

February 4, 2009

## Newly Discovered 1000 Year Old Coastal Indian Midden Sites Identified Near Yachats

In March and May of 2008, radio carbon dating was conducted on two sites on the Kittel property just south of Yachats and north of Cape Perpetua. Samples were taken from two midden sites. Middens are ancient Indian refuse piles that when analyzed give a great deal of information on the ancient Indigenes' life style and culture. The radio carbon dating was conducted by Jon Erlandson PhD., Professor, Anthropology and Archaeology and Director of the Museum of Natural and Cultural History with the University of Oregon (helped by several of his students) and Phyllis Steeves, Archaeologist with the Siuslaw National Forest. All volunteered their expertise and time to review sites, and to gather and analyze samples. The results were received on February 1, 2009.

Two dates are on single fragments of California mussel shells. The two were run on very small samples via accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS).

Site	Material	Lab #	14C Date	Calendar Age
Amanda's Trail	CA mussel	OS-71445	1820 +/- 15	AD 745-875
LNC-118	CA mussel	OS-71446	880 +/- 15	AD 1580-1710

These dates are significant and rank among the oldest found in the **Cape Perpetua** area.

Carbon radio dating is rarely done on private property due to the high costs and the lack of funding. A special thank you is extended to the **Lincoln County Land Legacy Program**, Matt Spangler and Wayne Belmont Co- Administrators under the direction of the Lincoln County Commissioners, who paid for the radio carbon dating.

Joanne and Norman Kittel placed their entire 27.34 acres in an irrevocable conservation easement with **View the Future**, a local conservation nonprofit. (See more about View the Future and conservation easements under organizations.) In addition to the conservation easement keeping the viewshed forever green and its preservation of wildlife, the irrevocable easement also makes a landmark contribution in its preservation of American Native sites.