

Archaeology of Chinese Immigrant Gold Miners in the Southern Blue Mountains of Oregon



Volunteer opportunities to assist in archaeological survey and excavation

July 16-24, 2018

Malheur National Forest, John Day, Oregon

Gold was discovered in the early 1860s in the Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon. Miners and merchants soon flooded into the area in search of their fortunes. These included hundreds of Chinese immigrants who made up some 70-80% of the miners by 1870. Archaeological sites related to the Chinese miners have been identified on the Malheur National Forest based in John Day, Oregon. The Forest has partnered with Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Anthropology (SOULA), the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site and the Grant County Historical Museum to support the study, protection and interpretation of these unique cultural resources. This summer we will be conducting field survey, site mapping and preliminary excavation at several of these sites. We are looking for ten volunteers to assist us in the important and exciting work.

- Four volunteers will assist in the excavation of test units, identification and collection of artifacts, and mapping of test units and archaeological features
- Six volunteers will assist in the field verification of archaeological sites, mapping of surface features, metal detector survey of sites and features, and identification and recording of surface artifacts



Hobnailed rubber boot, gold pan fragments, and Chinese brown glazed stoneware fragments

(over)

Additional information:

- Previous archaeological excavation and survey experience is not required but will be considered in the selection of volunteers (we are looking for a mix of experienced and first time volunteers)
- The work involves hiking in moderately difficult terrain for distances of up to a mile, lifting, digging, and carrying gear
- Volunteers must be in good physical condition and prepared to spend full eight hour days in the field. This includes proper field clothing and boots, bringing lunch, water and snacks.
- Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older and able to provide their own transportation to and from John Day, Oregon
- Volunteers must provide their own meals and lodging. Free camp sites are available at a National Forest campground near the work sites (approximately 30 miles from John Day). These campgrounds have vault toilets but no showers or potable water on site. An excellent spring for drinking water which is set up for filling bottles and water jugs is in the vicinity. Motels are available in John Day and Prairie City for volunteers wishing to pay for those accommodations.

For more information contact:

Chelsea Rose, Staff Archaeologist, Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Anthropology, Ashland, Oregon. rosec@sou.edu 541-552-6764

Don Hann, Forest Archaeologist, Malheur National Forest, John Day, Oregon. dhann@fs.fed.us 541 575-3081

To apply for a volunteer position:

Send an email to Don or Chelsea at the email addresses above. Include the following information:

- A brief description of your interest and experience in immigrant Chinese mining history and archaeological survey and excavation.
- Dates you are available (five day minimum commitment)
- Your contact information
 - Email
 - Phone
 - Mailing address

If you don't have access to email you are welcome to apply over the phone. Our phone numbers are provided above

Forest Service volunteer forms will be completed on your arrival

Applications are due by June 15. We will notify you of acceptance for the project by the close of business on Monday, June 18.

Thank you! Hope we see you at the mines!

