



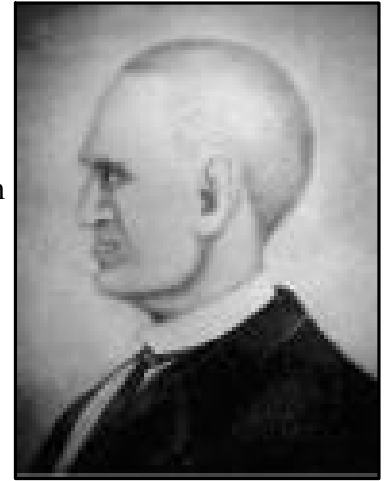
BLACK ROCK DESERT  
HIGH ROCK CANYON  
EMIGRANT TRAILS



NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

## Profile: Jesse Applegate

- Jesse Applegate was an American surveyor, pioneer, and rancher.
- He is best known for his efforts in the settlement of Oregon, which he helped create as a U.S. territory.
- He was born in Kentucky on July 5, 1811.
- In 1821 the family moved to Missouri where Jesse grew up.
- He attended Rock Spring Seminary and studied mathematics and surveying.
- He later taught school and continued private study to perfect his skills as a surveyor.
- Having completed his education, he became a clerk in the surveyor general's office in St. Louis, and then he worked in western Missouri as deputy surveyor general and had a farm.
- In 1831, he married Cynthia Parker.
- In 1843, because of economic hard times and the growing slavery controversy, he joined a wagon train with his wife and children and headed for Oregon.
- During the emigration to Oregon, while on the Columbia River, the Applegate's raft overturned killing Jesse's son Edward along with his brother's son.
- By the spring of 1846, Jesse, along with his brothers, had settled in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, planted crops and built cabins, but they were determined to find a safer route for emigration.
- Jesse, along with 14 other men, left Oregon on June 20, 1846 on their journey south.
- They traveled down the Willamette Valley through what is now Corvallis and Eugene.
- Being short on supplies, Jesse was chosen to lead the party continuing onto Fort Hall, Idaho to get supplies and inform emigrants about the new trail. The others proceeded up the Humboldt to where Winnemucca is now and set up a rendezvous and rested the stock.
- On August 9, 1846 a group of as many as 100 wagons set out from Fort Hall to cross the new trail. In September, the first of the wagons left the Humboldt River and headed across the Black Rock Desert, a treacherous section of the trail.
- In 1853 alone over 3,500 men, women, and children took this route.



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Jesse Applegate

