

# *Lower Breitenbush Hot Springs Visioning*



# Past Human Use at the Hot Springs

The Breitenbush watershed has been the backdrop for human activities for thousands of years.

Native American Indians used the springs for medicinal and spiritual purposes.



- In the late 1840s, trapper John Breitenbush was the first white person to visit the springs through his association with Native American Indians.
- In the late 1800s a pack train began operations into the springs carrying visitors and their overnight bags.



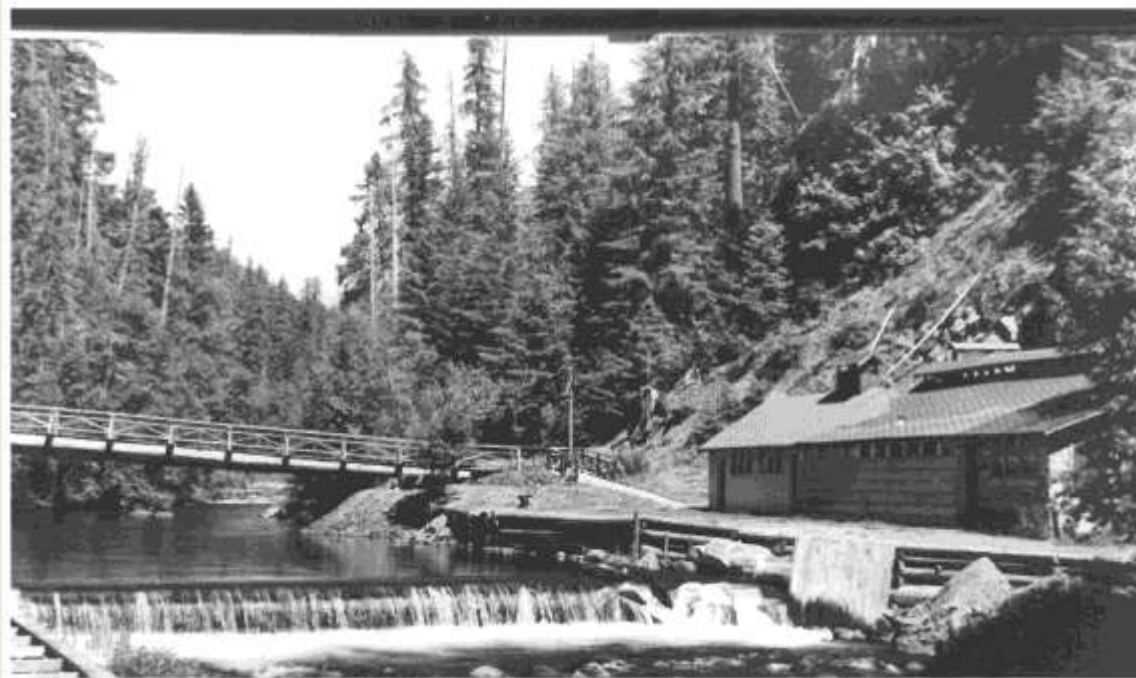
- In 1913, Mark Skiff from Salem, Oregon was issued a Forest Service special use permit to occupy about 3 acres of land with water rights to three mineral springs along the Breitenbush River.



- The permit also allowed for the construction of a hotel, sanitarium and several other buildings.



- By 1923 the Hot springs resort was officially established.
- From 1923 to 1979 accommodations changed and improved.
- To allow full resort operation, the permit operator had also developed hydroelectric power on site with an associated dam, sluice and powerhouse.
- By the time the resort closed in 1979 thirty five cabins, a store, outhouses, a foot bridge spanning the Breitenbush River and a bath house had been constructed.



In 1980 a new permit holder took over with plans to reconstruct the resort.

Over the next 14 years, the new permit holder failed to meet the terms and conditions outlined under his Special Use Permit and the Forest Service terminated his permit in 1994.

Today, no facilities remain.

