Some Perspectives on Native Uses (Past, Present, and Future) of Forestlands in the Rogue Basin
BEFORE “WE” CAME HERE...

--Who lived here?...

--How did they live?...

--What happened to them?...

--Where are the descendants?...

--What are their present/future connections to this land?
Who??....
Ethnic identities change over time.

-- People living in Rogue Valley for at least the past 14,000 years... (first were likely “mammoth hunters”)

-- By the time EuroAmericans arrived, there were **four main groups** here:

- The **Shasta** (from about Talent south and over into California’s Shasta Valley/Klamath River Canyon)...
- The **Taklema** (Latgawa) from about Talent north, around Table Rocks and up/down the Rogue River...
- Various **Athapascan groups** down river (Applegate, Illinois, lower-most Rogue...)
- The **Klamath** (east of the Cascades, but over on to “our” side as well (+ their **Molalla cousins** above Prospect).
Over the long-term, ethnic territories were also in flux....
Although... Many different Native languages (and several language groups) here in SW Oregon...

West of the Cascades Range, they had generally similar cultures and belief systems...

They lived in a world alive with spirits and un-seen powers...
A world where the ancestral Takelma hired Beaver to chew down Table Rock...to stop the flood caused by mischievous Rainmaker.
Not “egalitarian”!
Heavy emphasis on an individual’s rank and wealth.
(material wealth = spiritual power)
How’d they Live?

- **Not** by farming...
- (no crops except for tobacco)

- **But** they did **manage** the landscape.

- Hunting, gathering, and fishing...
Staple foods
Salmon, steelhead, lamprey eels, (even crawfish and freshwater mussels)
So, unlike the Native peoples who lived east of the Mississippi and in the American Southwest...

Not only no farming, and...

No (or almost no) pottery...

However....
They wove wonderful baskets
Traditional designs, using materials. Gathered from the Forests...
Baskets rarely last in archaeological sites, but stone tools do... (obsidian from afar, but jasper and agate from here)...
What did they live in?

Plank houses made from sugar pine
WHAT HAPPENED?...

WITHIN THE SPAN OF <20 YEARS (1830s-1850s), NATIVE PEOPLE OF THE ROGUE BASIN SUFFERED:

INVASION...
DISEASE...
WAR...
REMOVAL...
Coming to a close...
What about “now” and in the future?...
Tribal interests and uses in the Rogue Basin.
FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES’ AREAS OF INTEREST:

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde: Much of the RR-SNF and MFD-BLM District...

Confederated Tribes of Siletz: Ditto....

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua: Rogue-Umpqua Divide area above Prospect (“The Huckleberry Patch”)...

The Klamath Tribes: Huckleberry Mountain, near Crater Lake and elsewhere in High Cascades RD...
Coquille Tribe: Powers RD and Coos Bay BLM for the most part.


Quartz Valley Indian Reservation??: Southern-most parts of Sisk Mtns RD (especially in California).

Karuk Tribe??: Someday, possibly the headwaters of the Illinois R. (especially in California).
Geographic “areas of Tribal interest” can grow...as can the kinds of concerns. Some “words to the wise”:

“Government-to-Government Consultation” (Federally Recognized Tribal gov’ts are not just “members of the Public”, but, as individuals, their members basically are)...

Rely on your Tribal-Relations Specialist for advice...

Do not treat non-Recognized “Tribes” the same way you do Recognized Tribes.
Current interests/issues:

- **First-Salmon Ceremony** (on Rogue just upstream from Gold Hill.....Siletz Tribal members)...

- **Table Rocks**, as a place of important Tribal Heritage (Grand Ronde and Siletz Tribes), and as a place to tell the public they came from here and are “alive and well” (Grand Ronde, Siletz, as well as, to some degree, the Cow Creek Band).

- **Human burials** a very big issue, if and when found.

- Archaeological sites and traditional **power-quest** sites...
  (and, possibly, current-day, individual spirit-quest sites).
What about ecological and “resource” issues?

Health and maintenance of important traditional plants...

A major one (currently with the Klamath Tribes and the Cow Creek Band) is:
And, also (although not yet, to my knowledge, an expressed concern) on the RR-SNF/BLM, but very likely to become one:

Traditional materials for Basketry
Beargrass
Pacific hazel: nuts and new shoots, or withes)
Maidenhair fern stems (for basket designs)
Maybe even Oregon-grape roots (yellow dye)
In our area, some of these species are already on the southern-most extent of their viable current range...

...What about the potential effects of climate change on their use and sustainability?
THANK YOU.