### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1139

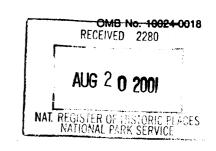
This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering 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 Waldo Chinese	Cemetery		
<del></del>			
other names/site number N/A			
2. Location			
street & number Approx5 miles Road and B	s.w. of intersection	of Waldo Manat for pub	lication
city or townCave Junction		\omega: BLM Mediold Distile	31)
•	OR countyJosephine	•	97523
3. State/Federal Agency Certification			
Historic Places and meets the procedural and promets does not meet the National Regist nationally statewide locally. (See of Signature of certifying official Title  State of Federal agency and bureau	ter criteria. I recommend that this propert continuation sheet for additional comment as \$\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	y be considered significant	Ž
In my opinion, the property meets does a comments.  Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy Oregon State Historic Prese	2h 1/18/00 SHPO Date	See continuation sheet for additiona	1
		<del></del>	
4. National Park Service Certification			
I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Da	ate of Action
<ul> <li>entered in the National Register.</li> <li>See continuation sheet.</li> </ul>	in the	10	2.4.01
☐ determined eligible for the National Register ☐ See continuation sheet.	ational Register		
determined not eligible for the National Register.			
removed from the National Register.			
other, (explain:)	•		

NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## 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 nam	e Waldo Chi	nese Cemeter	ey .		
other names	s/site number N/A				
2. Location	ì				
street & nur city or town state				of Waldo E not for BLM Medford Dis	cinity
3. State/Fe	deral Agency Certification	n			
☐ mee	Places and meets the procedure its  does not meet the National onally  statewide  locally. (I	al Register criteria. I re	commend that this property	be considered significant	property
State of	f Federal agency and bureau				
comme		does not meet the N		See continuation sheet for ac	dditional
Signatu	re of certifying official/Title		Date _		
State o	r Federal agency and bureau				
4. Nationa	I Park Service Certification	on			
entere	ty that the property is:  ad in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  mined eligible for the tional Register  See continuation sheet.		Signature of the Keeper		Date of Action
Nat	mined not eligible for the tional Register.	<del></del>			
Re	ved from the National gister. , (explain:)	Week dishark and an area			

Name of Property		County and State		
5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)		
☐ private ☐ public-local	☐ building(s) ☐ district	Contributing Noncontributing		
□ public-focal □ public-State □ public-Federal	⊠ site □ structure	build	_	
		sites		
	☐ object	struc	tures	
		object	cts	
		Tota	i	
Name of related multiple p (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources previously in the National Register	isted	
	of the Upper Illinoi Oregon			
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) FUNERARY: Cemeter		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) VACANT/NOT IN USE	···	
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)				
NO STYLE: Cemeter	сÀ	foundation		
		walls		
		·		
		roof		

other \_

Josephine

Oregon

Waldo Chinese Cemetery

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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)  EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT			
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	ETHNIC HERITAGE: Asian			
☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.				
□ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1860-1930			
□ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.				
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates N/A			
Property is:				
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Cinnificant Passan			
☐ B removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) ${ m N/A}$			
☐ C a birthplace or grave.				
	Cultural Affiliation			
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.				
☐ F a commemorative property.				
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Architect/Builder N/A			
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)				
9. Major Bibliographical References				
Bibilography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)				
Previous documentation on file (NPS): Primary location of additional data:				
<ul> <li>□ preliminary determination of individual listing (36</li> <li>□ CFR 67) has been requested</li> <li>□ previously listed in the National Register</li> <li>□ previously determined eligible by the National</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>☐ State Historic Preservation Office</li> <li>☐ Other State agency</li> <li>☑ Federal agency</li> <li>☐ Local government</li> </ul>			
Register	☐ University			
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	Other Name of repository:			
# recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	USDI BLM Medford District Oregon			

waldo Chinese Cemetery	Josephine Oregon
Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1	3 Zone Easting Northing
Zone Easting Northing 2	4
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Katherine C. Atwood (with Dr. Ward	Tonsfeldt)
organization (for) USDI Bureau of Land Manageme Medford District	nt date August 15, 2000
city or townshlandst	ate OR 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 proper	ty's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large	ge acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the proper	y.
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 Please See Continuation Sheets	
street & number	telephone
city or town s	zip code

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.

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley Waldo Chinese Cemetery

Section Number: 7 Page: 1

### **Summary Description**

Established in the 1850s, the Waldo Chinese Cemetery is situated approximately eight miles south of Cave Junction, Oregon near the former site of Waldo in Josephine County. Within its known developed area of approximately one-half acres, this burial ground successfully conveys its most important period of use in the years between the mid-1850s and 1912, when deceased Chinese residents of the Waldo vicinity were interred there. (For purposes of this nomination, the Waldo Chinese Cemetery and the Waldo Cemetery are mapped together. Please see the verbal boundary description and boundary justification). The cemetery possesses significant associations with the Chinese residents who contributed toward the advancement of settlement in this part of the Upper Illinois Valley. Waldo Chinese Cemetery retains integrity in location, plan, setting, feeling and association.

#### Location and Setting

The Waldo Chinese Cemetery is situated about eight miles south of Cave Junction, Oregon and one-half mile southwest of the Waldo townsite in the southwest quarter of Section 28, Township 40 South, Range 8 West, WM. (Josephine County Assessors Plat 40-8-28, Tax Lot 100). The burial ground is located on the east-facing slope of a low knoll below the Waldo Cemetery that lies above it on the top of the ridge. An unpaved road leading from the Waldo Road provides vehicle access to the cemetery.

At an elevation of 1,550 feet above sea level, the cemetery's soils are characterized by sandy loam and its onsite plant community contains Douglas fir, scattered black oak, madrone and poison oak. The main branch of Fry Gulch, located to the northwest, retains pockets of water through the late summer (Budy 1999:35HS11-484).

### Site Description

The Waldo Chinese Cemetery contains twenty open graves arranged in three rows about midway down the knoll slope. Some shallow depressions in the rectangular area suggest other that other graves have filled in during past decades. The graves are oriented east/west, perpendicular to the hill slope so that the graves face east. The depressions

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley Waldo Chinese Cemetery

Section Number: 7 Page: 2

range from five to six feet in length and from two and one-half to three feet in width. They measure between one and one-half to two and one-half feet in depth (Budy 1999: 35HS11-484). The cemetery contains no headstones. While ceremonial or memorial objects may have been placed near the graves at various times during the historic period, it is likely that none of the burial pits ever exhibited permanent markers.

#### Integrity

The Waldo Chinese Cemetery retains its original character within an intact rural setting. Surrounding vegetation reflects the land's character at the time the burial ground was established. The historic record indicates that all but one of the bodies was removed from the cemetery by about 1920. In their empty state, the graves reflect Chinese religious beliefs and the efforts made to ensure that the physical remains of these sojourners rested in their homeland. The open graves are testimony to the culture of those who were buried there and of the people who cared for them. Because no permanent markers designated the graves, the cemetery's overall integrity is not adversely affected by their absence.

In feeling and association, Waldo Chinese Cemetery successfully represents rural Chinese burial grounds in southwest Oregon. The cemetery remains the place associated with the Chinese merchants and miners in the Waldo vicinity in the settlement period and links us with these people who contributed to the development of the Upper Illinois Valley.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley Waldo Chinese Cemetery

Section Number: 8 Page: 1

### **Significance**

The Waldo Chinese Cemetery, initially developed during the 1850s and used through about 1912, is locally significant for its associations with settlement and ethnic heritage in the Upper Illinois Valley, Waldo vicinity. Cemeteries exclusively devoted to burial of Chinese residents are rare and possibly unique in southwest Oregon. Submitted as part of a multiple property submission, "Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley, Oregon," the Waldo Chinese Cemetery represents its associated historic context, "Gold Placer Mining and Development of the Waldo Vicinity, 1851-1942." The Waldo Chinese Cemetery meets the registration requirements outlined in the registration document. The cemetery retains its integrity of location, setting, design and feeling and evokes direct historic associations with the settlement of the Upper Illinois Valley. The Waldo Chinese Cemetery is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria Consideration D, Criterion A as an important, tangible representative of settlement and ethnic heritage in the Waldo vicinity.

### **History**

The town of Waldo grew quickly following the discovery of gold in the Illinois Valley. Among the fifteen structures shows at Waldo on the 1856 General Land Office Survey map ((Kelly 1999a), were a hotel, blacksmith shop, brewery, bowling alley, skating rink and ballroom. The town also contained a row of buildings known as "Chinatown" (Street and Street 1973 12-15). The 1860 federal census lists several Chinese in Waldo and the surrounding area. A visitor to the Waldo area wrote in 1865:

In all our tour we noted that the Chinamen are gradually supplanting the white miners in this section of the country. China goods are in the stores, and china customers are, not infrequently, there also... they are mostly working diggings that have been deserted, or sold to them by white men (*Oregon Reporter* (Jacksonville) May 27, 1865...)

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley Waldo Chinese Cemetery

Section Number: 8 Page: 2

The following year a traveler described Waldo to readers of the Oregon Sentinel.

... We decided on a trip to Waldo.... Next morning we drove into Waldo, or, as it is sometimes called, Sailor's Diggings, which is a small mining town, at one day very prosperous, but now supports only seventy mines, though Chinamen exist in great numbers." (Oregon Sentinel March 17, 1866 2:2).

By 1880 the census lists over fifty Chinese in the area, including men who labored as miners, laundry workers, packers and cooks (U.S. Federal Census 1860; 1880). The great majority, however, were miners. Known for their efficiency these prospectors worked together and settled for lower returns. On many occasions the Chinese purchased worked-out mines from White mining companies. Desselles and Connell, for example, sold their mining claim near Waldo for \$20,000 to a Chinese company (*Rogue River Courier June* 18, 1886). Local records indicate that Wong Back Fong (or Faun) and his mining company, successfully operated a mine at the mouth of Sailor Gulch for several years before selling out in 1899 to an English-Canadian company (Street and Street 1973: 33).

By the late 1880s, many of southwest Oregon's Chinese miners had traded their picks and sluice boxes for jobs on the railroad. In June 1887, an area newspaper noted that "...Most of the Chinese have gone from Kerby, Waldo and Althouse to the railroad extension on the C. & O. Some of them have gone to the Gasquet wagon road" (Rogue River Courier, June 24, 1887). By the turn of the century there were few Chinese left:

In the early 1900s the mines in the gulches had been worked out and they began drifting away until about 1905 when there was only one (Lem) left. He was too old to move on. ...He lived in a big house on the edge of town...(Josephine County Historical Society, unidentified manuscript).

As in other mining communities of the West, Waldo area Chinese lived separately from Caucasian miners and when they died, were buried separately on the hill west of town, and "... the Orientals had to bury their people in a row part way down the side of the hill" (Pfefferle 1977:37). The dates of the earliest burials in the Waldo Chinese

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley Waldo Chinese Cemetery

Section Number:

Page: 3

Cemetery are unknown, but it is likely that they began early in the 1850s as the result of illnesses, violent death, and mining accidents. One source describes the burial ground:

The Chinese Cemetery was on the hill half way up to the white cemetery... there were forty-eight Chinese buried there. All the graves were later dug up and the remains sent back to China.... (Josephine County Historical Society, unidentified manuscript).

The only known reference to a named individual who is buried in the Waldo Chinese Cemetery comes through an oral source. Phayo Pfefferle, who grew up in Waldo early in the century noted that, "...The last recorded burial at Waldo was that of "China Lem" about 1912 or 1913, and it is thought that his bones still rest on the hillside at Waldo" (Pfefferle 1977:37). According to Pfefferle, his father, Henry, cared for "Lem" in his last illness, buried him in the Chinese cemetery, and placed small rice bowls and spoons on the grave (Pfefferle: *Grants Pass Daily Courier* July 14, 1973). Local historians Willard and Elsie Street noted that Herman Fick, "many years ago," was hired by a Chinese labor boss at Waldo to dig a grave in the Waldo Chinese Cemetery, and to bury a Chinese man (Street and Street 1973:19).

The nature of rituals that may have been practiced regarding burials in the Waldo Chinese Cemetery is unknown, but it is possible that ceremonial visits, associated with the Chinese Spring Festival, brought mourners to the graveyard. In this memorial, visitors placed cooked pork and fowl among graves and burned incense as an offering.

Long-time residents of the Waldo area recalled that following Chinese custom, workers disinterred the bodies in Waldo Chinese Cemetery and prepared them for shipment to China. The precise date (or dates) that removal occurred are unknown. It is possible that members of district associations in San Francisco conducted the exhumations on more than one occasion. As historian Jeff LaLande explained:

To the hui kuan or district associations (i.e. the Chinese six Companies of San Francisco and other large cities...fell the major burden of providing for the immediate needs of a newcomer. These included such things as passage fee, outfitting and postal service

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley Waldo Chinese Cemetery

Section Number: <sup>8</sup> Page:

with Kwangtung. The hui kuan also provided medical insurance and was responsible for returning the remains of dead sojourners to their home village (LaLande: 1981:58).

In Jacksonville, Oregon, for example, visitors arrived as early as 1881 to care for their countrymen:

Fifty Chinese have been buried in the Jacksonville cemetery within the past decade. The bones are now being taken up and shipped to China. Each skeleton is placed in a sack labeled with the name of the dead. The sacks are then packed in boxes and are ready for shipment (*Ashland Tidings*, August 5, 1881 3:4).

Residents of the Waldo area recalled that exhumations occurred in the Waldo Cemetery when, in the "1920s or 1930s a San Francisco association hired workmen to disinter all the bodies that could be found... The bones were placed in burial boxes and shipped back to China" (Pfefferle 1977: 36-37).

A rare example of its type, Waldo Cemetery reveals in its separateness from the Waldo Cemetery at the top of the knoll, the attitudes of the miners and settlers toward the Chinese (Budy 1999: 35HS11-484). Here, Chinese saw their countrymen buried in a foreign place to rest far from home. The cemetery retains its integrity of setting, location, and plan to evoke its associations with the historic period.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley Waldo Chinese Cemetery

**Section Number:** 

Page:

1

### **Bibliography**

Budy, Elizabeth E.

1999 Waldo Chinese Cemetery Cultural Resource Site Record 35HS11-484 (for USDI-BLM, Medford District

### LaLande, Jeffry Max

1981 Sojourners in the Siskiyous: Adaptation and Acculturation of the Chinese Miners in the Applegate Valley, Oregon 1855-1900, M.A. Thesis, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.

#### Pfefferle, Ruth

1977 Golden Days and Pioneer Ways. Josephine County Historical Society, Grants Pass, Oregon.

#### Street Willard, and Elsie Street

1973 Sailors' Diggings. Josephine County Historical Society Reprints, Grants Pass, Oregon.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley Waldo Chinese Cemetery

Section Number: 10 Page: 1

A map indicating locations of the twenty resources included in this Multiple Property Submission is contained with this document. A photocopied section of a USGS map indicating the location of the Waldo Chinese Cemetery accompanies the nomination document.

### **Boundary Description**

The Waldo Chinese Cemetery is located in the southwest quarter of Section 28, Township 40 South, Range 8 West, W.M., in Josephine County Oregon and is identified on USGS map O'Brien quadrangle, 7.5 minute series, included with this nomination. The nominated area, also containing the Waldo Cemetery, is further described as follows:

Beginning at the Southeast corner of Tax Lot 300 in the SW ¼ of Section 28, T.40S., R.8W W.M., (as shown on Josephine County Assessor's Plat 40-8-28), extend a line of convenience South 180 degrees for 990 feet (0.18 miles); then West 270 degrees for 300 feet (0.06 miles) to join the Fry Gulch Road in the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 28, T.40 S. R. 8W W.M. Then continue North and West along the Fry Gulch Road to its intersection with the boundary between Tax Lots 100 and 300 in the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 28 T. 40 S. R. 8 W. W.M. Then continue East along this property boundary line to the point of beginning. The nominated area contains 12.259 acres more or less.

### **Boundary Justification**

The nominated area encompasses both the Waldo Cemetery and the Waldo Chinese Cemetery that, while not visually contiguous properties in their apparent developed areas, are located in close proximity to each other. The boundaries enclose both graveyards to ensure the inclusion of all interments within the two cemeteries and to contain the immediate forest setting that constitutes the primary loci of burials during the historic period of significance.

#### NPS Form 10-900-A

## **United States Department of the Interior National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley Waldo Chinese Cemetery

Section Number: 10 Page: 2

### **UTM References**

Zone	Location	Easting	Northing
10	1	445769.89069	4656295.09306
	2	446104.08043	4656298.07689
	3	446101.09659	4655996.70936
	4	445850.45429	4656056.38610

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley Waldo Chinese Cemetery

Section Number:

Page:

Photographs

1

### **Photographs**

### Photograph No. 1

- 1) Waldo Chinese Cemetery
- 2) SW 1/4 of Section 28, T 40 S., R. 8 W, W.M, Josephine County Oregon
- 3) Photographer: Elizabeth Budy
- 4) Date of Photograph: October 1999
- 5) Negative holder: Bureau of Land Management, Medford District

3040 Biddle Road

Medford, Oregon 97504

- 6) View: Graves in linear pattern, looking north
- 7) Photograph number 1 of 2

### Photograph No. 2

- 1) Waldo Chinese Cemetery
- 2) SW 1/4 of Section 28, T 40 S., R. 8 W, W.M, Josephine County Oregon
- 3) Photographer: Elizabeth Budy
- 4) Date of Photograph: October 1999
- 5) Negative holder: Bureau of Land Management, Medford District

3040 Biddle Road

Medford, Oregon 97504

- 6) View: View of grave pit (closeup)
- 7) Photograph number 2 of 2

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Mining Resources of the Upper Illinois Valley Waldo Chinese Cemetery

Section Number: 11 Page: 1

### **Property Owner Notification**

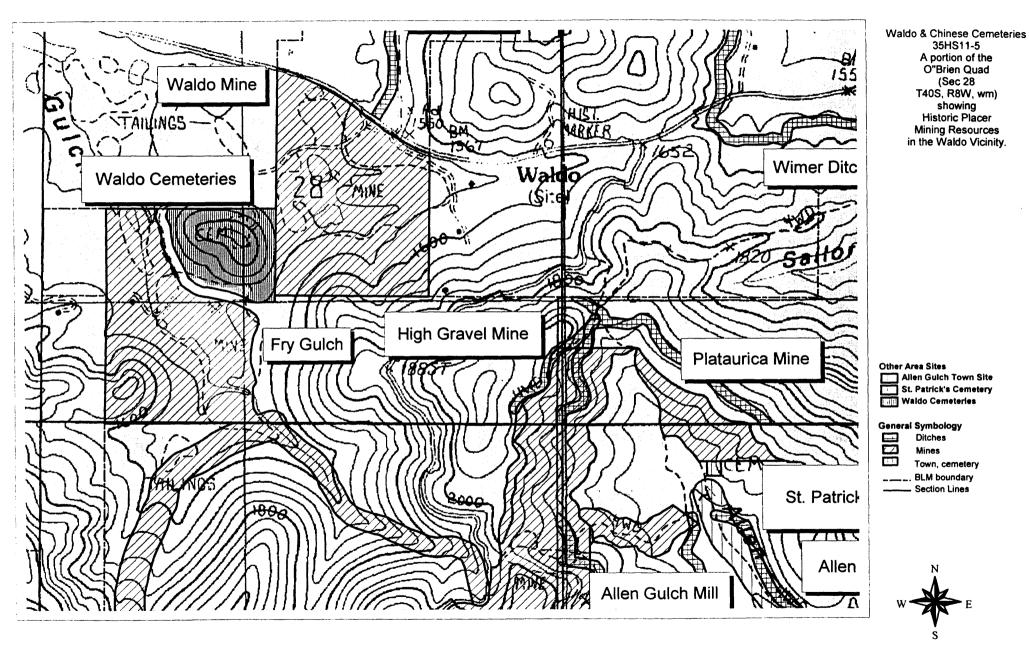
Bureau of Land Management Ron Wenker, District Manager Grants Pass Resource Area Manager Ann Ramage, Archaeologist Medford Field Office 3040 Biddle Road Medford OR 97504

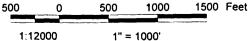
Oregon-Washington State Office Bureau of Land Management Elaine Zielinski, Director Richard Hanes, Cultural Resource Lead PO Box 2965 Portland OR 97208-2965

### **Federal Preservation Officer Certification**

Mr. John G. Douglas, Preservation Officer Bureau of Land Management (240) 204-LS 18<sup>th</sup> and C Streets, NW Washington, DC 20240

### **Waldo & Chinese Cemeteries**





Map created August 2000 by Ralph Delamarter Features based on site investigations by W Tonsfeldt, E Budy and others Base images: digital raster graphs (DRG) and digital orthoquads (DOQ)(1995) of O'Brien, Takilma and Broken Rib quads (scale 1:24000).

