

HF08

Maude Willburn Homestead

HF08 Map 4: T4S, R8E, S 17

See also HF19.

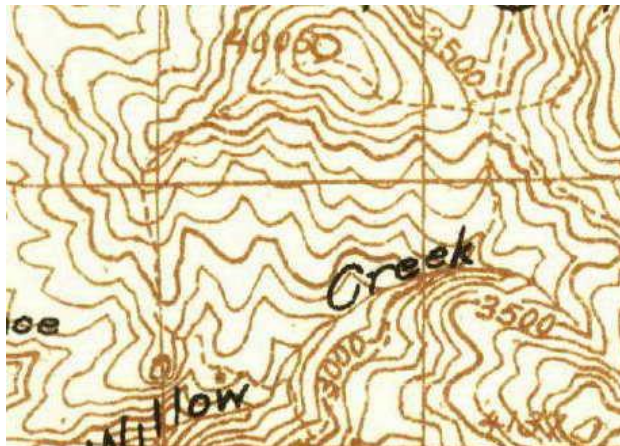
Maude Willburn was the daughter of James S. Willburn (Jr.). See B05 for a biography of the Willburn family. See IA03--this individual also applied for a tract under the Indian Allotment law. See also IA14 and IA15. These tracts are plotted on the Base Map based on the tract map for HF19 (map below) and the 1915 TNF map. It appears that the extended Willburn family was trying to block-up tracts of land in this area.

As with most tracts in this area plotting it on the Base Map was problematic—it appears that the survey lines in this area have radically changed. The remains of the structure on this tract are located in the general vicinity of the "X" on the Base Map. Also see HF19 for a discussion of the homestead entry for Clarence Willburn. The tract was mapped to be a compromise between the HE plot map (below) and the contemporary USGS map. It should not be considered as a definitive boundary.

Given the problems with all of the maps in this area and the movement of the property lines over the decades, this section of the Base Map simply cannot be plotted with any accuracy at all. It was beyond the scope of this study to further deal with this problem. Note that the tract and the adjacent IA tract to the east are plotted with dashed lines to indicate that there were problems in plotting these tracts.

Location

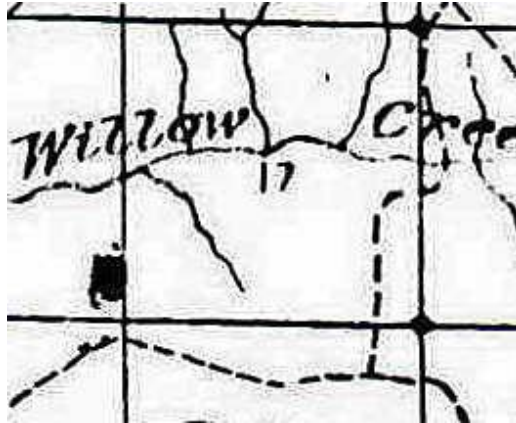
The tract is located to the north of Willow Creek and shows up on several maps of the area including the 1931 HV 15' USGS map. The structure is just above the second "W" in Willow Creek. Trail HTNF36 is further to west in the section than shown on contemporary USGS maps, but generally conforms to the topographical features. Note the location of the prominent point just to the northwest of the structure identified on the map.



(A2:23)

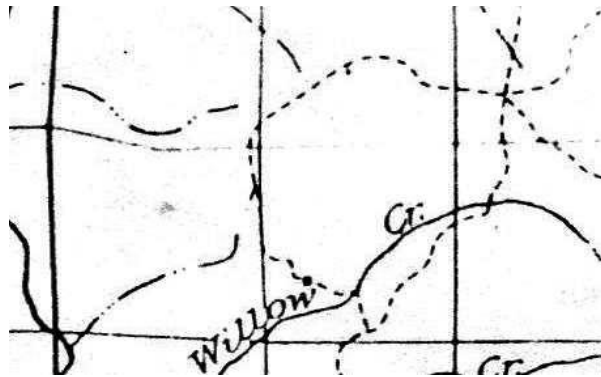
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The 1922 TNF map also shows Willow Creek in the center of S17.



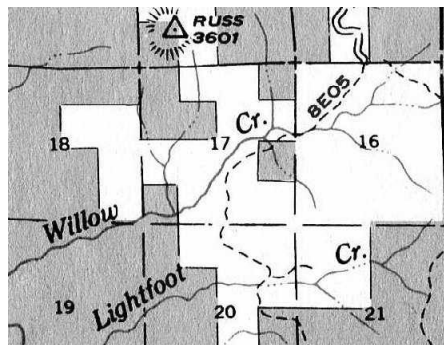
(A2: 11)

Note on the TNF 1951 the survey lines have shifted up to a quarter mile from the 1915 and 1922 TNF maps. See for example where Willow Creek crosses the western Section Line in section 17.



(A2: 16)

That tract shows up as private on the 1977 SRNF map. This map and the above two maps again illustrate the mapping problem. Note the changes in the Section lines. .



(A2: 21b)

Homestead Entry

Maude Willburn first applied for a homestead entry--H. E. application #368--on September 16, 1913. This appears to have been an effort by the extended Willburn family to extend their inholdings by "blocking up" more national forest lands.

There are a number of letters and correspondence in the hard copy file related to this tract of land. Homestead entry record 368 (see hard copy file) has the following information on that tract of land.

There were no improvements at the time of the evaluation in 1913. It was noted that "...12 families resided in this township." This application was filed under the 1906 Homestead Act.

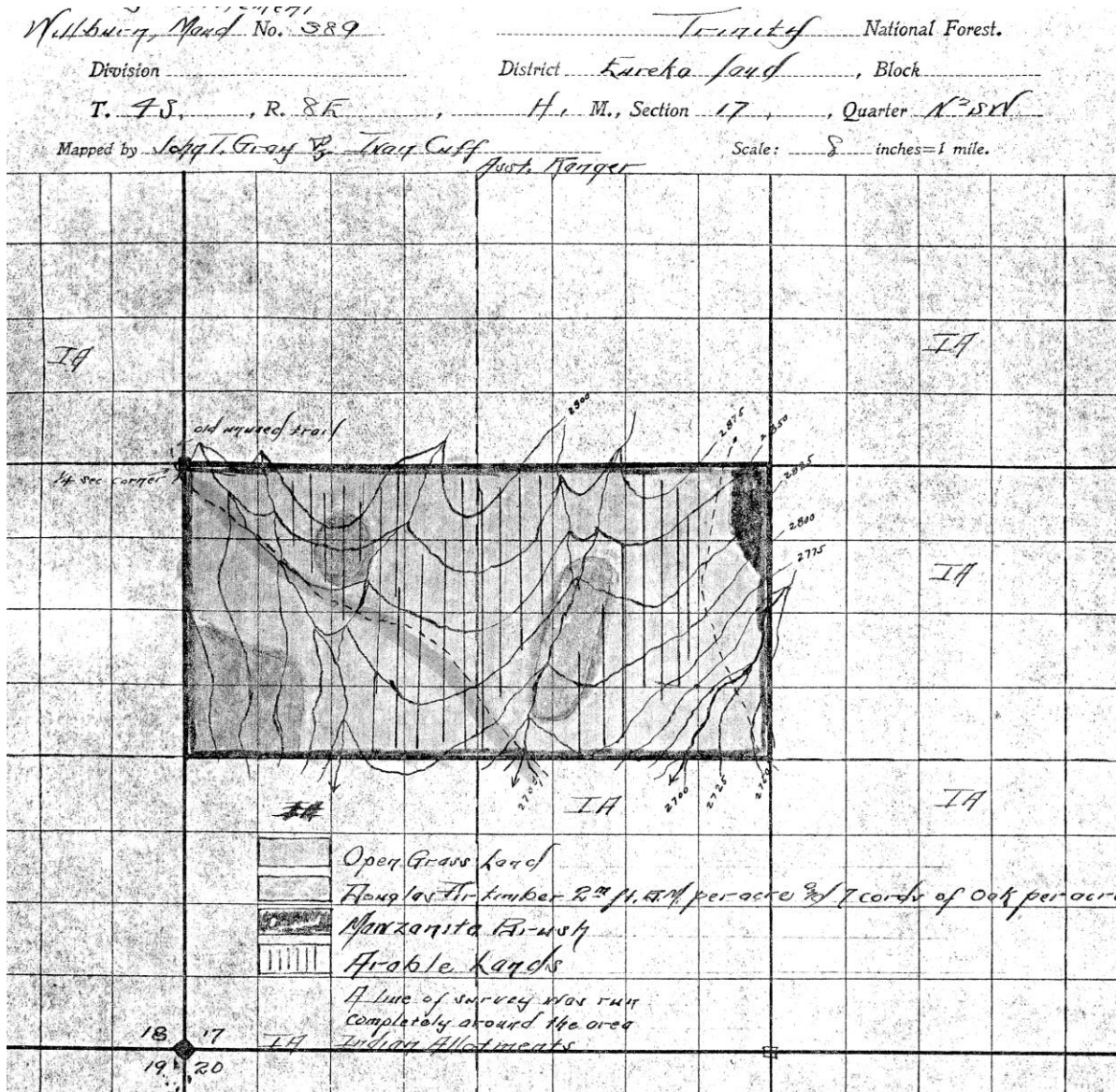
The claimant had already acquired 160 acres of land in Section 18 (E ½ SE, S ½ NE) adjacent to this parcel to the west. That parcel (IA03) was applied for by James S. Willburn (Jr.) for his minor daughter Maude in November of 1894 under the 1887 Indian Allotment law. It was approved in February of 1897 and was 160 acres. An archaeological survey of that parcel did not locate any historical cultural resources (ARR# 05-10-472). It appears that parcel was being used for grazing purposes.

I recorded the site at HA08 (05-10-54-305) in 1986 (see photos and site sketch map below).

On December 10, 1913, Maude Willburn made an "Amended Application" for the tract of land (HA08) in the SW ¼ of Section 17. On June 29th, 1914, MRRD ranger John Gray filed his *Report on Forest Homestead Application*. Gray found that: "the entire tract applied for is recommended for listing." {See hard copy file.]

This homestead file is incomplete and somewhat confusing (there is a lot of documentation related to this tract in the hard copy file). It was listed for homestead entry by the TNF in a letter to Maude Willburn dated July 28, 1914. At the time the survey, property lines for this tract were still problematic. The GLO survey, as usual in this area, was off and it is likely that trail NTHF-36 (Map 4) led to the parcel improvements (see HTNF trails Base Map 4). Note that the tract map (HA08 Map 4) has a trail passing by the east side of this property. The ranger also noted a second "old unused trail" passing through the western portion of the property. This old trail headed to the northwest, given its location, it may very well have dated to the prehistoric era.

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Final tract map of land that went to patent.

Note the "IA" recorded for the tracts to the east and south see IA14 and IA15.

Summary of H.E. Application 389 (the second tract)

Maude Willburn declared entry on December 4, 1913. The *Report on Forest Application* was submitted by Ranger John Gray on June 29, 1914. A brief summary of relevant information is included below (see hard copy file for the complete document).

The nearest wagon road is at the Russ ranch north 3 miles distance...12 families reside in this township.

The applicant's brother was present and consulted during the examination. Wm. [William] Axton of Hoaglin.

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Sixty acres of the tract consists of open grass land entirely devoid of timber. Five acres is covered with a heavy growth of manzanita brush and fifteen acres has a cover of black and white oak timber with douglas fir averaging 2 M ft. per acre.

The applicant in this case has acquired 160 acres of land under the Indian Allotment laws, in Section 18, same twp. and range. The applicant is half-blood Indian. The entire tract applied for [80 acres] is recommended for listing.

Update to Homestead Entry File in 1929

The following information was contained in a letter dated November 30, 1929, adjusting the Indian allotment to the east to conform to the plat survey in the Maude Willburn Homestead file. The confusion over the boundary of this parcel arises from the fact that another Homestead Entry Claim for this parcel appears to have been filed in 1928 by Clarence Wilburn (HF19). The Homestead Report on this application indicates a house 18'x24' built of square hewn logs and shake roof with an attached kitchen 12'x15' pole-framed and shake covered (see site map below). The dimensions of this cabin are close to those recorded for this site record (05-10-54-305) for the collapsed cabin on this tract. In addition, the cabin logs are large square hewn logs. See images below.

It was noted in that homestead application by the ranger that there were no farming implements and in the house only a stove, a few dishes, table, and three old bedsteads, he concluded that although this claim had been lived on during the last three years it had the appearance of being deserted. Ranger Gray recommended "that no patent be issued." There are a number of letters in the hard copy file concerning this issue.

Summary of tract status

As noted earlier, the history of how this tract became private land is problematic due to the fact the hard copy file is incomplete. There may be more information in the original homestead entry file at the HR office SRNF.

Based on the 1977 SRNF map (A2: 21b), and the fact that there were historic remains on the tract (see below) and it was private property when the homestead was recorded in 1986, it is clear that this land was eventually patented.

This tract was most likely eventually sold to the Travis brothers--see F05 for more on the Travis brothers. This supposition, however, needs to be confirmed. At the time this tract

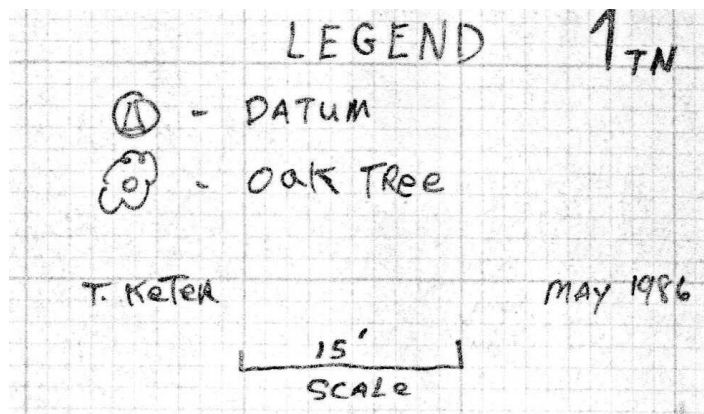
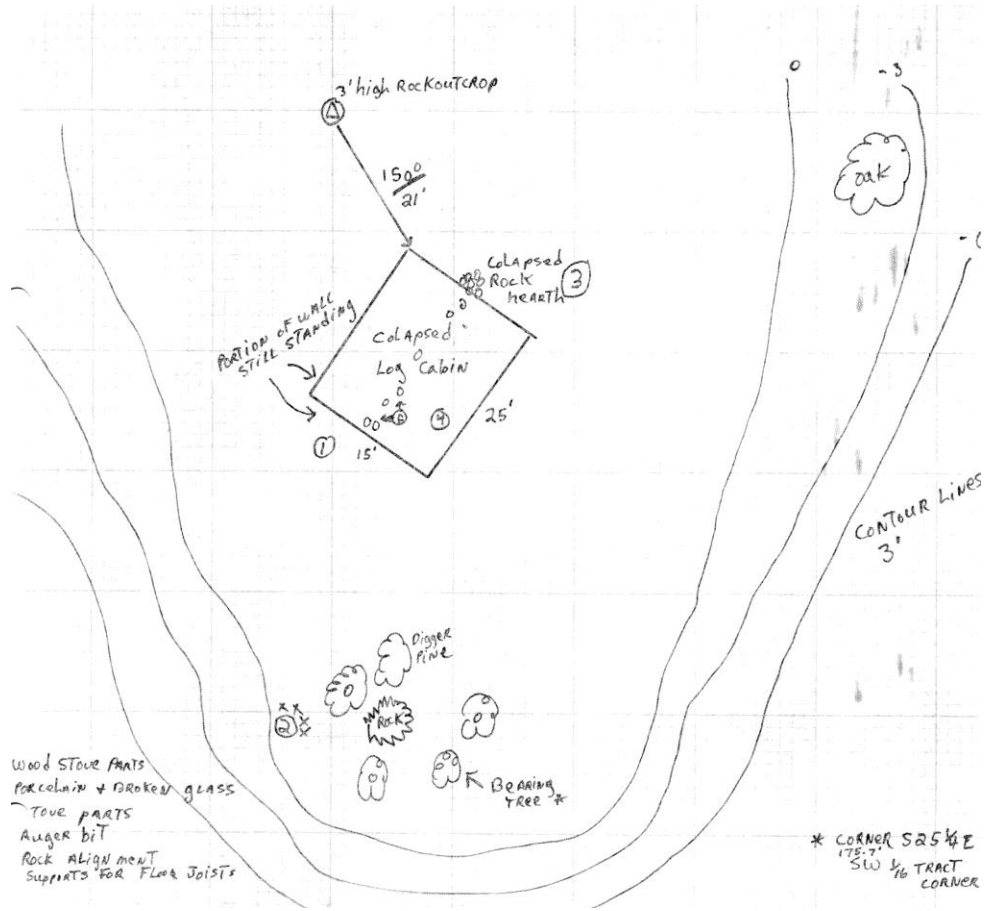
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was visited in 1986 it was owned by Larry Brown of the Flying Double A Ranch (see Brown Land Exchange CRIR 05-10-472).

Site Record Summary

When the site (05-10-54-305) was recorded in 1986, it was noted that at that time were the remains of a collapsed log cabin--only the SW wall remained partially standing--at about 5' in height. The logs were hand-hewn and were 18" or greater in diameter. Among the artifacts noted were: "a metal/porcelain plated wash basin, cast iron fry pan, stove parts, auger bit, broken glass and porcelain, and bed springs, [with] round nails in the cabin logs..." Although the H.E. record notes a small spring on the site "sufficient for domestic use" Only a small spring was noted about 600 meters upslope to the northwest. The area generally-- oriented to the SW--was still mostly open oak savanna in 1986.

Site Sketch Map



HF08

Images HA08



View to northwest of cabin remains.
(T. Keter May 1986)



View to northwest of cabin remains.
(T. Keter May 1986)

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View to northwest of cabin remains.
(T. Keter May 1986)



View to NW from cabin.
(May 1986)

Homestead Entry File Documents
(There are additional documents in the hard copy file)

Form 253 S
(Revised March 15, 1912.)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Dec 10, 1913

Amended application

APPLICATION UNDER ACT OF JUNE 11, 1906.

#389 *Trinity*

Houghlin Calif.

Dec 4, 1913

2829
2200
one

THE DISTRICT FORESTER,
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

I hereby make application for the examination and listing, under the Act of June 11, 1906, of the following-described lands in the *Trinity* National Forest,

S² NW¹ and N² SW¹ Section 17, T4N, R8E, Hm

(If the land is surveyed, give each smallest legal subdivision and the section, township, and range. If the land is unsurveyed, describe it by reference to natural objects, streams, or improvements, with boundary lines sufficiently definite to identify the land, so that the examiner may easily locate it. When convenient, submit sketch of the land on the township plat, last page.)

I am entitled to make entry under the homestead laws and the Act of June 11, 1906. I have actually been upon the land above described and believe it to be chiefly valuable for agriculture, having settled upon it (or examined it) *Examined Dec 1, 1913*

(Give the date of settlement or the date of the examination, the character of the improvements, if any, and the amount of cleared land.)
Greater portion is open meadow land

My present address is *Houghlin, Trinity County California*

Miss Maude Williams
Applicant.

NOTE.—If the applicant, upon the request of the Forest officer detailed to examine the land, will accompany him, it will usually facilitate the examination. All applicants are cautioned against irresponsible and untrustworthy "locators." Only agricultural lands can be listed, and every applicant should satisfy himself, before applying or incurring any unnecessary expense, that the lands are agricultural.

[Handwritten mark]

I.
Trinity-Settlement
Willburn, Maude 368

September 11, 1913.

Miss Maude Willburn,
Hoaglin, California.

Dear Madam:

Your application for the examination and listing of the SW SE Sec. 8, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW, SE NW Sec. 17, T 4 S, R 8 E, H M, in the Trinity National Forest, was received September 11, and is accepted.

The Supervisor has been requested to make an examination of this tract, and if it is found to be chiefly valuable for agriculture and not needed for public use, it will be listed with the Secretary of the Interior and opened to settlement and entry.

If the report shows that the land is chiefly valuable for agriculture, you may obtain from the Forest Supervisor at Weaverville a free permit to occupy and improve the land, pending its opening to entry in the local land office.

You will be duly notified of the action taken upon your application.

Very truly yours,

Charles S. Brothel

Acting Assistant District Forester.

JCC

Supervisor's Copy

I
Trinity, Settlement
Willburn, Maude #389

December 11, 1913.

Miss Maude Willburn,
Hoglin, California.

Dear Madam:

Your application for the examination and listing of the S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW, Sec. 17, T 4 S, R 8 E, H M, in the Trinity National Forest was received December 10.

The S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW, Sec. 17 is included in your prior application (#368) which was rejected for the reason that the land was reported as not chiefly valuable for agriculture. I regret to inform you, therefore, that your application for that area must again be rejected.

You have been recorded for the N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW, Sec. 17 and may, if you wish, amend your application to include other contiguous areas of vacant public land. The enclosed plat shows the present status of the land in that locality.

Please inform this office of your wishes in the matter within 30 days.

Very truly yours,

Enclosure.
For Supervisor

Acting Assistant District Forester.

United States Department Of Agriculture
Forest Service

REPORT ON FOREST HOMESTEAD APPLICATION

Application No. 589. Trinity National Forest.
Willburn, Maude S. Hoaglin, Trinity County, California.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

1. Location:

- (a) Applied for, eighty (80) acres.
- (b) N 1/2 of the SW, of Section 17, T 4 S, R 8 E, H.M.
- (c) This tract is situated North of a small creek known as Willow Creek, in the North Fork of Eel river watershed. This river is West about 1 mile distance. The nearest wagon is at Russes' ranch, North 3 miles distance. The only means of reaching this tract at present, is over a rough mountainous trail. Covelo in Mendocino County is the nearest town of importance, and is 30 miles distant. Fort Seward on the N. W. P. Railroad, is West 30 miles distant, the nearest railroad point. 12 families reside in this township.

2. Settlement:

- (a) There has been no settlement made on the tract.
- (b) No improvements, live stock or crops. However, stock graze the lands during the greater part of the year, stock owned by neighboring stockmen.
- (c) Grazing, is the only purpose to which these lands have been put in the past. They are good average grazing lands.

3. Claims:

- (a) There is no conflicting claims to this land.

4. Climate:

- (a) Moderate. Average annual precipitation 55 to 60 inches, 3/4 rainfall, 1/4 snowfall. The dry season usually extends from

June 1 to October 15. The rainy season October 15 to June 1.

- (b) Greatest summer heat 105° F.H. Extreme winter cold 10° above. Growing season March 15 to August 15, for gardens extending later. Killing frosts last occur about May 15 and again occur about October 15, with possible exceptions.
- (c) Hay crops, fruit and vegetables.

5. Public Uses:

- (a) The tract is not needed for administrative purposes, or for any public use. It has never been posted.
- (b) No needed exceptions for roads, trails, telephone lines or for any other purpose. No trails or roads cross the tract.
- (c) The tract has no relation to a drivable stream.
- (d) The tract does not include or control any reservoir site valuable for power, irrigation or water supply. The tract does not form a part of a site capable of power development. Form 107 is omitted.
- (e) The tract is not necessary in the protection of a watershed or of a city's water supply.

LISTABLE LANDS.

6. Location and Acreage:

- (a) The description of land examined and recommended is identical with the description under paragraph 1. The tract does not adjoin any claims but adjoins patented lands on the East and adjoins patented lands for 1/4 mile on its North and South boundaries. No small areas of National Forest land will be isolated or separated from the main body of Forest land.
- (b) Area, eighty (80) acres.
- (c) The applicants brother was present and consulted during the examination. Wm. Axton, of Hoaglin, California.

7. Topography and Soil:

- (a) The entire tract is mountainous, considerable of which has moderate slopes. The average slope of the entire tract taken as a whole is about 10 per cent.

50 acres of the tract will permit of cultivation. The tract has a Southern exposure. The surface is steep and rough in the east portion bordering on Willow Creek. In the SW corner there is also some steep rough lands, in all about 30 acres.

- (b) The gentle slopes are free of rock in any form. Bordering the creek and rougher lands, probably 10 acres in all, there are outcrops of rock, mostly of a gray porphyry nature.
- (c) The soil is of a gray sand loam and appears to be of a considerable depth. No subsoil noted. A good crop of native grasses is growing over the greater part of the area, the soil retains sufficient moisture during the summer months to mature hay crops and grain of many varieties but is not well suited for gardening.
- (d) A small spring will afford sufficient water for domestic purposes. There is no water available for irrigation. No chance to develop water for this purpose.

8. Agriculture Value:

- (a) The arable land, (50 acres) will grow good crops of hay, such as wheat, oats, barley and rye, it will also grow timothy or orchard grass. These grains and grasses are grown on similar land in this same locality and are said to produce from 1 1/2 to 2 tons of hay per acre. There is only a small local demand for hay grown. Hay when sold usually brings about \$20.00 per ton. No transportation facilities, no chance to sell produce elsewhere.
- (b) The arable land is in most part treeless, open grass lands. About two acres covered with manzanita brush the cost of clearing would be \$20.00 per acre. Preparing the open lands for tilling would be very little, they are now ready for the plow.
- (c) In its present condition the land is worth about \$7.00 per acre. If fully improved for cultivation, according to sales, it will be worth about \$12.00 to \$15.00 per acre.

9. Forest Value:

- (a) Sixty acres of the tract consists of open grass land entirely devoid of timber. Five acres is covered with a heavy growth of manzanita brush and fifteen acres has a cover of black and white oak timber with douglas fir averaging 2 1/2 ft. B.M. per acre. On the entire tract there is, 30 M

ft. B.M., douglas fir timber, and is probably worth \$45.00. This small amount of timber can be used in the development of the claim. Oak timber on the tract will average 7 cords per acre on the timbered portion, a total for the whole tract of 105 cords. The oak timber is rather scrubby and has no value except for cordwood. The fir timber is rather rough and in age will average about 100 years. The fir timber appears to be sound.

(b) Five acres of douglas fir reproduction in the SW corner, the average age of this reproduction is 10 years and it will run about 300 seedlings to the acre.

10. Other Factors: No other factors considered. The applicant in this case has acquired 160 acres of land under the Indian Allotment Laws, in section 18, same twp. and range. The applicant is a half blood Indian.

NONLISTABLE LANDS.

The entire tract applied for is recommended for listing.

Respectfully Submitted,
June 2, 1914.

John T. 6732
Forest Ranger.

Approved June 29, 1914,

W. A. Huestls.
Forest Supervisor.

MAP SHEET

Trinity Settlement
Wilbur, Mand. No. 389

Trinity National Forest.

Division

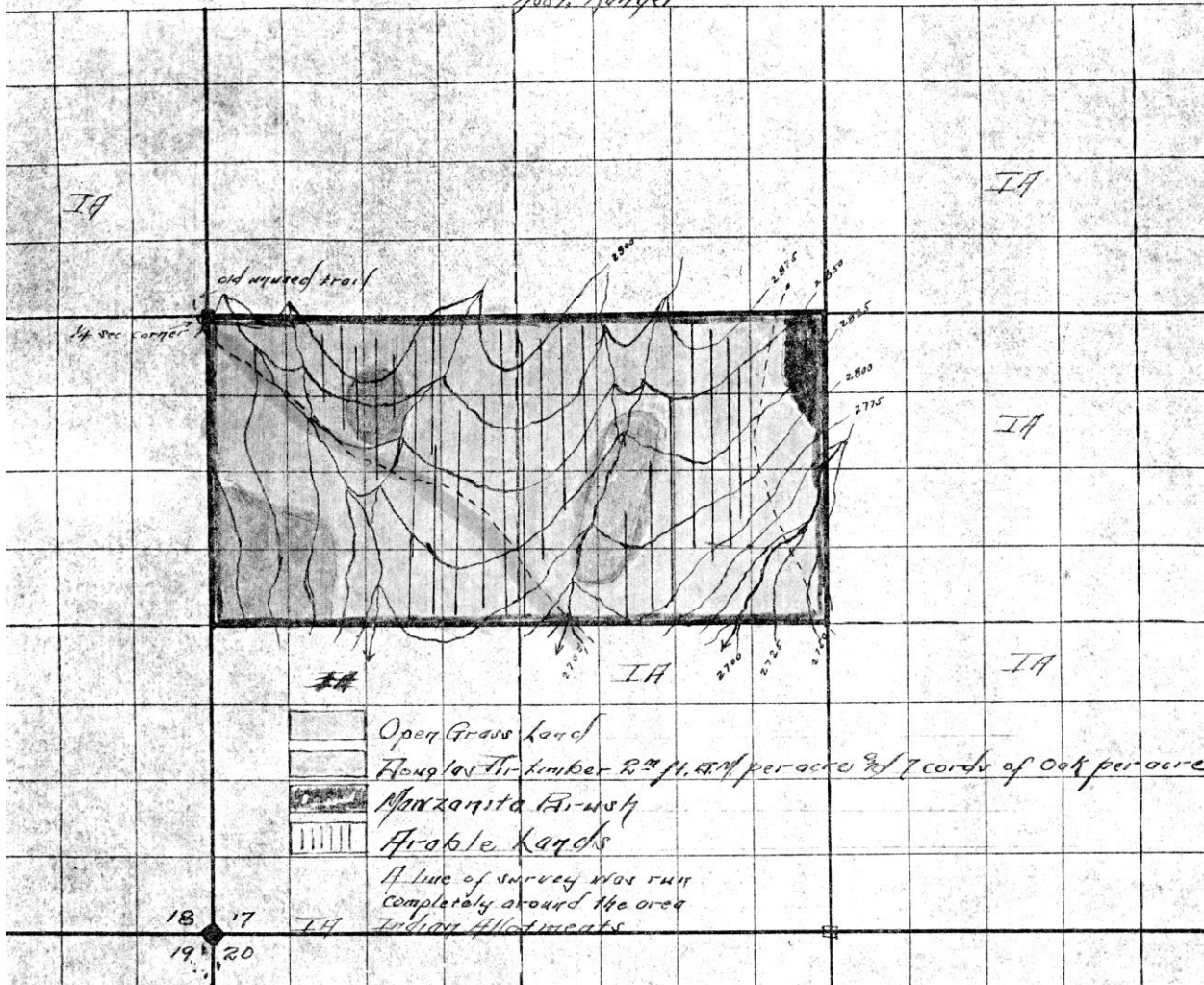
District *Kareka Land*, Block

T. 7S, R. 8E

H. M., Section 17, Quarter N²S²E

Mapped by *Sept. 1. Gray & Tracy Cuff*
Asst. Ranger

Scale: 8 inches = 1 mile.



L
Trinity, Settlement,
Willburn, Maude, 389.

July 18, 1914

The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Interior.

S i r :

I have the honor to request that the following de-
scribed land (List 5-2330) in the Trinity National Forest,
California, which has been examined and is chiefly valuable
for agriculture and in my opinion may be occupied for agri-
cultural purposes without injury to the National Forest and
which is not needed for public purposes, be opened to settle-
ment and entry in accordance with the Act of June 11, 1906,
(34 Stat., 233):

Eureka Land District,

Township 4 South, Range 8 East, Humboldt Meridian,

Section 17, - N/2 SW;

Area, 80 acres.

The above described tract is listed to Maude Will-
burn, of Hoaglin, California.

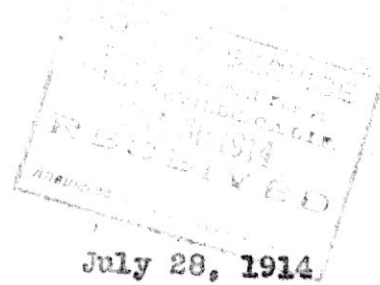
Very respectfully,

C. F. MARVIN,
Acting Secretary.

Copy for Information of Field Officer

Gray

L
Trinity - Settlement
Willburn, Maude, 389



Miss Maude Willburn,
Hoaglin, California.

July 28, 1914

Dear Madam: I am very glad to inform you that on July 18, 1914

.....30..... acres of the tract of land applied for by you
under the Act of June 11, 1906, described as follows, were
listed with the Secretary of the Interior to be declared open
to settlement and entry:

Township 4 South, Range 8 East, Humboldt Meridian,
Section 17, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW.

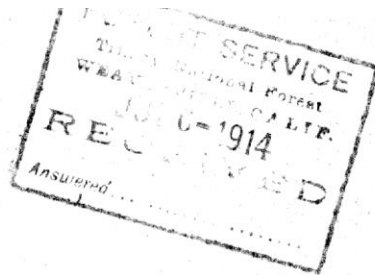
Further information concerning this tract may be obtained from the Commissioner of the General Land Office, Washington, D. C. In writing for information you should refer to List No. 5-2330 and give the name of the applicant. Your local Land office will notify you when your entry can be accepted, and you are cautioned against incurring any unnecessary expense toward filing on the Land until you receive notice from the Land office that it is subject to entry.

Very truly yours,

Assistant District Forester. AEM

Copy sent Ranger.

Gray



July 2, 1914.

L
 Trinity, Settlement,
 Willburn, Maude, 389.

Miss Maude Willburn,
 Hoaglin, California.

Dear Madam:

Reference is made to Mr. Brothers' letter of
 December 11, 1913.

The land for which you are of record in the
 Trinity National Forest has been examined and found
 to be listable and will be recommended for listing.

You will be duly informed of the action
 taken.

Very truly yours,

Acting District Forester.

NOV 30
NOV 8 0 1920 1920

Sacramento 017157 "K" EUR

Indian allotment applica-
tion adjusted to conform
to the plat of survey.

Register,

Sacramento, California.

Sir:

On February 24, 1897, the Indian allotment applica-
tion of James S. Wilburn, Jr., now his wife or daughter
Maud Sacramento series 017157 filed November 12, 1894, under
section 4 of the act of February 6, 1887 (24 Stat. 288), as
amended, for the E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 18, T. 4 S., R. 6 E.,
N. M., (part unsurveyed), was approved.

Further action on the Indian allotment application
was withheld pending the completion of a survey of the E $\frac{1}{2}$
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of said Sec. 18. The NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of said Sec. 18 was surveyed,
plat thereof having been filed in the district land office
on March 27, 1898.

The plat of survey including the E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of said
Sec. 18 was accepted by this office on July 26, 1901, and

Sacramento 017157, 1st EOH

filed in the district land office on July 12, 1929. The lands were withdrawn for forest purposes July 1, 1908.

Since the plat has been officially filed the application is hereby admitted to survey so that it now includes the S $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$, lots 7 and 10 (E $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ said Sec. 18), containing 159.86 acres.

You will make the proper notations on the records in your office and notify the Indian and proper Indian agent by ordinary mail.

Very respectfully,

Assistant Commissioner.

11-26-11