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Redwood National Park Document



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I. Introduction

With the 1978 expansion of Redwood National Park extensive acreage of prairie and oak woodland were added to the Redwood Creek Unit. Historically this area has received moderate to heavy livestock grazing. The prairie system has been an important winter and early spring cattle range, often grazed year-round by cattle. In the recent past, Ford Livestock Company has grazed cattle on these lands leased from Simpson Timber Company. With the termination and non-renewal of the grazing lease (October 1981) a limited amount of grazing will occur until the boundary is adequately fenced.

The purpose of this report is to identify the fences, gates, and cattle guards needed in the Bald Hills area to prevent cattle from entering the park. As adequate boundary fences are installed, unnecessary internal fences will be removed.

II. Present Situation

The Bald Hills area of the Redwood Creek Unit remains readily accessible to cattle in several locations along approximately 16.6 miles of the boundary traverse. To deter cattle, much of the existing fence line on or near park boundaries can be repaired and maintained until a new fence along the boundary is installed. In other areas fencing on or near boundaries is lacking, and some grazing will have to be accepted on the far eastern boundary until a boundary fence is built. Several acres are fenced in together with private grazing lands; a situation which can only be corrected with new boundary fence.

Where there are no fences, cattle "drift" into the park is inevitable. During the winter-early spring grazing period, the southern exposures of the Bald Hills prairie system will be the most vulnerable, particularly during times of heavy snow or unusual cold which could increase "drift" into the park.

During this period the supersaturated soils of recently completed rehabilitation sites are especially vulnerable to compaction by cattle, and recently planted trees and shrubs would be adversely affected.

III. Fencing Program

For the purpose of planning and/or assessment, the Bald Hills section of the Redwood Creek Unit boundary has been broken into management segments, beginning at the Simpson gate 1500 feet east of the W-line Road/Bald Hills Road intersection and ending at the K & K Road gate adjacent to Redwood Creek (see attached map).

From 1978 through 1980 the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management conducted a dependent resurvey and boundary survey of Redwood National Park. Cadastral survey monuments have been placed at various points along the boundary. Each monument along the traverse of the park boundary has been stamped with an AP number (Location Identification Number) to aid in the on-the-ground location of specific points along the boundary. In areas of dense second growth forest, these monuments are located approximately every 200 feet along the boundary traverse and further apart on the prairies. Full documentation and location of all monuments can be found in the appropriate Cadastral Survey Plat(s).

Segment A: AP 67 - AP 39 (1.3 miles—from Simpson T-500 gate to K&K gate)

The boundary of this segment is unfenced. An existing fence (which is in fairly good condition) runs from W-line to near the K & K Road (Elk Camp Prairie) on the south side of the Bald Hills Road. Approximately 8.42 acres of prairie (grassland) occurs within the park unit and outside the existing fence between the Bald Hills Road and the park boundary. A locked Simpson

access gate is present at AP 64 (T-500 Road) and AP 39 (K&K). If stocking of adjacent lands takes place, cattle possibly could enter in the vicinity of Simpson gate (AP 38, K & K Road).

Proposed Work - Segment A

1. Maintain existing fence on south side of Bald Hills Road between W-line and K & K Road until it can be determined whether a fence along the boundary on the north side of Bald Hills Road is necessary.
2. Modify Simpson's gate at AP 38 to make it cattle-proof.

Segment B: AP 38 - AP 16 (1.0 mile from K & K Road gate to Harding Easement Road at AP 16)

This area is not fenced along the boundary nor is there an internal fence that will prevent cattle from crossing the Bald Hills Road and penetrating the interior of the Redwood Creek Management Unit. This segment crosses Johnson Road which is a county road open to the public. Numerous skid trails criss-cross the area and whether or not any or all will remain access routes to the Bald Hills Road must be determined in consultation with landowners, lessees, U.S. Department of Justice final land settlement officials.

Proposed Work - Segment B

1. Build new fence from Elk Camp C.D.F. Station to AP 16.
2. Install cattle guard and a gate contiguous to it at Johnson Road/park boundary in consultation with Humboldt County road maintenance officials.
3. Install gate at Harding easement road.

Segment C: AP 16 - AP 136 (1.7 miles-from Harding Easement Road at AP 16 to airstrip corrals)

This area is also unfenced and the potential for cattle entering the park is relatively high. However, along some of the boundary traverse the forest may be too dense for cattle to penetrate. A Simpson vehicular access gate is located near AP 144 (Ranch Creek Road) but the gate is outside the park boundary. The Harding/Simpson Road crosses the boundary at AP 7.

Proposed Work - Segment C

1. Build new fence between AP 16 - AP 136 where the dense forest does not restrict cattle entry.
2. In consultation with Simpson Timber Company, determine if Simpson gate, AP 144 can be moved to park boundary. If not, install new park gate at boundary.
3. Build a gate at Harding/Simpson Road.

Segment D: AP 136 - AP 117 (1.0 mile - from Airstrip Corral to Cattle Guard)

The boundary traverse is presently unfenced; however, the entire segment is fenced along the south side of Bald Hills Road. This existing fence line is in good order and if maintained, should deter livestock. In addition, there is some existing fence line above the Bald Hills Road in extremely poor condition. The cattle guard on Bald Hills Road is in good condition. Graves' property easements are still under litigation.

Proposed Work - Segment D

1. Build new fence between AP 136 and AP 117.
2. Maintain existing fence on south side of Bald Hills Road until new fence is built.
3. Explore with Humboldt County officials the possibility of moving the cattle guard on Bald Hills Road to Johnson Road.

Segment E: AP 117 - AP 91 (3.0 miles - from cattle guard to Tomlinson Corral)

The boundary traverse of this segment is under litigation. At present, the entire segment is fenced along both sides of the Bald Hills Road. The existing fence line is in good order and if maintained, will deter livestock.

Proposed Work - Segment E

1. Maintain existing fence on south side of Bald Hills Road until boundary is firmly established; then if necessary build new fence along boundary.

Segment F: AP 15 - AP 13 (1.0 mile - from Tomlinson Corral to Simpson Access Road/Williams Ridge Road)

The park boundary traverse leaves the Bald Hills Road and runs due east along the section line crossing Williams Ridge Road at AP 13. The entire segment is unfenced along the boundary traverse. Existing fence lines are located along both the north and south sides of Bald Hills Road. At present, the prairie on the western portion of the segment is fenced in with private property. Cattle grazing is likely to continue in this area pending boundary fencing. The existing fence line on the Bald Hills Road is in fair condition, however, some of this fence line east of the cattle guard will need extensive repair and maintenance. When repaired, this internal fencing should deter livestock from the interior prairie and some rehabilitation units presently accessible to livestock.

Proposed Work - Segment F

1. Repair and maintain existing fence along Bald Hills Road until new fence can be built along the boundary.

Segment G: AP 13 - AP 11 (0.7 mile - Williams Ridge Road to boundary corner northwest of Schoolhouse Peak)

This segment which runs north/south along the section line, is presently unfenced and is accessible to livestock; however, access is restricted

to the immediate area of Schoolhouse Peak. The boundary traverses through both prairie and cutover timber. A Simpson access gate is present on Williams Ridge Road but is located about one quarter mile inside the park unit boundary.

Proposed Work - Segment G

1. Move Simpson gate to boundary.
2. Build new fence along boundary except for sections where the forest is dense enough to restrict cattle entry.

Segment H: AP 11 (J 4) J 3 (0.7 mile - east/west leg north of Schoolhouse Peak)

This segment traverses east/west through interspersed prairie and cutover timber. Livestock access could occur at any point except for the steep, dense forest areas. Livestock gaining access in this area could then graze the prairie immediately around Schoolhouse Peak, as well as move down slope into the vicinity of Lyons Ranch Road.

Proposed Work - Segment H

1. Build new fence along boundary where the terrain permits cattle access.

Segment I: J 3 - J 2 (0.7 mile - north/south leg east of Schoolhouse Peak)

This segment traverses north/south primarily through cutover timber. Vehicular access points occur in two locations along this traverse. Cattle access could occur along this traverse in several places. Livestock gaining access would be able to graze the prairie around Schoolhouse Peak and have access to the Lyons Ranch Road. The boundary crosses a Simpson logging road (Robber's Gulch Road) which is closed by a gate at the Bald Hills Road.

Proposed Work - Segment I

1. Build new fence along boundary.
2. Move Simpson gate to boundary.
3. Install temporary gate at vehicular access points until easement questions have been resolved.

Segment J: J 2 - J 1 (0.7 mile - east/west leg south of Schoolhouse Peak)

This segment runs through prairie above and roughly parallel to the Bald Hills Road. Cattle access through this segment to the Copper Creek area is possible.

Proposed Work - Segment J

1. Build new fence along the boundary.
2. Install gate on Schoolhouse Peak look-out access road.

Segment K: J 1 - AP 9 (0.4 mile)

This unit segment crosses over the Bald Hills Road and is the eastern vehicular access point to Redwood National Park. There is potential for cattle trespass via road, and lacking internal fences, cattle could get into the Copper Creek area.

Proposed Work - Segment K

1. Build new fence along the boundary.
2. Install cattle guard at boundary point on Bald Hills Road.

Segment L: A 9 - AP 1 (2.7 miles - from a point below Bald Hills Road to a point just below Lyons Ranch House)

There is an existing fence just within the boundary which could prevent cattle entering other areas of the park if the fence were repaired and maintained.

An access road to a barn outside the park crosses the boundary.

Proposed Work - Segment L

1. Build new fence along boundary and remove existing fencing.
2. Install gate on road to barn.
3. Install gates onf Lyons Ranch Road at boundary point.

Segment M: AP 1 - Redwood Creek (1.7 miles - from a point just below Lyons Ranch House to Redwood Creek)

This segment begins in the prairie near Lyons Ranch House and runs downhill through cutover timber terminating at Redwood Creek. Cattle access along this portion of the boundary is presently unrestricted. There is no fence line on or near the boundary and cattle can be expected to drift into the Copper Creek Rehabilitation area and eventually gaining access to Childs Hill Prairie. The locked gate on the K & K Road is not cattle-proof. Cattle access below the K & K Road is unlikely because of the steepness of the terrain.

Proposed Work - Segment M

1. Build new fence along the boundary.
2. In consultation with Simpson Timber Company, either cattle-proof the K & K Road gate or install a cattle guard in the road.

IV. Fencing Management Segment Completion Priority Sequence

1. Segment "D"
2. Segment "B" (cattle guard Johnson Road)
3. Segment "M"
4. Segment "C"
5. Segment "F"
6. Segment "G"
7. Segment "L"
8. Segment "K" (cattle guard Bald Hills Road)
9. Segment "J"
10. Segment "I"
11. Segment "H"
12. Segment "A"
13. Segment "E"

REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK

PROPOSED BALD HILLS FENCING PLAN

