members strongly felt that the forested hillside to the west of the mill site formed an important part of the site's natural setting. For this reason they recommended that the Town of Butte Falls negotiate with Superior Lumber Company not only for acquisition of the mill site proper, but for a portion of this hillside backdrop.

❑ Funding opportunities

Funding sources for land acquisition are limited (see Table 3 for a list of potential funding sources).<sup>61</sup> Some sources of foundation support include the Meyer Memorial Trust (Portland, Oregon), the Kinsman Foundation (Portland, Oregon), the Wallace Genetic Foundation (Washington, D.C.), the Carpenter Foundation, and the Collins Foundation.

❑ Options for land ownership and management

The limited budget for the Town of Butte Falls may make it difficult for the town to acquire the mill site parcel primarily through its own funds. For this reason we investigated the possibility that the Jackson County Parks Department or Oregon State Parks might be willing to purchase the mill site. At both the county and state levels, however, budget constraints make it unlikely the mill site could be acquired outright unless the Superior Lumber Company were willing to sell the parcel for a nominal price.<sup>62</sup> Alternatively, if the town is able to acquire the mill site parcel, there may be advantages to managing the site through a partnership with the county or state parks departments, perhaps with shared responsibility for operation and maintenance. This would require either lease or sale of the property to Jackson County or the State of Oregon.

Since interest in the adjacent hillside is primarily visual, the concerns of the committee might also be met if the town were able to negotiate a memorandum of understanding or a conservation easement with Superior Lumber intended to maintain a canopy of larger trees on the hillside parcel.

Conservation easements are a widely used tool for land management. Such an easement constitutes a voluntary, binding commitment by the landowner to limit certain types of uses (such as logging) on a given parcel. An easement can yield public relations benefits for the landowner, as well as tax breaks on the reduced value of the land. If the easement is donated, it constitutes a charitable contribution for tax purposes.<sup>63</sup> While a conservation easement can also be used to protect and grant access to archaeological or historic sites, the relatively complex uses for the mill site being considered by the committee could better be accomplished through outright sale of the parcel to the town or some other public entity.

### Access and parking

Falls Road provides access to the mill site. The surface is unpaved though partly gravelled, approximately fifteen to twenty feet in width. Effectively this is a single-lane road, with some room for turnouts. A portion of Falls Road lies within the town boundaries. Potential locations for parking that would



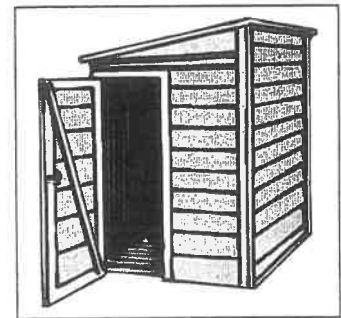
maintain a visual buffer around the mill site are shown in Figure 4.

Two students at Butte Falls High School, Jeremy McKibbin and Charlie McLaughlan, obtained permission from Superior Lumber to make improvements to the mill site and Falls Road as part of their senior community service scholarship projects. These efforts, initiated in April 1999, have included clearing brush and re-grading Falls Road, and clearing brush for a parking area on the mill parcel.<sup>64</sup> Plans include providing a graveled pad for parking, and installing clearer directional signage in town to make visitors aware of the falls and mill site.

In the view of the Butte Falls Public Works director, these improvements should be sufficient for the uses currently proposed for the mill site.<sup>65</sup> Jackson County, however, might impose more stringent road requirements.

### Utilities

Bathroom facilities can be provided in several ways, which have quite different capital and operating costs. The least expensive approach would be to provide a portable toilet unit (Port-a-potty). These are self-contained units, typically used for temporary purposes on construction sites. Such units rent for are approximately \$50 per month, including periodic servicing to pump out accumulated wastes. The units are not particularly attractive, and are very susceptible to vandalism.



Pit Toilets, which are drained by a septic field, are not a desirable option in close proximity to a stream. We have not evaluated prices for such units. Such septic systems must be located a minimum of 100 feet from the creek and at least nine feet from groundwater.<sup>66</sup>

A permanent vault toilet, of a type used in many modern campgrounds, would provide a permanent and nearly vandal-proof facility. This is also a self-contained unit; it would not be necessary to pipe water to the site, or to provide connection to the town sewer system. Vault toilets are relatively expensive. Costs for purchase, shipping, and installation of a single unit vault toilet total approximately \$12,000. Like portable toilets, vault toilets require periodic service. Such units must be sited at least 50 feet from the creek.<sup>67</sup>

A bathroom with flush toilets, sinks, and electric lighting would require providing water sewer and electric utilities to the park site. This is the most desirable solution, but also the most expensive. Estimated cost for this option would be approximately \$17,000 for the bathroom installation, and \$13,000 to provide services to the site, for total of approximately \$30,000. Such a facility, however, would not require periodic servicing beyond normal Park maintenance.<sup>68</sup>

## Maintenance

To some degree maintenance costs will vary depending on the set of options chosen for development of the mill site. Nonetheless the following comparisons should give a reasonable range of costs.

The Ernest Smith Park, adjacent to the Butte Falls city hall – which is considerably smaller than the mill site parcel--costs roughly \$1,500 per year for maintenance.<sup>69</sup> Cantrall-Buckley Park, near Ruch, is 86.6 acres, and contains day use areas, four picnic sites, and 31 camp sites. The annual maintenance budget is \$50,000.<sup>70</sup> Assuming that maintenance costs are proportional to park acreage, were Cantrall-Buckley Park the size of the proposed Falls Park, the annual maintenance costs would be roughly \$3,500.

Cantrall-Buckley Park is also interesting as an example of a county / town partnership in operation of a park. A Ruch community group takes care of daily maintenance. Jackson County Park Department is responsible for reservations and any large maintenance projects. One employee lives on the grounds. The community group raises its \$25,000 of the annual park budget through day use, camping, and reservation fees. The park gets 18,000 visitors per year.<sup>71</sup>

## Land-Use Issues

The mill site parcel is currently subject to Jackson County land-use regulations. The land has a Forest Resource (FR-160) zoning, and is outside the urban growth boundary of Butte Falls (though, as noted, much of Falls Road is within the Butte Falls town limits). Parks are a permitted use in the FR-160 zone. Campgrounds are a conditional use in this zone.<sup>72</sup> From a land-use standpoint, it seems likely that both the historic interpretation and environmental education options would be considered compatible with use of the parcel as a park.

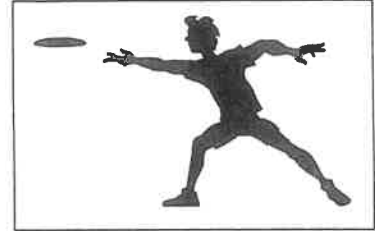
It is likely that the county would require restroom facilities for such a use. Among other factors, county regulations would also govern required parking facilities and landscaping, and possibly road standard requirements as well. To determine precisely what standards and requirements would be applied by county planning staff, the town should seek a pre-application conference with the Jackson County Planning Department.

Alternatively, the town could seek to annex the mill site parcel. Once annexed, the parcel would be subject to Butte Falls's zoning requirements, rather than those of the county. Since the parcel is not within the Butte Falls urban growth boundary (UGB), annexation would first require an adjustment of the UGB, a process undertaken jointly by the town and the county.<sup>73</sup>

## 5.2 The Park Option

### Aims

Creation of a Falls Park would provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors to Butte Falls. The improvements included under this option would provide a basic level of services for public use of the mill site and Falls area. Initially, the Falls Park would be a day-use facility only. In later phases of development, the Park might be improved to accommodate overnight tent camping and/or overnight RV use.



### **Park Option Elements / Tasks**

1. **Access.** For day-use, the access and parking improvements already under development (see section 5.1) may be sufficient. If the Park were developed for overnight recreational vehicle (RV) use, further improvements to Falls Road would likely be required.
2. **Park amenities.** Under all options, some basic amenities will be needed. These include picnic tables, trash cans, and preferably BBQ grills as well.
3. **Signs.** Improvements to the Falls overlook are treated in section 5.4, environmental education. Given the scenic importance of the Falls, however, at least some directional signage pointing visitors toward the Falls overlook should be provided as part of Park development.
4. **Services.** Water, sewer, and electric service would be desirable for overnight camping use of the Park, and beneficial for other uses. A drinking fountain and one or more light standards to enhance nighttime security would also be desirable. (See Sec. 5.1.3.)

### Siting / design

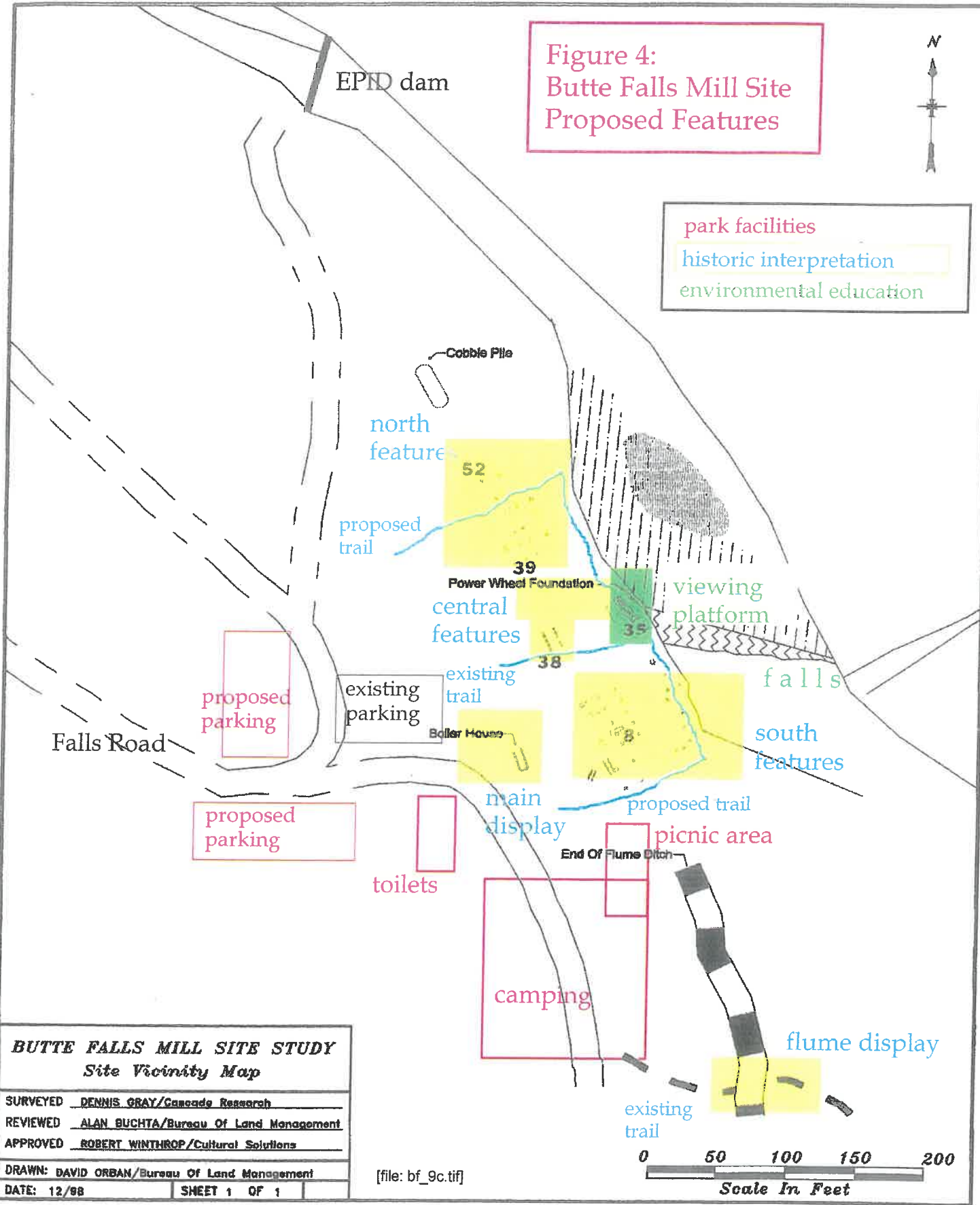
As shown in Figure 4, a suggested site for the picnic area is immediately south of the mill features and west of the end of the flume ditch. We suggest this location both because it is in close proximity to historic features of the Falls Park, and because it would receive good afternoon sun. If park use were expanded to include overnight camping, such campsites could be located immediately south of the picnic area on



**Figure 4:  
Butte Falls Mill Site  
Proposed Features**



park facilities
historic interpretation
environmental education



<b>BUTTE FALLS MILL SITE STUDY</b>		
<i>Site Vicinity Map</i>		
SURVEYED	DENNIS GRAY/Cascade Research	
REVIEWED	ALAN BUCHTA/Bureau Of Land Management	
APPROVED	ROBERT WINTHROP/Cultural Solutions	
DRAWN:	DAVID ORBAN/Bureau Of Land Management	
DATE:	12/98	SHEET 1 OF 1

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0 50 100 150 200  
Scale In Feet



either side of the south access road. A suggested location for toilets would be due west of the picnic area, across the south access road, over 200 feet from the creek.

### **Suggested Phasing**

1. Improve road access and parking.
2. Provide basic park amenities (picnic tables and benches, trash cans, BBQ facilities), and basic directional signage to the Falls overlook (if applicable land-use regulations allow park use before restrooms are provided).
3. Provide restroom facilities.
4. Provide facilities for overnight camping if desired. Provide water and electric service to the site, unless these were already provided in Phase 2.

### **Estimated Costs**

- Basic park amenities (four picnic tables, two BBQ grills, etc.) would cost between \$1,000 and \$2,000.
- Restroom facilities would cost between \$12,000 and \$30,000 depending on whether a vault toilet or a flush toilet with full water, sewer, and electric hookups were used.
- There would be additional costs for road improvements to widen the road and provide safety turnouts, if needed.

### **Opportunities**

Negotiating a partnership arrangement for park operation with Jackson County Parks Department (as at Cantrall-Buckley Park) would reduce the maintenance burden on the town. Such an arrangement might also allow the county to be responsible for policing the area.

### **Constraints**

Toilet facilities will need to be provided, either by means of a vault toilet or a bathroom with water and sewer connections. DEQ requirements constrain the siting of toilets and sewer lines in relation to the creek and its 100 year flood plain.

Use of the site for camping might require on-site staffing.

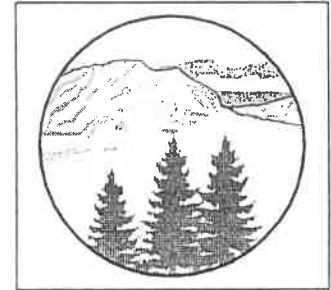
## Comparable Projects

- Cantrall-Buckley Park (Ruch, Oregon)

## 5.3 Historic Interpretation Option

### Aims

The development of the Town of Butte Falls is directly linked to the history of the sawmill on Big Butte Creek. The historic interpretation option would involve documenting the history and operation of the mill and the regional timber economy through interpretive signage, photographs, displays, and perhaps guided tours. This could serve educational and economic development objectives. Historic interpretation at the mill site could vary from simple to elaborate, with or without staffing.



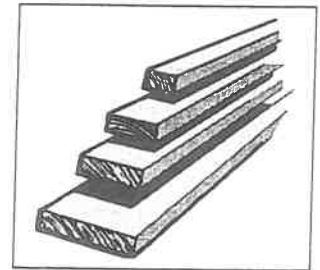
### **Historic Interpretation Option Elements / Tasks**

1. **Access / services.** Requirements for access, parking, restrooms and other amenities would be determined by land-use requirements. These requirements would largely be driven by anticipated visitor levels, which could not be estimated effectively without more specific plans for the interpretive program. Aside from land-use requirements, the amenities and services described under the Park option (5.2.2) would be desirable for all but the simplest interpretive program.
2. **Research.** Before any interpretive program can be prepared, further research regarding the operation and design of the mill would be needed. This should include attempting to identify the specific equipment used in the various phases of the mill's operations, and relating various mill operations to the physical features remaining at the mill site
3. **Signage.** Creating and mounting attractive and well researched signs explaining the mill's history and operations would be the first step of any interpretive program. Text prepared for such signs could also be used for informational leaflets distributed at the site, as well as at an information point in town. Such leaflets could include a map showing the remaining features of the mill site, based on the information developed through the archeological survey.
4. **Displays.** Historic photographs depicting the mill's design and operations could be mounted in weatherproof cases at the mill site.

5. **Recover/rebuild mill equipment.** A more ambitious step would be to recover or reconstruct pieces of mill equipment. For example, a cross-section of the wooden flume could be built, based on historic photographs and other information. This might be displayed within the ditch supporting the flume. It might be feasible to recover contemporary mill equipment, if not the actual equipment used at the Butte Falls mill. Depending on the nature of the equipment and the interpretive design, such equipment could simply be placed appropriately at the site, or might need to be housed within a protective structure.

### Siting / Design

Figure 4 depicts a possible arrangement of interpretive features of the mill site. The boiler house is the only highly visible feature remaining at the site, and is also the first portion of the mill complex one encounters in descending Falls Road. The boiler house would therefore be the logical site for the main interpretive display. The main display should include a map delineating the principal features of the mill site, and text providing an overall explanation of the mill's history and operations.



Due to differences in function and patterning in the details of construction, it seems useful to divide the remaining mill features into five interpretive groups. In addition to the boiler house, these include three clusters of mill features (south, central, and north) and the flume. There is already a trail leading past the "central" mill features to the falls overlook point. A second trail intersects the flume ditch some 200 feet from its northern endpoint. Additional trails with directional signage could easily be created to guide visitors to the north and south portions of the mill structure. A certain amount of the brush and small trees now obscuring these features would need to be cleared. Interpretive signs at each of the three clusters of features could explain, as best can be reconstructed, the operations of the mill in each area. Finally, a reconstructed cross-section of the flume could be placed where the existing trail intersects the flume ditch.

If a protective structure were erected to cover equipment and displays, this might best be sited within the south complex of mill features.

### Suggested Phasing

1. Provide road access, and parking.
2. Clear brush from areas of mill features. Clear trails to north and south features, as needed.

3. Create main interpretive sign at boiler house. Place directional signage for mill features and the flume.
4. Mount displays of historic photographs, and interpretive signs at each of the feature complexes.
5. Create a flume cross-section with an interpretive display, and mount this where the flume ditch and trail intersect.
6. Place recovered mill equipment and/or a scale model of the original mill at the site. Create a protective structure for the displays, if needed.

### **Estimated Costs**

Simple unsurfaced trails to the various mill features can probably be prepared through volunteer labor. If unsurfaced trails were built through contracted labor (for example through RealCorps), the estimated cost would be \$4.00 to \$10.00 per linear foot.<sup>74</sup> If all mill site displays are required to be ADA-accessible, graded, surfaced trails might be required, which would be significantly more expensive.

It is difficult to estimate the costs of interpretive signs, as cost will be dependent on size, materials, and complexity of the graphics, in addition to costs of research and writing. For professionally prepared interpretive signs, \$2,000 to \$5,000 each provides a rough estimate.<sup>75</sup> Depending on the interests and abilities of community members, some of the research, writing, and fabrication could be done a volunteer basis. Simple directional signs could be fabricated locally on a volunteer basis.

The cost of a structure to house displays varies enormously depending on size, design, and materials. An open structure of simple materials (the roof supported by columns, without walls) should cost between \$10 and \$20 per square foot. For a 900 square foot enclosure this translates to \$9,000 to \$18,000. If labor and some materials were donated, the cost could be significantly lower.

### **Opportunities**

It may be feasible for much or all of the research needed for historic interpretation of the mill site to be done by community members. It may also be desirable to document the ongoing significance of the falls and mill site for the life of the Butte Falls community. To this end, community members could collect further oral histories regarding special events and informal uses of the falls/mill site area. Other work such as clearing brush, fashioning a flume cross-section, etc. could also be done effectively by community volunteers.

A number of people we contacted involved in similar projects stressed the value of involving children and young adults in the process of creating and maintaining such

sites, to build community support for the project, to demonstrate local participation for purposes of fundraising, and to provide opportunities for community service. The work already done by Butte Falls high school students demonstrates this.

There are numerous sources of funding and technical assistance available for historic preservation projects. The fact that the mill site was included on the recent needs assessment by the Oregon Heritage Commission should enhance opportunities for support.

The Butte Falls mill site would likely be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. As an example of the early timber industry in Oregon the mill site would best be considered eligible under National Register Criterion A: properties "associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history."<sup>76</sup> Listing on the National Register could enhance opportunities for funding a program of historic interpretation. (See Appendix 3, "Results of Listing in the National Register of Historic Places.")

### Constraints

Committee members asked whether listing the mill site on the National Register could constrain future development options. Such protections are implemented primarily through local land-use policies, that is, through ordinances of Jackson County or the Town of Butte Falls, depending on which jurisdiction has authority.<sup>77</sup>

The situation changes, however, if federal funding or federal permitting is involved with any aspect of the falls/mill site project. In that case the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act would apply. If, for example, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided funding for a stream-watch platform that would alter or damage the mill site, that agency would be required to evaluate and justify the effects of the undertaking on the historic site.<sup>78</sup>

### Comparable Projects

There are numerous historic museums in Oregon, some of which have outdoor components.<sup>79</sup> Two particularly useful comparisons:

- Collier State Park, 30 miles north of Klamath Falls, contains an extensive outdoor museum of historic logging equipment, as well as a sizeable campground. (See Appendix 4.)
- Champoeg State Heritage Area, on the Willamette River near Newberg, contains a historic townsite (the earliest settlement in the Willamette Valley) as well as over 100 camp sites. (See Appendix 6 for a site map and the Champoeg Interpretive

Masterplan). Champoeg has a 2500 square foot visitors' center, and estimated attendance of 390,000 visitors per year.<sup>80</sup>

## 5.4 Environmental Education Option

### Aims

The falls on the South Fork of Big Butte Creek is an outstanding scenic attraction. The creek is also rich in fisheries, including runs of spring chinook, coho, summer steelhead, and winter steelhead.<sup>81</sup> From the bank one can easily see migrating fish attempting to negotiate the falls. Committee members have suggested creating a fish-viewing platform overlooking the falls as one element of an environmental education facility. This could be combined with signs and displays at the overlook explaining fisheries conservation and water resource issues. Furthermore, these could be complemented by displays elsewhere on the mill site parcel providing information on forest management and the timber economy.



Richard Harrington, a member of the Falls Park committee has suggested building a protective structure to house the fish-watching platform:

It might be desirable to construct an all-weather viewing structure to increase usage during inclement weather. It could be built in the covered, open-frame style of the mill. It could shelter displays of both the mill history and of fish/aquatic nature. Such a structure could be built utilizing a portion of the massive concrete foundations, making it cost effective, while at the same time minimizing the potential cluttering of the site by adjacent new construction.

Many of the issues and opportunities applicable to the historic interpretation option also apply here.

### **Environmental Education Option Elements / Tasks**

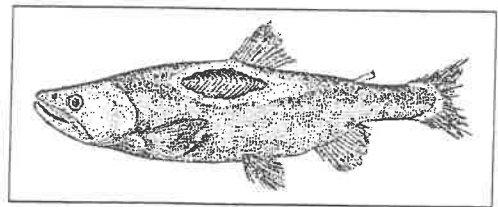
1. **Access / services.** Requirements for access, parking, restrooms and other amenities would be determined by land-use requirements. These requirements would largely be driven by anticipated visitor levels, which could not be estimated effectively without more specific plans for the environmental education program. Aside from land-use requirements, the amenities and services described under the Park option (§5.2) would be desirable for all but the simplest education program.



2. **Research.** Before any environmental education displays can be installed, research will be needed regarding the biological and management issues concerned with fisheries conservation and water resources on the Upper Rogue system. The same task will be required if forestry and/or wildlife management is included in the scope of the environmental education effort.
3. **Signage.** Creating and mounting attractive and well researched signs will be an essential part of any environmental education program. Text prepared for such signs could also be used for informational leaflets distributed at the site, as well as at other information points in town.
4. **Viewing platform.** For reasons of liability, in addition to the convenience and comfort of visitors, a protective railing at the proposed falls viewpoint will be essential. Constructing a platform in addition to the railing would be preferable.
5. **Structure.** A more elaborate alternative, as suggested by Richard Harrington, would be to create a covered, open-frame structure to protect both visitors and the environmental displays. It might be possible to secure volunteer labor from Butte Falls High School's industrial arts classes for such a project.
6. **Forestry issues.** If forestry conservation is included within the program of environmental education, trails and/or directional signage leading to other displays or viewpoints will be needed.

### Siting / Design

The preferred location for the fish-viewing platform is over the power wheel foundation (Feature #35), just below the falls. Some informational signage should be placed at the viewpoint. In addition, another sign providing orientation information should be placed by the boiler house, or at some other point readily visible to visitors. While a forestry management component would require separate signage at a different location, there has not been sufficient discussion of this option by the committee to justify suggesting specific locations at this time.



### Suggested Phasing

1. Provide road access, and parking.
2. Build railing or complete platform at viewpoint.
3. Install informational signage at viewpoint and a highly visible location such as the boiler house. Place directional signage for the falls viewpoint as needed.

4. Provide displays for forestry management, if desired.
5. Create a protective structure for displays either at the viewpoint or elsewhere at the mill site.

### **Estimated Costs**

1. A narrow, 20-foot long platform at the viewpoint should cost in the range of \$2,000 to \$4,000.<sup>82</sup>
2. For cost estimates regarding informational / interpretive signage, trails, and protective structures, see historic interpretation (§ 5.3).

### **Opportunities**

The comments made in Section 5.3 regarding the value of utilizing community volunteers and particularly children and young adults to implement a historic interpretive program apply equally to the environmental education option. In fact, students are now widely involved in environmental restoration and monitoring programs. The Cascade Streamwatch program in the Portland metro area is a successful example of environmental education with strong linkages to the school system. (See Appendix 5 and Wolfree, Inc. in Table 4, Informational Resources.)

Committee members stress the need for the environmental education program to combine aquatic resources issues with other types of resource issues, in particular forestry. In addition to broadening the attraction of such a program, this would have a political benefit as well. As a broad generalization, individuals who have worked in the timber industry tend to have a very different perspective on environmental issues than those who see themselves as advocates for endangered species. A broadly-based environmental education program that seeks to represent the views of various stakeholders in timber, wildlife, and fisheries issues could set a very positive example in an arena that is too often divisive and unnecessarily partisan. Such a program also would be likely to attract funding from variety of donors.

There are numerous examples of environmental education programs in southern Oregon. For example, the Forest Service's facility at nearby Whiskey Springs provides a campground, a day-use area, an interpretive trail system, and educational programs. The program "Issues and Actions" challenges students to consider the balance of competing environmental and economic values in forest management.

Finally, a program that integrated environmental education with habitat restoration might be more likely to attract funding than an education program alone.<sup>83</sup>

## Constraints

Our preliminary research did not reveal significant environmental obstacles at a federal level to siting a viewing platform on the bank above the falls.<sup>84</sup> State and/or local regulations governing land-use and environmental hazards (such as encroachment on flood plains) will presumably still apply. If the Falls Park will remain in county jurisdiction, a pre-application conference with the Jackson County Planning Department should be scheduled before making further siting decisions concerning a viewing platform.

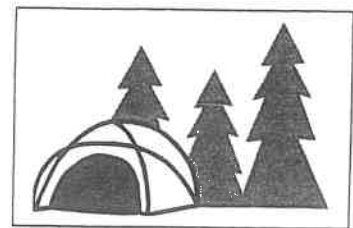
## Comparable Projects

Cascade Stream Watch on Salmon River (Mt. Hood National Forest) consists of an education program and boardwalk/viewing structure (see Appendix 5). Children of all ages are brought to the site for a day of studying aquatic life. After several years of educational programs, community support allowed the creation of a small park. The facility includes an underground fish-viewing structure and boardwalk through wetlands that used to be a timber holding area. There is some regular staffing of the park to care for bathrooms and other facilities. The facility allows informal walking tours and runs 50 programs per year, with 30 persons per program. Jobs in the Woods, a Forest Service program for displaced timber workers, was used to construct the facility.<sup>85</sup>

The Spirit of the Rogue Nature Center in the upper Rogue River watershed has created a boardwalk through volunteer labor and funding from the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board (GWEB) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The boardwalk was originally bid at \$50,000; final construction cost was about \$38,000. The facility includes a visitor's center nearby that can provide staff to interpret the boardwalk. The center is extensively involved in education programs.<sup>86</sup>

## **5.5 Extensive Recreation Option**

Falls Park committee members requested that the study consider an extensive recreation option distinct from the park option described in Section 5.2. This option is intended to allow for hiking and camping, as well as providing connections through an improved trail system to other recreational sites in the Butte Falls area (see Figure 1).



This approach has the advantage of integrating the numerous scenic recreational sites in and around Butte Falls. Under this plan, a trail system would link the Falls Park and historic mill site with Bud Nutting Park to the east, the fish hatchery to the

southeast, and Fairy Glen Park to the southwest. In part the trail system could follow the historic railroad grade. This network of sites would not only provide a range of recreational opportunities for residents, but could also increase interest in both day- and overnight trips to Butte Falls from around the region.

Discussion of this option has not yet developed sufficient detail to allow an analysis of tasks, design, phasing, or costs. Cost data provided elsewhere regarding trails and signage would also be applicable to this option.

## 5.6 Hydroelectric Generation

One of the ideas raised in the 1997 community brainstorming session was to install a hydroelectric generating plant at the falls. A thorough technical or legal assessment of the potential for hydroelectric power generation lies beyond the scope of this study. Nonetheless, a preliminary examination of this option suggests it is infeasible for at least two reasons. First, a major aim of this planning effort has been to protect and enhance the exceptional scenic value of the falls. Hydroelectric generation would necessarily divert creek flows, diminishing or destroying the scenic value. Second, there are fundamental regulatory obstacles associated with the preservation of anadromous fish that effectively preclude hydroelectric development at this site. For both reasons, the hydroelectric option appears to be impractical and probably does not merit further investigation.



One of the many requirements for hydroelectric generation is a license or permit obtained from the Oregon Water Resources Department. Under Oregon law it is essentially impossible today to obtain such a license for hydroelectric development on streams having anadromous fish (which would include the South Fork of Big Butte Creek). A Department of Water Resources publication notes:

As specified by Oregon statutes, no hydroelectric activity can result in mortality or injury to anadromous salmon and steelhead. The term "anadromous" means any species of salmon or any steelhead trout that spends a portion of its life in the ocean and returns to freshwater to spawn.

For a proposed new project on a stream with anadromous fish, the applicant must prove that the project can be operated without the possibility of causing injury or mortality to a single salmon or steelhead. However, it is the position of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife that the technology does not presently exist to design such a project.<sup>87</sup>

Furthermore, the proposed hydro project would apparently require licensing from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).<sup>88</sup> In May 1997 the National Marine Fisheries Service listed coho salmon, which apparently is found on the South Fork of Big Butte Creek, as a threatened species under the terms of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).<sup>89</sup> Under the requirements of the Endangered Species Act, federal agencies must "insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by such agency... is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species."<sup>90</sup> In other words, so long as coho is listed as a threatened species within the Rogue River system, it is extremely unlikely that FERC would grant a license for hydroelectric development on Big Butte Creek.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

This study has evaluated five options for the falls and mill site area: development as a park, as a site for historic interpretation, as a site for environmental education, as part of a regional system for extensive recreation, and as an area for hydroelectric development. The task of this section is to examine to what degree the various options are compatible with one another, and to weigh these options against the criteria discussed in Section 4. The intensive recreation option constitutes an elaboration of the park option, and an expansion beyond the area considered in this study. For this reason it is not considered separately here.

The Falls Park committee discussed the potential linkages among the four major development options for the site. Their rankings are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: Potential Linkages Among Options<sup>91</sup>**

	Hist Int	Env Educ	Hydro
Park	□□□	□□□	■
Hist Int		□□	□□
Env Educ			■

**[Key: □□□ = synergy; □□ = compatibility; ■ = incompatibility]**

As presented here, potential pairings of options are ranked as □□□ if the two approaches would enhance one another (synergy); they are ranked as □□ if the approaches are compatible; and they are ranked as ■ if the options are incompatible.

Development of the mill site as a park would be enhanced by historic interpretation of the mill or by an environmental education facility emphasizing aquatic biology and fisheries management. Development of a park is seen as incompatible with development of a hydroelectric plant, presumably both because of noise and visual impacts. The committee viewed development of the area as a historic interpretive site as compatible with both environmental education and hydroelectric generation. Use of the area as a site for environmental education is seen as incompatible with the development of a hydroelectric project, for the simple reason that dams interfere with the migration of anadromous fish.

In assessing the various development options against the criteria set forth in Section 4, three criteria (projected demand, relative cost/benefit, and operations & maintenance sustainable ) have been ignored. Because the various development options have thus far been sketched out in only a very general way, not enough information is currently available to make a clear judgment on these issues. They are obviously important, and should be considered further as the planning effort progresses.

The remaining thirteen criteria identified in Section 4 include economic development potential, links to the town's heritage, minimal adverse environmental impacts, compatibility with traditional informal uses of the site, and intangible (quality of life) benefits.

The park option, the historic interpretation option, and the environmental education option meet these criteria very well. On the other hand, the hydroelectric option is clearly distinguished from the others by numerous negative factors.

No obvious public or private source of funding for land acquisition and construction of facilities has yet been identified. For this reason the park option would be more likely to succeed if combined with one or both of the remaining options: historic interpretation or environmental education. In addition to the financing of land acquisition, under any of these options major questions remain concerning the financing of facility construction and on-going operations and maintenance. Reaching agreement with Superior Lumber Company regarding the price and terms of land purchase will be the biggest initial step in making this vision a reality. Under any configuration of these three options, development can be phased gradually to accommodate the realities of budgets, the evolution of programs, and community preferences.

Community members and the Falls Park committee have identified an excellent set of opportunities for redevelopment of the historic mill site. It remains for the committee to make a specific recommendation to the town council regarding the best set of program objectives and the most appropriate phasing of tasks to pursue in reclaiming this area, which forms such a significant element of the heritage of Butte Falls.

## Notes

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<sup>1</sup> A.G. Walling, *History of Southern Oregon: Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties*. Portland, Ore: A.G. Walling, 1884, 308.

<sup>2</sup> Jeffrey M. LaLande, *Prehistory and History of the Rogue River National Forest, : A Cultural Resource Overview*, U.S. Forest Service, Rogue River National Forest, 1980, 120-121.

<sup>3</sup> Lewis L. McArthur, *Oregon Geographic Names*, Portland, Oregon, Oregon Historical Society, 1974, 100.

<sup>4</sup> General Land Office Survey, Township 35 South, Range 2 East, July 19, 1855.

<sup>5</sup> LaLande, Jeffrey, *History of the Rogue River National Forest*, 129.

<sup>6</sup> Lewis L. McArthur, *Oregon Geographic Names*, Portland, Oregon, Oregon Historical Society, 1974, 66.

<sup>7</sup> Jeffrey M. LaLande, *Medford Corporation: A History of an Oregon Logging and Lumber Company*, Medford, Oregon: Klocker Printing Company, 1979, 20.

<sup>8</sup> *In the Matter of the Determination of the Relative Rights to the Waters of Rogue River and Its Tributaries*, (Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Jackson County), *Rogue River Decree*, 1914, Testimony Vol. 6, Proof 330.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> *Medford Mail*, July 8, 1904, 7:4.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, December 30, 1904, 1: 6.

<sup>13</sup> Barbara Morehouse Hegne, *The Pacific and Eastern Railroad Through Eagle Point to Butte Falls, Oregon.*, 1997, 5.

<sup>14</sup> *Jackson County Deeds*, Vol. 53, p. 227.

<sup>15</sup> LaLande, *Medford Corporation*, 21; Ernest Smith, "Butte Falls History," Mss. 333 Southern Oregon Historical Society.

<sup>16</sup> *Medford Mail*, December 1, 1905 1:2.

<sup>17</sup> Marjorie O'Harra, "From the Desk of Marjorie O'Harra," Vol. 1, Page 118; LaLande, *Medford Corporation: A History*, 21; Ernest Smith, "Butte Falls History."

<sup>18</sup> *Jackson County Commissioners Journal*, Vol. 12, p. 533.

<sup>19</sup> *Medford Mail*, January 19, 1906,1:8.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, February 2, 1906, 1:5.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, February 16, 1906, 1:2.

<sup>22</sup> Ernest Smith, "Butte Falls History."



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- <sup>23</sup> Elga Abbott, "On the Site of the First Butte Falls Sawmill, 1906-1922," Videotaped Interview by Alan Buchta, August 6, 1997.
- <sup>24</sup> Medford Mail, February 2, 1906, 1:5.
- <sup>25</sup> Ibid., March 23, 1906, 1:3.
- <sup>26</sup> LaLande, Medford Corporation: A History, 21; Jackson County Deeds, Vol. 59, p. 352.
- <sup>27</sup> Jackson County Deeds, Vol. 61, p. 540; Vernon Arnold, "Butte Falls: A History of Its City Government Since Incorporation in 1911," 1960, Southern Oregon Historical Society; Hegne, Country Folk, 44-45.
- <sup>28</sup> Medford Mail Tribune, October 29, 1961, 6A.
- <sup>29</sup> Medford Daily Tribune, June 7, 1909, 1:3.
- <sup>30</sup> Ibid., July 14, 1909, 1: 3.
- <sup>31</sup> Ernest Smith, "Butte Falls History."
- <sup>32</sup> State of Oregon, Office of the Secretary of State, Certificate of Authority to Engage in Business Within the State of Oregon, Oregon State Archives.
- <sup>33</sup> LaLande, Medford Corporation: A History, 21-22.
- <sup>34</sup> In the Matter of the determination of the Relative Rights to the Waters of Rogue River and Its Tributaries, Decree.
- <sup>35</sup> Medford Mail Tribune, July 12 1911, 7:2.
- <sup>36</sup> Ibid., July 14, 1911, 5:6; July 24, 1911.
- <sup>37</sup> In the Matter of the Determination of the Relative Rights to the Waters of Rogue River and Its Tributaries, Decree.
- <sup>38</sup> Medford Mail Tribune, August 2, 1911, 1:2.
- <sup>39</sup> Town of Butte Falls, Comprehensive Plan, 1982.
- <sup>40</sup> Medford Mail Tribune, October 29, 1961, 6A.
- <sup>41</sup> Jackson County Deeds, Vol. 97, p. 540.
- <sup>42</sup> Elga Abbott, Videotaped Interview.
- <sup>43</sup> LaLande, Medford Corporation, A History, 22; History of the Rogue River National Forest, 138.
- <sup>44</sup> Elga Abbott, Videotaped Interview.
- <sup>45</sup> Charles I. Patton, Interview, 50;54.
- <sup>46</sup> Recollections, People and the Forest, Oral History Interviews, Vol. 3, Rogue River National Forest, 1990 44.
- <sup>47</sup> LaLande, Medford Corporation: A History, 22.
- <sup>48</sup> Jackson County Deeds, Vol. 153, p. 45.

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<sup>49</sup>Medford Mail Tribune, January 31, 1919. 1:4

<sup>50</sup>Elga Abbott. Videotaped Interview. Mr. Abbott recalls dismantling the mill in 1921. Deed records indicate that structures and equipment remained on the site in 1924. It is possible that partial removal of materials occurred before final demolition.

<sup>51</sup> LaLande, Prehistory and History of the Rogue River National Forest, 139. Ernest Smith states (Medford Mail Tribune, October 29, 1961) that the Sugar Pine Lumber Company operated until 1918, when it was bought by Brownlee and Olds. Jackson County Deeds indicate that the Owen-Oregon Lumber company purchased the mill property in 1924.

<sup>52</sup>Lalande, Medford Corporation: A History, 29.

<sup>53</sup>Ibid.

<sup>54</sup>Jackson County Deeds, January 5, 1925, Vol. 153, p. 45.

<sup>55</sup>Elga Abbott Videotaped Interview. Mr. Abbott recalls that the saw and water wheels were taken to the Red Blanket Mill near Prospect and that the headrig may have been taken to Medford. Although he did not identify their location, Mr. Abbott stated that the buildings constructed from mill lumber were still standing.

<sup>56</sup>Butte Falls Comprehensive Plan.

<sup>57</sup>LaLande, Medford Corporation: A History, 76.

<sup>58</sup>Jackson County Deeds, 74-709757, July 31, 1974; 88-14435, QCD; Joyce Hailicka, Telephone Interview, December 7, 1998.

<sup>59</sup>Darwin Moore, Telephone Interview, December 7, 1998.

<sup>60</sup> The parcel is owned by Superior Lumber Company. Superior Lumber authorized the surface inventory of the parcel on the condition that only historical resources were to be documented (B.J. Rodgers, personal communication, Nov. 30, 1998). Thus, no reference to Native Americans, the possible presence of prehistoric artifacts, or past native use of the area is included in this report.

<sup>61</sup> A useful source of funding sources is The 19xx Oregon Foundation DataBook, Portland, C&D Publishing (various years).

<sup>62</sup> We contacted David Wright at Oregon State Parks (503-378-4168, ext. 251) and Paul Korbolic, Jackson County Parks (541-776-7001) regarding procedures for state or county acquisitions of park lands.

<sup>63</sup> Information of conservation easements from Alex Liston Dykema of the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (541-488-5540). Phil Garr of Jacksonville Woodlands Association also has experience getting easements donated and purchased. (541-899-8711) See also the Nature Conservancy's web site: [www.tnc.org](http://www.tnc.org).

<sup>64</sup> Vicki Guarino, "Blazing a Trail to the Falls." Medford Mail Tribune, 4/29/99.

<sup>65</sup> Tom Hayes, Butte Falls Public Works Director, 4/30/99.

<sup>66</sup> Dick Florey, Jackson Co. Planning Department, 4/30/99.

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- <sup>67</sup> CXT Incorporated brochure (Spokane, Washington); Dick Florey, Jackson Co. Planning 4/30/99.
- <sup>68</sup> Estimate From Tom Hayes, Butte Falls Public Works Director, 4/30/99.
- <sup>69</sup> Tom Hayes, 4/30/99. Mr. Hayes believes that the Falls Park would require slightly more maintenance costs due to vandalism.
- <sup>70</sup> Regarding Cantrall-Buckley Park: Paul Korbolic, Jackson County Parks, 4/28/99.
- <sup>71</sup> Paul Korbolic, Jackson County Parks, 4/28/99; Terry Mitchell, manager, Cantrall-Buckley Park, 541-899-7155. Contact for Ruch community group: Jack Shipley, 846-6917.
- <sup>72</sup> Jackson County land use regulations, §§ 210.020 and 210.030.
- <sup>73</sup> Land-use information from Mike Savage, Jackson County Planning Department, Medford, Oregon (541-774-6909), 5/3/99.
- <sup>74</sup> Bill Fleeger, RealCorps (552-8239)
- <sup>75</sup> Caia Cupito, interpretive designer (541-552-1198). In the interpretive masterplan for Champoeg State Heritage Area, interpretive panels have a projected cost of \$3,000 each (Champoeg State Park Interpretive Masterplan no date).
- <sup>76</sup> National Register *Bulletin* 15, "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation," U.S. Department of the Interior, 1991, p. 12.
- <sup>77</sup> Julie Osborne, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (503-378-6508), 5/4/99.
- <sup>78</sup> See the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 (16 U.S.C. 470g) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800).
- <sup>79</sup> For a useful list of Oregon historical museums, see <http://www.ohwy.com/or/h/histmuseum.htm>.
- <sup>80</sup> For Champoeg State Heritage Area, contact Dennis Wiley (503)678-1251 x230.
- <sup>81</sup> Richard Harrington, Falls Park committee meeting, 4/1/99.
- <sup>82</sup> Viewing platform: \$100 - \$200 / linear foot to build a boardwalk viewing station, per Bob Ratcliffe, Bureau of Land Management (503-375-5669), 4/26/99.
- <sup>83</sup> Michele Ferry at Wolf Tree / Cascade Streamwatch (503) 239-1820 (4/26/99).
- <sup>84</sup> Frank Bird of National Marine Fisheries Service (4/28/99) does not see any platform as an issue for building. If there no federal funding is involved in the project, there is a possibility that federal regulations wouldn't have to be addressed, and only state permits would apply.
- <sup>85</sup> Regarding Cascade Streamwatch: contact Michele Ferry at Wolf Tree (503) 239-1820 (4/26/99).
- <sup>86</sup> Spirit of the Rogue Nature Center: contact Roger Fishman, 541-878-3800 (4/26/99).
- <sup>87</sup> Oregon Water Resources Department, Salem, Oregon, "Hydroelectric Projects," 1988, p.2.
- <sup>88</sup> FERC regulations exempt from the licensing requirements of Part I of the Federal Power Act those hydroelectric projects proposed for placement in pre-1977 dams and of no more than 5 MW proposed capacity; and projects that will utilize the hydroelectric potential of a man-made

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conduit used primarily for purposes other than hydroelectric generation, and with a proposed installed capacity of no more than 15 MW (or no more than 40 MW for states and municipalities). Federal energy regulatory commission, "Hydroelectric Projects Exempt From Licensing Requirements" (FERC web page).

<sup>89</sup> Oregon coho listed as threatened species: *Federal Register* vol. 63, no. 153, August 10, 1998, pp. 42587-42591.

<sup>90</sup> Endangered Species Act, § 7 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1536).

<sup>91</sup> The committee also considered the intensive recreation option. It was deleted here because it is not sufficiently distinguished from the park option.

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TABLE NOS. 2 - 4

Table 2:  
Cost Estimates by Option

<b>(1) General Park Facilities</b>			
	<b>Low Quote</b>	<b>High Quote</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Amenities:</b>			Price quotes based on American Playground Catalog
Picnic Tables (4)	600	1,600	Low quote includes only price of frame, Construction and materials included in high quote
BBQs (2)	400	400	
Garbage Cans (4)	60	160	Low quote includes only price of cans. Additional holding units included in high quote
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,060</i>	<i>2,160</i>	
<b>Bathrooms:</b>			
Connected to Town's Sewer			Price quotes per Tom Hayes, Butte Falls Public Works Director
Construction of 2 Room Building	17,028		
Liftstation with Pump	3,000		
Sewage Line to Site	4,200		
<i>Total</i>	<i>24,228</i>		
Vault Toilets			Price quotes per CXT catalog
Purchase of Single Toilet Unit	7,550		
Shipping and Installation	4,000		
<i>Total</i>	<i>11,550</i>		
Rented Portable Units, Yearly Cost	840		Quoted by Steward's Porta Potti w/ service every 2 weeks
<b>Water and Electricity From Town</b>	6,300		Quoted by Tom Hayes @ \$9/linear foot
Drinking Fountain (1)	1,300		
<i>Total</i>	<i>7,600</i>		
<b>Yearly Maintenance</b>			
Grounds Upkeep	2,500		Based on \$1500 for maintaining park by Butte Falls City Hall
Pumping of Vault Toilet Tank	500		Quoted at \$250 / time
<i>Applicable only with Vault Toilets</i>			
<b>Totals</b>			
Connected to Town's Sewer w/ water and electricity	35,388	36,488	
Vault Toilets w/ \$500 yearly maintene w/ water and electricity	15,610 23,210	17,710 25,310	
Yearly cost w/ rented portable units w/ water and electricity	4,400 12,000	5,500 13,100	

Table 2:  
Cost Estimates by Option

<b>(2) Historic Interpretive Site</b>			
* All cost estimates are in addition to General Park Facilities and do not include acquisition of mill equipment.			
<b>Interpretive Signage</b>	Low Quote	High Quote	
			Low Quote includes only min. cost for researching and text writing. Assumes all materials and labor will be donated.
			High is all-inclusive. Based on budget in Champoeg Interp. Masterplan.
1 sign for entire site	500	3,000	
3 signs for site	1,500	9,000	Signs placed at Boiler House, Central Mill Remains, and Flume Ditch
<b>Housing for Display of Equipment, etc.</b>			Prices assumes an open (unwalled) 900 sq.ft. structure. Low est. comp. to hay shed; high quote is in style of mill building.
Protective structure w/o walls	9,000	18,000	Unfinished and inexpensive option, compared to hay storage shed
<b>Totals</b>			
1 interpretive sign & structure	9,500	12,000	
3 interpretive signs & structure	10,500	27,000	
<b>Trail Building</b>			
			Based on approximately 250 linear feet
Unsurfaced with donated labor	125	250	Quoted by Phil Garr
Unsurfaced, hand-cut trails	1,000	2,500	Quoted by Bill Fleeger of RealCorps, based on rough knowledge of conditions at Butte Falls
Graded and surfaced trails	12,500	25,000	Quoted by Bob Ratcliff of BLM
<b>(3) Environmental Education Site</b>			
Viewing platform	2,000	4,000	For 20 foot length (B. Ratcliffe, BLM)
For costs of signs, structure, and trail see Sec. 2 (historic site).			
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Table 3:  
Sources of Funding

<b>Funding Resources</b>			
<b>Organization / Contact name</b>	<b>email / phone #</b>	<b>Type of Support Offered</b>	<b>Relates to:</b>
Meyer Memorial Trust	(503) 228-5512 mmt@mmt.org.	Land acquisition, natural resource cons., environmental and historical preservation, general operations support, building, renovation, program development, tech, assist. Range from \$500 - \$1M.	Land acquisition, environmental and historical interpretation
Kinsman Foundation	fax: (503) 659-5244	Land acquisition, environmental preservation & protection, historic preservation. Limited to OR and southwest WA	Land acquisition, environmental and historical interpretation
Wallace Genetic Foundation	(202) 966-2932	Avg. \$1000-100,000 grants in: land acquisition, natural resource cons. and protection, environmental ed., operating support, program development, seed \$	Land acquisition, environmental interpretation and education
Collins Foundation	(503) 227-7171	Grants for land acquisition and possibly environmental preservation	Land acquisition
Carpenter Foundation	(541) 772-5851	Grants for land acquisition and possibly environmental preservation	Land acquisition
Chainey Foundation	contact: Phil Garr	Grants for land acquisition	Land acquisition
GWEB Mark Grenbemmer	(541) 471-2886	Environmental education grants might require partnership with Upper Rogue Watershed Council	Environmental interpretation and education
Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 Office in Seattle, WA Washington, D.C. Office		grants under \$25,000 grants over \$25,000	Environmental interpretation
US Fish and Wildlife	(541) 957-3470	Grants awarded on annual basis	Environmental restoration, preservation, and education
OR Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Brian Coleman	(541) 872-5299	Aquatic Education grants. Must become partners in design, building, and implementation	Environmental interpretation, restoration, design, and building
Paul Johnson	(541) 872-5299 x.5399	Restoration and Enhancement Program gives grants to repair state hatcheries. On 2-yr. cycle, beginning July 1999.	Environmental interpretation, restoration, design, and building
National Environmental Education and Training Foundation	(202) 628-8200	Environmental education : program development, curriculum dev., technical assistance	Environmental interpretation
Laird Norton Endowment Fund Patrick de Freitas, Pres.	(206) 464-5292 lairdnorton@earthlink.net	Interested in forestry and education, natural resources cons. & protection, curriculum development, research	Environmental interpretation and education, land acquisition



Table 3:  
Sources of Funding

Organization / Contact name	email / phone #	Type of Support Offered	Relates to:
Lamb Foundation	(503) 635-8010	Limited to OR & WA. Environmental program development, seed \$, technical assistance. Grants range from \$250 - \$50k.	Environmental interpretation and restoration
National Trust for Historic Preservation Anthony Veercamp	(415) 956-1610	Preservation Services Fund (PSF) offers \$1000-2500 for feasibility studies and planning. Heritage education component helpful	Historical preservation, interpretation, and education
Save America's Treasures	see above	Historical trust. Contact through Anthony Veercamp	Historical preservation and interpretation
Oregon Community Foundation Gregory Chaille	(503) 227-6846	Community development, education, environmental protection and restoration	Development and planning
Ford Family Foundation Kenneth Ford	(503) 679-3311	Capital, community groups, possibly education	Capital for planning and creation
OR Heritage Commission	(503) 378-6508	Depending on OR's next biennium budget, \$200,000 could be allotted for projects. Being on list is helpful	Historic preservation
OR State Parks Bob Meimen, director	(503) 378-6305	Depending on the next biennium budget, up to \$4mil. available for local grants. No \$ available for acquiring land.	Park development and facilities
US Forest Service Paul Galloway	(541) 865-2700	Some \$ available for architectural, engineering, and design	Park site development
Southern Oregon Timbers Industries Assn. Dave Hill	(541) 773-5329	Interested in having a proposal before the board to consider for funding	Forestry, management, and environmental
Oregon Trout Ashley Henry	(541) 772-7988	Interested in helping find funding. Their goals aimed at preserving and ensuring the protection of habitat. Joint funding a possibility	Environmental preservation
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Table 4: Sources of Information

<b>Informational Resources and Potential Partners</b>			
<b>Organization / Contact name</b>	<b>email / phone #</b>	<b>Type of Support Offered</b>	<b>Relates to:</b>
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy Alex Liston Dykema or Lu Anthony	(541) 488-5540	Conservation Easements. Lu is also helpful in searching funding opportunities	Acquisition of land.
The Nature Conservancy JoAnne Colan	(503) 230-1221 www.tnc.org	Information on conservation easements	Conservation easements.
Jacksonville Woodlands Assn. Phil Garr	(541) 899-8711	Very knowledgeable in similar funding quests for land acquisition and trail construction	Raising funds, acquiring land, creating park area.
Wolfree, Inc. Michele Ferry / Program Mngr. Worked on Cascade Streamwatch	(503) 239-1820	Experience getting funding and building similar project	Environmental interpretation and education
BLM Bob Ratcliffe	(503) 375-5669	Recommended by Michele Ferry. Offered to make BLM plans for boardwalks or platforms available to Butte Falls to reduce costs. Recommends combining restoration with education to increase funding chances.	Creation and planning of environmental interpretation and education
RealCorps Bill Fleeger	(541) 552-8239	RealCorps must be contracted for work. Bill would help research funding possibilities.	Construction of trails
SORED Gordon Safley or Candace Bartow	(541) 779-2608	Most funds are below \$30,000 and available after Jan. 1. Will be in contact with Butte Falls in June or July.	Researching funds
Rogue Institute in Ecology and Economy Karen Carneval	(541) 482-5786	Will help research for funds. Call after 5/11/99	Researching funds
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