



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Eagle Lake Resource Area  
705 Hall Street  
Susanville, CA 96130

EA-CA-026-95-07

In Reply  
Refer to:

Appendix G

4120 (CA-026)

AUG 30 1995

Dear Interested Party:

The enclosed "Documentation of Twin Peaks Allotment Project Tour" is provided for your information.

It was written by me and is based on the notes I took during the tour.

It is provided to keep you up-to-date and informed regarding the field discussions we had concerning the development of these proposed projects. We are somewhat behind the project implementation schedule envisioned last February, but we are still moving forward.

If any of you have visited the project sites independently of the tour and plan to offer comments or suggestions for inclusion in NEPA analysis, please do so in the near future (i.e. within a couple of weeks).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Visser  
Acting Area Manager

Enclosure  
As stated

TIM MCKAY J0303  
NORTHCOAST ENVIRONMENTAL CNTR  
879 NORTH STREET  
APCATA CA 95521

KEN TERRILL J0304  
NORTH COAST  
FRIENDS OF THE RIVER  
3611 BLUE LAKE BLVD  
BLUE LAKE CA 95525

DR. GLEN HOLSTEIN J0305  
CAL NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
WILDERNESS CHAIRMAN  
1509 PACIFIC DRIVE  
DAVIS CA 95616

JIM EATON J0306  
CAL WILDERNESS COALITION  
2655 PORTAGE BAY AVE, SUITE 3  
DAVIS CA 95616

CALIF ASSOC 4-WD CLUBS J0281  
9401 GOLDEN DRIVE  
ORANGEVILLE CA 95662

V. J. GLEADALL J0307  
SIERRA CLUB  
2855 POLLS COURT  
SINGLE SPRINGS CA 95889 *delete*

MOTHERLODE CHAPTER J0336  
SIERRA CLUB  
SHASTA GROUP  
P.O. BOX 1335  
SACRAMENTO CA 95806

CARRIE A. SHAW J0415  
DEPT OF FISH AND GAME  
PUBLIC LANDS PROTECTION PLNR  
1416 9TH ST., P.O. BOX 944209  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814-2090 *duplicate*

ED HASTEY J02159  
STATE DIRECTOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
2800 COTTAGE WAY  
SACRAMENTO CA 95825 *duplicate*

BETTY MATYAS J0309  
CNPS, SACRAMENTO VALLEY CHAP  
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE  
3501 PAGEANT DRIVE  
SACRAMENTO CA 95826

CHRISTINE MARTINEZ J0310  
SIERRA CLUB  
7 KEEL COURT  
SACRAMENTO CA 95831

PAUL ROWELL J0312  
CONSERVATION CHAIRMAN  
SIERRA CLUB YAH! GROUP  
443 WEST 4TH AVENUE  
CHICO CA 95926

STEVE EVANS J0313  
BUTTE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL  
708 CHERRY STREET  
CHICO CA 95926

JAY FULLER J0314  
CNPS  
BIO SCIENCES, CSU  
CHICO CA 95929

FRIENDS OF PLUMAS WILDERNESS J0331  
P.O. BOX 133  
QUINCY CA 95971

MIKE YOST J0315  
PLUMAS WILDERNESS FRIENDS  
P.O. BOX 163  
TAYLORVILLE CA 95983

MERRILL HUGO J0317  
SHASTA GROUP  
SIERRA CLUB  
1544 ORANGE AVENUE  
REDDING CA 96001

CAL DEPT OF FISH & GAME J0325  
ATTN: RICH ELLIOT  
601 LOCUST STREET  
REDDING CA 96001

SHASTA COUNTY J0347  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
P.O. BOX 880  
REDDING CA 96001

JAMES STOKES J0318  
WINTU AUDOBON SOCIETY  
8758 CHURN CREEK ROAD  
REDDING CA 96002

FALL RIVER/BIG VALLEY J0330  
CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 66  
MCARTHUR CA 96056

STAN WEIDERT J0319  
SIERRA CLUB  
SHASTA GROUP  
RT 2 BOX 175  
SHINGLETOWN CA 96088 *Delete (old Address)*

SISKIYOU COUNTY J0349  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
P.O. BOX 338  
YREKA CA 96097

SHASTA CASCADE J0346  
WONDERLAND ASSOCIATION  
ATTN: JOHN REGINATO  
P.O. BOX 1928  
REDDING CA 96099 *delete*

MODOC COUNTY J0334  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MODOC COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
ALTURAS CA 96101 *delete*

MODOC COUNTY J0335  
CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
202 WEST FOURTH STREET  
ALTURAS CA 96101

NORTHERN WASHOE COUNTY J0344  
CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
ATTN: DON COOPS  
P.O. BOX 159  
CEDARVILLE CA 96104 *duplicate*

SYDNEY SMITH J0350  
P.O. BOX 419  
CEDARVILLE CA 96104

MARY NORDSTROM J0283  
P.O. BOX 278  
JANESVILLE CA 96114

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS A1925  
LASSEN COUNTY  
707 NEVADA ST  
SUSANVILLE CA 96130 *delete*

CALIF DEPT OF FORESTRY J0327  
ATTN: FRANK GODDARD  
HIGHWAY 36  
SUSANVILLE CA 96130

EAGLE LAKE CHAPTER J0329  
AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 1502  
SUSANVILLE CA 96130 *Returned*

U.C. COOP EXTENSION J0351  
ATTN: GLEN NADER  
MEMORIAL BLDG  
SUSANVILLE CA 96130 *duplicate*

CAL DEPT OF FISH & GAME J0326  
ATTN: FRANK HALL  
FISH AND GAME ROAD  
WENDELL CA 96136 *delete*

DAVID BIEK J0316  
5510 89TH AVE CT W  
TACOMA, WA 98467

DOCUMENTATION OF TWIN PEAKS ALLOTMENT PROJECT TOUR  
of  
JULY 19-21, 1995  
by

Ken Visser, Supervisory Range Conservationist, Eagle Lake RA BLM,  
as derived from his field notes.

Day One - 07/19/95

BLM Attendees: Steve Smith, Nevada State Office Wilderness  
Coordinator; Bill Kuntz, ELRA Outdoor Recreation  
Planner; Steve Surian, ELRA Range Conservationist;  
Charlie Reed, Susanville DO Horse Wrangler;  
Ken Visser, ELRA Supervisory Range Conservationist.

Affected Interests: Brent Espil, Grazing Permittee, Twin Peaks  
Allotment

Other: Bob Schweigert, Intermountain Range Consultants

Weather: Warm, upper 80's, clear to partly cloudy, breezy at  
times.

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0900 Hours BLM met Espil and Schweigert (ES), the only non-BLM  
respondents that were able to attend this day's tour, at pre-  
arranged road junction and proceeded to outside Casey Ranch. BLM  
departed from below Casey Ranch; ES proceeded to Ranch and departed  
from there. BLM rode horses independently to mouth of Chimney  
Canyon. Vegetation along BLM route is overwhelmingly cured  
cheatgrass and secondarily "weedy" annuals such as Tansy mustard  
and tragopogon with sparse amounts of squirreltail and Wyoming big  
sagebrush. Met ES at mouth of Chimney Canyon on unfenced Casey  
property driving about 30 head Espil cattle up adjacent to Creek.  
Cattle had strayed into Chimney area from Buffalo sub-division.  
Espil indicated that cattle would be pushed back to Buffalo sub-  
division occur within a few days of tour conclusion. Young willows  
in Chimney and adjacent East Upper Smoke Creek drainage and  
vegetation expression good. Water flowing in Chimney and East  
Upper Smoke Creek drainage. Utilization appearance slight on  
grasses in drainages, none on grasses in uplands and none on  
willows, roses and other shrubs (which are located primarily in  
drainages) - no transect taken.

Jointly rode to proposed "East Fork Springs and Pipeline" and  
observed approximately 3 acre meadow with stringers associated with  
spring. Upland vegetation continued to be dominated by cheatgrass,  
that was in its cured stage. Five Espil cattle hazed from meadow  
area. Meadow utilization appearance slight on both grasses and  
shrubs: young and old willow present and rose and other shrub  
species were grazed slight to light - no transect taken. Thistles  
abundant in upper portion of stringer riparian area - perhaps

change name to "Thistle" spring (?).

Discussion at spring during lunch and beyond concerning livestock management in Wilderness Study Areas and the use of minimum tools to reach management objectives. Suggested that if cattle were prevented from returning to entire Chimney area in the summer and fall, which now is a major contributor to heavy utilization in the drainages and on this and nearby springs, there would be no need to individually fence this spring to allow it to progress to as-yet-unspecified vegetation management objectives. Such objectives in a general sense were generally understood by Visser to be to allow for the plants to complete their life-cycle in most years, thereby allowing for the maximum expression of wildlife dependant upon the vegetation for all or a part of their life cycle. Postulated that not fencing the spring/meadow site in combination with prevention of summer/fall "camping" of livestock in the area would be a minimum tool needed to allow for riparian enhancement while still accommodating some livestock use and therefore, allow for a greater expression of naturalness in the area.

Proposed by Espil that in order to meet vegetation objectives for the area, early spring use (3-4 weeks from mid-April to mid-May, depending on growth year) could be accommodated and still allow for plants to complete life cycle so long as summer drift returning to the area was minimized. Suggested that NEPA analysis of the proposal examine the alternative of prescribing livestock use to occur in the area in the spring months that allows for plant life cycle completion, and combine that with smaller unobtrusive fence(s) higher in adjacent drainages that block cattle summer drift return routes, as an alternative to building the large drift fence identified as the southernmost segment (or, the lowest segment) of the proposed Chimney Fence. To that end, another meeting was arranged between Surian and Espil to examine upper gap fence sites.

From spring site, rode to approximate route of lower segment of Chimney Drift Fence and from there past Smoke Creek Reservoir and back through Smoke Creek Ranch. Enroute, spotted 2 pronghorn who observed us from a distance. Smoke Creek Reservoir gates wide open and water is flowing downstream. Ended up back at the truck at about 4:00 p.m. Written comments invited from Steve Smith (Ken's note: Comments received August 25, 1995).

Proposed project sites not visited due to time/distance constraints were upper segment of Chimney Drift Fence, W. Parsnip Drift fence and Indian Spring.

Day Two - 07/20/95

BLM Attendees: Steve Surian, ELRA Range Conservationist; Charlie Reed; Susanville DO Horse Wrangler; and, Ken Visser, ELRA

Supervisory Range Conservationist.

Affected Interests: Brent Espil, Grazing Permittee, Twin Peaks Allotment; George Berrier, American Mustang and Burro Association

Other: Bob Schweigert, Intermountain Range Consultants

Weather: Warm, upper 80's, clear to partly cloudy, breezy at times.

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Mounted horses at north entrance to Shinn Ranch and rode to north point of proposed East Upper Smoke Creek fence and observed route which would cross the rocky flat upland immediately east of the creek. Dominant shrub along route is low rabbitbrush with a good representation of squirreltail, a variety of other perennial grasses and a variety of forbs, of which sunflower was the most prominent. Churning clay soils with large percentage of cobbles covering the surface. Rode in and along upper Smoke Creek drainage. Vegetation utilization was slight to none and no livestock or recent livestock sign was observed. Vegetation in riparian zone was vigorous grasses and forbs, sagebrush and rabbitbrush, willows and an occasional juniper. Vegetation expression was good but no build-up of soils or overhanging bank. Stream bottom anchored by bedrock. Incision was common but for the most part appeared to be healing except on 90 degree cut banks.

Espil stated that use in this area for the last several years has been fall only. He stated that he did not want water gaps placed along the creek because they posed a maintenance problem and there were other sufficient water sources in this use area. George Berrier stated that he did not see a reason to fence the creek from the appearance of the vegetation.

We traveled half the distance of the creek and then rode towards Horne Spring, passing a reservoir along the way at  $N\frac{1}{2}N\frac{1}{2}SE\frac{1}{4}$  Section 30, T. 33 N., R. 17 E. The reservoir was  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  full. Rode the proposed route of the west line of the proposed Horne Meadow exclosure. Meadow area was a stringer grassy swale with clover which enlarged as we approached the meadow. Utilization levels were none to slight. Free water was present for the entire length. Deer flies and horse flies became thicker as we got closer to Horne Spring proper. Schweigert noted that construction of the exclosure was permittee proposed and they did so not because they believed that the meadow was in need of recovery, but because of their desire to neutralize the issue of utilization levels on the meadow. He expressed that heavy utilization was not an indicator of the condition of the meadow. They had no objections to fencing it. George Berrier noted that wild horses of the area spent most of their time in the hills to the east of the spring and had ample

water elsewhere, so horses would not be fenced from needed water due to this project. He stated that he thought that the vegetation condition did not seem to merit a fence enclosure, but from speaking as an advocate for horses, he had no objections to fencing the meadow. A small population of yellow star thistle was noted on the two track trail leading away from the meadow at W $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 19, T. 33 N., R. 17, within the road disturbed area. We then rode down the two track trail back to the north entry of Shinn Ranch. Fifty (+) pronghorn spotted NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 25, T. 33 N., R. 17 E., moving from there to the southeast.

No livestock were seen the entire day. Returned to trailers around 4 p.m. George Berrier indicated he would not be attending the next day. His written comments were invited (Ken's note: Comments were received August 11, 1995).

Day Three - 07/21/95

BLM Attendees: Steve Surian, ELRA Range Conservationist; and, Ken Visser, ELRA Supervisory Range Conservationist.

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Other: Bob Schweigert, Intermountain Range Consultants

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Arrived at cattleguard between Deep Cut and Twin Peaks allotments at 0900. Waited 10 minutes and then drove east down road. Spotted 6 Laver cattle at NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 2, T. 30 N., R. 16 E.. Joined with Espil and Schweigert in their truck and proceeded to proposed Two Springs and Overflow Spring Enclosures driving in past "Gorbet Place." From road bordering Five Springs WSA, hiked into proposed overflow spring enclosure site. Vegetation in uplands and everywhere besides spring associated area is overwhelmingly medusahead with sparse basin wild rye and squirreltail. Some needlegrass and bluebunch wheatgrass occurs in rocky areas, but their occurrence is relatively sparse. Notable was the lack of shrubs which were mostly a scattering of horsebrush with occasional sage and rabbitbrush. Water was flowing from private Three Springs onto BLM land throughout the overflow area almost down to the road, where it is captured by a reservoir. Water associated vegetation in the overflow area is grasses and a small clover. The enclosure proposal was described to Espil and Schweigert and they did not have any objections. Spotted 6 Laver cattle at NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 2, T. 30 N., R. 16 E. and 43 wild equine at SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 24, T. 31 N., R. 17 E.: 32 horses, 4 colts and 7 mules. As we were discussing

exclosure proposal, the equine watered at Three Springs and then travelled up drainage higher into the Five Springs mountains. One of the horses was a collared horse that escaped from the Litchfield horse corrals last year due to the suspected vandalism/arson episode.

Returned to road and drove via road and a way up to the proposed Two Springs exclosure. Discussed the proposal to fence without developing the spring. Both springs flowing into main riparian zone on private land associated with the private Five Springs. Utilization was slight to none, any utilization being made by wild horses and burros. No objections to fencing off Two Springs were voiced, but no real support was voiced either. Visser's impression was that BLM could fence it if they wanted, but Espil and Schweigert were not convinced that an exclosure fence was entirely necessary.

From there returned to main road. Schweigert uprooted a perennial pepperweed (aka "tall whitetop") from roadbed leading into Gorbet place and put it in a plastic bag provided by Surian for disposal by BLM.

Drove to Morgan Spring. Described the proposal for an exclosure fence as depicted on the map. Schweigert noted that the proposal included blocking the road that led down to level ground adjacent to the spring complex and suggested that blocking that road only will lead to hunters or whoever cutting the fence in order to be able to get to the level ground to park or camp. He recommended that the fence alignment be changed in order to allow the access to continue as it had before. Surian stated that the proposal included placing large boulders in the roadway to prevent any further access from occurring. He stated that the team that examined the area believed that keeping vehicle access up well above the area would eliminate erosion caused by vehicles driving down the roadway. Went and examined the reservoir on adjacent Espil private land and flushed several ducks on the reservoir. Walked downstream and observed slight to light utilization, likely by wild horses along the riparian area. Many frog eggs and tadpoles in the water.

Left Morgan Spring and returned to junction of Smoke Creek Road. Espil and Schweigert decided they did not wish to go see the proposed East Bull Springs Development (aka Sheep Trail Springs one and two) and indicated that they would have no objection to having these springs developed.

Invited additional written comments from Espil and Schweigert. Surian made arrangements to visit proposed upper elevation drift fences with Espil in the Chimney area.

At that point we parted company and the tour ended.



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705 Hall Street  
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8-30-95

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Returned to road and drove via road and a way up to the proposed Two Springs exclosure. Discussed the proposal to fence without developing the spring. Both springs flowing into main riparian zone on private land associated with the private Five Springs. Utilization was slight to none, any utilization being made by wild horses and burros. No objections to fencing off Two Springs were voiced, but no real support was voiced either. Visser's impression was that BLM could fence it if they wanted, but Espil and Schweigert were not convinced that an exclosure fence was entirely necessary.

From there returned to main road. Schweigert uprooted a perennial pepperweed (aka "tall whitetop") from roadbed leading into Gorbet place and put it in a plastic bag provided by Surian for disposal by BLM.

Drove to Morgan Spring. Described the proposal for an exclosure fence as depicted on the map. Schweigert noted that the proposal included blocking the road that led down to level ground adjacent to the spring complex and suggested that blocking that road only will lead to hunters or whoever cutting the fence in order to be able to get to the level ground to park or camp. He recommended that the fence alignment be changed in order to allow the access to continue as it had before. Surian stated that the proposal included placing large boulders in the roadway to prevent any further access from occurring. He stated that the team that examined the area believed that keeping vehicle access up well above the area would eliminate erosion caused by vehicles driving down the roadway. Went and examined the reservoir on adjacent Espil private land and flushed several ducks on the reservoir. Walked downstream and observed slight to light utilization, likely by wild horses along the riparian area. Many frog eggs and tadpoles in the water.

Left Morgan Spring and returned to junction of Smoke Creek Road. Espil and Schweigert decided they did not wish to go see the proposed East Bull Springs Development (aka Sheep Trail Springs one and two) and indicated that they would have no objection to having these springs developed.

Invited additional written comments from Espil and Schweigert. Surian made arrangements to visit proposed upper elevation drift fences with Espil in the Chimney area.

At that point we parted company and the tour ended.