

**Fort Klamath Sub-Committee  
Klamath County Museum Board**

**A Plan for Conserving and Improving the**  
**FORT KLAMATH MILITARY POST MUSEUM**

It is the aim of this proposal to outline steps that will lead to better conservation of the priceless historical heritage that is the Fort Klamath Military Post Museum. The intention is to enhance the physical and educational attributes of the Museum in such a way that present and future citizens of Klamath County, along with visitors to our area, may gain a deeper and broader understanding of who we were, where we came from and how these help define who we are.

Priorities guiding all management decisions (in order):

1. Preservation of cultural resources
2. Interpreting the story of Fort Klamath's military mission
3. Protection of ecological resources
4. Providing facilities for community use

## I. Interpretive Guidelines

- A. The primary story told at the Fort Klamath Museum will be the military operations of Fort Klamath within the context of the broader issues of interaction between native peoples and non-native settlers
- B. Methods of interpretation which lend themselves to the context of 19<sup>th</sup> century life will be used with a preference for simple and non-technological devices.
- C. Materials, exhibits and structures placed at the Fort Klamath Museum must support the primary story. If other materials are placed at the Fort Klamath site, they should be limited to a specific area designated for secondary purposes.
- D. Major themes in the Fort Klamath story that should be supported by the overall development of the museum, as well as specific materials, exhibits, programs and tour guide presentations include:
  - 1. The economic, social and political realities that led to the establishment of the Fort
  - 2. The daily life of the soldiers and others stationed at Fort
  - 3. On-going relations between native peoples, minors and settlers
  - 4. The Modoc War: its causes, prosecution and effects
  - 5. Decommissioning of the Fort: its process and effects on the area
- E. Establish a volunteer docent program
- F. Create a self-guided walking tour pamphlet
- G. Create a self-guided walking tour audio.

## II. Determining current conditions

- A. Mapping
  - 1. Surface survey to
    - a. locate and mark Park boundaries
    - b. help determine historical location of various elements of the old Fort, original boundaries, buildings, etc.

- c. accurately locate existing features (buildings, septic, canal, etc.)
  - 2. Non-intrusive sub-surface magnetometer survey
  - 3. Should magnetometer survey of given area warrant it, proceed with small area survey utilizing ground penetrating radar
- B. Comprehensive listing of still existing buildings originally on Fort grounds and their current condition
- C. Assess current condition and needs of on-site buildings, fencing, parking, etc.
- D. Assess current security situation.
- E. Involve community in a census of period artifacts and their current location

### III.Preparation for Growth

- A. Acquisition of property adjacent to current Park
  - 1. Investigate possible funding sources to enable land acquisition
  - 2. Initiate discussions with neighboring land owners as to possible transfers of land to the Park
  - 3. Park expansion to the North and South of current site would be the most desirable
- B. Investigate possible funding sources to enable the full or partial reconstruction of original Fort buildings
- C. Investigate possible funding sources for future maintenance of Fort property and buildings
- D. Encourage community involvement and input via meetings and advertising
  - 1. Create a Friends of Old Fort Klamath organization to coordinate volunteer community efforts on behalf of the Park
- E. Assess appropriateness of a gate fee.

### IV.Growth Priorities

- A. The design and placement of buildings, fences and other structures should support the primary story of the museum
- B. Any use of the museum grounds not directly supporting the message of the museum should be restricted to as small an area as possible
- C. Any landscaping will be restricted to native materials, including plants or other features. “Native” here refers to materials indigenous to the Wood River Valley and adjoining uplands, and not necessarily to the museum property itself
- D. Building reconstruction
  - 1. Placement of reconstructed buildings shall be as near to site of original building as is practicable
  - 2. Building priority
    - a. Smithy
    - b. Old Barracks – to be furnished as when in use
    - c. Fort Headquarters – to serve as Park office and reception center and store.
    - d. New Cavalry Barracks – to be furnished as when in use
    - e. Hospital – to be furnished as when in use
    - f. Officers’ Quarters – to be furnished as when in use.
- E. Relocation of extant original Fort buildings
  - 1. priority to be determined by current condition of building, cost of acquisition
  - 2. only such buildings as were original to the Fort will be considered until such time as additional land is acquired
- F. A section of the Park shall be made available to the Klamath Tribes so that historically and culturally accurate information on the native peoples of our area may be presented

- G. As new land is acquired, an area may be set aside dedicated to early pioneer life with period displays and buildings not original to the Fort. These may include displays of 19<sup>th</sup> century agricultural practices and buildings currently in the Park but not original to the Fort
- H. Nothing shall be done to the presumed grave sites of Modoc leaders without first consulting with current tribal leaders
- I. Use of motor vehicles west of the irrigation ditch should be kept to a minimum
- J. Providing for the security of cultural resources is a high priority that must be balanced against the need for achieving the goals of interpretation of the period
- K. Develop an integrated pest management system to control noxious weeds, mosquitoes, rodents and other pests.

#### V. Marketing

- A. New signage on Hwy 62 and at the Park
- B. Advertising at Crater Lake National Park and elsewhere
- C. Old Fort Klamath website.