

Eradication/control can be accomplished through mechanical, biological, chemical suppression, and/or re-vegetation. Each of these methods of control can have potentially severe impacts to the environment. Therefore, knowing each weeds physiology is imperative for maximum benefit and minimum impacts. Currently, natural re-vegetation, mechanical, and chemical treatments are the best methods for eradication. While biological control has great appeal, the cost of developing and the unknown consequences of introducing another nonnative species to the ecosystem currently makes this an epidemic control method.

Most of the noxious weed species in this subwatershed will ultimately be controlled by canopy closure and light deprivation inside plantations, as these are early seral species. An exception is Scotch broom, as its seed remains viable in the soil for about 80 years. Therefore, Scotch broom may be perpetuated on forest land where rotations are less than 80 years when plants are allowed to produce seed. Once broom is established, road construction and maintenance will likely provide the disturbances necessary for regeneration of noxious weed species.

CHAPTER 10: HUMAN USES: HISTORIC / PREHISTORIC

REFERENCE CONDITIONS

The Umpqua River now is a major transportation corridor cutting through the Coast Range mountains, and probably has been for as long as people have lived in the region. It also is probable that the portion of that corridor within the Upper Middle Umpqua Subwatershed was occupied prehistorically. The wide river terraces which later drew ranchers and farmers to this area also would have been appealing to prehistoric peoples.

Our best knowledge about mid-19th century Native American territories suggests the Umpqua Indians resided along the main stem of the river. Lower Umpqua Indians territory included the area within tidal influence, from the river mouth near Winchester Bay to the vicinity of Scottsburg. Upper Umpqua Indian territory began there and continued upriver to the meeting of the North and South Forks, near Coles Valley. The Yoncalla Indians occupied the watersheds formed by Elk and Calapouya Creeks, to the north and east of the Upper Umpqua territory.

While the Lower Umpqua focused on marine resources, the Upper Umpqua depended on a wide variety of subsistence activities during the year. The hunted for deer and elk, fished the river for salmon and freshwater species, and gathered foods like camas (a root crop). Undoubtedly, areas within the subwatershed were used in their subsistence activities. However, relatively little is known about prehistoric land use patterns among the Upper Umpqua. This is in part due to the devastation and changes caused by the epidemic of fevers which spread throughout the Native American populations of the vicinity during 1830-32.

In November 1854, Indian Superintendent Joel Palmer signed a treaty with the Umpqua and Yoncalla Indians. This ratified treaty granted to the United States all of their lands, including those in the subwatershed. The Native peoples first were moved away from the area to a nearby reservation created in lower Coles Valley. Within a year, turmoil between the Euro-Americans and the Indians along the Rogue River and the southwest Coast escalated into open warfare. By February 1856, this reservation had been closed and more than 300 Umpqua and Yoncalla Indians were moved to the

Grand Ronde Reservation.

The earliest Euro-American outpost in the region was built on the bottomland along the south bank of the Umpqua River, across from the mouth of Elk Creek. This encampment, known as "Fort Umpqua," was begun by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1836, and was used until 1851 as a base camp by fur traders and other explorers.

Permanent American settlements began in 1846, when the Scott-Applegate party entered the Umpqua Valley over a Native American trail from the upper Willamette Valley. In 1848, Captain Levi Scott established a farm along Elk Creek near Elkton. In 1850, he founded the town of Leviville, which later was renamed Scottsburg. The trail to the Willamette Valley soon was expanded into a wagon road, making transportation of goods and settlers somewhat easier. The impetus for Elkton's development came in August 1850, with the platting of the site by members of the Umpqua Exploring Expedition. Because of the wide river terraces, many of the earliest Donation Land Claims were for bottomland in along this stretch of the Umpqua River.

The earliest government in Southwestern Oregon was situated in Elkton. It was named the first seat of "Umpqua County" on June 2, 1851, by the Territorial Legislature, and the Elkton post office opened on September 26, 1851. The Elkton Saw and Flouring Mills were erected on the banks of Elk Creek in 1873, and by 1878 the town had nearly 350 residents (Beckham 1976). The flood of November 1893, destroyed the mills, which were rebuilt in 1907. They served to process the locally-grown wheat (into "Pride of Elkton Flour") until 1924. By this time the development of a road system made it possible to ship grains to the Willamette Valley for processing.

Railroad development into the region also occurred relatively late. About 1885, the Southern Pacific Company, successor to the O & C, surveyed a route along the Umpqua River through the Coast Range but did not build the line. In 1889, local investors formed the Umpqua River Railroad & Improvement Company, but could not raise construction capital (Abdill 1966; Binder 1973). In 1905, the Oregon Western Railway conducted a new survey of the route and began construction in 1907. After economic downturns in 1911, work ceased after building several miles of graded roadbed, two large tunnels and several bridge abutments. The incomplete Paradise Creek tunnel, a remnant of that attempt, is located not far from this subwatershed. Finally in 1916, the Southern Pacific Company again took the lead and completed a route between the Willamette Valley and the coast. However, this route followed the Siuslaw River, bypassing the Umpqua River.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Prehistoric archeological sites are not documented within this subwatershed. One prehistoric site was documented on a river terrace just downstream from this subwatershed, and within this subwatershed a riverside site is reported and an isolated artifact was found in an upland setting. This paucity of prehistoric evidence may be more a result of the disturbance associated with early settlement and farming on these river terraces than as a reflection of sparse prehistoric use of the area. Whatever prehistoric archeological resources do still exist in this subwatershed (whether we have knowledge of them or not) are finite and non-renewable, and over time it is expected that they will continue to be destroyed both by natural and human-caused land alterations.

Reported 19th and early 20th century historic resources include an abandoned coal mine, several farmsteads, the Gottlieb-Mehl mill site, and portions of two trails and an early wagon road. Late

1940's and 1950's logging remains in the near future will reach the minimum age (50 years old) to be considered for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Materials and features dating from this period should be identified and monitored during future ground-disturbing activities.

CHAPTER 11: HUMAN USES: MODERN

CHARACTERIZATION

The ability to cultivate the scenic valley makes this watershed important to people. The rural human population is estimated to be around 100 families within the subwatershed. The population of Elkton is 180. State Highway 38 is a major route between the Willamette Valley and the Pacific Coast, a top destination for travelers within the state (Oregon Travel and Tourism Division 1989).

The subwatershed lands are privately owned or under BLM administrative authority. The BLM lands are nearly all forested slopes. BLM's forest management objectives have changed from featuring timber production to ecosystem management. Damaging landslides of recent wet years have raised public awareness of that hazard, adding a new element to the debate on how forests should be managed in general, and whether or not clearcutting should be used in particular. Recent changes in the State Forest Practices regulations require greater protection of riparian and aquatic values and retention of some habitat structure.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Natural resources are a vital component of the ecosystem/human dynamics of this subwatershed. Major human uses include extracting forest products, raising cattle, sheep and grapes, and hunting and fishing. Today water is supplied through private wells and springs; electricity through Douglas Electric Company; sewage disposal is private septic and/or leach systems and trash may be hauled to Drain Sanitary Facility or collected by Douglas County contractors and disposed of through county operations. The town of Elkton serves as the hub for community activities, education, and services.

There are two BLM grazing leases in this subwatershed (see Map HUM-1: Human Uses). The first is lease #7206 for six Animal Unit Months in the NE corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sect. 21, T.23S., R.7W. The 2.5 acre grassy hillside with one spring is separated from the remainder of the BLM land by a road and fence. The pasture is adjacent to the lessee's private pasture and residence. The area has been leased since 1977. The second lease is #7205 for 12 AUM in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sect, 21, T.23S., R.7W. The 6.5 acre area is classified as western Oregon perennial pasture and has no water sources. This pasture has been leased since 1977.

Two or three permits are issued annually by BLM for commercial use of "special forest products" including collection of swordfern, mosses, mushrooms, and digging of "wildlings" for native plant nurseries. Christmas tree cutting for personal use occurs as well. There are two tree nurseries near Elkton. One is operated by the State and the other is private.

Douglas County currently maintains a boat-ramp and two day-use recreation sites, one with toilet facilities along Highway 38, west of Elkton. Just south of the watershed several recreation parks and day-use sites are maintained along the river (also on map HUM-1). These sites are important for public access to the river. Fishing is a primary activity along the Umpqua River. Several small, flat

benches within the forested region provide unofficial camping and parking areas. Visitation relates to seasonal hunting and fishing, and otherwise is highest on weekends and in summer months.

REFERENCE CONDITIONS

Human uses relative to population have changed over the past two centuries. Agriculture dominates valley use, and timber production dominates use in the surrounding forests. The population remains resource dependent. An old abandoned coal mine and several homesteads are within the subwatershed, with evidence of early logging and railroad building in the region. The river has served as a transportation corridor for people, goods, and services since humans came to the area.

Historical human uses were largely agricultural and river related. Timber harvest was limited due to the difficulty of extraction with hand tools and poor access for transport, until after World War II. Intensive timber management resulted in a significant road system used today by more people, including those who own vehicles capable of maneuvering off roads. The region is still mostly known and used by local and regional residents and workers. Agricultural use has shifted the past 40 years from grain production to pasture lands, due to costs of irrigation, equipment, and transportation but the net acreage of agricultural lands has not changed significantly. Aerial photographs and staff visits indicate trees and brush have remained along streambanks, curtailing erosion in the agricultural valley and river basin. Old photos suggest people have maintained the open, rolling lower slopes for agricultural use since arriving in the valley.

SYNTHESIS AND INTERPRETATION

Comparing conditions of the past and present, one element becomes apparent. Awareness of the cumulative effects of past land management practices is being reflected in the political and legislative arena. Timber management continues to have national significance. It also has great impact on ecosystems. Agricultural management and impacts are believed to have mostly local and regional influence.

No major changes in the rural atmosphere of this subwatershed are indicated. The population has remained relatively stable in this watershed, and is expected to remain so in the next half century.

REFERENCES

Umpqua River Basin: State Water Resources Board, 1958
Oregon Travel and Tourism: *Visitor Profile, Marketing and Economic Impacts* Prepared for the Oregon Tourism Division by Dean Runyan Associates, Portland, Oregon with The Lyon Group of Pacific Palisades, CA, January 1989.

Maps

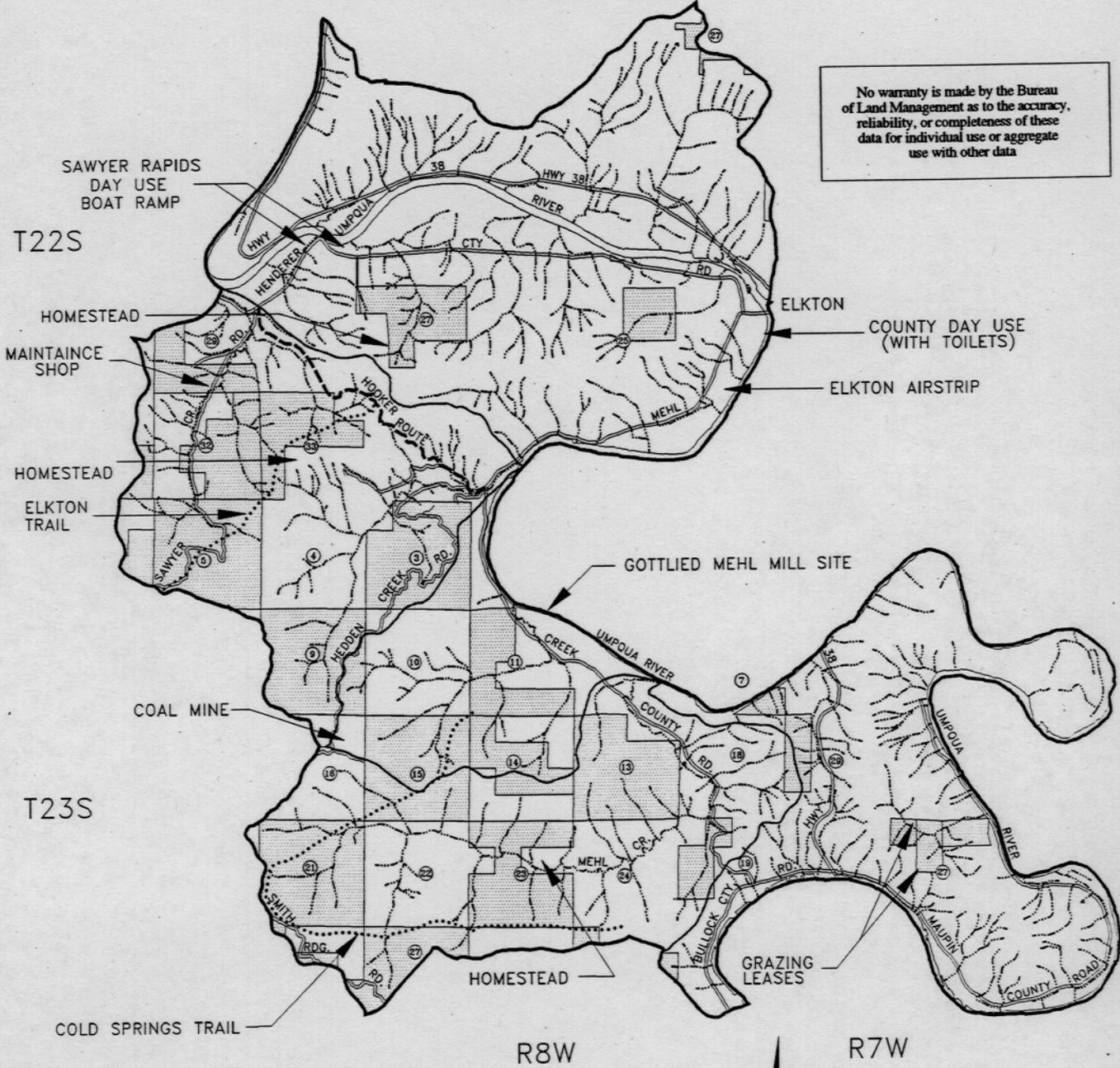
Douglas County, OR/Oregon State Map - Douglas County Commissioners
BLM "blue-line" maps
USGS Elkton 15' topographic

Personal Communications

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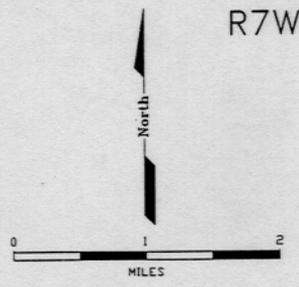
HUMAN USES OF UPPER MIDDLE UMPQUA SUBWATERSHED

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LEGEND

- BLM ADMINISTERED LANDS
- DRAINAGE BOUNDARY
- STREAM
- HISTORIC ROUTE
- HISTORIC TRAIL



UPPER MIDDLE UMPQUA WATERSHED ANALYSIS APPENDIX: INTERVIEWS

11/5/96 Frank Price and Dan VanSlyke interviewed Dennis Chamberlain, with the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District (USWCD) as part of the gathering data for the Upper Middle Umpqua watershed analysis

Sawyer Creek:

Denny Quinby has a cooperative agreement with USWCD. As a result Mr. Quinby has fenced the Sawyer Ck. riparian zone where it flows through his land, planted over 1,000 willows, and installed in stream log structures. The agreement is for 2,600 feet of stream protection. Mr. Quinby raises his own willows. He is a school teacher, and can get students to come out and work on riparian project for class credit. Mr. Quinby's number is 584-2563 His property is on the left side as you drive up stream on the Sawyer Ck. road.

Bob Warncke has the land on the right-hand side of Sawyer Ck. Road. There is no eroded material entering the creek and the slope down to the stream is gentle and grass covered. Have planned to fence 3 acres of riparian and stream, but do not know if there is follow through yet. The plan also included a rocked cattle crossing. The rock is for reducing sediment. The crossing is now in but not yet rocked. The riparian zone could be improved since much of the riparian vegetation (alder) had been cut for firewood.

North of Henderer County Road, along Sawyer Creek - Dennis has not worked with that landowner, however, a vegetated riparian zone borders that reach of Sawyer Creek.

Gould Creek:

Kevin and Clarinda Ball are the landowners down stream from where Gould Creek goes under the driveway (West of driveway and north of Henderer County Road). The landowners have seeded the riparian zone to canary grass and have fenced the riparian zone. Dennis has talked to the landowners about a strategy for managing that area as riparian pasture. The approach would be to establish grass cover, and intensively graze that grass once or twice a year for an 8 to 12 hour period. The grazing periods would keep the grass from getting rank, and the long rest periods allow for recovery. The Balls raise lamas and lamas are very fond of willow. Therefore, planting willows is not a good option on their land.

The strategy for managing the part of the Ball's property next to the Umpqua River is to "bioengineer" for stream bank stability by cultivating a vegetation cover that can protect the stream bank.

Neither the Balls nor Dennis know who has the property on the reach of Gould Creek between the Ball place and the Umpqua River. There was a lot of erosion along that reach in the past. It is now healing but there are still a few problem areas.

Dennis does not think Gould Creek is a perennial stream where it passes through the Ball property.

Fitzpatrick Creek:

Fitzpatrick Creek downstream from Melh Creek Road is deeply incised but that appears natural. The riparian vegetation is intact.

Melh Creek:

Roseburg Lumber owns property on Melh Creek.

Ed Cooley owns property on both sides of Melh Creek where it passes through section 13. Mr. Cooley is very conscience of fish movement and stream flows. He may even be monitoring stream flows. Melh Creek is in good condition where it flows through the Cooley property. Mr. Cooley's part of the stream is fenced adjacent to the land used for agriculture. Mr. Cooley is likely to be interested in working on stream improvement. Upstream, (where Melh Creek is flowing north through section 18) it is some what confined by the road. Dennis does not know what is happening with the Melh Creek farther upstream because the landowner (in section 24) has posted no trespassing signs and has never invited Dennis on to his property.

Trends with respect to erosion:

The long term trend is getting better. Landowners are more aware of the streams and stream protection. Landowners are very aware of endangered species and if they do not voluntarily protect the streams, future laws may dictate how they manage their land.

Part of the trend is toward grazing and away from row cropping. Twenty years ago farmers were raising grain. The costs of equipment, irrigation and transportation are responsible for the shift from row crops to grazing.

There are tree seedling nurseries in the area and cultivation of tree seedlings requires large areas of exposed soil. The nurseries have developed elaborate methods to collect sediment before it has a chance to enter the streams and reapply the sediment to the fields.

Local concerns:

Dennis is noticing an increase in anti-government sentiment in the area. Some individuals that are requesting assistance are asking that the public servant not show up driving a government vehicle.

Watershed association like groups in the area:

Umpqua Basin Fishery Restoration Initiative just got a grant and started up this last year. Lee Russel is the contact person. Their office is with NRCS and their phone number is 673-8316. In the near term, most of their efforts will be on the South Umpqua River. There is interest in setting up a subgroup that can focus on the lower Umpqua.

Relations between the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District and the Federal government:

They have the perception that the Federal agencies (BLM & USFS) have made up their minds before asking for a permit to do instream projects and therefore are not open to recommendations for project modifications.

Time frames - The Board looks at all project sites before they approve a permit request, which takes time. Therefore they need more than a few days or weeks notice to get out to the project site and to write comments.

In response to an explanation on BLM's post treatment monitoring of instream projects - The Board needs to get the results of monitoring. Also the results need to be in a form that is short understandable and to the point. (not thick documents).

Other:

Dennis asked if we have considered placing instream structures using horses.

General Information: Interviews with Coos Bay District employees. (interviews by Dan VanSlyke)

Lots of grand fir present in the watershed, especially in the lower elevations to the north (Terry Evans; verbal, October, 1996).

The bridge crossing the Umpqua River near Elkton washed out in the 1964 flood; some parts of the old pilings are still visible. (Dennis Graham; verbal, October, 1996)

An old homestead was located on private land in 23-08-25 on the 23.1 road along Mehl Creek. (Dennis Graham; verbal, October, 1996)

There is an old homestead site further up on Mehl Creek on private land in 23-08-22. An old homestead road use to exist all the way down Mehl Creek from the homestead location. (Dennis Graham; verbal, October, 1996)

The first road into the watershed was built by the Long Bell Timber Company (the predecessor to International Paper) in the 1930's and travels from Scottsburg (22-09-18) all the way to 23-08-28. (Dennis Graham; verbal, October, 1996)

A coal mine use to be operating from about 1905-1913 in the headwaters of Fitzpatrick Creek on private lands near the junction of Upper Mehl Ridge Road and Hedden Creek Road in 23-08-16. The location of the mine site is difficult determine, but there is a large alder flat visible from aerial photos. (Dennis Graham; verbal, October, 1996)

Road Related

Hedden Creek has experienced major road failures in the lower system; the mountain is moving down the hill and the road was rerouted along Hedden Creek because nothing worked to control the slides. (22-08-35 - private, 23-08-03 - BLM). (Terry Evans; verbal, October, 1996)

BLM relinquished the easement on the Hedden Cr. Road on the private portion in sections 34-35. This is in the area with a history of road failures mentioned above. (Dennis Graham; verbal, October, 1996)

Gould Creek Rd (22-08-22) has a slumping problem in the area where it crosses from sec. 22 to sec. 27. (Dennis Graham; verbal, October, 1996)

Joe Hooker Road use to connect through from section 33 to 28 (all on private land in 22-08)). (Dennis Graham; verbal, October, 1996)

The dirt road section of Upper Mehl Ridge Road that travels through 23-08, sections 13 and 14 on BLM, is in poor condition, especially in the middle of section 14. There used to be a gate at the start of the dirt section on the east side that was torn down; don't know if the gate is still there on the west end in section 16. (Dennis Graham; verbal, October, 1996)

The 1982 flood washed out the culvert on Fitzpatrick Creek in section 11. (Dennis Graham; verbal, October, 1996)

BLM History

The Loon Lake RA was absorbed into the Umpqua RA in about 1982 (Terry Evans; verbal, October, 1996). (Terry Evans; verbal, October, 1996)

Balloon logging occurred in Fitzpatrick Creek (23-08-11) because of steep ground (this method is less expensive than helicopter logging). (Terry Evans; verbal, October, 1996)

Fragile Soils / Landslide Potential

Sawyer Creek has lots of APT soils (apt to slide) in sections 32 & 33. There is a considerable amount of slumping in this area (Terry Evans; verbal, October, 1996)

A draw on BLM on the west side of 22-08, section 27 (Gould Creek) washed out onto private lands to the north. BLM cleaned out the landowners private pond the debris washed into. (Dennis Graham; verbal, October, 1996)

Fisheries / Wildlife

Several rattlesnake dens are present in upper Shepherds Road (23-07-21). (Terry Evans; verbal, October, 1996)

A baffled fish-passage culvert was placed in the early 70's along a tributary to Mehl Creek in 23-08-23 (23.1 road). (Dennis Graham; verbal, October, 1996)

Misc

The Joe Hooker road is named after a Civil War general. (Mike Oxford; verbal)