

CATTLE TRESPASS

Introduction

Cattle grazing in the Rogue River National Forest has been a practice for many years. During the past two years cattle trespass into the meadow areas of the park from the west boundary has been recognized as a major problem. The cattle have been driven from the park on several occasions and the owners of the cattle have been notified. In 1977, YCC built a fence in conjunction with the Forest Service along part of the boundary in the vicinity of Sphagnum Bog to keep the cattle out. The following report is a summary of cattle trespass incidents for 1977 and 1978.

Incidents

On June 25, 1977, two calves and two cows were observed by park rangers one mile inside the west boundary along Bybee Creek. The cows had an indistinct brand on the right rump of which only an "E" was visible.

Two cows were observed by visitors hiking on the PCT two miles south of Red Cone Spring on the morning of July 1, 1977.

While checking access roads near the northwest corner monument on August 19, 1978, park rangers observed eight cattle grazing one quarter of a mile inside the park. A "DE" brand was observed on the right rump of the cattle. Also, cattle bells were heard but these cattle were not seen.

While patrolling the PCT on August 27, 1978, park rangers observed two cows and two calves at the junction of the PCT and Lightning Springs Trail. Fire road 32 was followed to the park boundary and fresh signs of cattle trespass were observed. The rangers returned to Bybee Creek and sighted thirty-four head of cows and calves. The rangers succeeded in driving twenty-four of the herd out of the park. The stock was marked with a "DE" brand on the right rump. It was noted that the cattle enter the park from the west boundary along waterways. The PCT shows heavy cattle use between Bybee Creek and Copeland Creek.

Insert A

The following is a summary of all reports concerning cattle trespass along the west boundary as reported by boundary patrols during September 1978.

Park Rangers responded to a report of cows and calves in the Spagnum Bog area on the 2nd of September. Two cows and a calf were driven out of the park at this time.

Starting at Highway 62 and proceeding south to post #12 only one old sign of cattle sign was found. This section of boundary is thick lodgepole forest with numerous downed trees. It appears that cattle trespass is minimal in this area.

Starting at Highway 62 and proceeding north to post #19 showed no signs of cattle trespass.

Between post #19 and post #30 there are several cattle access trails in the vicinity of Bybee Creek and Copeland Creek. Nearly all meadow areas inside the park had old signs of cattle trespass. Fresh cattle signs were noted on the south edge of Sphagnum Bog and two cattle were sighted in Copeland Creek drainage just inside the park.

Between post #30 and post #33 no signs of cattle trespass were noted.

Between post #33 and the northwest corner monument several cases of cattle trespass were found. At post #36, old cattle signs were found in meadows within the park. Between post #38 and the northwest monument fresh cattle sign and tracks were observed within the park. Just outside the park boundary seven cows with the "DE" brand were observed.

It should also be noted that a foot trail has been constructed between the park boundary and the Bybee Creek Motorway. The trail enters the park near marker post #22. It is possible that the cattle owners constructed the trail since neither the Forest Service nor the Park Service has any knowledge of the trail, since dubbed "The Hoh Chi Min Trail".

Recommendations

The owners of the cattle are the Estremado of #10 Sardine Creek Road, Gold Hill, Oregon. They have had the only permit for grazing on the land west of the park boundary since the early 1900's. Their older cows are aware of the lush areas within the park and possibly act as lead cows bringing a small herd into the park meadow areas. As long as the Estremados graze their herd west of the park boundary there is a potential trespass situation.

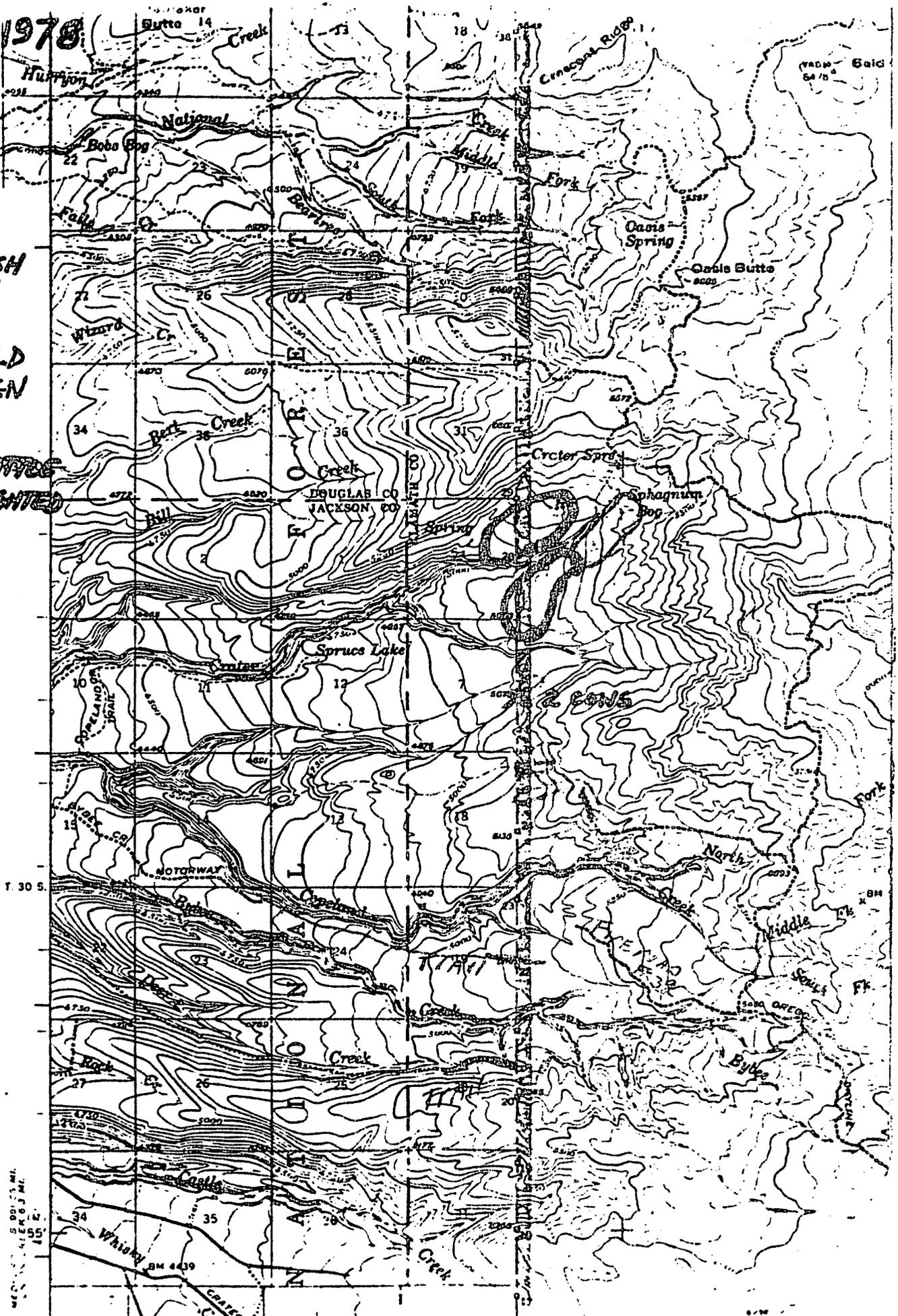
More fence construction in conjunction with the Forest Service is one means of controlling cattle trespass. More boundary patrols coupled with immediate communication to the Estremados and the Forest Service upon a trespass incident may begin to further substantiate the problem and promote further cooperation from both parties. Citations to the cattle owners may also encourage compliance.

Sept 1978

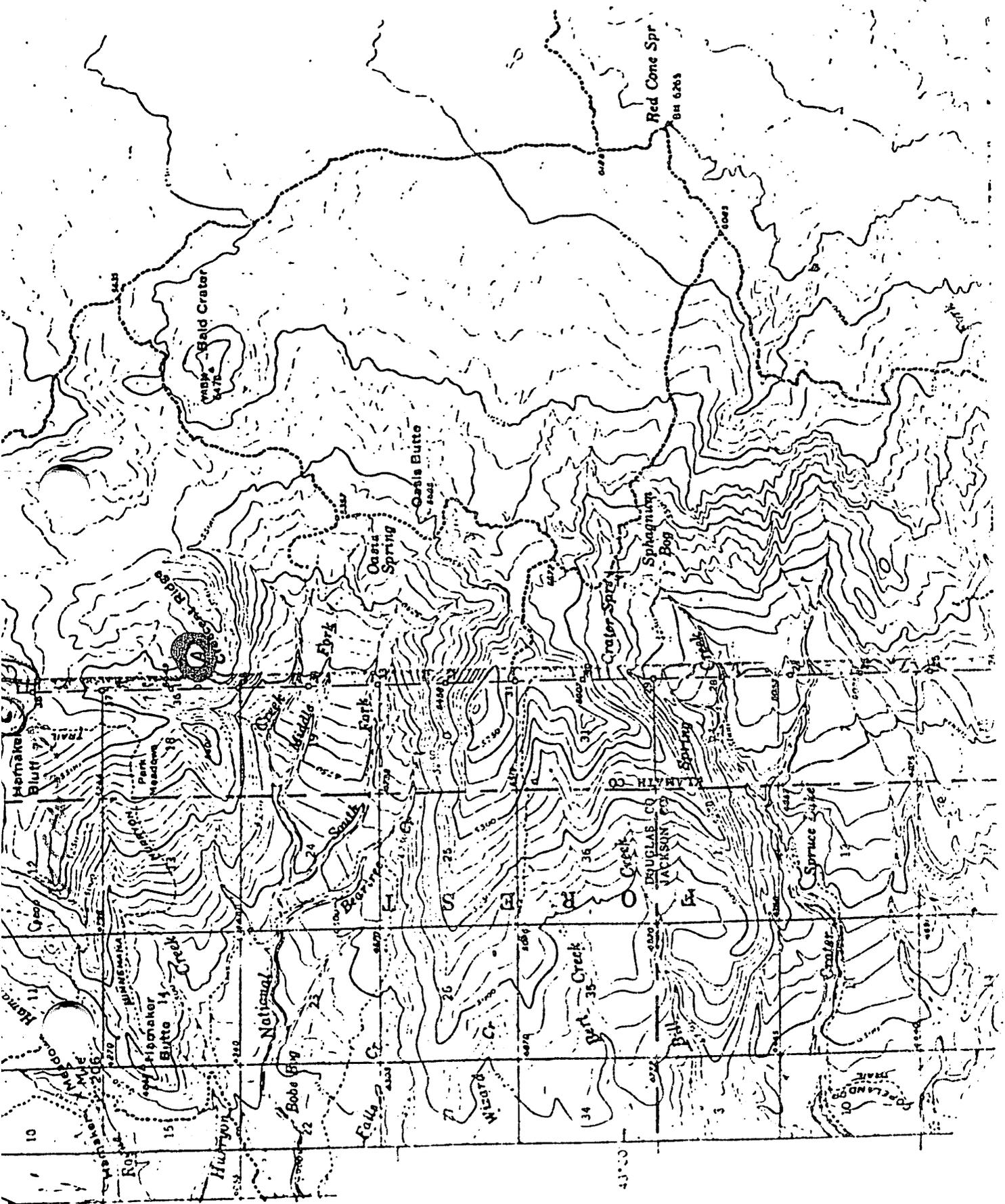
VE-FRESH SIGN

REEN-OLD SIGN

APPLE-CATTLE SIGHTED



5 000 FT. M.
 4 000 FT. M.
 3 000 FT. M.
 2 000 FT. M.
 1 000 FT. M.



SEPT. 3, 1978

