

Other Points Of Interest On The Ya Ha Tinda

1. Large Pit West of Scalp Creek

West of Scalp Creek a pit was found by Mark Hebblewhite, while doing his research on elk around 2000. The pit is much larger than an Eagle Hunting pit. The Wagon Road that Tim Barton uses and the Cascade Fire Road join at a location about 2 kms west of Scalp Creek. East of the junction of these two roads is a thick grove of evergreen trees and willow growing along a bench which faces East. There is a large spruce tree that has fallen along the West side of the thick evergreens. The pit is located near this dead, fallen tree and almost on the edge of the bench.

The Archaeologists were not certain as to what the purpose of this pit was. Perhaps it was used as a cooking pit, rendering pit etc.

2. Large Pit East of Bighorn Campground

This pit is found along the old road grade (former ranch roach) that leads from the Manure Pile at the campground East along the base of the hill. At a distance of approximately 1 km East the old road bed makes a bend to the left. This deep pit is located north in the grassy area. The Archaeologists thought it was recently dug (last 100 yrs) and did not have any significance for their work. However, it could be a cellar that the Brewster's dug, or perhaps a borrow pit for the road construction.

3. Volcanic Ash

Mount Mazama in Oregon erupted over 9 thousand years ago. Ash from this eruption can be found on the ranch. There is a very visible thick layer of ash on the trail from the ranch buildings down to Scalp Creek. From the Ranch Buildings Gate, head south along the road and catch the wide trail that drops down to Scalp Creek. Close to the top of the on your left you will see about 4-6" of white ash in the steep bank. Archaeologists use this ash as a reference point in determining the age of certain sites , i.e. if they are found above or below the level of the ash deposit.

Also, speaking of ash, look for the fluffy ash deposits in the Bighorn Canyon as they have accumulated from the Campground fires over the years – they are really heavy on the lower end of the canyon on the East side.

4. Kids love dinosaur stuff...

there are ancient (190 Million Yrs) worm trails in the flat rocks at the mouth of the canyon very close to the creek. If you splash the flat rocks with water, they can be seen quite well. Also, ancient tiny white shell type creatures can be seen on the rock outcroppings (190 Million yrs old). In the canyon watch for fossils – there are lots of them.

Staff from Tyrrell Museum extracted a Ichthyosaur from Big Horn Creek just north of the ranch boundary. We assisted them in transporting this large fossil across the ranch.

Belemnites – in the black shale areas belemnite tentacles can be found. A belemnite is a squid like creature. I have placed samples of these in the Historic Exhibit a the Ranch.

5. Cougar Long's Cabin

Above the ranch buildings on the old Forestry Road there is the remains of a log cabin that was built in the 1940's. Dewey Browning told he that that was his cabin to start with as he had that area as his trap line. Later he turned over his trap line and cabin to Cougar (Clarence) Long.

6. There is remains of another old cabin on the South side of the Red Deer River. I am not sure who built it or who lived there over the years. However, Nellie Murphy, in her memoirs, refers to a couple named Jackson who were living there at the time Nellie and Cliff were living at the ranch.

Later, the man who lived there became somewhat bushed and shot his team as they were standing hooked to the wagon. He then left the area. I am not sure who this person was. The horse skulls were still there when we lived at the ranch. Ivor Lyster retrieved the running gear from the wagon back in the 1960s. The cabin is somewhat well preserved unless the river has destroyed it since.

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