Oregon Historical Markers

Battle Mountain Historical Marker

Location

The sign is located a short distance from Pilot Rock, Oregon. N 45° 17.022 W 118° 58.075

Quick Description:

Battle Mountain commemorates one of the last battles between American Indians and the military.

Long Description:

The decisive engagement of the Bannock War was fought on the foothills of Battle Mountain, July 8, 1878. The war - a protest against White encroachment, and the last major uprising in the Pacific Northwest - was started by Bannock Indians, but Egan, a Paiute, inherited command. Wounded, he led the Bannocks, Paiutes and Snakes on a wide sweep out of Idaho, through Eastern Oregon and into the Blue Mountains. His hope was to win the Umatillas. But troops of the 1st Cavalry, 4th Artillery, and 21st Infantry Regiments under the command of Gen. Oliver O. Howard defeated him here, and a few days later he was betrayed and his scalp was delivered at camp. His followers scattered.