

Background and Summary of Area Pre Road

- Physical description of region and images
 - Located in the Northwest corner of California within Del Norte and Humboldt County boundaries, 17 miles east of the community of Klamath, California and 27 miles southeast of Crescent City, California.
 - The proposed route also sits within the Six Rivers National Forest area.
 - Essential geographical features include the Klamath and Smith Rivers and the Klamath Mountain Range.
 - Land is generally steep, mountainous, and rugged, ridge tops are favored for travel.
- Tribal use of land for millennia
 - The Pohlik-lah, Karuk and Tolowa consider the area to be sacred, with places like Doctor Rock and Chimney Rock used for vision quests and prayer.
 - Trails and locations of key ceremonial materials and sacred locations exist throughout the region
- Movement of settlers
 - Earliest known non-Native in area were trappers in the 1820s
 - Mining activity increased non-Native population during the 1850s
- 1930s-1960s
 - Forest Service converted trails to basic roads in the 1930s, usually only used to fire suppression
 - Post WWII demands for timber led to increased traffic, and routine road maintenance
 - Approximately 25% of Six Rivers National Forest Area was used as commercial timber with much of that coming from this region, increased need for better road conditions
 - Poor access left limited use to mostly recreational uses like the hunting, fishing, hiking and four wheel drive vehicles.
 - The heaviest recreation is concentrated in the Elk Valley- most travel occurs from Orleans over.