

Upper Klamath River Stateline Archaeological District

THIS NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION CONTAINS RESTRICTED INFORMATION

Archaeological and traditional property locations are considered confidential and public access to such information is restricted by law (Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act; Section 9(a) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act; Executive Order 13007; Section 6254.10 of the California State Government Code). The following summary of the description and significance of the above-named resource is available for public access.

The Upper Klamath River Stateline Archaeological District (UKRSAD) is located in the Southern Cascades in Siskiyou County, California. The district consists of three pre-contact archaeological sites (contributing) and one isolated find (noncontributing) situated on the terraces and benches along the Upper Klamath River in the Cascade Mountains. These include one large village and two medium villages with a variety of functionally and temporally related smaller sites focused upon economic, subsistence, and religious activities that were associated with pre-contact village life. Archaeological studies indicate that the pre-contact aboriginal use of these sites extended from about 1000 BCE or earlier to possibly as late as CE 1840. The largest village includes an unusual number and variety of religious and funerary sites adjacent to it, contributing to the great potential this district has for expanding knowledge of Native American pre-contact history and proto-history in this part of far western North America. While some looting of lithics on the surface of the sites has occurred, sub-surface testing suggests that there is high potential for intact sub-surface deposits and that the sites retain their historic integrity.

The district is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion D in the areas of Prehistoric Archaeology, Native American Ethnic Heritage, Commerce, Economics, Religion, and Politics/Government for its potential to contribute to understanding of the pre-contact and proto-historic past of this portion of far western North America. Archaeological investigations at these sites demonstrate their inclusion in long-distance trade networks and the existence of social stratification. In addition, one of the sites has girdled trees, rock cairns, and potential burials that could all yield information on the religious aspects of the society. This potential includes opportunities to resolve research problems that are relevant to the prehistory of northern California and southern Oregon, in general terms; ones that pertain specifically to local prehistory in the southern Cascades of California and Oregon; issues relevant to Native American history; and topics of much wider concern in archaeological theory. The district represents the last four thousand years of aboriginal village occupation and associated activities on the benches and terraces of a major river. Dating between about 2000 BCE and CE 1840 based on radiocarbon dates and projectile point styles, the district includes a Late Holocene chronological record for this region. The 800 to 1840 period of significance encompasses the Late Archaic through Pacific Periods and proto-historic Shasta times, or from the River Phase through the Canyon Phase within the Upper Klamath River cultural chronology.