

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 00000469

Date Listed: 12/29/2000

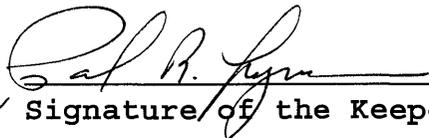
Willow Prairie Cabin
Property Name

Jackson
County

OR
State

U.S. Forest Service Historic Structures
on the Rogue River National Forest, MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

12/29/00
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

Architecture is added as an area of significance under Criterion C.

U. T. M. Coordinates:

The correct UTM coordinates are: 10 550050 4694850

These revisions were confirmed with the Forest Service.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED 2280

469

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Willow Prairie Cabin

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Forest Service Road 37 approx. 1.5 mi. no. of not for publication
State Hwy. 140

city or town Butte Falls (Rogue River National Forest) vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Jackson code 029 zip code 97522

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James Hamrick March 10, 2000
Signature of certifying official/Title /Deputy SHPO Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Paul R. Ferguson

Date of Action

12/29/2000

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

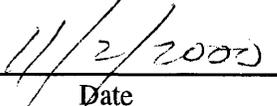
Section 3 Page 1

U. S. Forest Service
Historic Structures on the
Rogue River National Forest
MPS

SECTION 3: FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that the nominations listed below meet the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meet the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the properties meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that these properties be considered significant locally.


Signature of certifying official/FPO


Date

Federal Agency and bureau: *U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region*

Administrative

Star Ranger Station Building/"Tack Room" (1911)
Willow Prairie Cabin (1924)
Big Elk Guard Station (1929)

Fire Lookouts

Hershberger Mountain Lookout (1924)
Dutchman Peak Lookout (1927)
Mt. Stella Lookout (1933)
Squaw Peak Lookout (1943)

Snow Survey Cabins

Whaleback Snow-Survey Cabin (1937)
Honeymoon Creek Snow Cabin (1943)

CCC/FERA Recreation Facilities

McKee Bridge Campground (1935-1936)
Wrangle Shelter (1935-36)
Dead Indian Soda Springs Shelter (1936)
Fish Lake Shelter (1936)
Parker Meadows Shelter (1936)

Willow Prairie Cabin
Name of Property

Jackson Oregon
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

U.S. Forest Service Historic Structures on the
Rogue River National Forest

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: government office/
guard station

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Vernacular; log cabin

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD: Log

roof WOOD: Shakes

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Please See Continuation Sheets

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
CONSERVATION

Period of Significance

1924-1932

Significant Dates

1924
1924-1932

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, previously determined eligible, designated landmark, recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey, recorded by Historic American Engineering Record.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

Rogue River National Forest

Willow Prairie Cabin

Jackson Oregon

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1,0 5,4,1 2,4,7 4,6,7,7 4,4,0
Zone Easting Northing

3 Zone Easting Northing
4 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Katherine C. Atwood
organization (for)USDA Forest Service date November 7, 1999
street & number 365 Holly Street telephone 541-482-8714
city or town Ashland Oregon state zip code 97520

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name USDA Forest Service Rogue River National Forest
street & number P.O. Box 520 telephone 541-858-2200
city or town Medford Oregon state zip code 97501

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Willow Prairie Cabin

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

Setting

Willow Prairie Cabin is situated on the northeast margin of Willow Prairie at the headwaters of Willow Creek. Willow Creek is a major tributary of Big Butte Creek, which in turn is a tributary of upper Rogue River. The cabin is located in Jackson County, about two miles west-southwest of the base of Mt. McLoughlin (the nearest major peak) and about two miles northwest of Fish Lake. It lies at an elevation of approximately 4,400 feet above sea level, within the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30, Township 36 South, Range 4 East, W.M. The structure is within the Butte Falls Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest.

The Willow Prairie Cabin occupies a level-to-slightly-southward-sloping area, at the forested margin of Willow Prairie. Geologically, the cabin rests on Pleistocene andesite flows from the High Cascades. Sub-rounded boulders/cobbles of weathered andesite are common in the site. Willow Prairie is vegetated with dense annual and perennial grasses and forbs that are common to wet sites, with willows along the streamcourses. The adjacent forest contains a dense stand of Douglas-fir, white fir, Shasta red fir, ponderosa pine, and western white pine, with scattered chinquapin and oceanspray in the understory.

Structural Description

Willow Prairie Cabin is a traditionally constructed log cabin of relatively simple design. Aside from the nails, floor planks, window-door framing, and miscellaneous hardware, all of the materials used were probably obtained on the site. A one-story, gable-roofed, peeled-log structure, the Willow Prairie Cabin measures approximately 18' x 20' in rectangular plan, with the long axis (and ridgepole of the roof) oriented north-south. The south portion of the roof extends about five feet beyond the wall, providing shelter and shade on the sunny, south side of the cabin.

The cabin walls are made from peeled logs of an undetermined tree species (probably Douglas-fir) that average about 10" in diameter at the base. U-notching is employed at all corners, with the log ends sawed, rather than cut by an axe. The walls, excluding the shorter-length logs used in the triangular gable-ends of the north and south walls, are eleven logs high. Wood splint is used as chinking between logs on the interior of the cabin. The logs were left unchinked on the exterior at the time of construction. The wall

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
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Willow Prairie Cabin

Section number 7 Page 2

logs are not adzed flat on any surfaces except for portions of logs forming upper and lower portions of window openings.

The roof of the Willow Prairie Cabin is supported by the central ridge-pole and six purlins on each slope of the gable. There is a total of twelve purlins plus the ridge-pole, all of peeled poles 6" to 8" in diameter. The ridge-pole/purlins extend about five feet beyond the south wall to form the overhang. Hand-split sugar pine shakes, approximately three feet long, cover the roof. They are nailed directly to the purlins with substantial overlap. The north and south gable-end logs (ten logs high), and six horizontal peeled-log beams placed at regular intervals and spanning the "ceiling" area from east to west, brace and support the structure above the eleventh wall logs. A supportive "gable-end-like" roof support was placed midway between the north and south walls. Built of logs similar in size to those in the gable-ends of the north and south walls, this feature spans the interior space of the cabin midway from east to west and has successfully maintained the stability of the roof under heavy winter snowpacks since construction.

A single three-foot wide entry door is centered in the westerly half of the south wall. The cabin has two window openings that measure approximately 16" by 40. The cabin's fenestration shows an intent to admit light from the south and west sides during the cabin's primary time of use during summer and early fall. The overhanging roof shaded the window and door from direct sunlight and kept the heat of the cabin's interior from becoming too intense during the warm season. None of these openings has had doors or windows for over a well over a decade. Based on a ca. 1969 photograph, the windows were originally multi-pane double-hung windows set on their sides and probably salvaged from another building. The door was probably a Z-brace plank door. The cabin has contained no furnishings for many years. A woodstove originally occupied the central-west portion of the cabin but was removed well before 1975. A penciled inscription, probably dating to the 1920s or 1930s, appears on the interior of the west wall. This inscription gives the telephone-ring codes ("long/short ring") code for Willow Prairie, Big Elk, and Skeeter Guard Stations.

Due to lack of maintenance since at least the 1950s and to exposure to severe weather and soil moisture, Willow Prairie Cabin was unsound and unsafe by the mid-1980s. About 1990, the Forest Service contracted with nationally known, log-cabin restoration specialist Harrison Goodall to inspect Willow Prairie Cabin and other historic structures on the Rogue River National Forest. At that time, sill logs, partially buried beneath soil, were totally rotted. Adjacent wall logs (up to three logs high from the sill on the west

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Willow Prairie Cabin

Section number 7 Page 3

wall) were severely rotted for most of their lengths, and the notched corners in particular had deteriorated to the extent that continued support of the structure was problematic. Roof shakes were severely rotted and about forty percent of them were missing entirely, permitting moisture to accumulate inside. Most of the roof purlins were rotted at their gable end supports and sagged considerably.

As one alternative Goodall proposed that the Forest Service do only minor stabilization to the structure and simply manage it as a "ruin." Because funding was not available for a major rehabilitation projects, the "manage as ruin" alternative became the goal by default. After 1990, the rate of decay accelerated. Noting the high risk that the cabin would collapse unless immediate rehabilitation measures were taken, the Butte Falls Ranger District initiated emergency stabilization and rehabilitation/replacement work during the 1993 and 1994 summer seasons. Funding and personnel were obtained for a "grass-roots" rehabilitation effort, directed and accomplished by Butte Falls Ranger District employees, with assistance from personnel from other districts. Forest Service fire crews, building maintenance personnel, and Boy Scouts accomplished much of the work on a volunteer basis. The project followed the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation to ensure that the goal of accurate, in-kind replacement was met.

Due to the precarious condition of the structure, the rehabilitation work itself, which included jacking up the structure to replace rotted sill/wall logs, involved a potential for significant damage to the structure. The work, however, was accomplished without mishap and the seriously rotted parts of the cabin were replaced with elements that are identical in size, materials, and historical appearance to the originals. In-kind replacements included all four sill logs and the heavily rotted lowermost wall logs, floor "joists" and rough-cut floor planks, ceiling span joists and bottom member of the interior roof support ("gable end-like" feature), some roof purlins, and shake roofing.

The cabin's current physical condition is now good to excellent. Many of the original wall logs that remain have localized areas of decay, but they remain generally sound, and with routine maintenance, the cabin can probably withstand several decades of High Cascades winter conditions.

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Willow Prairie Cabin

Section number 8 Page 1**Significance**

The Willow Prairie Cabin, built in 1924 as an administrative site on the Butte Falls Ranger District of the Rogue River National Forest, is significant for its association with the development of that agency in southern Oregon. Submitted as part of a multiple property submission, "U.S. Forest Service Historic Structures on the Rogue River National Forest, Oregon," the Willow Prairie Cabin represents its associated historic context, "Early Forest Service Administrative and Natural Resource Management on the Rogue River National Forest 1907 to 1932." The building meets the registration requirements outlined for "rustic"-style administrative structures in the registration document. Established during the historic period, the Willow Prairie Cabin retains its integrity of setting, design, and materials, and it evokes direct historic associations with its historic context. The building has previously been declared eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an important, tangible representative of early Forest administration and natural resource management activities in southwest Oregon. Willow Prairie Cabin evokes the period when Forest Service rangers and guards travelled by horse and built log cabins for shelter during the summer fire season. The Cabin also has a direct connection with the building of one of the first important Forest Service roads in southwestern Oregon; a road that permitted transportation and communication in the previously remote High Cascades during the 1910s to 1940s. The Willow Prairie Cabin is one of three remaining examples of Forest Service log construction within the Rogue River National Forest. The cabin at Big Elk Guard Station, located a relatively short distance south of the Willow Prairie Cabin, is in good condition. The other, Fir Glade Guard Station, is totally collapsed and deteriorated.

Additionally eligible to the National Register under Criterion C as an excellent representative of early "rustic" Rogue River National Forest administrative buildings, the Willow Prairie Cabin embodies the characteristics of its type through its setting, design, and materials, and it effectively represents early twentieth-century log construction in southwestern Oregon. Its purlin-supported roof, projecting well over the entrance, was once characteristic of numerous cabins in southwestern Oregon. The projecting roof over the gable-end entry forms a sheltered porch and gives the cabin and others of its type a distinctive appearance. This particular design was used on Forest Service structures nearby, at Union Creek, Lake-of-the-Woods, Mill Creek, Fir Glade, and other locations. Willow Prairie Cabin is the only extant example.

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Willow Prairie Cabin

Section number 8 Page 2

History

Like many other high elevation meadows in the southern Cascade Range, Willow Prairie apparently was settled briefly by homesteaders or squatters before 1900. The settlers, who probably lived at Willow Prairie only during the summer for a year or two, are thought to have built a cabin on the north or east side of the meadow. The homestead effort ended in failure and all that remains of this early occupation are a few fence posts and scattered artifacts.

Willow Prairie Cabin is located about three miles northwest of the site of the Forest Service's first "guard station" (remote seasonal quarters for fireguards), built on the Crater National Forest at Big Elk Prairie in 1907. Subsequent guard stations in the vicinity were built at Skeeter Swamp (four miles north of Willow Prairie) and Dead Indian Soda Springs (about six miles southwest) before 1915. This portion of the Crater (now Rogue River) National Forest was thus included in a closely linked network of administrative/natural resource management facilities, and no need was found at that time for an additional guard station at Willow Prairie. However, because the meadow provided abundant natural feed for Forest Service pack-stock, the government made an administrative-site withdrawal of the meadow before 1920.

In 1923, the Forest Service began construction of a road between the town of Butte Falls on the north and Big Elk Guard Station/Fish Lake Road on the south. It was to serve as a major link in a north-south Forest Service road system between Diamond Lake/Union Creek/Prospect on the north and Dead Indian Road/Ashland on the south, and it was the first important Forest Service road on the Crater (Rogue River) National Forest.

In the summer of 1924, the Butte Falls/Fish Lake road crew, under supervision of Bill Hughes, built the log cabin at Willow Prairie. The structure provided shelter and storage space for the road construction crew; it served as a bunkhouse/base camp for the next two summers but was actually built for future use as a guard station. Apparently the cabin rarely served as a guard station because of its proximity to Big Elk and Skeeter Guard Stations. It did see some periodic administrative use during the 1920s through 1940s, both as a road-crew staging site, and as an emergency guard station during fire season. During the 1940s-1950s, the Butte Falls Cattlemen's Association evidently used the cabin and meadow during round-up time under a free-use agreement with the Forest Service. The cabin has been abandoned since about 1960, except for occasional use by hunters

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Willow Prairie Cabin

Section number 8 Page 3

and other recreationists. Re-routing of the Butte Falls/Fish Lake Highway in the 1980s has diverted most traffic well to the east of the site. During the 1980s and 1990s the adjacent campground has been developed as an equestrian site, with holding corrals and horse-trailer pull-throughs.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Willow Prairie Cabin

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Bibliography

LaLande, Jeff

1994 Willow Prairie Cabin Heritage Resource Evaluation (C.R. Job RR-529)
Jackson County Oregon Butte Falls Ranger District), Rogue River National
Forest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Willow Prairie Cabin

Section number 10 Page 1

A USGS map of the Willow Lake Quadrangle is included with this nomination. A photocopied section of this map with the site indicated by an arrow is also contained in the nomination document.

Boundary Description:

Willow Prairie Cabin is situated on National Forest land in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30, Township 36 South, Range 4 East, W.M. in Jackson County, Oregon. The property is further identified on USGS map Willow Lake Quadrangle, 7.5-minute series. For purposes of this nomination the boundary may be further determined by measuring approximately 125 feet due west from the southwest corner of Willow Prairie Cabin to an existing fence, and using this point as an outer boundary, delineating a circle 250 feet in diameter, more or less, to enclose the cabin, opening, and partially fenced area. This area comprises one acre, more or less.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary encompasses Willow Prairie Cabin and the area immediately surrounding the building. This boundary, (a 225-foot diameter circle), encloses a discrete, visually identifiable area within which the historic activities associated with the Cabin took place.

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Willow Prairie Cabin

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Photographs

Photograph No.1

- 1) Willow Prairie Cabin
- 2) SW1/4, Section 30, T 36 South, Range 4 East, W.M., Jackson County, Oregon
- 3) Photographer: Katherine Atwood
- 4) Date of Photograph: August 1999
- 5) Negative Holder: Rogue River National Forest
P.O. Box 520
Medford, Oregon 97501
- 6) View of south elevation
- 7) Photograph Number: 1 of 2

Photograph No. 2

- 1) Willow Prairie Cabin
- 2) SW1/4, Section 30, T 36 South, Range 4 East, W.M., Jackson County, Oregon
- 3) Photographer: Unknown
- 4) Date of Photograph: 1970
- 5) Negative Holder: Rogue River National Forest
P.O. Box 520
Medford, Oregon 97501
- 6) Historic View
- 7) Photograph Number 2 of 2

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National Park Service**

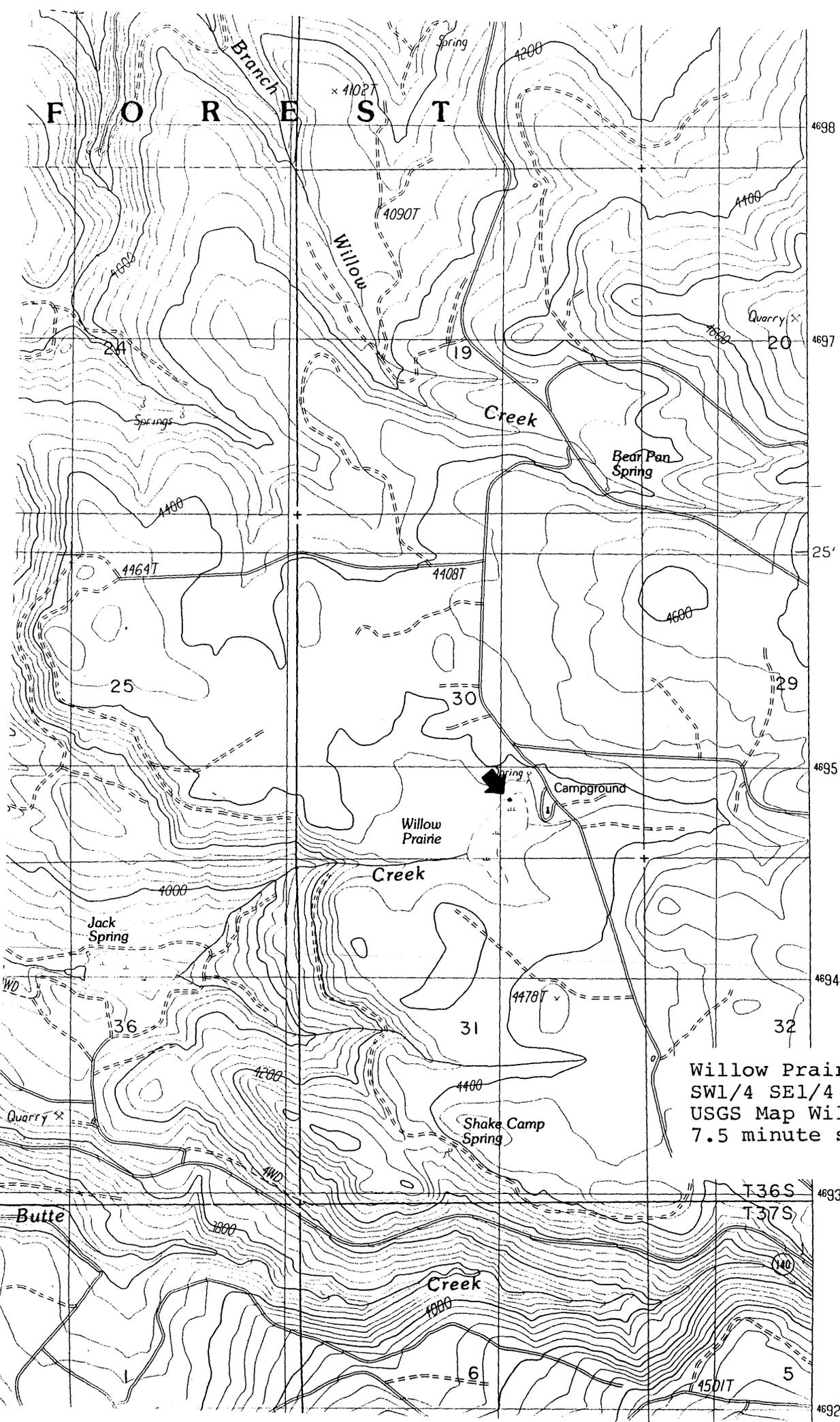
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Willow Prairie Cabin

Section number 11 Page 1

Property Owner Notification

U.S. Forest Service
Rogue River National Forest
J. Michael Lunn, Forest Supervisor
Jeff LaLande, Forest Archaeologist
P.O. Box 520
Medford, Oregon 97501



Willow Prairie Cabin
 SW1/4 SE1/4 S30 T36S R4E WM
 USGS Map Willow Lake, Oreg.
 7.5 minute series

4698
 4697
 25'
 4695
 4694
 4693
 4692000mN