SELECTED GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES AND "PLACE-NAMES" VISIBLE FROM MT. ASHLAND
As a child, I was possessed by the names of geographic features. I can remember my first backpack trips with my father and uncle in the High Sierras at the age of eight and their unending patience in answering my questions of "What's the name of that mountain?" Or "how far is that from here?" Or "can we go there someday?" Of course, they could not answer all my questions, but they never once dampened my enthusiasm for "wanting to know."

At around this same time, I can remember seeing Mt. Shasta on clear, north wind winter days from our country home in the northern Sierra foothills near Auburn, California. From that day on, I realized that I must go to that distant white peak on the horizon. Ten years later I moved to Weed at the base of the mountain and immediately climbed the peak. From its summit I saw hundreds of peaks, ridges, and valleys. Ever since that time I have been trying to hike, climb, ski, or backpack into all that I could see from Shasta's summit. I have seen a lot, but I have a long way to go.

Obviously, the view from Mt. Ashland is not as encompassing as that from Mt. Shasta's summit. But Mt. Ashland's summit—the highest point west of the Cascades in Oregon—offers exceptional views of three distinct geographic provinces: the young volcanic peaks of the Cascades (from northeast to southeast), the ancient and rugged Klamath Mountains (from south to west), and the mostly arid Great Basin (far to the east and southeast). Books have been written about each of these provinces (with the Klamath Mountains the least understood), so I will not endeavor here to even briefly describe each province. Suffice to say (and only a bit simplified), that as you drive in the northbound lanes over Siskiyou Summit on Interstate 5, you are in the Cascade Province. As you drive in the southbound lanes you are in the Klamath Province. One actual and distinct contact point between the Klamath and Cascades is located about one mile up the Mt. Ashland Access Road at the Colestine Road junction/saddle. The east side of the saddle is volcanic (Cascade) while the west side is decomposed granite (Klamath). And if you want a taste of Great Basin scenery without driving to Klamath Falls, get off the Interstate at the summit and drive towards Pilot Rock through the juniper and sage.

Mt. Ashland is located near the eastern-most extension of the Siskiyou Mountains in the Klamath province. The mountain's north-side ski runs are located on the Rogue River National Forest while the south-side meadows are located on the Klamath National Forest. Thirteen wilderness, ten national forests, 1 national park, and 9 counties are visible from Mt. Ashland's summit. Elevations range from about 1,300 feet in White City (north of Medford) to 14,161 feet on Mt. Shasta's summit pinnacle.

"Place-names" give us history in a capsule. They tell us something about Euro-American and Native American cultures. They speak both of the "namer" and of the "land." In some mysterious way, the name of a distant peak somehow brings it closer and makes it more fully understood.

The list that follows begins at Mt. Shasta and moves clockwise in a 360 degree circle ending at The Whaleback on Shasta's northeast side. The list is not all-inclusive as many other peaks and features are visible. I have included only the most prominent peaks or those that are representative of a particular area. Most geographic features are distinctive from the
summit of Mt. Ashland, but some are difficult to make out, particularly those in the jumbled Klamath Mountains to the southwest. Others, like the distant Warners in northeast California, require very clear days for viewing. All features can be seen with the naked eye, but a good set of binoculars helps delineate some of the more distant peaks. (In a few isolated cases, a high-powered scope might extend the viewing area.) Some descriptions go beyond a brief "place-name" history and offer other pieces of information which I find interesting. After each name I use the following designations:

' : elevation in feet
^ : compass bearing (azimuth) in degrees
m : distance in miles from Mt. Ashland

Finally, I used secondary sources for most of the information and have quoted liberally from those publications. Statements in brackets [] are not substantiated and they reflect my best guess based on (1) a vague memory of what someone once said to me, (2) recall reading at some point in the last 20 years, or (3) deducting conclusions for a "place-name" based on some known local history in the area (see Russian Peak and China Mountain as examples). The following publications were especially useful:


Further pieces of information were gathered from various "forest" and "wilderness" maps published by the U.S. Forest Service and from guidebooks which describe northern California and southern Oregon.

I welcome corrections or additions to this short listing, especially if you share my interest in geographic features visible from Mt. Ashland.

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Ashland, Mt. (7,533'): Mt. Ashland is the highest peak west of the Cascades in Oregon. It is located seven miles south of the town of Ashland (formerly called Ashland Mills), which was named for the Ohio home county of one of the first settlers and/or the Kentucky estate of Henry Clay, the prominent Whig politician. Mt. Ashland was also called "Ashland Butte" and "Siskiyou Peak." In about 1910 the present name was officially recognized, and the name "Siskiyou Peak" was applied to a nearby mountain. A Forest Service lookout was built on the summit around 1920 and was abandoned in 1942. The Takelma Indians believed Mt. Ashland to be the physical transformation of Daldal, a "cultural hero who plays an important part in Takelma myths: Traveling east up Rogue River, Daldal overcomes and transforms the wicked beings that threaten continued harm to mankind, sets precedent for the life of Indians and after his work transforms himself into Mt. Ashland." (It should be noted that other Takelma myths indicate an association between Daldal and the Table Rocks, a relationship that is more familiar to more people.)

Shasta, Mt. (14,161'--149^°--55m): Mt. Shasta's glacier-clad peak is the most prominent landmark as seen from various vantage points in northern California and southern Oregon. It rises nearly 11,000 feet from base to summit. Its place-name history is long and convoluted and it was often confused on early to mid 19th-century maps with Mt. McLoughlin. "Shasta" could be derived from several sources: the Russian word tshastal meaning white or pure, the French word chaste also meaning pure, or an obscure Indian word used by native tribes and adopted by early white travelers. The nearby Wintun tribe called it Bohem Puyok (Great Peak) and the mountain was no doubt an unmistakable spiritual source for a number of tribes including the Modoc, Karok, and Shasta. Through the years Shasta is referred to variously as Shastasla, Sasta, Sasty, Sastice, Shasty, Chaste, Chestet, Chasty, Shastl, and Ts chastl. Other names include Mt. Jackson (after President Andrew Jackson) and Pit[t] Mountain (for animal trapping pits built by Native Americans). Peter Skene Ogden, a prominent Hudson’s Bay Company trapper, is generally credited as the first whiteman to see Mt. Shasta. Ogden most likely first saw the mountain on December 26, 1826 from near Tule Lake on the Oregon/California border. A few historians suggest that Fray Narciso Duran, a Spanish explorer, may have made the first sighting from a point in the Sacramento Valley in 1817, but Duran’s journal entries are sparse and the location of a “very high hill...to the northwest” is a matter of speculation. Another possible pre-Ogden sighting may have been made in 1821 (?) by a second Spanish explorer, Luis Arguello. His “twin peaks” could have been Mt. Shasta.

Shasta Valley (2,500-3,500’--150’--30-50m): Shasta Valley is the broad plain which extends north from the base of Mt. Shasta. Due to the high mountains to the west (right) it is in a “rain shadow" and supports a vegetative mix of sagebrush, grasslands, and junipers. The Shasta and Little Shasta Rivers flow through the valley and join six miles west of Yreka before dropping into the rugged canyon country on the west side of Interstate 5 slightly north of Yreka. Scores of hillocks and mounds dot the valley. Recent geologic studies suggest that these are eroded blocks of debris, sometimes called "patterned ground," from a monstrous landslide off of Mt. Shasta about 350,000 years ago--the largest known landslide on earth in the last million years. An estimated 26 cubic kilometers sloughed off the mountain, ran down the Shasta River plain past the present site of Yreka, and temporarily choked off the Klamath River.

Black Mountain (5,118’--146°--19m): Black Mountain is a volcanic plug dome which is located in the near foreground slightly to the east (left) of Mt. Shasta. Its west ridge drops to a saddle and then rises to Paradise Craggy (4,911’--154°--20m) where a fire lookout is
located. Klamathon, a sawmill town of about 1000 residents, was located on the Klamath River near the north base of Black Mountain. Logs were floated downriver to the town from the terminus of the "Pokegama Log Chute" (approx. 20 miles upriver) which had a vertical drop of 834 feet over its 2,650 foot length. The town was established around 1888 but was abandoned in 1902 when a fire destroyed the "Big Mill."

Klamath River (2,100'-146^--17m): The Klamath River is not visible from Mt. Ashland, but it deserves special mention. Its closest point to Mt. Ashland is where it flows around the north and west side of Black Mountain just south of Interstate 5 in California. The river has a total drainage area of 11,850 square miles in Oregon and California, and has a total length of 180 miles from Upper Klamath Lake in Oregon to its Pacific Ocean mouth in Redwood National Park 20 miles south of Crescent City, California. Its Sprague River headwaters are found 25 miles northwest of Lakeview in south central Oregon. Except for the mighty Columbia and Fraser rivers, the Klamath is the only river which cuts through the Cascade Mountain Range. All of the other rivers find their origins on the west side of the range which extends from Mt. Garibaldi in British Columbia to Mt. Lassen in northern California. (See "Klamath" in the National Forests section of this paper for a brief place-name history.)

Black Butte (6,325'--159^--55m): Black Butte is a conical pile of black and purple andesite at the west (right) base of Mt. Shasta and adjacent to the east (left) side of Interstate 5. A well-constructed trail leads to its summit. It is a "plug dome," a steep-sided rounded mound formed when viscous lava wells up into a crater and is too stiff to flow away. The peak was named in the early 1850's because it was "black as the darkest iron ore." The name was later changed to Wintoon Butte, then to Cone Mountain, and finally back to the original name in 1934. Suggestions have been made to rename it "Muir Butte," in honor of the famous author-naturalist John Muir, who spent time in the area on two different occasions. During periods of temperature inversions, a mirage forms and the summit often looks flat from Mt. Ashland. A Forest Service lookout was removed from the peak in 1975. And finally, a conservationist who was upset about rock removal from the butte during Interstate 5 construction in the late 60s, once remarked that "Black Butte would be a national park in Kansas."

Eddy, Mt. (9,025'-169^--55m): Mt. Eddy is located immediately west (right) of Mt. Shasta and Black Butte. Its actual summit lies along a broad ridgecrest, with a series of north-facing bowls which normally hold snow well into August. The mountain was named for Nelson Harvey Eddy, a native of New York State, who arrived in 1854 with one yoke of oxen and one cow, lived on the slope of the mountain until 1867, and then became a successful rancher in Shasta Valley. The Wintun name of the peak was Num-mel-be-le-sas-pom, "west blaze mountain." Mt. Eddy is the highest peak in the vast, rugged, and geologically complex Klamath Mountains system. Superb skiing awaits those who wish to make the climb to its summit. (High avalanche potential limits this activity to those skiers/climbers who have a clear understanding of avalanche knowledge and skills.) A Forest Service lookout was abandoned on the summit in 1931, but its walls and roof are still intact.

China Mountain (8,542'-172^--50m): China Mountain is a seldom climbed peak on the divide between the Scott and Shasta Rivers. Crater, Caldwell, and West Park Lakes are within one mile of the summit crest where the rare foxtail pine has found a foothold in the peridotite soils. (It is probably named after either Chinese miners in the area or after Chinese workers...
who helped construct the "Yreka Ditch" which ran along the entire length of Shasta Valley's west side.]

Trinity Alps (8,098'--184^--59m): On the far horizon to the west (right) of Mt. Eddy and China Peak is an indistinct (except for the clearest of days) ridge that runs northeast to southwest. This is the northwest "wing" of the large (500,000 acres plus) Trinity Alps Wilderness. The most spectacular portion of the glacier-scoured Trinities lies south and west of this ridge and is hidden from view by the Russian Wilderness. This ridgeline area is sometimes called the Scott Mountains while the Russian area is sometimes referred to as the Salmon Mountains for the river basins which drain the respective areas. Craggy Peak is the highest point along this divide between the Scott and Trinity Rivers. The name Trinity owes its origin to an error. Trinity received its name from Trinidad Bay (approx. 20 miles north of present-day Eureka, California), which was discovered and named by Spanish Captain Brunode Hezeta, on Trinity Sunday, 1775. When Pierson B. Reading (after whom Redding, California was named) came upon the river in 1845, he gave it the name Trinity, the English version of Trinidad, in the mistaken belief that the river entered Trinidad Bay.

Russian Peak (8196'--194^--57m): Russian Peak is the highest peak in the Russian Wilderness. It is only slightly higher than nearby peaks and is a little difficult to identify. Look for a high-angle pyramid-shaped peak with a glacier scoured north face almost directly pointed at Mt. Ashland. [The name most likely stems from a group of Russian miners who settled for a time near the confluence of the Little North Fork and the North Fork of the Salmon River].--13 miles west of Russian Peak. This 1850's settlement was known as "Russianville." The main stem of the North Fork takes on that name at the confluence of North and South Russian creeks. The word Russian is also used as the name of three lakes within the wilderness: "Russian Lake," "Lower Russian Lake," and "Golden Russian Lake," the latter name given because of transplanted golden trout from the Sierra Nevada range. This small wilderness (approx. 12,000 acres) contains more conifer species (17) in a concentrated area than possibly anywhere else in the world, including the rare Brewer's "weeping" spruce and foxtail pine.

Yellow Dog Peak (7,044'--204^--51m): Yellow Dog Peak is located in the SW corner of the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area. Name origin is unknown. Nearby geographic names are no less colorful: Snoozer Ridge, Shotgun Gulch, Jumpoff Joe Curve, J Joe Curve, and Cub Bear Mine.

Boulder Peak (8,299'--209^--39m): Boulder Peak is located in the NW corner of the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area and its summit is the highest elevation in the wilderness. The name "boulder" is very common throughout the west and no doubt refers to rock boulders. (In the Trinity Alps to the south, there are eight lakes and six creeks with the term boulder used in all or part of the name.) In 1989, a plant previously unknown to science was discovered growing on Boulder Peak (and Marble Mountain to the west). This plant is in the same genus as Potentilla (commonly called cinquefoil).

Marble Mountain vicinity (7,440'--217^--42m): Marble Mountain Wilderness takes its name from the "crown jewels" of Marble (6,880') and Black Marble (7,440') Mountains. Both originated as coral reefs in tropical seas which formed a thick limestone bed and were later uplifted and transformed into marble. The black cap on Black Marble Mountain is composed of sediments that were deposited atop the coral reef. Like so much of the jumbled mass of the
Klamath Mountains, these peaks are difficult to identify from Mt. Ashland. (Marble Mountain is more like a broad ridge than a peak and is sometimes called "Marble Rim.") Find Boulder Peak (see above) and then look slightly to the north (right) for a "China cap"-looking peak which is Black Marble Mountain. Marble Mountain appears as a short ridge leading south (left) from Black Marble.

**Red Butte (6,739'-248^-27m):** Red Buttes is located at the east edge of the Red Buttes Wilderness, and like Mt. Ashland, straddles the Rogue/Klamath rivers divide. Named prior to 1900 because of the reddish-orange color of the largely barren peak's peridotite rock. This and other nearby peaks along the crest of the Siskiyous formed the seasonal hunting territory of the Dakubetede Indians, and were known to them as the "Big Mountains" or Naato’ntcha. Both Red Buttes and Preston Peak rise just above the middle-ground ridgeline which runs south from Dutchman Peak (see below).

**Preston Peak (7,309'-251^-50m):** Preston Peak is located in the Siskiyou Wilderness at the northwest corner of the Klamath National Forest. The Klamath, Siskiyou, and Six Rivers National Forests merge near this impressive peak with its stunning views of the Klamath Mountains, Mt. Shasta, and the Pacific Ocean. Equally-stunning Clear Creek flows around the west and south base of Preston where the upper end of the Clear Creek National Recreation Trail terminates in a flower-studded montane meadow called Youngs Valley. Early travellers on the Klamath River thought the peak was 10,000 feet high because of its abrupt rise from the surrounding country.

**Dutchman Peak (7,418'-257^-9m):** Dutchman Peak is the second highest peak west of the Cascades in Oregon (Mt. Ashland is highest) and offers excellent views of the Red Buttes and Siskiyou Wilderness Areas. A "cupola"-style fire lookout building was constructed on its summit in 1927 and is still in regular use today, one of the last of its kind in the Pacific Northwest. It was carried to Dutchman aboard a 16-mule packstring up 30 miles of mountain trail from Ashland. A road built in 1937 by the Civilian Conservation Corps now leads to the summit. Dutchman Peak was named for a German immigrant/miner named Hensley, who was found dead of exposure in this vicinity in the 1870s.

**Pearsoll Peak/Kalmiopsis (5,098-285^-60m):** The summit of Pearsoll Peak is the highest point in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. The mountain is comprised of weathered serpentine, which accounts for its orange color. The west flank drains the Chetco River while the east side drops steeply into the Illinois River. The Kalmiopsis Wilderness is named for a species of dwarf rhododendron called *Kalmiopsis leachiana*. The plant, a prostrate mat with bright purple flowers, is limited to 15-20 sites in the world, almost all within the Kalmiopsis area except for one small stand in the Cascades. The "greater Kalmiopsis country" of the Siskiyou Mountains encompasses one of the most biologically diverse areas in North America.

**Wagner Butte (7,140-317^-4m):** Wagner Butte is a large north/south trending mountain that is highly visible from many points in the Rogue Valley. Its west slope contains sagebrush, mountain mahogany, and quaking aspen. A trail leads to the summit where the concrete remains of a Forest Service lookout constructed in 1923 are imbedded in a granite-rock outcrop. (The concrete may be from the 1961 replacement of the original structure.) The lookout was destroyed by the Forest Service in 1971. Wagner Butte was named for Jacob Wagner, a prominent early settler in the present area of Talent. Wagner came to Jackson...
County from Ohio in 1851; he later operated a flour mill near the Ashland Plaza and ran a resort at the soda springs on Emigrant Creek. The Upland Takelma Indian name for the butte was *Alke'takh*.

**Table Rocks, Upper and Lower (2,036'--337' at centerpoint--28m):** The basalt that forms the rimrock on these Rogue Valley landmarks is a remnant of intracanyon lava flows that filled portions of the Rogue River 9.6 million years ago. Subsequently, the surrounding softer geologic formations eroded away, leaving the conspicuous mesas standing 800 feet above the Rogue Valley floor. The Table Rocks support several plant communities, including an endemic species of meadowfoam, *Limnanthes floccosa* ssp. *pumila*, which grows nowhere else in the world—only here on the "patterned ground" and vernal (springtime) pools on the tops of the two mesas. Prior to European contact, the Rogue River Valley and the Table Rocks were home to the Takelma Indians. During the tragic Rogue River wars of the 1850s, a mob attacked and massacred eight men and 15 women and children at the short-lived Table Rock Reservation. The Table Rocks are jointly managed by The Nature Conservancy and Bureau of Land Management.

**Roxy Ann Peak (3,571'--350'--19m):** Roxy Ann Peak is located about 5 miles northeast (right) of downtown Medford. It is a prominent landmark for local residents as it rises over 2000 vertical feet from the Rogue Valley floor. The name was bestowed by pioneer packers in 1854 in honor of Roxana Baker, an early settler nearby.

**Diamond Peak (8,750'--15'--105m):** Diamond Peak is the furthest point north from Mt. Ashland (approx. 105 miles) that can be seen with the naked eye or low-powered binoculars. Many visitors believe they can see the Three Sisters west of Bend, but this is not possible from Mt. Ashland's summit. The peak was named in 1852 for John Diamond, a pioneer settler near Coburg, Oregon, who helped open a road between Middle Fork Willamette River and Idaho for an emigrant route.

**Bailey, Mt. (8,363'--17'--80m):** Mt. Bailey rises from the west shore of Diamond Lake and is presently being studied for possible large-scale ski area development. Name origin is sketchy and no record of any person named Bailey has been connected to the peak. Older maps show the mountain as "Old Baldy" and "Old Bailey." The summit has a bald, burnt-over appearance. The Klamath Indian name for the mountain was *Youxlokes*, which meant Medicine Mountain. According to Indian tradition, medicine men and priests often feasted on the summit and communed with the upper world.

**Grizzly Peak (5,922'--22'--14m):** Grizzly Peak is a Rogue Valley landmark and rises over 4,000' from the valley floor. The distinct vegetation patterns on its slopes offer a fine backdrop for sunsets and rainbows. A Bureau of Land Management trail leads close to the summit, with stunning views of Mt. Shasta, the Rogue Valley, and Siskiyou Mountains. According to a newspaper article (Ashland Tidings, 1927), Grizzly got its name in 1855-56 when Henry Chapman, on "scout" for hostile Indians, was mauled by a grizzly bear. There are two "Grizzly" creeks on the nearby "Dead Indian Plateau," named for the grizzly bears which preyed on cattle from the 1860s through the 1890s. The Upland Takelma name was *Lath'kawkh*.

**Thielsen, Mt. (9,173'--25'--82m):** Mt. Thielsen is rightly called the "lightning rod of the Cascades." Its pointed summit pinnacle is scarred with fulgurites (small tubes of glassy rock
fused by lightning strikes). In height, Mt. Thielsen is second only to Mt. McLoughlin in southern Oregon. About 1872 it was named Mt. Thielsen by John A. Hurlburt of Portland, Oregon, in honor of Hans Thielsen, prominent railroad engineer and builder. Early settlers in the area called it "Cowhorn," a name still applied to another peak to the north. The Indian name was "His-chok-wol-as."

Crater Lake Rim/Mt. Scott (Average 8,000’--31”, Mt. Scott 8,926--68m): This view includes several peaks on and near the rim of Crater Lake. The Crater Lake caldera was formed about 6900 years ago when the ancient Mt. Mazama (est. 12,500’) succumbed to a series of explosions and literally fell into its interior. A "caldera" is a large, somewhat circular basin. In this case, it has partially filled with water nearly 2000 feet deep to form the second deepest lake in the Western Hemisphere. Crater Lake was discovered on June 12, 1853, by John Hillman and a party of prospectors, and was christened "Deep Blue Lake." It was known at times as Mysterious Lake, Lake Majesty, Lake Mystery, and other similar names. In 1869 it was named Crater Lake by a party of visitors from Jacksonville, Oregon. Mt. Scott is the highest peak in Crater Lake National Park and lies slightly northeast of the rim. It was named for Levi Scott, an important Oregon pioneer who helped establish the Applegate trail in southern Oregon in 1846. The Klamath Indian name for Mt. Scott is Tum-sum-ne.

McLoughlin, Mt. (9,495’--39”--33m): Mt. McLoughlin is the highest peak in southern Oregon and bears a striking resemblance to Mt. Fuji, Japan, when viewed from the south and west. It was a major landmark to local Indians. To the Takelma tribe (Rogue Valley vicinity), the mountain was known as Alwilamchaldis (an important hero in their myths) and it was the home of Talsunne, Acorn Woman (who made the acorns grow each year). The Shasta (northern California and southern Oregon) called it Makayax, one of three mountains which poked above the surface of an ancient ocean. The Klamath (south central Oregon) called the mountain Kesh yainatat, the abode of "dwarf old woman," who controlled the west wind. Like Mt. Shasta, which it was often confused with on early maps, the place-name history of Mt. McLoughlin is complicated. Again, like Mt. Shasta, the first whiteman to see Mt. McLoughlin was Hudson’s Bay Company fur trapper Peter Ogden, in February 1827, who named it Mt. Sastise. Both mountains shared some of the same names including "Mt. Sastise" and "Mt. Pitt." The latter name is still used by some local residents. Mt. McLoughlin was known by a number of other names as well, including: Mt. John Quincy Adams, Mt. Clear View, and Snowy Butte. Its present name was confirmed by the Oregon state legislature in 1905. It was named after Dr. John McLoughlin, known as the "Father of Oregon," who was the chief factor for the Hudson’s Bay Company in the Pacific Northwest. Tall, and with a long mane of white hair, Dr. McLoughlin was a far-sighted Oregon pioneer. (His name was pronounced "Mac-Log-lin.")

Pelican Butte (8,026’--42”--42m): Pelican Butte rises from the west shore of Klamath Lake and is named for nearby Pelican Bay. The American white pelican is often seen in this bay, which was named by Captain O. C. Applegate in 1866. The bay was the site of Edward Harriman’s private lodge. An elderly John Muir was a houseguest in the early 1900s while writing his memoirs. Pelican Butte was first known as "Lost Peak." A primitive road leads to Pelican Butte’s summit, which offers stunning views of Klamath Lake and Sky Lakes Wilderness. One Indian name for the butte was Mongina.

Mountain Lakes (highest point 8,208’--60”--36m): This mountain mass (approx. 40 square miles) contains a number of named peaks within the Mountain Lakes Wilderness. A 12,000'
composite volcano once towered over the surrounding country. Like Crater Lake's Mt. Mazama, the "Mountain Lakes" volcano collapsed into a huge crater or caldera. Unlike Crater Lake, extensive glacial gouging of the caldera and rim prevented formation of a large lake. From Mt. Ashland, you can make out the former base of the volcano and with a little imagination you can visualize a mountain that was once the size of Mt. Hood. On the north (left) shoulder is Mt. Harriman (7979') and on the south (right) shoulder is Aspen Butte (8,208), the highest point in the wilderness. The former is named for Edward Harriman, financier and railroad magnate who for a time had a summer camp on nearby Klamath Lake at Pelican Bay. The latter [was probably named for the extensive stands of aspen which line marshy Aspen Lake east of Aspen Butte].

Gearhart Mountain (8,364'--73^--100m): Gearhart Mountain straddles the divide between the Great Basin and the headwaters of the Klamath River. The mountain is more of a rim than a peak, and is visible only on the clearest days behind and slightly north (left) of Yainax Butte. It is the namesake of the Gearhart Mountain Wilderness and features the remains of a large shield volcano. It was named after the Gearhart brothers, James and William, who were in the stock business in this area from 1873 to 1882. (Beyond Gearhart Mountain lies the Great Basin with its unbroken carpet of sagebrush and juniper, its interior drainage with no outlet to the ocean, and its series of "basin and ranges" which extend all the way to the Grand Tetons.)

Yainax Butte (7,226'--75^--77m): This pyramid-shaped peak straddles the Great Basin divide. The butte's south slopes drain into the enclosed basin of the the Lost River while the north slopes drain into the Sprague River, the easternmost tributary in the Klamath River basin. Although somewhat distant and at a relatively low elevation, the "butte" is distinct on the horizon. It has also been known as Modoc Mountain, Bald Mountain, and Yonna Butte. Yainax is a Klamath Indian word meaning little hill.

Warner Mountains (highest point 8,270'--104^-130m): The most distant point seen from Mt. Ashland is the Warner Mountain Range (approx. 130 miles). The Warners are located in far northeast California near the Nevada border and extend into Oregon on the east side of Lakeview. The portion seen from Mt. Ashland is NE of Alturas, California (approx. 15 miles) and north of State Highway 299 with the highest point at Bald Mountain (8,270'). The Warners also extend southeast of Alturas where they reach their highest point at Eagle Peak (9,892') in the remote South Warner Wilderness Area. The Medicine Lake Highlands area block from view the "South Warner" area. The Warners, a spur of the Cascades, were named in memory of Captain W.H. Warner of the U.S. Army Engineers, who was killed by Northern Paiutes in 1849 while making an examination of travel routes from Humboldt Valley in Nevada to the Sacramento River in California. The Applegate emigrant trail crossed these mountains at Fandango Pass on its route to the Rogue Valley.

Mt. Dome (6,518'--109^-56m): Mt. Dome is located on the border of Bureau of Land Management and Modoc National Forest lands about six miles east of Lava Beds National Monument. True to its name, it has a distinct dome-like shape. Originally called Van Brimmer Mountain, a post office was located near its base from 1910 to 1927, when the office was moved to Dorris, California near the Oregon border.

Pilot Rock (5,910'--112^-9m): Pilot Rock is a lava "plug," solidified lava that fills the conduit or "throat" of a volcano. The plug is a remnant of an ancient volcano. Pilot Rock was first named
"Emmons Peak" in honor of George F. Emmons, the commander of the Wilkes Expedition which passed through the Rogue Valley in late September, 1841. The name did not stick and it has been known as Pilot Rock since pioneer days because it served as a guide for travellers crossing Siskiyou Pass between Oregon and California. The Upland Takelma name was Tan-ts'atseniphtha, "standing rock."

**Medicine Lake Highlands (highest point 7,913’--120"--66m):** The Medicine Lake Highlands are located on the west boundary of the Modoc National Forest about eight miles south of the Lava Beds National Monument. They were formed with the development of a broad shield volcano. The center block collapsed along fracture lines, creating an enclosed basin or "caldera" (6 miles long x 4 miles wide). Lava then squeezed up the fracture lines and formed rim volcanoes, the highest Mt. Hoffman at 7,913 feet. Medicine Lake was also formed (1.5 miles long x .7 miles wide). The name Crystal Lake appears on a Mining Bureau map of 1891. According to local Indian tradition, the Indians held "big medicine" rites and, apparently puberty rites. Obsidian (volcanic glass) was quarried from flows near the the Highlands by the Modoc, Achomawi, Shasta, and Wintun Indian tribes. They traded this obsidian with other Native American groups more than 100 miles away. The majority (87%) of obsidian artifacts that have been "sourced" on the Siskiyou portion (including the immediate Mt. Ashland vicinity) of the Rogue River National Forest came from the Medicine Lake Highlands. This land of "rocks that float and mountains of glass," was selected for study by astronauts from the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, Texas, in preparation for the first manned moon landing.

**Goosenest (8,280’--134"--35m):** The crater of this volcano has the shape of a goose nest. It is the highest point along the Cascade crest between Mt. McLoughlin and The Whaleback (see below). The headwaters of the Little Shasta River are located on its slopes. The summit and east flank are on private land.

**Whaleback, The (8,528’--142"--48m):** The Whaleback is located near the northeast base of Mt. Shasta and [is named for its similar appearance to the rounded back of a whale]. The whitebark pine-clad summit offers a spectacular view of Mt. Shasta, in particular the Hotlum Glacier.
The following list gives a brief place-name history for each National Forest that is visible from Mt. Ashland. Each entry is followed by wilderness names that are found on that particular forest. Some wilderness are located on more than one forest. Like the place-names above, forests are listed in a clockwise order beginning with the Rogue River.

Rogue River: Est. 1908. Originally called Crater National Forest. The name was changed to Rogue River to avoid confusion with Crater Lake National Park. The name of the river commemorates the Takelma Indians, whose defense of their homeland led early-day French-Canadian trappers to call them les Coquins, "the Rogues." (Red Buttes, Rogue-Umpqua Divide, and Sky Lakes)


Klamath: Est. 1905. The name may have been derived from the French Clair-Metis, "land of the white fogs" and applied by early trappers to Native Americans in the present-day Klamath Falls area, but this an unlikely theory. (A light mist or fog is often seen above Upper Klamath Lake near Klamath Falls.) The first appearance of the word is contained in a letter written in 1826 by Hudson's Bay Company trapper Peter Skene Ogden. A more solid theory is that the word Klamath comes from "kalamet," a Sahaptin/Nez Perces word for yellow water lily (the staple food of the Klamaths), and that the local Indians were known by their northern/northeastern neighbors by what they ate. Ogden may have picked up the name from those northern neighbors before he arrived in Klamath Falls area in the winter of 1826/27. Spellings used by early writers are: Clemmat, Clammittee, Clam-ath, Klamet, Clemet, Tlamath, and many others. The Klamath Indians refer to themselves as Ouxkanee, "people of the marsh." The forest no doubt takes its name from the mighty Klamath River, a designated "National Wild and Scenic River," which bisects this rugged canyon and mountain country. (Trinity Alps, Russian, Marble Mountain, Siskiyou, and Red Butes)

Siskiyou: Est. 1905. This name is also used for the Siskiyou Mountains, Pass, Peak, and Gap. Siskiyou is said to be a Cree Indian word for "bob-tailed horse." The mountains were apparently named by Hudson's Bay Company fur trappers in 1829 for a horse in Alexander McLeod's brigade, after the animal had perished in the snow during a crossing of the mountains. The Siskiyou's Mountains are an east/west-running range and are part of the larger Klamath Province. Much of the forest lies within the "Siskiyou's." (Red Buttes, Siskiyou, and Kalmicpsis)

Umpqua: Est. 1908. The name dates to the North West Company/Hudson's Bay Company fur trapping days of the 1810s-20s. The meaning of the word is uncertain and is said to be of Indian origin. Widely divergent translations are "rushing waters," "to cross the river," "under the fog,"
and "I am satisfied." We will probably never know the actual origin of this name. The forest was named for the Umpqua Indian tribe. (Rogue-Umpqua and Mt. Thielsen)

**Willamette/Deschutes:** Est. 1905/?. These two forests are listed together because Diamond Peak (see place-name history above) is the only geographic feature seen from Mt. Ashland that is located on these forests. The west slope is in the Willamette (NF) River watershed and the east slope is in the Deschutes (NF) River drainage. Both rivers were discovered by Lewis and Clark in 1805. **Wallamt** was supposedly an Indian name for a place on the Willamette River near present-day Oregon City. Other spellings included **Wallamette, Willarmet, and Wilhamet.** The Deschutes River had the short-lived name of **Clarks River,** presumably for the co-leader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, but that term never prevailed. Hudson's Bay Company trappers called it **Riviere des Chutes,** "river of the falls," from which it takes its present name. The Klamath Indians called the river **Kolamkeni Koke,** "stream of the place where the kolam grew," kolam being a wild root used for food. (Diamond Peak)

**Winema:** Est. 1961 from former tribal lands of the Klamath Indians and adjacent National Forests. The Forest was named for the heroine of the Modoc War of 1872. **Wi-ne-ma,** meaning "Woman of a Brave Heart," lived her early life around the Klamath Lakes and later married a white trapper, Frank Riddle. The government appointed her to act as interpreter between the U.S. troops and the Modocs, led by her uncle, the famous Captain Jack. Because of her services, many lives were saved. (Mt. Thielsen, Sky Lakes, and Mountain Lakes)

**Fremont:** Est. ?. The Forest was named for Captain John C. Fremont, who explored many parts of the West, including central Oregon in the winter of 1843. His party included the legendary Kit Carson as guide. (Gearhart)

**Modoc:** Est. 1904. Possibly the name originated from the Klamath Indian words _moa,_ "southerner," and _doc,_ "near." Klamath Indians (Ogden called them the "Clammittees") may have used this term when telling Hudson Bay Company trappers about their neighbors, the "Moonocks," who lived immediately south of them. The Modoc Indians called their homeland "The Smiles of God." Fierce Indian wars took place in, and around the Forest from 1848 to 1873.