

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION

CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL LANDMARK
(Results in automatic listing in the California Register)

CALIFORNIA POINT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

NAME OF HISTORIC PROPERTY

Echo Summit Site of the 1968 U.S. Men's Olympic Track and Field Trials

DRAFT

ADDRESS

21200 Highway 50

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE

South Lake Tahoe CA 96150

COUNTY

El Dorado

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO.

NAME OF OWNER OF HISTORIC PROPERTY

Eldorado National Forest

ADDRESS

4260 Eight Mile Road

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE

Camino CA #####

NAME OF APPLICANT

Bob Burns

APPLICANT TELEPHONE NO.

916 802-5841

bob.burns@smud.org

ADDRESS

5901 Shepard Ave.

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE

Sacramentc CA #####

RECOMMENDED BY CHAIR, STATE HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

DATE

APPROVED BY DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

DATE

DESIGNATION NO.

P1. Other Identifier: Site of the 1968 U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials and High Altitude Training Camp

*P2. Location: Echo Summit, California Not for Publication Unrestricted

*a. County El Dorado and (P2c, P2e, and P2b or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad 038120g1 Date _____ T ___; R ___; ___ of ___ of Sec ___; _____ B.M.

c. Address 21200 Highway 50 (this is the address of Adventure Mountain, the recreation snow area located at the Echo Summit site)

City South Lake Tahoe, CA Zip 96150

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone 51S 242440 mE/ 4300112 mN
 (38.8121570°, 120.0337070°)

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

The 1968 U.S. Olympic Trials were held on a track carved out of the forest on the southwest side of Highway 50 at Echo Summit. The track was located next to the parking lot for the current Adventure Mountain snow area.

*P3a. Description: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)



Millions of motorists pass by Echo Summit each year on their way to and from Lake Tahoe. Very few are aware of the history that took place decades ago in the trees a stone's throw from the eastbound lane on the busy highway.

To replicate the high altitude of Mexico City, site of the 1968 Summer Olympics, officials from the United States Olympic Committee chose Echo Summit as the site of a high-altitude training camp as well as what turned out to be one of the most remarkable meets in track and field history – the 1968

U.S. Men's Final Olympic Track & Field Trials from Sept. 6-16. The National Forest Service allowed for the temporary construction of a 400-meter oval in the middle of the forest on top of Echo Summit, pictured above. (See Continuation Sheet)

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP42 9 (site)

*P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5b. Description of Photo: (view, date, accession #) The photo above is a 1968 photograph of the track at Echo Summit during the 1968 U.S. Men's Olympic Track and Field Trials. Additional photographs are included in this packet, including a shot taken from the same vantage point in 2012 as the above photo.

*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source: Historic Prehistoric

The 400-meter track, jump runways and throwing circles were installed at Echo Summit in 1968. The following year, in 1969, the track was uprooted and shipped down the mountain to South Tahoe Intermediate School, where it was used until it was closed due to disrepair in 1992.

*P7. Owner and Address:

United States Forest Service

Eldorado National Forest office: 4260 Eight Mile Road, Camino, CA 95709

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address) Bob Burns (sportswriter for Sacramento Bee, communications director of the 2000 U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials in Sacramento) 5901 Shepard Ave., Sacramento, CA 95819

*P9. Date Recorded: Dec. 20, 2012

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)

California Historical Landmark Nomination

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.") None

*Attachments: Location Map YES Continuation Sheet YES Building, Structure, and Object Record YES
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record YES Other (List):

News and magazine articles, photographs pertaining to the 1968 U.S. Olympic Trials at Echo Summit; letters of support from U.S. Forest Service and 1968 Olympian Ed Burke; and testimonials from coaches and athletes on the 1968 U.S. Olympic track and field team.

*NRHP Status Code 7

Page 1 of 2 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

Historic name: Johnson's Pass, Echo Summit

B2. Common name: Echo Summit

B3. Original Use: Sixty Mile House way station in 1800s, small ski area in the 1960s

B4. Present Use: Trailhead for Pacific Crest Trail and recreational show area (Adventure Mountain) in winter months

*B5. Architectural Style: n/a

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

The track facility was constructed by 3M installed in the late spring and summer of 1968. The track was removed in 1969, site is currently a parking lot.

*B7. Moved? No Yes X Unknown Date: Summer 1969 Original Location: Echo Summit

*B8. Related Features: Across Highway 50, trailers were set up to house single athletes competing in the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials. Married athletes stayed in hotels in South Lake Tahoe. This area is now the State Highway Maintenance Station.

B9a. Architect: _____ b. Builder: 3M (manufacturer of track surfaces)

*B10. Significance: Theme Sports, civil rights Area Northern California

The site of Echo Summit is eligible as a California Historical Landmark for its association with an individual or group having a profound influence on the history of California. Echo Summit was a temporary training camp used by American Olympic athletes preparing for the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. The camp and its athletes drew national media attention, due to great public interest in the coming Olympics and the ongoing civil rights issues in the United States during the summer of 1968. The photographs of victorious American athletes displaying Black Power salutes on the victors' stands are some of the most iconic photos in sports and civil rights history during the era, and these victories were made possible due to the unique training site at Echo Summit. Because the site lacks physical integrity, it is nominated as a "Site Of" location with no surviving California Register eligible resources.

For several weeks during the summer and early fall of 1968, the unlikeliest setting was the center of the track and field world. With the 1968 Summer Olympics being held at high altitude for the first time, the United States Olympic Committee searched for a competition and training site that would simulate the conditions the men's U.S. Olympic track team would experience in Mexico City. Civic leaders in South Lake Tahoe convinced the USOC that Echo Summit would be the perfect site, and the National Forest Service allowed for the temporary construction of a 400-meter oval in the middle of the El Dorado National Forest.

Previous U.S. Olympic track and field trials had been held in stadiums that seated as many as 90,000 spectators, such as the Los Angeles Coliseum and Stanford Stadium. Echo Summit was able to seat about 350 in the bleachers, though fans were welcome to sit on the sloping mountainside and even atop granite boulders.

(See Continuation Sheet)

*NRHP Status Code 7
 Page 2 of 2 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

Period of Significance: July – September 1968 Property Type Site

Applicable Criteria California Historical Landmark: Associated with a group or individual having a profound influence on the history of California

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

While the track that propelled the U.S. Olympic Men’s Olympic team to four world records on its way to an overwhelming performance at the 1968 Olympic Games is no longer located at Echo Summit, the words “Echo Summit” attained long-lasting significance. This site is unique in the world in that no track and field competition of this level was ever held in a place where trees actually stood in the competitive venue. The Echo Summit Trials featured perhaps the most politically aware collection of athletes in American history. African American athletes – most of whom attended colleges in California – seriously considered an Olympic boycott as a way to illuminate the racism in American society in the late 1960s. The athletes who qualified for the Olympic team at Echo Summit include some of the greatest names in Olympic history – Tommie Smith, John Carlos, Randy Matson, Bill Toomey, Lee Evans, Larry James, Harold Connolly, Jim Ryan and Willie Davenport. Though the track was moved to South Lake Tahoe the following year, Echo Summit remains emblematic of a troubled, dynamic time in U.S. history.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP42

*B12. References:

See Bibliography

B13. Remarks:

*B14. Evaluator: _____

*Date of Evaluation: _____

Page 1 of 19

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

*Recorded by: Bob Burns

*Date _____

Continuation Update

(Continued from 523B Building, Structure, and Object Record)

Aside from the fact that a sporting event of this magnitude had never been held in such an unusual setting, the 1968 U.S. Olympic Men's Track & Field Trials (Sept. 6-16) produced a stunning series of world record performances from such legendary athletes as John Carlos, Lee Evans, Geoff Vanderstock and Bob Seagen.

Since 1968, no other track and field competition on U.S. soil, including the 1984 and 1996 Olympic Games, has produced as many world records as Echo Summit's four. While the U.S. Olympic men's team dominated the Olympic Games in Mexico City, winning 12 gold medals (24 medals overall) and setting six world records, that group attracted worldwide attention as much for its politics as for its speed and strength.

A California-based group of African American sprinters and jumpers, led by San Jose State students Lee Evans and Tommie Smith and supported by a number of their white teammates, were part of a Black Power movement that spent much of the year leading up to Mexico City considering an Olympic boycott to express their concerns about racism and equal rights.

During their month-long stay at Echo Summit, the athletes ultimately decided to represent the United States in Mexico City. Smith and Carlos later made their own personal protest in Mexico City, where their raised fists on the medal stand following the 200-meter dash became one of the iconic moments of the 1960s.

When South Lake Tahoe became an incorporated city in 1965, City Manager John Williams and Parks Director Walt Little moved quickly to capitalize on the city's advantages as a recreational center. Little initially proposed holding the Olympic training camp in the Tahoe basin, but its elevation was nearly 1,000 feet lower than Mexico City's. Little had friends in high places. Walt had connections: His father, Walt Little Sr., had served as a speaker of the California State Assembly in Sacramento, and Walt Jr. had been a classmate of 1968 U.S. Olympic track and field coach Payton Jordan's at Santa Monica Junior College.

USOC officials considered Flagstaff, Ariz., and Las Cruces, N.M., as possible sites for altitude training and pre-Olympic competition. The turning point came when Little asked St. Cloud State coach Bob Tracy, who had supervised an altitude training study for the USOC in 1967, to accompany him on a jeep ride through the mountains surrounding Lake Tahoe. Little's son, Bill, had worked at the small Echo Summit Ski Area and asked his father whether he had considered putting the track on top of the mountain. With their altimeter,

Page 2 of 19

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

*Recorded by: Bob Burns

*Date _____

Continuation

Update

Walt Little and Tracy discovered that a flat site at Echo Summit – the parking lot of a small ski area alongside Highway 50 – was 7,377 feet above sea level, just 28 feet higher than the track at Mexico City.

The U.S. Forestry Department signed on to the idea, as long as the installation of a 400-meter track had a minimal impact on the environment. With Harrah's Tahoe casino offering support, and with revenue raised from a five-cent motel tax, South Lake Tahoe officials were able to buy and install a synthetic track modeled along the specific lines of the Mexico City track.

Prospective Olympians began arriving on the mountaintop in July to acclimate themselves to the thin air. Single athletes were housed in trailers across Highway 50 from the track while most married athletes stayed in hotels near Lake Tahoe. Local businesses provided part-time jobs to many of the athletes.

The synthetic track surface was a distinctive pink, with eight lanes on the straightaway and six lanes on the curves. In keeping with the agreement with the Forest Service to limit the facility's environmental footprint, hundreds of towering pines were left untouched inside the oval. Huge boulders surrounded the high jump pit. Ralph Boston, the great long jumper, remembers hearing a loud grunt and then seeing Olympic teammate Ed Burke's hammer come flying out of the trees. Seagren overcame a debilitating back injury to set a world record of 17 feet, 9 inches, to set one of the four world records at Echo Summit. The pole vault runway was lined by majestic pine trees, "making the bar look like it was set at 7 feet," Seagren later recalled.

As expected, the thin air at Echo Summit meant sizzling times in the sprints. The altitude slowed distance runners in the anaerobic races. There were a couple of instances of athletes briefly passing out due a lack of oxygen, but the distance races were mostly conducted at slow early paces out of fear of the altitude. The USOC conducted extensive testing on athletes at Echo Summit to learn more about the effects of high altitude on high-performance training. Ron Clarke, the great Australian distance runner, trained at Echo Summit for a couple of weeks in preparation for Mexico City.

In 1967, Smith made international news when he told a reporter that he was considering a boycott of the 1968 Olympics to protest racial inequalities. The movement, initiated by San Jose State sociology professor Harry Edwards, was called the Olympic Project for Human

Page 3 of 19

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

*Recorded by: Bob Burns

*Date _____

Continuation Update

Rights. Lee Evans and John Carlos, who also attended San Jose State and formed with Smith one of the fastest trios in track and field history, were also receptive to a boycott.

The year 1968 was one of the most tumultuous in American history. The Tet offensive in Vietnam, the assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., rioting at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago and the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia – it was a year in which the world seemed to be unraveling. Larry James, a 20-year-old sprinter from Villanova University, wasn't prepared for the political cauldron. James said the attention focused on black athletes at Echo Summit was disconcerting, calling the proposed boycott a West Coast-oriented movement. "The pressure on Lee (Evans) was much greater than it was on me," James said.

In the much-anticipated 400-meter final at Echo Summit, Evans defeated James in 44 seconds flat, four-tenths of a second under the previous world record, set earlier in the summer at Echo Summit by Vince Matthews. James, who was second to Evans in 44.1, wound up getting credit for the world record since Evans had competed with "brush" spikes on his shoes. (In Mexico City, Evans lowered the record to 43.86, again just barely beating James – in shoes that met all specifications.)

Many of the athletes, white and black, resented the intrusion of politics in the pristine setting of Echo Summit. "The newspaper people were really enjoying the unrest," said George Young, a steeplechaser who qualified for his third U.S. Olympic team at Echo Summit. "They'd ask, 'What do you think of this decision, where do you stand on this or that?' It wasn't something I cared to get involved with."

By the time they left Echo Summit, Smith, Evans and the more politically inclined black athletes had decided against boycotting the Olympics. In Mexico City, Smith and Carlos created one of the most enduring images of the 1960s when they raised their gloved fists on the victory stand during the playing of the national anthem.

Regardless of the athlete's politics, everyone agreed that the time on the California mountaintop brought the team together and played a key role in the team's success in Mexico City. Smith called it "a camaraderie of tension. Not just among the black athletes, but the white athletes, too."

Hal Connolly, the 1956 Olympic champion in the hammer throw who qualified for his fourth

Page 4 of 19

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

*Recorded by: Bob Burns

*Date _____

Continuation

Update

U.S. Olympic team at Echo Summit, expanded on Smith's sentiments. "People were competing to prove a point, and they dug a little deeper," Connolly said. "Because of the setting and the circumstances, we were never closer than we were at Echo Summit. It was one of the most important track meets in U.S. history. It wasn't one lonely voice in the wilderness."

The U.S. team that left Echo Summit in mid-September is still considered one of the greatest collections of talent in the sport's history. The U.S. men won 12 gold medals in Mexico City – winning half of the events.

3M, the company that manufactured the Tartan track used at Echo Summit, developed a releasing agent that allowed organizers to pick up the surface without cutting the surface into sections. That was part of the agreement beforehand – the track must be shipped down Highway 50 and laid anew at South Tahoe Intermediate School. The historic track hosted high school and all-comers meets for another 35 years before it had to be replaced. In 1969, some of the Olympic Trials participants returned for a meet on the same surface, only at an elevation 1,000 feet lower. "I remember going to Tahoe in 1969 for a meet the jaycees put on," said triple jumper Norm Tate, a 1968 Olympian. "It felt different. It was the same track, but there was nothing like being on top of that mountain."

Today, the outline of the track can be seen in the parking lot serving Adventure Mountain, a winter recreational park, and a trail head for the Pacific Coast National Scenic Trail. In the years since 1968, Echo Summit was the site of a since-closed ski run, just as it was for a brief spell prior to 1968.

The site of the 1968 U.S. Olympic Trials is owned by Eldorado National Forest, which supports the effort to designate the site as a California Historic Landmark (see attached letter).

Page 5 of 19

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

*Recorded by: Bob Burns

*Date _____

Continuation Update

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Amdur, Neil, *Vanderstock Sets World Record of 48.8 Seconds in 400-Meter Hurdles*, New York Times, Sept. 12, 1968.

Bass, Amy, *Not the Triumph but the Struggle: 1968 Olympics and the Making of the Black Athlete*, University of Minnesota Press, 2004.

Bloom, Don, *Hines Wins 100 at Tahoe*, Sacramento Bee, Sept. 11, 1968.

Bosley, Don, *Out of Thin Air*, Sacramento Bee, June 4, 2000.

Brown, Valerie, *Tracking South Tahoe's forgotten glory*, Tahoe Daily Tribune, April 22, 1999.

Burns, Bob, *Magic Mountain*, Chicago Tribune, July 3, 2000.

Burns, Bob, *Fond Echoes*, Sacramento Bee, Aug. 15, 1988.

Burns, Bob, *Echoes from the Mountaintop*, 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials meet program, July 2000.

Drake, Dick, *Tahoe, Olympics*, Track & Field News, September 1968.

Hoffer, Richard, *Something in the Air: American Passion and Defiance in the 1968 Mexico City Olympics*. New York, Free Press, 2009.

Hymans, Richard, *The History of the U.S. Olympic Trials – Track & Field 1908-2000*. Published by USA Track & Field. Indianapolis, Sports Graphics, 2004.

Underwood, John, *Triumph and Tragedy at Tahoe*, Sports Illustrated, Sept. 23, 1968.

Wright, George, and Wright, Stan, *Stan Wright, Track Coach: Forty Years in the "Gold Old Boy Network" – The Story of an African-American Pioneer*. Pacifica Sports Research, 2005.

Yingling, Steve, *New track's Olympic roots sown 40 years ago*, Tahoe Daily Tribune, April

Page 6 of 19

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

*Recorded by: Bob Burns

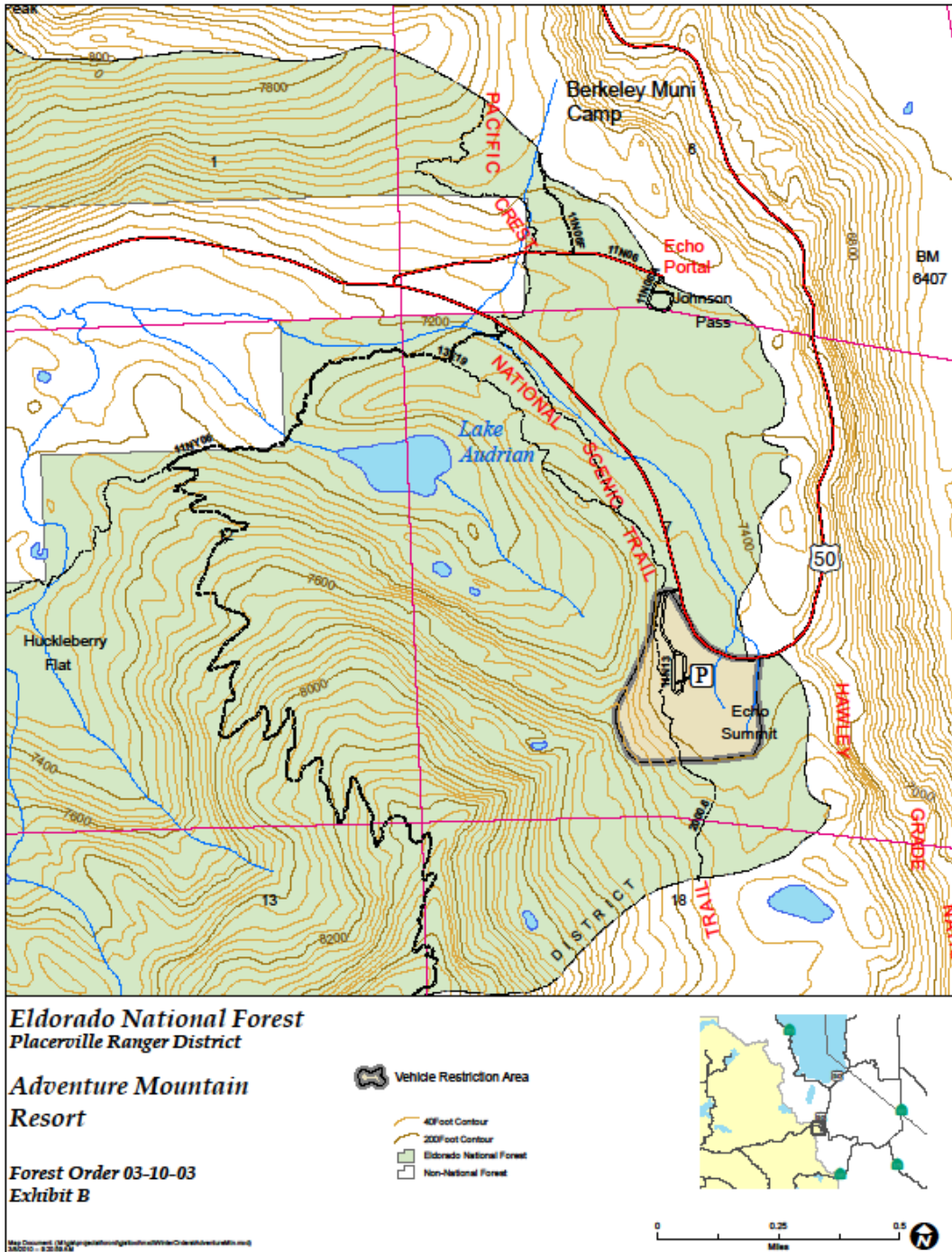
*Date _____ Continuation Update

16, 2008.

INTERVIEWS WITH 1968 OLYMPIANS

Ralph Boston, Bob Beamon, Dave Maggard, Dick Fosbury, Tommie Smith, Harold Connolly, Payton Jordan, Dick Fosbury, Willie Davenport, Larry James, Lee Evans, Ed Burke, Bob Seagren, Charlie Greene, Jay Silvester, Al Oerter, Bill Toomey, Tom Waddell.

MAPS



Location map showing Echo Summit training camp, indicated by “P” on map where current parking lot is located

Page 8 of 19

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

*Recorded by: Bob Burns

*Date _____ Continuation Update

HISTORIC PHOTOS



Figure 1: 1968 US trials at Echo Summit (Discus thrower)

Page 9 of 19

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

*Recorded by: Bob Burns

*Date _____

Continuation

Update



Figure 2: 1968 US trials at Echo Summit (Runners on track)

Page 10 of 19

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

*Recorded by: Bob Burns

*Date _____ Continuation Update



Figure 3: 1968 US trials at Echo Summit (Runners on track)

Page 11 of 19

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

*Recorded by: Bob Burns

*Date _____ Continuation Update

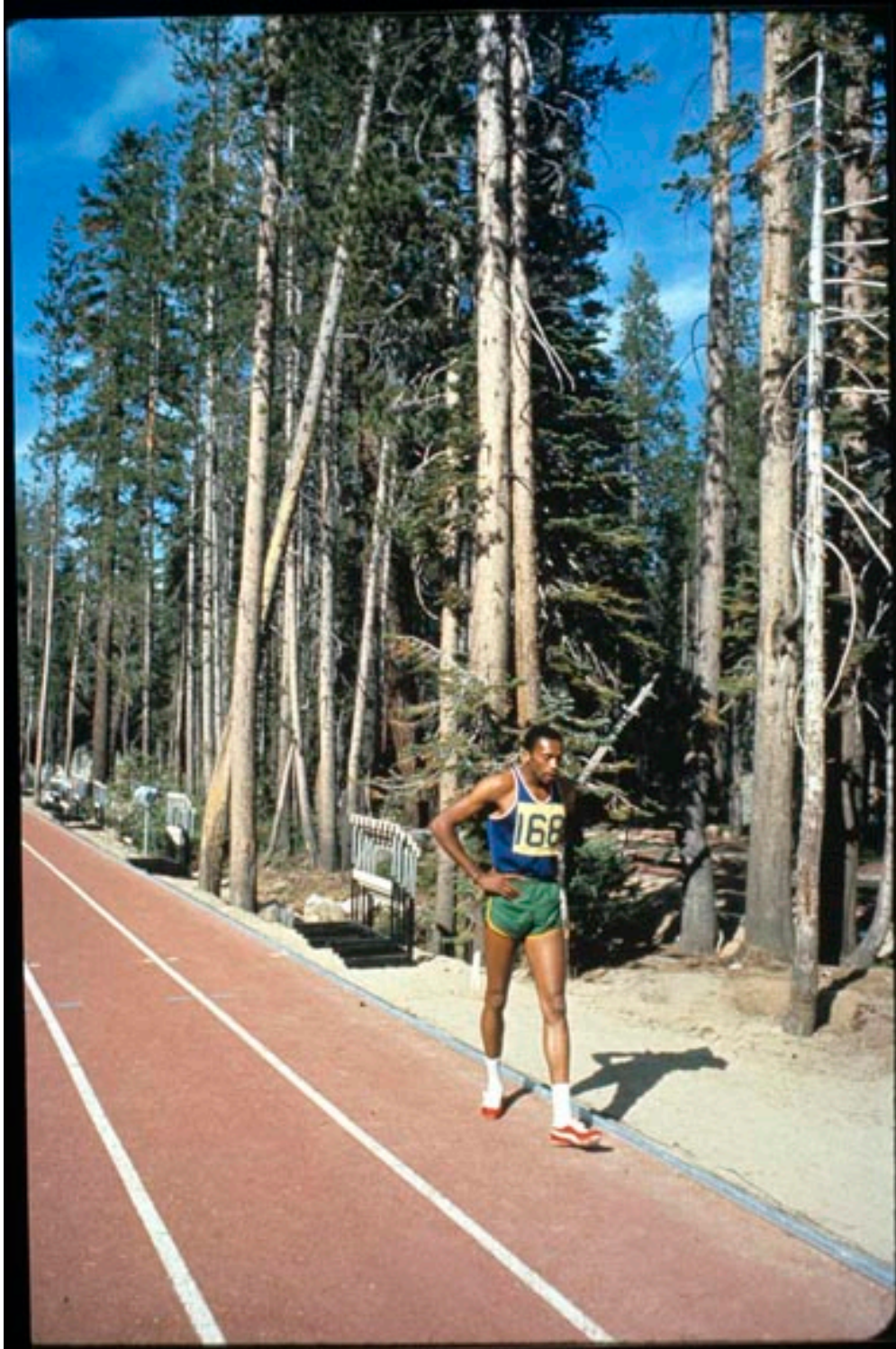


Figure 4: 1968 US trials at Echo Summit (Runner on track)

Page 12 of 19

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

*Recorded by: Bob Burns

*Date _____

Continuation Update



Figure 5: Echo Summit, Summer 1968, showing track and facilities

Page 13 of 19

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

*Recorded by: Bob Burns

*Date _____ Continuation Update

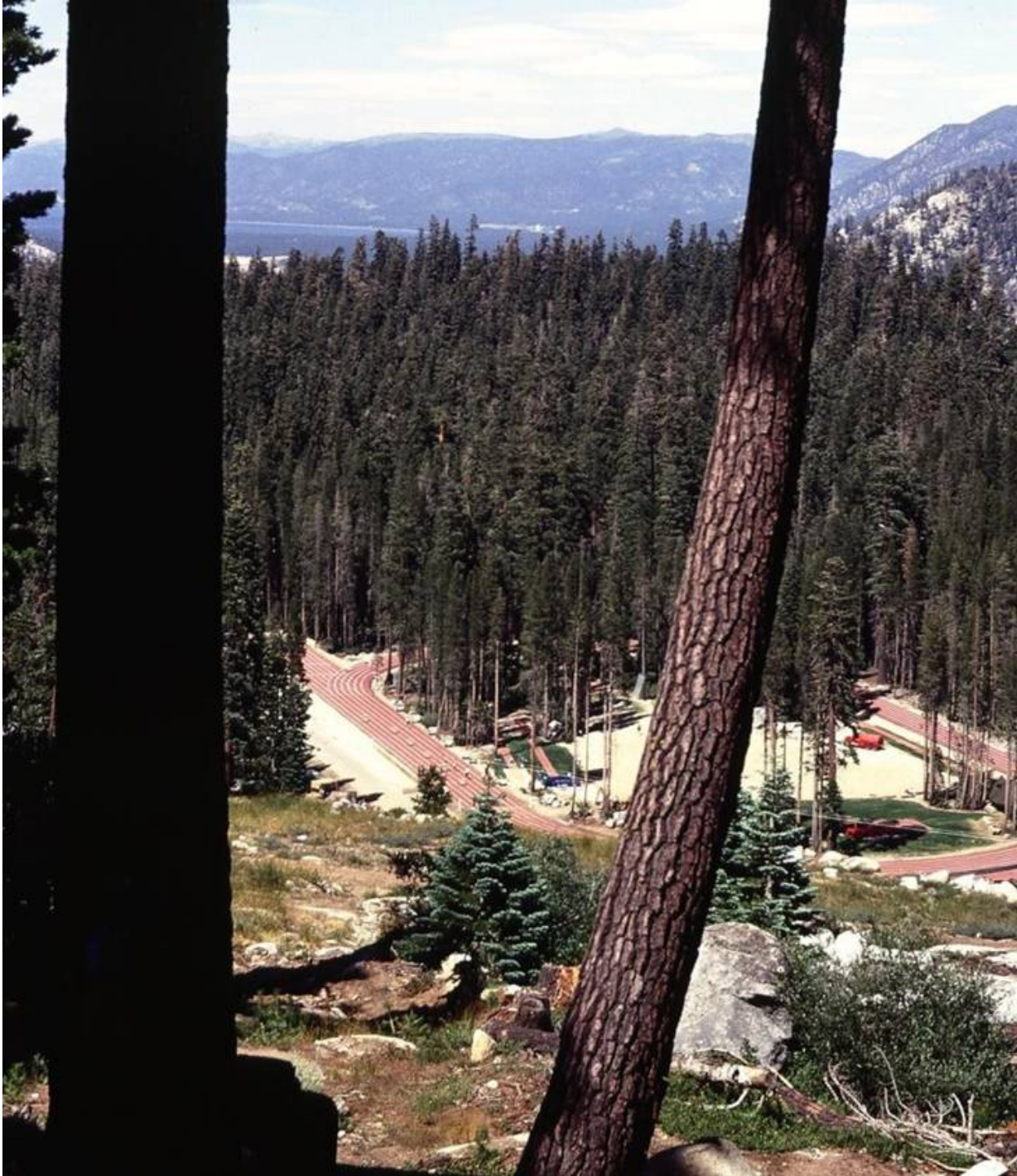


Figure 6: Echo Summit from above, showing proximity to Lake Tahoe

Page 14 of 19

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

*Recorded by: Bob Burns

*Date _____ Continuation Update

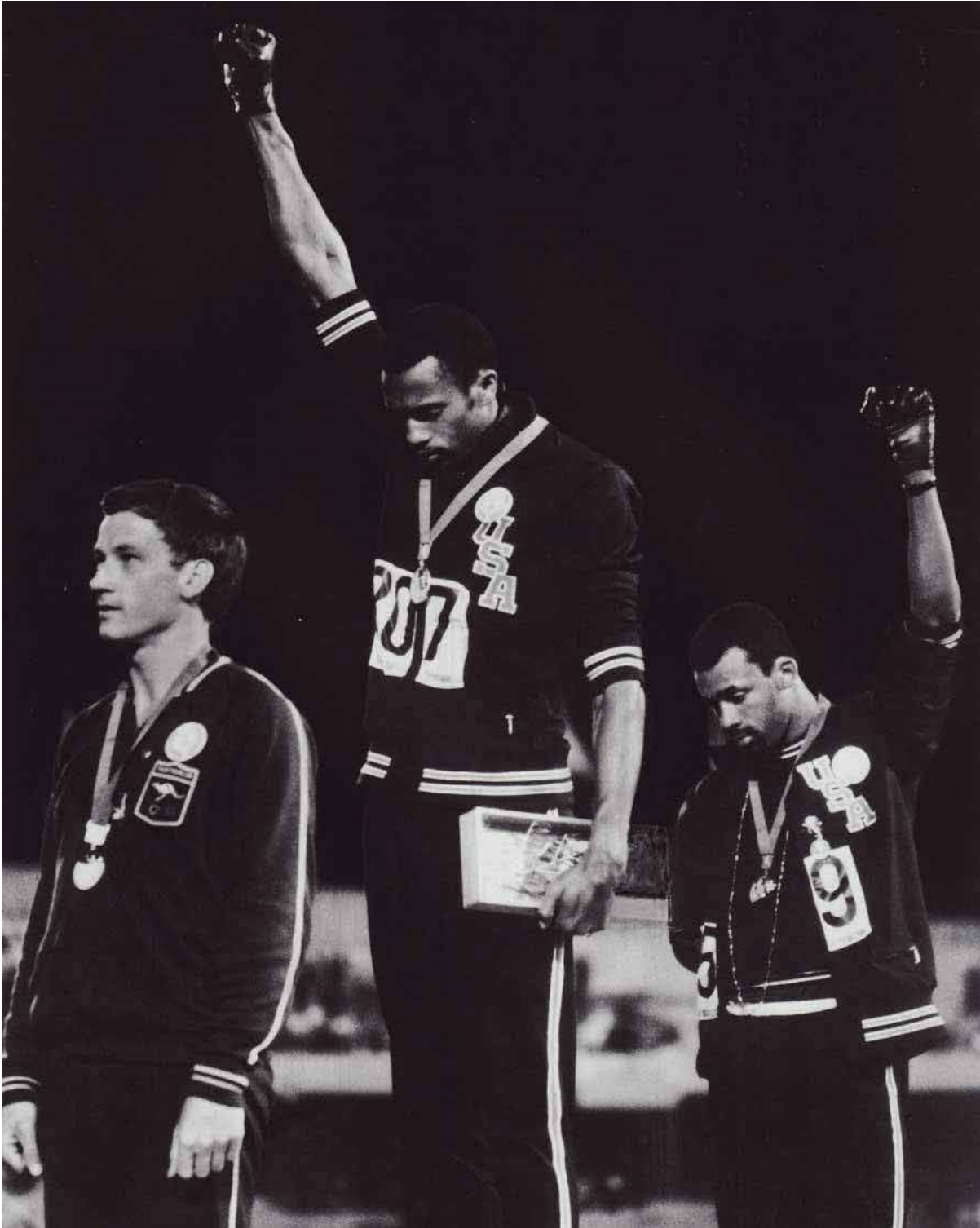


Figure 7: 1968 Mexico City Olympics, Olympians

Page 15 of 19

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

*Recorded by: Bob Burns

*Date _____ Continuation Update



Figure 8: 1968 Mexico City Olympics, 400 meter relay team members Lee Evans, Ron Freeman, Vince Matthews on victor's stand

Page 16 of 19

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

*Recorded by: Bob Burns

*Date _____ Continuation Update

PHOTOS (Contemporary photos, taken August 2012)



Photo 1: Elevation sign located at Echo Summit

Page 17 of 19

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

*Recorded by: Bob Burns

*Date _____

Continuation

Update



Photo 2: Paved right of way formerly used as Echo Summit track

Page 18 of 19

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

*Recorded by: Bob Burns

*Date _____

Continuation

Update



Photo 3: Overhead view of Echo Summit site in current condition

Page 19 of 19

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Site of Echo Summit

*Recorded by: Bob Burns

*Date _____ Continuation Update



Photo 4: Echo Summit track surface relocated to South Tahoe Intermediate School





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Eldorado National Forest
Placerville Ranger District

4260 Eight Mile Road
Camino, CA 95709
(530) 644-2324 (Voice)
(530) 647-5344 (TTY)

File Code: 2360

Date: April 5, 2011

Bob Burns
P.O. Box 15830
M.S. B401
Sacramento, CA 95852-1830

Dear Mr. Burns:

I am writing this letter as official support for your nomination of Echo Summit as a California Historic Landmark.

Echo Summit was the site of the 1968 United States Olympic Track & Field trials. At an elevation of 7,377 ft., it provided the athletes with competition that would mirror some of the conditions to be experienced in Mexico City, the site of the 1968 Summer Olympic Games. As we did in 1968, the U.S. Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest, offers its support in recognizing this historic event.

Echo Summit continues to be a special place for its convergence of the Pony Express National Historic Trail, California National Historic Trail, Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, Tahoe Rim Trail, Lincoln Highway, and nearby historic Hawley Grade Trail. Recognizing Echo Summit for its place in California history as the site of the Olympic Trials seems equally fitting.

Please continue to work with Cindy Oswald, of my staff, and Katy Parr, Forest Archaeologist on your efforts and tangible support the Eldorado National Forest may provide.

I appreciate your willingness to submit this nomination with the State of California.

Sincerely,

DUANE A. NELSON
District Ranger
Placerville Ranger District
Eldorado National Forest

cc: Katy Parr



Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Parks and Recreation
1725 23rd St., Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Dec. 20, 2012

The 1968 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials at Echo Summit fascinated me when my father drove me up Highway 50 to soak in the atmosphere of the world's fastest and strongest men competing on a track laid out in the middle of the Eldorado National Forest.

Years later, as a sportswriter, I was able to revisit that historic event by writing articles about Echo Summit for the Sacramento Bee, San Francisco Examiner and Sacramento Bee. As the communications director of the 2000 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials in Sacramento, I was fortunate enough to meet some of the men who made history at Echo Summit: Dick Fosbury, Al Oerter, Ralph Boston, Tommie Smith, Lee Evans, Bill Toomey and Bob Seagren.

I hope you give strong consideration to making Echo Summit a California Historical Landmark. Aside from the surreal setting for a sporting event that produced four world records and launched one of the most successful Olympic teams in U.S. history, the men who competed at Echo Summit were very much a product of their times. 1968 was one of the most tumultuous years in American history, with the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy and the rioting at the Democratic National Convention.

Smith, John Carlos, Lee Evans and sociology professor Harry Edwards, the leaders of the Olympic Project for Human Rights, all came from San Jose State. Jim Hines, an Oakland native, won the 100-meter dash at both Echo Summit and Mexico City. Seagren and Geoff Vanderstock, who set world records in the pole vault and 400-meter hurdles, attended USC. The coach of the U.S. Olympic team, Payton Jordan, was from Stanford.

Athletes and coaches from vastly different backgrounds developed lifelong bonds during their time at Echo Summit. As Harold Connolly, the 1956 Olympic hammer champion who qualified for his fourth Olympic team at Echo Summit, put it, "We were never closer than we were at Echo Summit because of the nature of the time. Echo Summit was like a volcano. Is it going to erupt, or should we cap it?"

If more information is needed for this application, I'll do everything I can to help give Echo Summit its historic due.

Sincerely,

Bob Burns