

**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: 01000132

Date Listed: 06/10/03

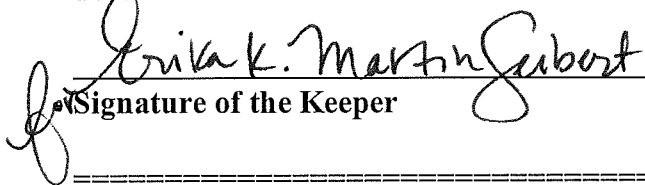
35-DO-130- Tahkenitch Landing Site
Property Name

Douglas
County

OR
State

Native American Archeological sites of the Oregon Coast 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

6/10/03
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

*The period of significance is amended to read 8000 B.P. to 1858 A.D.

DISTRIBUTION:

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

Tahkenitch Landing Site (35-DO-130), Douglas County, Oregon
Native American Archaeological Sites of the Oregon Coast

NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

Historic name _____

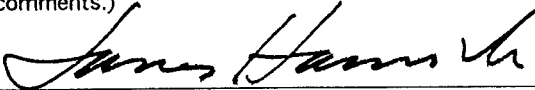
Other names/site number 35-DO-130, Tahkenitch Landing Site

2. Location

Street & number Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, Siuslaw National Forest not for publication
City or town Gardiner vicinity
State Oregon code OR county Douglas code 000 zip code 97441

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 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 /Deputy SHPO

Date January 16, 2001

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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 Keeper

Date of Action

Tahkenitch Landing Site (35-DO-130), Douglas County, Oregon
Native American Archaeological Sites of the Oregon Coast

OMB No. 1024

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Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____		

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Native American Archaeological Sites of the Oregon Coast

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Cat: Domestic Sub: Camp or Village
 Current Functions: Cat: Recreation and Culture Sub: Outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification: N/A
 Materials: foundation N/A
 roof N/A
 walls N/A
 other N/A

Narrative Description:

This well known *shell midden*, probable *village site*, and *ethnographic place* is a complex multicomponent archaeological site that is widely regarded as one of the most significant sites located on the Oregon Coast and the Pacific Coast of North America. Situated on United States Forest Service (USFS) property along the shore of freshwater Tahkenitch Lake on the central Oregon Coast, 35-DO-130 is also known as the Tahkenitch Landing site. Ethnographic sources suggest that the site area was the location of a historical canoe landing used by the Lower Umpqua or Kalawatset Indians (Gordon 1858). Located in the vicinity of a popular fishing resort built in the 1930s, the site was first recorded in 1977 after the USFS acquired the property as part of the development of the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area. 35-DO-130 was the subject of limited testing in 1978 and 1982 to help define the site boundaries in relation to proposed improvements to recreational facilities in the area (Minor and Toepel 1982). Further excavations by Minor and Toepel (1986) in 1984 assisted in the documentation of site boundaries and integrity and provided the first detailed information on the age and contents of the site.

This work showed that 35-DO-130 covered an area as much as 120 meters long and 60 meters wide (see site map), with the long axis parallel to the shore of Tahkenitch Lake. Minor and Toepel's interdisciplinary research also demonstrated that the site deposits were up to two meters deep (see profile drawing) and contained a record of human occupation that spans as much as 7,000 to 8,000 years. Although portions of the site have been disturbed by historical land modifications, large portions of the site remain essentially intact, with excellent preservation of a wide variety of artifacts, faunal and floral remains, and cultural features. Artifacts recovered by Minor and Toepel (1986) include arrow and dart points, large bifacial knives, graters, a cobble chopper, hammerstones, pitted hammers, abraders, pipe fragments of clay and steatite, clay spheroids, antler and bone wedges, a bone awl, bone whistles, bird bone tube beads, *Olivella* shell beads, and clam shell disk beads (see artifact drawings). Faunal remains identified in the recovered assemblage include at least 14 types of shellfish (mostly estuarine), 2 types of land snail, 14 fish taxa, 16 types of birds (mostly aquatic), 7 separate marine mammal taxa (whale, dolphin, pinnipeds, and sea otter), and at least five different land mammals (elk, deer, etc.). Also identified were the charred remains of at least five types of edible plants.

With discrete cultural components dated to the Late Holocene, Middle Holocene, and probably the Early Holocene, the site contains an invaluable record of changes in Oregon Coast environments and Native American adaptations to such dynamic ecological conditions (Minor and Toepel 1986; Minor 1995). Minor and Toepel's investigation of the site, which first documented the antiquity of coastal adaptations along the Oregon Coast, remains a landmark in Oregon Coast archaeology (Aikens 1993).

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- 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.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- 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.

Areas of Significance: Archaeology: Prehistoric
Ethnic Heritage: Native American

Period of Significance: Late Holocene Contact Period, Late Holocene Precontact Period, Middle Holocene,
and possibly Early Holocene.

Significant Dates: Component I: 7960 \pm 90 RYBP (Beta-14870)
6880 \pm 90 RYBP (Beta-11202)
Component II: 5100 \pm 70 RYBP (Beta-14869)
4340 \pm 80 RYBP (Beta-14868)
3160 \pm 90 RYBP (Beta-12877)
3160 \pm 60 RYBP (Beta-12879)
3150 \pm 60 RYBP (Beta-14871)
3120 \pm 80 RYBP (Beta-12878)
Component III: Post 3000 RYBP (no ¹⁴C dates)

Significant Person: N/A

Cultural Affiliation: Lower Umpqua, Oregon Coast, Southern Northwest Coast

Architect/Builder: N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance:

At various times in its long occupational history, the Tahkenitch Landing Site appears to have served as an *ethnographic place*, a *village site* and a *shell midden*. Native American use of the site is documented for the Late Holocene Contact Period (ca. AD 1858), Late Holocene Precontact Period (probably less than 1500 years ago and again about 3,100 years ago), the Middle Holocene (ca. 4340 and 5100 RYBP), and probably the Early Holocene (ca. 7000-8000 RYBP). Despite some disturbance, large portions of the site retain their essential integrity and research potential. Without question, 35-DO-130 is one of the most significant archaeological sites on the Oregon Coast. C. Melvin Aikens, in his 1993 book *Archaeology of Oregon*, described its discovery as "a major breakthrough, for prior to that the earliest datable evidence for the coastal zone was only about 3000 years old." Minor and Toepel (1986), who directed systematic excavations at the site, stated that:

Archaeological investigations at Tahkenitch Landing . . . have made a substantial contribution to the information available regarding prehistoric occupation along the Oregon coast. The project has provided evidence that aboriginal peoples were occupying the site as early as 8000 years ago, and that molluscan resources were being intensely exploited beginning by approximately 5200 BP The results of the investigations at Tahkenitch Landing raise hopes that sites of similar antiquity and significance remain to be discovered and investigated elsewhere on the Oregon coast.

Subsequent research has substantiated this evaluation, with additional Middle and Early Holocene sites documented along the Oregon Coast. Yet the Tahkenitch Landing site remains one of just a handful of early Oregon Coast sites and has contributed significantly to recent debate about the nature of early adaptations along the Oregon Coast and the broader Pacific Coast of North America (e.g., Erlandson and Moss 1996; Lyman 1991; Minor 1998; Moss and Erlandson 1995, 1998). The site also remains one of the best examples of a stratified Oregon Coast archaeological site containing evidence for dramatic environmental changes across the Holocene, including evidence for estuarine formation between about 8,000 and 3,000 RYBP, followed by dune building and a transition from estuarine to lacustrine habitats along the central Oregon Coast. The preservation of faunal remains, floral remains, and a variety of artifacts and archaeological features from a stratified multicomponent locality like this provides the opportunity to examine a wide range of general and regional research issues, including a number of specific questions posed by Moss and Erlandson (1996:27-29) in Research Topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Finally, as a tangible link to their history and cultural traditions, the Tahkenitch Landing site (35-DO-130) is highly significant to descendants of the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, as well as other Oregon Coast tribes.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Aikens, C. M.
1993 *Archaeology of Oregon*. Bureau of Land Management, US Department of the Interior, Portland.
- Erlandson, J. and M. L. Moss
1996 The Pleistocene-Holocene Transition along the Pacific Coast of North America. In *Humans at the End of the Ice Age: The Archaeology of the Pleistocene-Holocene Transition*, edited by L. G. Straus, B. V. Eriksen, J. M. Erlandson, and D. R. Yesner, pp. 277-301. Plenum, New York.
- Erlandson, J. M., M. A. Tveskov, and R. S. Byram
1988 The Development of Maritime Adaptations on the Southern Northwest Coast of North America. *Arctic Anthropology* 35(1):6-22.
- Gordon, H.
1858 Government Land Office Survey Map. Ms. on file, Bureau of Land Management Archives, Portland, OR.
- Lyman, R. L.
1991 *The Prehistory of the Oregon Coast*. Academic Press, New York.
- Minor, R.
1995 A Reassessment of Early "Pre-Littoral" Radiocarbon Dates from the Southern Northwest Coast. *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 17(2):267-273.
- Minor, R. and K. A. Toepel
1982 Archaeological Investigations at Tahkenitch Landing, Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, Siuslaw National Forest. Heritage Research Associates Report 16, Eugene.
- 1986 The Archaeology of the Tahkenitch Landing Site: Early Prehistoric Occupation on the Oregon Coast. Heritage Research Associates Report No. 46, Eugene.
- Moss, M. L. and J. M. Erlandson
1995 Reflections on North American Pacific Coast Prehistory. *Journal of World Prehistory* 9(1):1-45.
- 1996 Native American Archaeological Sites of the Oregon Coast. Ms. on file, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, Parks and Recreation Department, Salem.
- 1998 Early Holocene Adaptations on the Southern Northwest Coast. *Journal of California and Great Basin Anthropology* 20(1):13-25.

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Oregon State Museum of Anthropology, University of Oregon Museum of Natural History (Acc. #548)

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 2.42 acre

USGS Quadrangle: Tahkenitch Lake, Oregon (1985), 1:24,000

UTM References: Zone	Easting	Northing	Description of Point
1:			Site center

Boundary Justification: Site boundaries were defined via a combination of surface reconnaissance, subsurface auger coring, and limited subsurface testing. Protective buffer zones approximately 10 meters wide are included in the nominated area to encompass peripheral features commonly found around many shell midden sites. Finally, assuming that redeposited or even in situ materials could lie submerged below the surface of the lake, the eastern boundary of the site extends 10 meters southeast of the lake shore.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>J. Erlandson, R. Minor, K. Toepel, & R. Greenspan</u>
organization	<u>University of Oregon, Coastal Prehistory Program</u>
date	<u>August 23, 1999</u>
street & number	<u>308 Condon Hall, University of Oregon</u>
city or town	<u>Eugene, OR 97403-1218</u>

telephone (541) 346-5098

Property Owner

name	<u>United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service</u>	
department	<u>Siuslaw National Forest</u>	
street/number	<u>P. O. Box 1148</u>	telephone <u>(541) 378-5001 ext. 226</u>
city & state	<u>Corvallis, OR 97330</u>	

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photographs Page 1

35-DO-130, Douglas County, Oregon

Photograph 1 of 2

3. Photographer: Rick Minor
4. Date: 1984
5. Heritage Research Associates, Eugene, Oregon.
6. Overview of site area, with 1984 excavations in progress, looking west.
7. Roll 1, Frame 1.

Photograph 2 of 2

3. Photographer: Rick Minor
4. Date: 1984
5. Heritage Research Associates, Eugene, Oregon.
6. Stratigraphic profiling in Units I and J, showing bands of shell in Stratum 2B.
7. Roll 1, Frame 2.

**Portions of this file have been redacted to
meet Oregon State law (ORS 192.501(11)).**

**More information may be available upon request.
Contact the Oregon State Archaeologist for details.**