

State: CA

Unit: Redding Field Office

Project Name: Archaeology of the Deadwood Chinese Camp

Project Dates: June 24–28, 2013

Time Commitment: Must commit to minimum of 3 days

Description: Join us this summer as we explore an important piece of California's history! During the California Gold Rush and through the turn of the 20th century, Chinese workers in the mines and elsewhere in the Golden State were often marginalized by the other cultural groups working in the same areas. Interracial contact remained rigid and formal, and separate claims, camps, organizations, and lifestyles were pursued and upheld. Through this process, cultural distance was maintained and, as a result, remained largely intact and unaltered. The archaeology of Chinese sites in western North America has been expansive, and both northern California and southern Oregon have seen informative studies. Nevertheless, investigative efforts are still warranted to learn more about the Chinese sojourner in the rugged California mining regions and to protect and conserve potentially significant, Chinese archaeological sites.

One of these sites, tentatively named the Deadwood Chinese Camp, offers great possibilities toward understanding the day-to-day lives of late 19th century Chinese miners in a presumed residential setting. The site is near the town of Fort Jones in Siskiyou County, an area warmly considered part of the mythical "State of Jefferson." During this exploratory PIT project participants, under the direction of the BLM's Dr. Eric Ritter, will be involved in a number of archaeological tasks, including limited excavation, mapping, photography, metal detecting, archival research, laboratory work on recovered items, and construction of a protective fence. As time permits, we may also visit some of the other archaeological sites in the vicinity. This is an important project, and it promises to be as fun as it is informative – we hope to see you in June!

Number of openings: 15 (individuals, couples, or families)

Special skills: Must be physically capable of hiking, sitting, kneeling, standing, and bending for extended periods each day, and in a variety of weather conditions (often hot); previous photography/videography and/or experience with and possession of metal detector *desired*; previous archaeological survey, excavation, mapping, laboratory, and/or artifact identification (particularly Chinese) experience helpful, but not required. **Please note on your application if you own and are willing to bring a metal detector.**

Minimum age: 10 years old; under 18 with a responsible adult – youth participation is encouraged!

Facilities: Tent and self-contained RV camping available at nearby historic ranch/environmental research center in Scott Valley; chemical toilets, water, sun showers; no hook-ups; Fort Jones and Yreka are full-service communities with motels, restaurants, and a range of other amenities; volunteers responsible for own lodging/personal camping equipment, food, extra water, and daily transportation to designated meeting area

Nearest towns: Fort Jones, 5 miles; Yreka, 20 miles

Applications due: April 15, 2013