

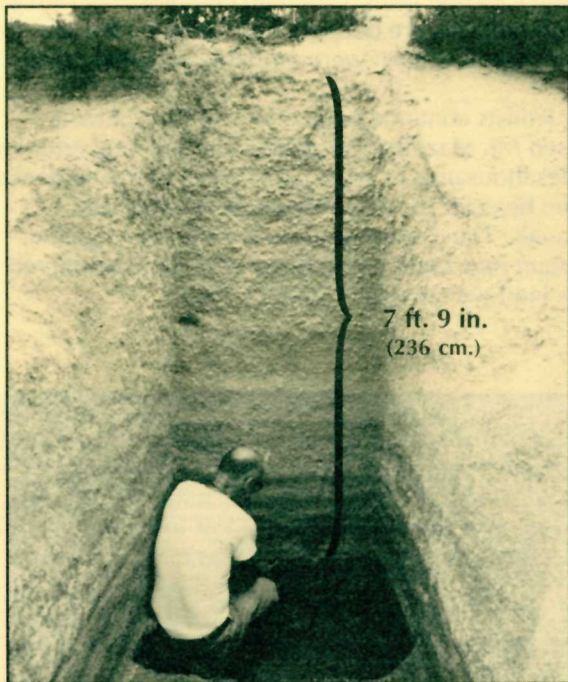
Mt. Mazama's awesome forces sealed traces of an ancient culture beneath this pumice shroud

A vanished peak we now call Mt. Mazama once loomed over Oregon's southern Cascades range. Geologists believe it was as majestic as Mt. Hood. Then about 6800 years ago volcanic eruptions literally ripped away the interior of this ancestral landform. It collapsed upon itself, leaving the famous Crater Lake we know today.

A staggering blizzard of pulverized rock (pumice and ash) was hurled into the atmosphere. The fallout carried as far as present-day Alberta, Canada. Scientists estimate magnitude of the blast to have been about 15 *cubic miles*. By comparison, the 1980 Mt. St. Helens eruption produced perhaps two-thirds of a cubic mile of ash.

Prevailing winds swept Mazama's suffocating, blinding storm over a broad front, totally altering the terrain it engulfed. Much life must have perished. Any survivors undoubtedly fled in terror.

Today, Mt. Mazama's thick pumice shroud still guards the secrets of those dim and distant times.



This trench, excavated 12 miles southeast of Crescent Lake, reveals Mazama's enormous outpouring. Here the pumice is nearly eight feet thick.

Where to go and what to see, to learn more about Central Oregon's **PREHISTORY**

WILLAMETTE PASS VISITOR CENTER

Includes displays of both historic and prehistoric interest. Located in the Willamette Pass ski lodge, Oregon Hwy. 58, at the Cascades summit. Open weekends, June thru September.

LAVA ISLAND ROCKSHELTER

Prehistoric Indian campsite, discovered in a shallow Deschutes River cave. It may date from 7000 years ago. Located 7 miles S.W. of Bend on Hwy. 46 (route to Mt. Bachelor). Turn left on Forest Road 41, then left again on Forest Road 1420. Quarter-mile hiking trail to site.

LAVA LANDS VISITOR CENTER

Displays include artifacts from the local area, plus exhibits describing the prehistoric tool-making process. Eleven miles south of Bend on U.S. 97. Open 9-5, Mid-March thru September.

DESCHUTES HISTORICAL CENTER

Thousands of items of historic and prehistoric interest, including artifacts recovered from the Lava Island Rockshelter, are displayed in one of Bend's pioneer school buildings. 129 N.W. Idaho St. Open Wednesday thru Saturday, 1-4:30.

THE HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

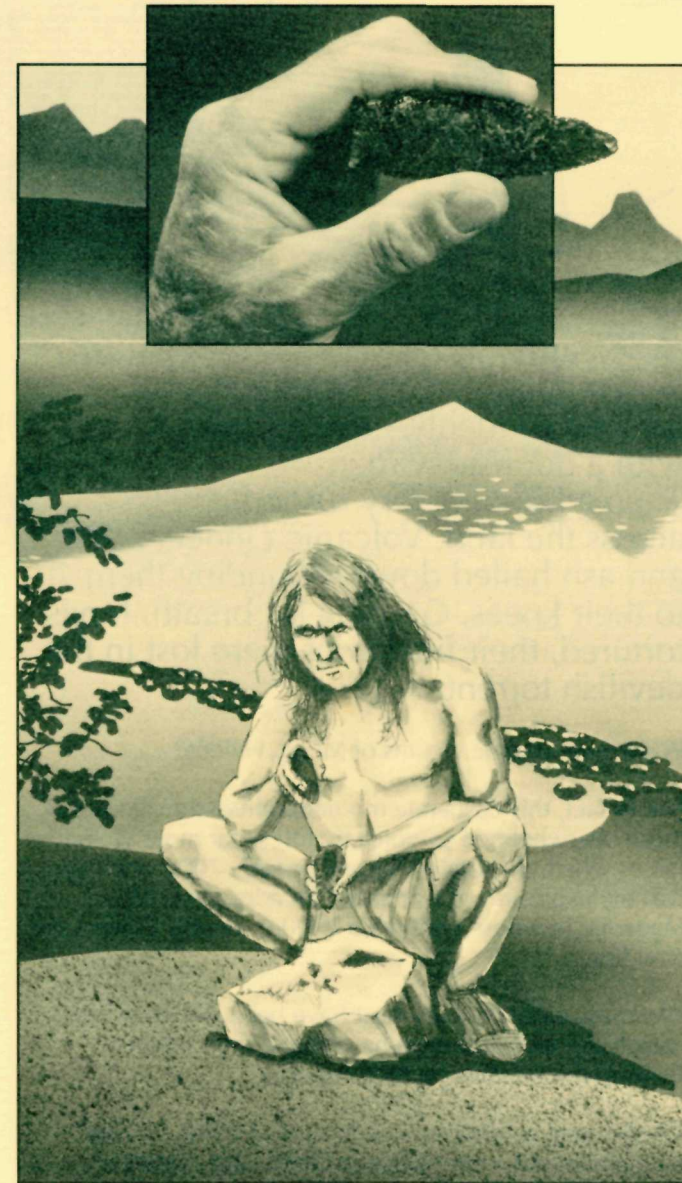
A walk-through-time historical exhibit dramatizes significant stages of exploration and settlement of the American West. Museum also offers indoor and outdoor exhibits, demonstrations, slide shows, interpretive talks. Six miles south of Bend on U.S. 97. Open 9-5. Admission charge.

FORT ROCK STATE MONUMENT

Located approximately 70 miles S.E. of Bend, off Hwy. 31, this eroded volcanic remnant has attracted visitors since prehistoric times. Nearby is cave in which Dr. Cressman discovered evidences of man dating back some 9000 years.

prepared by the
DESCHUTES NATIONAL FOREST
Crescent Ranger District / Crescent, Oregon 97733 / (503) 433-2234
in partnership with
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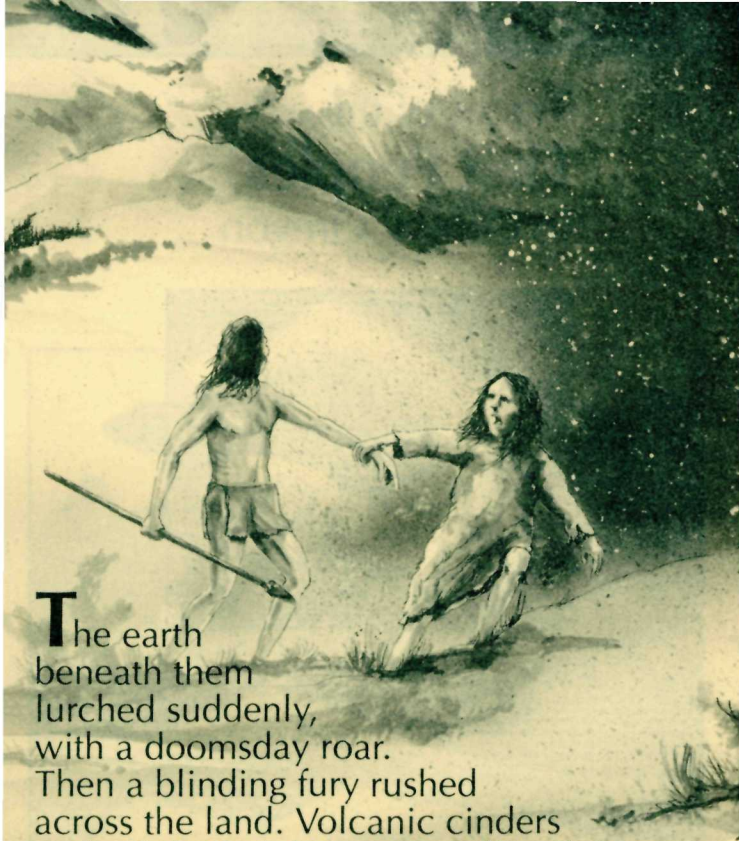
Traces of the **First Peoples** in Central Oregon



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Pacific Northwest
Region

**Deschutes
National
Forest**



The earth beneath them lurched suddenly, with a doomsday roar. Then a blinding fury rushed across the land. Volcanic cinders and ash hailed down, pounding them to their knees. Gasping for breath, lungs tortured, their final cries were lost in the devilish torrent. . . .

Were these people victims of Mt. St. Helens?

No. In fact, this desperate moment relives the agonies of those overwhelmed by volcanic forces far more violent — forces which devastated this area nearly 7000 years ago. It was the explosion of a mighty Cascades peak, Mt. Mazama, in whose enormous 1900-ft. depths Crater Lake now lies.

We know early peoples must have been witness to the cataclysm; archaeologists have found their artifacts *beneath* the massive pumice deposits.

The first real evidence came to light in 1946. During excavations for a new lodge at Odell Lake, workers discovered stone tools below a five-foot layer of pumice. University of Oregon archaeologist Dr. Luther S. Cressman was called to the site. His conclusion: the artifacts were, indeed, associated with underlying glacial



SAGEBRUSH BARK SANDALS UNEARTHED AT FORT ROCK CAVE by Dr. Luther S. Cressman (left) in 1938 were later radiocarbon-dated to be approximately 9000 years old. A sterile, undisturbed layer of Mazama ash overlaid those earliest cultural evidences. Materials found atop this ash indicate people didn't return until nearly 2000 years later.

Oregon State Museum of Anthropology, University of Oregon



soil, and so had been made and used prior to the Mazama eruptions.

Radiocarbon samples taken from charred remnants of entombed trees date the blast at about 6800 years ago. So these vast pumice fields serve as useful bookmarks tucked into the pages of time. Everything found beneath the ash is almost certainly 6800 years or older.

How many more prehistoric sites still lie hidden by the pumice? What happened to the blast victims? Were some able to escape? When people finally did return, how had their lives changed? Archaeologists are working to answer these and other questions.

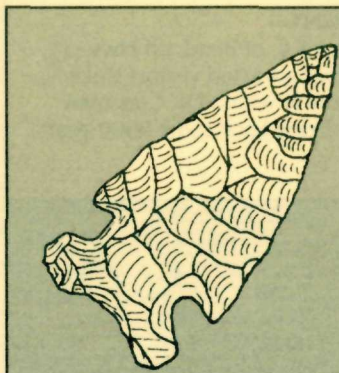


FOUND IN THE DEPTHS OF ODELL LAKE nearly 30 years ago, this and three other stone vessels suggest there may have been semi-permanent encampments near the lakes from earliest times. Other tools left behind, from projectile points to pestles and mortars, tell us early peoples engaged in a variety of hunting, gathering and food-preparation activities here.

Bo Clingman photo

We do know that sometime between 4000 and 2000 years ago hunter-gatherer tribes resumed their visits to the high Cascade lakes. Obsidian chippings, as well as finished artifacts, are occasionally found on the present surface, marking what were probably seasonal camps.

But scientists continue to puzzle over the chapters between Mt. Mazama's eruptions and the final return of peoples thousands of years later. Much of the evidence may lie beneath the ash of more recent volcanic upheavals. The discovery of such a site could give us important new clues about those who early wandered in this land we now call Central Oregon.



Artifacts — our vital links with the past

PLEASE LEAVE THEM UNDISTURBED

From tiny chippings to complete artifacts, every bit of prehistoric evidence helps archaeologists piece together the past. The relative position of each item is critically important. **But this information is lost forever** when archaeological sites are plundered, and materials taken.

Please leave suspected sites undisturbed. Removing artifacts is against the law. Report to the Forest Service any sites you may discover, being careful to **leave everything exactly as found**. The information preserved there rightfully belongs to us all.