

Introduction-Contents-Index

A Compendium of Historic Documents and Information Regarding the Homesteading Era within the North Fork Eel River Watershed, Trinity County, California

Thomas Keter
2017

www.solararch.org

Introduction, Key to Abbreviations, Explanation of Directory Files, and Index

Introduction

This collection of documents, general information, and discussions regarding the history of the people who settled in the still remote North Fork Eel River region during the late 19th and early 20th centuries is based on 35 years of field work and historical research. The study area is focused on the North Fork Eel River watershed to the north of its confluence with Hulls Creek. This area was chosen due to the fact that the majority of this watershed is within the boundaries of Six Rivers National Forest where I was employed as Assistant Forest Archaeologist from 1980 to 2004.

As a result of conducting archaeological surveys for Six Rivers National Forest in this area for numerous timber sale and land exchange projects, I recorded dozens of sites, visited many already recorded sites, and hiked all or portions of many of the old trails. I also spent several years researching the North Fork's environmental history. See the References Cited section for a list of the books and publications that I have authored. There are links in Appendix 7 to pdf files contained in this directory for most of the books and papers.

This compendium focuses on the era extending roughly from the 1870s to about 1945 when numerous homesteads dotted the area. The history of the region has been subdivided into four distinct periods based on the dominant land-use activity of each era. Although these periods overlap somewhat, each had an overriding theme and dominant land-use activity. See the last section below for a brief summary and contextual overview of the socio-economic trends and land-use activities for each era.

1854-1864	Conflict and Historic Settlement Period
1865-1904	Ranching Period
1905-1945	Homesteading Period
1946-1970	Post World War II Period—Development and Resource extraction

Important Note

All of the MS Word documents are saved in the pdf format. The Trinity County Historical Society (P. O. Box 333 Weaverville, CA 96093 / 530-623-5211) has the original WRD documents and should be contacted to make any changes or corrections to the original documents.

Introduction-Contents-Index

A word about providing site specific locational information in this collection

Efforts have been taken to insure that the information provided in this document will not result in further negative impacts to prehistoric, ethnographic, and historic sites.

Prehistoric Sites

During the 1990s the Mad River Ranger District—including the North Fork Eel River watershed--was heavily impacted by the illegal collecting of prehistoric artifacts (mostly chert and obsidian bifaces and "arrowheads"). Also, there were impacts to features from land-use activities including, the construction of ponds, logging activities, and road construction. This topic is discussed for a number of sites (see for example F31b, B01, and B03). No site locational information regarding prehistoric sites is provided in this document.

Ethnographic Sites and Features

All of the known ethnographic village sites within the North Fork Eel River watershed were recorded by Pliny Goddard in the early 1920s and their locations have been published. The only ethnographic sites within the watershed identified in this document (for example the site at Soldier Basin; see B03) are already part of the public record. No other locational information regarding ethnographic sites is provided. Also, to insure that the information provided is not of concern to the Native American community individuals were consulted to insure that no sensitive information was disclosed.

Historic Sites

The location and site information for a number of historic sites is provided. All of these locations are well known to members of the local community and many of these sites have been featured in articles on the history of this area (for example Red Mountain House—HA01). Numerous artifacts have been removed from these sites over the years (see B01 and B02 for some examples of artifacts stolen off sites during the 1980s and 1990s). Several decades have passed since these sites were last visited, and given the fragility of the condition of the artifacts (cans, boards, etc.) several decades ago, it is clear that today little remains on most of these sites. Also more importantly, I consulted with a number of descendants of individuals who owned some of these homesteads to insure that there were no objections to providing locational data.

Introduction-Contents-Index

What this collection is and what it is not

This collection of documents is written for individuals who are researching the history of the area, who have already acquired a significant level of knowledge, and are seeking primary source data or information not readily available in the public record; including interviews, historic maps, and homestead entry records.

This compendium is by no means all of the information available for each respective topic, but rather, a collection of the various documents that have been gathered over the last few decades, combined with my on-the ground experiences and observations after hiking, camping out, and recording sites in this area for over three decades.

One final caveat to keep in mind is the fact that as with any endeavor of this magnitude, I am certain I have made more than one mistake or error; especially —given the problems in this area with the original GLO surveys—in plotting the Base Maps (Appendix 1). I have tried to reference all of the information provided to insure that researchers can access the original documents and have noted those instances where data on a particular topic is limited or a statement is questionable or not definitive.

The directories and various files that make up this collection are listed and explained below. In addition to numerous primary documents like homestead records and interviews contained on the computer files, the Trinity County Historical Society also has the hard copy collection of all of the documents. Some of these documents (mostly the interviews) were scanned and then an OCR program was used to create MS WRD documents. Some entries have additional hard copy documents—if that is the case; their location is referenced in their respective entries.

Key to abbreviations

BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
CRIR	Cultural Resources Inventory Report
DOI	Department of Interior
FS	Forest Service
GLO	Government Land Office (DOI)
HA	Homestead entry filed under the 1862 Homestead Act and Preemption laws.
HC	Humboldt County
HF	Homestead entry filed under the 1906 National Forest Homestead Act
H.E./HE	Homestead Entry
HR	Heritage Resources
HR SRNF	Heritage Resources Six Rivers National Forest
HA	Homestead Act of 1862
HTMR	Historic Trails of the Mad River Ranger District (Keter 1997a)
HTNF	Historic Trails North Fork Eel River
IA	Indian Allotment--Dawes General Allotment Act/Dawes Severalty Act 1887.
IF	Indian Allotment--National Forest Indian Allotment Act June 25, 1910
LOC	Library Congress Washington D.C.
MC	Mendocino County
MCHS	Mendocino County Historical Society, Ukiah.












Introduction-Contents-Index

MRHTO	Mad River Historic Trails Overview
MRRD	Mad River Ranger District
NFHA	National Forest Homestead Act of June 11, 1906 (HF on maps)
NFIAA	National Forest Indian Allotment Act of 1910 (IF on maps)
NFER	North Fork Eel River
NFERW	North Fork Eel River watershed
OCR	Optical character recognition to convert jpg files to WORD documents
P&P	Refers to the main text document People and Places of the NFERW
RMH	Red Mountain House
SCA	Society for California Archaeology
SRNF	Six Rivers National Forest
STNF	Shasta Trinity National Forest
TC	Trinity County
TCHS	Trinity County Historical Society
TNF	Trinity National Forest
TFR	Trinity Forest Reserve

Files Listed in the Directory

The files listed in the *Internet Explorer Directory* (on the DVD or thumb drive) contain the overviews, the write-ups, Base Maps, images, and copies of original source documents. The contents of these directories and files are listed and explained in the following section. The exception is that due to their large size the Appendixes are listed at the end of this section.

The volume number of each document located at the Trinity County Historical Society in a hard copy edition of four volumes (see the next section) is also included in the respective directory names.

-  Appendixes-Vol 4
-  Biographical-Family Histories-Vol 2
-  DCAD files computer files ONLY
-  Features and points of interest-Vol 2
-  Homestead Entries--Vol 3
-  Indian Allotments-Vol 2
-  NF Admin sites and History-Vol 2
-  Prehistoric and Historic Trails-Vol 2
-  Introduction-Contents-Index Vol 1
-  People and Places NFERW vol 1
-  References Cited-Vol 1

Introduction-Contents-Index

Hard Copies of the Documents in the File Directory

All files in the directory (except for some Base Maps in Appendix 1 and the pdf links for the pdf files in Appendix 7) are included in hard copy binders labeled Volumes 1 to 4 that are located in the archives of the Trinity County Historical Society.

- Volume 1** Introduction-Contents-Index
References Cited
People and Places
Forest Service Administrative Sites and their History
- Volume 2** Features and Points of Interest (POI) Location Index
Unnamed Features and Points of Interest Identified on Base Map
Prehistoric and Historic Trails
Biographical/Family Histories (B01 to B08)
Indian Allotments under the Dawes Act (IA-01 to IA15)
Indian Allotments under the 1910 NF Forest Homestead Act (IF02-IF04)
- Volume 3** Homestead entries filed under the 1862 Homestead Act (HA01 to HA11)
Homestead Entries filed under the 1906 National Forest Homestead Act (HF01 to HF18)
- Volume 4** Appendixes 1 to 12

Overview of the Contents of each directory file.

The Base Map layer showing the link to locational information for each individual, feature, tract of land, historic property, trail, etc. provided in the text is also provided in this section.

Biographical/Family Histories B01 to B08: Volume 2 (Base Map Layer 8)

Biographical sketches of individuals or families living within of the NFERW.



Introduction-Contents-Index

This section contains information not only on the tract of land that was homesteaded but also provides some biographical information for some of the better known individuals and families.

- B01 Thomas Raglin and Sally Hoaglin
- B02 Yellowjacket and Sally Jacket
- B03 Sam and Lucy Young
- B04 open
- B05 The James S. Willburn extended family
- B06 The John Duncan extended family
- B07 Information on the Jack Littlefield Grave site
- B08 The Silas and Charles Hoaglin extended family

DCAD files (Appendix 4)

These files are the Design CAD files that were used to create the Base Maps for Appendix 1. They have been included in case someone wants to work with the original maps to modify them or make corrections.

It should also be possible to scan the various layers and convert them into GIS files.

All layers are plotted on the Base Map from DCAD software (Design CAD 3-D max: version 20).

Features and Points of interest (F01-F40): Volume 2 (Base Map Layer 9)

The location of the write up for a particular feature or location plotted on the Base Map (see Appendix 1) can be determined by first referring to the *Features Location Index*. Features plotted on the Base Map are linked by this index to the *People and Places Entry*. In a few cases, the unnamed features or locations (protohistoric sites, unnamed cabins, etc.), can be found in the *Unnamed Features identified on Base Map* section.

Prehistoric and Historic Trails: Volume 2 (Base Map Layer 2)

The section *Prehistoric and Historic Trails* discusses and plots all of the prehistoric and historic trails and wagon roads within the NFERW --and in order to provide context—the immediately adjacent regions. The identification number for each trail begins with *HTNF*. In a few cases *HTMR* (Historic Trail Mad River) is used to designate a trail—this number was assigned in the earlier HTMRO study (Keter 1997c). A set of the Base Maps for trails layer 2 is included at the front of this section

Introduction-Contents-Index

Homesteads within the NFERW: Volume 3

This file is divided into two parts. The first part with the first two letters beginning with **HA** lists tracts of land that were homesteaded prior to 1905 when the TNF was established; and individuals had filed for homestead entry under the 1862 Homestead Act. These tracts are plotted as layer 8 on the Base Map. The second part with the first two letters **HF** lists tracts of land that were acquired under the 1906 National Forest Homestead Act. These tracts are plotted as layer 5 On the Base Map.

Unless otherwise stated each of these HA and HF files contains copies of the original homestead entry application and/or other pertinent documents related to the homestead. Most, but not all, of the original homestead entry documents available to the author were scanned into JPG files to make them available to future researchers. In some instances an OCR program was used to convert the original documents to WRD (MS Word 2010) documents. A few hard copy documents containing little or no relevant information were not scanned but can be viewed in their respective folders.

Note that there are additional homestead entry files that were not available for this study located at the HR SRNF office in Eureka--a review of these files could prove very productive.

Tracts applied for under the Preemption Act and/or the 1862 Homestead Act

-- Hard copy files are available unless otherwise noted..

- HA01 Red Mountain House/Doolittle family
- HA02 George White tract—no hard copy file
- HA03 William S. Willburn
- HA04 Hosea Myers
- HA05 Church Willburn
- HA06 Richard Willburn
- HA07 Fred Crabtree
- HA08 Augustus Russ
- HA09 S. B. Cox—no hard copy file
- HA10 May Berry
- HA11 Gillman place

Tracts applied for under the National Forest Homestead Act of 1906.

- HF00 No entry
- HF01 James E. Willburn
- HF02 Aaron F. Willburn

Introduction-Contents-Index

- HF03 Lawrence Schilling
- HF04 James R Williams
- HF05 Tom G. Duncan
- HF06 Fannie Willburn
- HF07 Fannie Willburn
- HF08 Maude Willburn
- HF09 Harry A. Prescott
- HF10 Seward McVay
- HF11 Hiram Willburn
- HF12 May Berry
- HF13 Atkinson—no hard copy file
- HF14 Tusen homestead—no hard copy file
- HF15 Gilman family homestead
- HF16 William Shannon
- HF17 Ben Duncan
- HF18 Georgia Ann Willburn
- HF19 Clarence Willburn

Indian Allotments: Volume 2

All of the tracts applied for under the 1887 Dawes Act (General Allotment Act) are labeled as **IA** and are plotted on the Base Map as Layer 8.

All tracts applied for after the passage of the National Forest Indian Allotment Act are plotted as **IF** on the Base Map as Layer 5.

Note that there may very well be additional files at the HR SRNF office regarding Indian allotments that were not available to the author. A review of these files could prove very productive.

- IA01 Aaron F Willburn
- IA02 Fannie Willburn
- IA03 Maude Willburn
- IA04 Willie Hoaglin
- IA05 C. Willburn
- IA06 S. Hale
- IA07 W. Willburn

Introduction-Contents-Index

IA08	J. Willburn
IA09	R. Hoaglin
IA10	S. Willburn
IA11	M. Willburn
IA12	Robert Hoaglin
IA13	P Willburn
IA14	Willburn not confirmed
IA15	Willburn first name illegible
IF01	not used
IF02	Rose Russ
IF03	Emma Lee Willburn
IF04	Hattie Hoaglin Meyers

Forest Service Administrative History Volume 1 (Base Map Layer 7)

This section contains the national forest boundary lines and the location of Forest Service administrative sites such as guard stations and lookouts within or adjacent to the NFERW.

For an administrative history of SRNF see *A History of the Six Rivers National Forest...Commemorating the First 50 Years*. (Connors 1997). A copy of this book is included in the hard copy files. For historical context regarding the CCC see Keter 2016.

NF01	Hoaglin Guard Station (Ranger Station) administrative site
NF02	Bear Wallow Lake Ranger Station administrative site
NF03	Grizzly Mountain Lookout
NF 04	Bluff Creek Ranger Station administrative site
NF05	Salt Ridge R.S. administrative site
NF06	Surveyor Springs R.S. administrative site
NF07	Soldier Basin R.S. administrative site
NF08	Zenia Guard Station administrative site

People and Places of the NFWR: Volume 1

This is the principal document for this compendium. It contains information on over 200 individuals and extended families who resided within the NFERW from the late 19th century into the 1930s. It also contains information on post offices, schools, etc. and important geographical features. Unless otherwise noted, all of these citations are linked to the Base Map

+++++++ **Appendixes** +++++++
Volume 4

Appendix 1 Base Maps (jpg copies of Design CAD maps)

The source files are located in the "DCAD files" directory Appendix 4. Appendix 1 contains a "Base Map Master all layers" jpg file that consists of a map showing all layers of the DCAD jpg files cited below. In addition, a jpg file "master" for each layer of the Base Map is provided in Appendix 1 that can be used to print out customized maps.

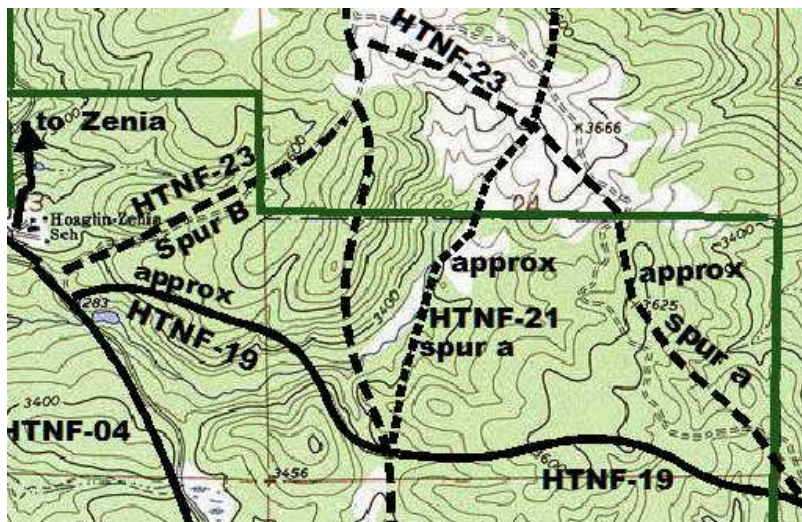
The Base Map has been further subdivided into eight sectional maps that were designed to fit within the parameters of an 8 x 11 ½ inch WRD document (see Layer 4 below). The Base Maps for each individual layer (for example Homesteads, Indian Allotments, national forest boundaries) are included in each respective folder in the Appendix. To save space and expense, only the Base Map Master maps 1-8 displaying all layers and the trails layer Base Maps (layer 3) have been printed out.

The Base Map Master source map consists of the following USGS 7.5' maps: Black Lassic (1979), Black Rock Mountain (1979), Four Corners Rock (1981), Lake Mountain (1996), Long Ridge (1967), Ruth Lake (1978), Shannon Butte (1987), Zenia (1967).

Base Map Legend

■ **Layer 2: Trails HTNF-NN**

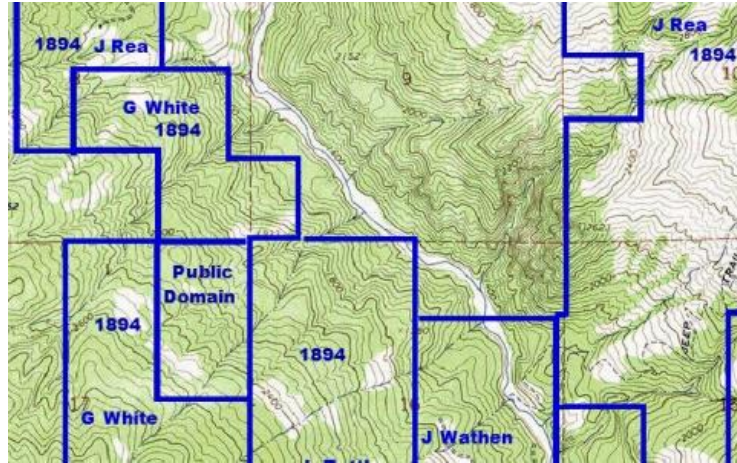
Trails are in black and line-type varies to indicate each individual trail.



Introduction-Contents-Index

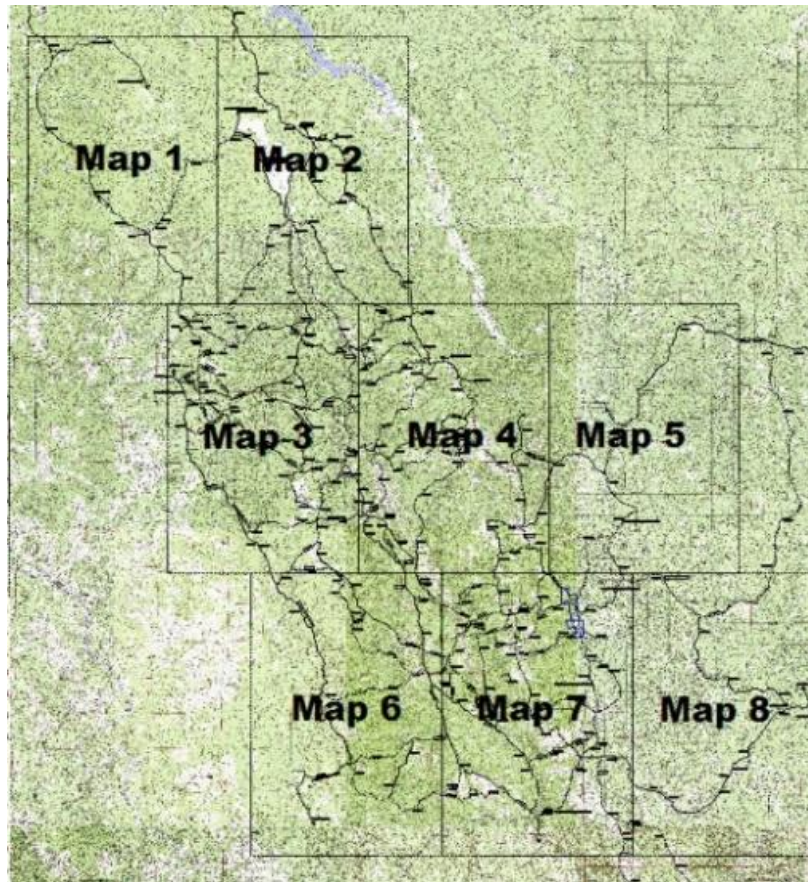
Layer 3: Lowden's 1894 Trinity County map (A2: 05)

Mapped tracts include the name of the owner.



----- Layer 4: Dashed lines subdivide the NFERW into 8 maps

Each map is configured to be printed on an 8 ½' x 11' sheet of paper.



Introduction-Contents-Index

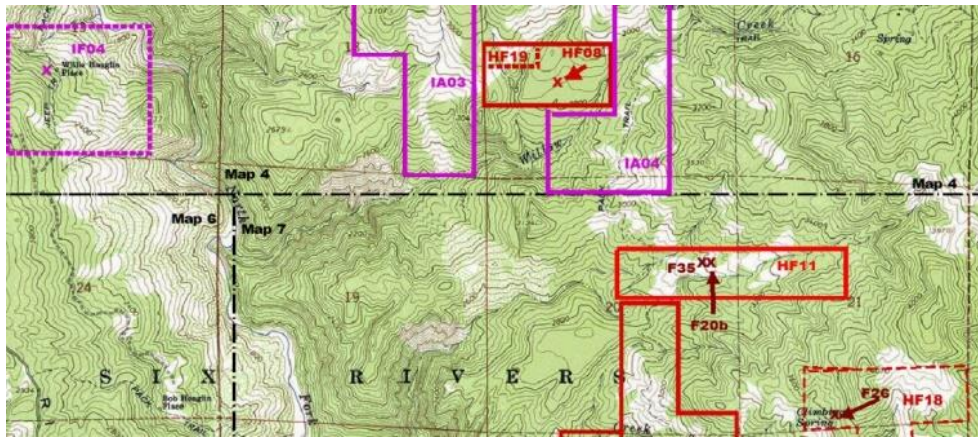
Layer 5: National Forest Homestead Act Entries and Indian Allotments



HF--Patented National Forest Homestead Act June 11, 1906
HF--Homestead entry filed but no patent issued/ boundaries are problematic due to inadequate data

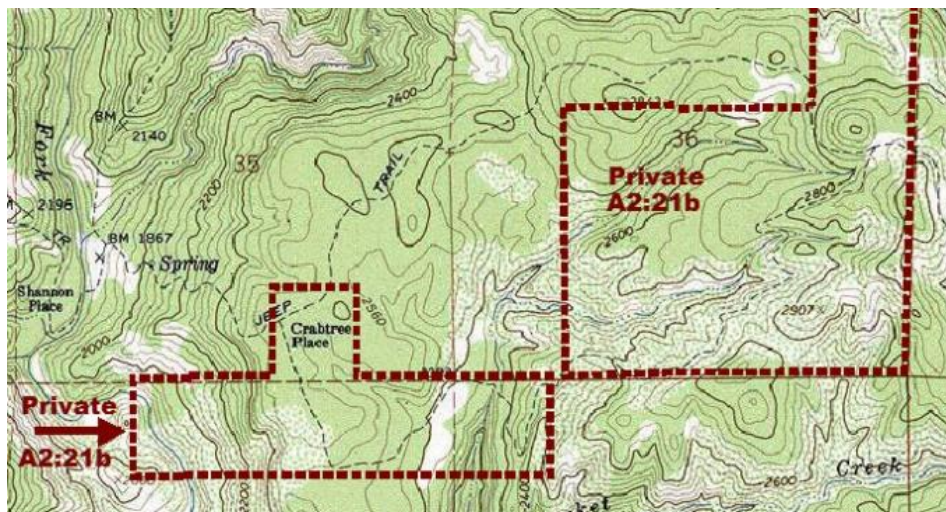


IF--National Forest Indian Allotment Act entry
IF-- National Forest Indian Allotment Act entry—boundaries are problematic due to inadequate data



Layer 6: Additional private tracts within the NFERW

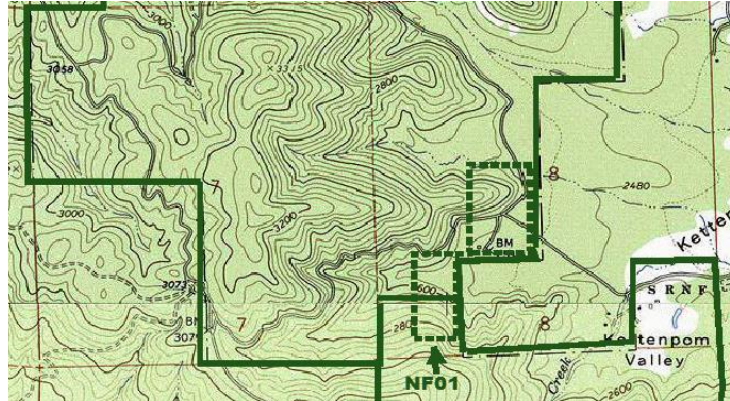
These tracts are listed as private on the Base Map. Most tracts are plotted and referenced based on the 1909 TNF, 1915 TNF, and 1977 SRNF maps. No entry records were available at the time these tracts were mapped. Some of these tracts, however, may have entry files in the HR office of SRNF.



Introduction-Contents-Index

Layer 7: National Forest Boundary/ Administrative Sites





This includes administrative site boundaries like NF01 below plotted with dashed lines.

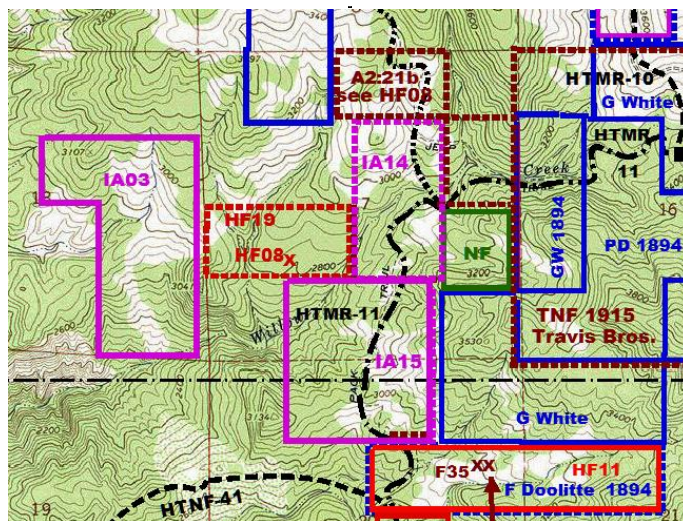


Layer 7

Layer 8: Indian Allotments filed under the 1887 Dawes Act

These entries predate establishment of the TNF in 1905. Some were patented after 1905—see individual entries for specific dates.

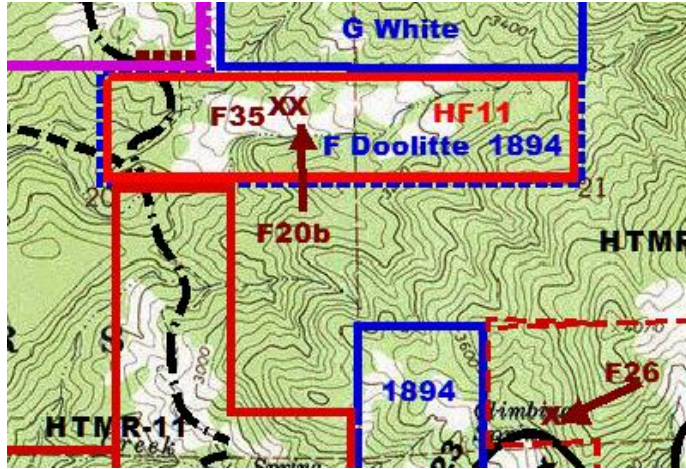
-  **IA Layer 8** –Entry filed under the 1887 Dawes Act (General Allotment Act)
-  **IA Layer 8:** Indicates that boundaries are problematic due to inadequate data
-  **HA Layer 8:** Homestead entries filed under the 1862 Homestead Act
-  **HA Layer 8:** Homestead entry filed but no patent issued or plotting the boundaries was problematic due to inadequate data.



Introduction-Contents-Index

Layer 9 Named features and unnamed features or points of interest

The *Features Location Index* links the Base Map locations F01 to F40 to the *Unnamed Features Identified on Base Map* section and to the *People and Places* section.



+++++ Appendix 2 +++++

Historical Map Collection

This section includes the historic maps collected by the author that are referenced in this study. Some of these maps are only partly legible but were the only copies available. The Hayfork Ranger District office and the Shasta Trinity Forest Headquarters office may have better copies of the Trinity National Forest maps. Some maps were scanned and Photoshop software was used to improve their legibility.

Appendix 2 also includes a WRD document--*Key to the NFER Map Collection*--that provides the provenience for all of the maps.

+++++ Appendix 3 +++++

U.S. Census Records

All of the census records referred to in this study can be found in this section.

- * Census records for the years 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940.
- * Census instructions for each year
- * There were no census records available for 1890.

Introduction-Contents-Index

++++++ Appendix 4 ++++++

Miscellaneous Interviews

Collected from the web, from newspaper articles, and the TCHS.

- * Miller, Leona and Ralph: Newspaper article on the Millers.
- * Stapp, Irene: from an interview on the Blocksburg web site
- * Willburn, Hazel: Provenience unknown most likely the Blocksburg web site

++++++ Appendix 5 ++++++

Manuscripts

Manuscripts, letters, and messages from individuals who had lived in the NFER region or had information regarding the area.

- | | |
|------|---|
| ms01 | Garcelon, Winston |
| ms02 | Ivan Jeans: not available on the computer (limited information on the NFER) there is a copy in the paper files. |
| ms03 | open |
| ms04 | Rafella Wantt |
| ms05 | TCHS collection of letters from early residents of the NFER region. <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Duncan, Thomas* Gummer, Jessie* Holtorf, H. and J.* Martin, Dave (hard copy file only)* Shannon, Ted* White, Lillian |
| ms06 | Ben Schill ms. and emails. |
| ms07 | Burgess Family History |
| ms08 | A Brief History of the Travis Brothers Ranch (F05) |

++++++ Appendix 6 ++++++

U.S. Forest Service interviews

All interviews are on file Heritage Resources Six Rivers National Forest, Eureka.

- | | |
|---------|--|
| I#001 | Warren Cummins |
| I#003 | Leona and Ralph Miller |
| I#186 | May Burgess |
| I#315 | Bud Goe |
| I# 316b | Bud Willburn |
| I#342 | Barbara Shannon |
| I#356 | Anonymous (name on file HR SRNF) |
| I#361 | Irene Stapp |
| I#378 | 96 year old Wailaki man (name on file HR SRNF) |
| I#379 | Dave Alby |

Introduction-Contents-Index

I#390	Zelma Benninghoven
I#391	Elizabeth Price
I#305	Wayne and Bertha Burgess Martin
I#444	Max Rowley
I#448	Lee and Irene Stapp

+++++ Appendix 7 +++++

Papers and Books on the North Fork Eel River Region by Keter

Appendix 7 includes the directory file links to pdf copies of all of the papers referenced in this study by the author. Most of these documents are also available at www.solararch.org

-  1986 Relationships Between Culture and Environmental Change
-  1987 Indian Burning Managing the Environment before 1865
-  1988 A Diachronic Catchment Model for the North Fork Eel River
-  1989 Grasslands of the North Fork Eel River region
-  1990 SCA Settlement and Conflict final
-  1991 Territorial and Social Relationships of the Inland Southern Athabascans
-  1992 The Effects of Hist Land use to aquatic resources
-  1993 Integrating Historical Environmental Data with the Cultural Record
-  1993 Soc Am Arch-Interdis Approach To Envir Modeling
-  1994 Grouse Creek Watershed cultural resources assessment
-  1994 Historical Environ Modeling-Helen GA
-  1994 Pilot Creek watershed cultural resources assesment
-  1994 The Ranching Period North Fork Eel River Basin 1865-1905
-  1996 Boundary Dynamics Interior North Coast Ranges N Fork Eel
-  1997a SCA Growing the Forest Backwards
-  1997d Enviromental and Cult History S fork Trinity
-  1998 Early Trails of Trinity County
-  2009 SCA All Those Things--Wailaki Tsnugwe ethnogrpahy
-  2011a SCA Pilot Ridge the End of Hisotry
-  2013c Historic Trails of the Pilot Ridge Country
-  2013d CCC-1 Decade of Change contextual overview
-  2013d CCC-2 a Bldg 1142 Zenia Guard Station
-  2013d CCC-3 Bldg 1542 Zenia garage final 11 14 2013
-  2014 Homesteading in Pilot Ridge Country
-  2017 SCA Protohistoric and Historic sites NFER
-  Book 1995 Environmental History and Ccultural Ecology NFER
-  Book 2016 The Peoples Forests The Creation of Americas NF System

Introduction-Contents-Index

+++++++ Appendix 8 ++++++

Leona Miller Collection

In the 1950s and 1960s Leona Miller (see *People and Places* entry) sent out questionnaires to all the old time pioneers she could find. Many of them replied relaying their early experiences in southern Trinity County. She then compiled them into a document called "*Lake Mountain, Trinity County, California: Zenia, Hoaglin, Kettenpom, Mina Areas*" ... It is deposited [the original] in the Weaverville Museum in Trinity County. It is a wonderful and valuable piece of historical work (from A6: 003).

- * Davis, A.E.
- * Gray, George and May Gray Wruck family
- * Kemp, Marjorian McCulloch
- * Klem, Walter
- * O'Farrell, Lee and Callie
- * Reed, Callie Caldwell
- * Reed, Merrill
- * Scheubeck, Andrew
- * Stanley, Ralph and Luella
- * Truitt, Annie Gray Holtorf

+++++++ Appendix 9 ++++++

Interviews on the past environment of the NFERW

These interviews are related to the aquatic resources found within the NFERW (see Keter 1992). There is not very much on history in these interviews except related to environmental change in the NFERW over the last 150 years--see Keter 1985. All of these interviews are on file HR SRNF.

- I#442 Eric Gerstung
- I#443 Mike Morford
- I#445 Floyd Barney
- I#446 Weldon Jones
- I#TSK Orvel Ballantyne (in possession of the author)

+++++++ Appendix 10 ++++++

Historical Newspaper Articles.

This appendix contains an in-depth series of reports on Round Valley, George White, and the "Long Ridge murders" of the 1890s. It includes pdf/jpg copies of the original San Francisco *Call* Articles and OCR WRD documents.

Link for the SF *Call*: <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn94052989/issues/>

- * SF *Call* 10-21-1895: G. White the history of Round Valley
- * SF *Call* 11-14-1895: G. White divorce

Introduction-Contents-Index

- * SF Call 11-26-1895: G. White "King of Round Valley"
- * SF Call 12-12-1895: G. White land sold
- * SF Call 10-06-1902: Death of G. White

+++++ **Appendix 11** +++++

Seven Cedars

This appendix contains an article written by Max Rowley (see Keter 2013c) and Winston Garcelon: *Life and Times of Kettenpom: Seven Cedars*.

Quoted from the front page:

This piece was written by Maxwell C. Rowley along with Winston Garcelon. It was first published in the "Yearly Trinity" in 1999 by the Trinity County Historical Society. The second chapter tells of the Dudley Davis family, who founded the Seven Cedars settlement in 1902

+++++ **Appendix 12** +++++

Patricia Burrell ms. (See B03)

Information compiled by Pat Burrell. She spent a significant amount of time living in the Zenia area and became an acquaintance of the author during the 1990s. She appropriated the name White Lilly and was a descendant of this Native American family (see B03). There is a lot of useful information here. It must be noted, however, that although there is some very good research some of her conclusions are questionable.

+++++ **A Brief Summary and Contextual Overview of the Socio-Economic Trends and Land-use Activities for each Historic Period** +++++

[The following information is summarized from Keter 1990, 1994a, 1997b.]

1855-1865: Conflict and Settlement

It was not until the mid-1850s that merchants, seeking routes from the San Francisco Bay area to markets in the goldfields around Weaverville, cattlemen seeking rich grasslands for their livestock, and hide hunters in search of deer, began to explore southwestern Trinity County. The earliest known Euro-Americans to enter the NFEW region were the Asbill brothers and Jim Neafus along with members of the Kelsey Party in May of 1854. They were trying to find a route to the gold mines in Trinity County from Petaluma (see HTNF-12). Much of the history about their first winter spent hunting deer for their hides in Hettenshaw Valley is chronicled in *Genocide and Vendetta* (Carranco and Beard 1981, see

Introduction-Contents-Index

also Keter 1990).

Within a period of about ten years (1854-1864), the traditional lifeway of the Athabascan speaking Wailaki who inhabited the North Fork of the Eel River region was almost totally destroyed. By late 1864, nearly all of the Native Americans who had inhabited the Eel River region were gone. Many were killed by the military and armed bands of settlers, others died of disease, some were sold into slavery, while most of the survivors were placed on Indian Reservations (primarily at Round Valley, Smith River, and Hoopa)(Keter 1990) . By January of 1865, it was reported that "Lieutenant Middleton, Company C arrived at the Peninsula [Humboldt Bay] with a large number of prisoners, comprising the last of the hostilities in Trinity County" (Bledsoe 1885:209). Only a few survivors remained in the mountains and Bledsoe (1885:209) noted that they were "too few in number to be feared or avoided."

The environment was also greatly affected by changing land-use patterns as hunting and gathering cultures were replaced by the cattle and sheep ranches and by the deer slaying hide hunters. The Conflict and Historic Settlement Period can be viewed as the refuge [or protohistoric] period (see F31a, b, c) for Native American inhabitants of the region and the formative years of the historic era for the Euro-American population moving into the region

During this period it was still dangerous for Euro-Americans to settle in the NFERW and only a few homesteads were established in southwestern Trinity County including in and around Hettenshaw Valley, Zenia, Hoaglin Valley, and Kettenpom Valley. Based on historic accounts, during this period, the most frequently used trails were those on Long Ridge (HTNF-12) and other trending ridges (see for example HTNF-04).

1865-1905: The Ranching Period

Few homesteaders settled in the region during this era due to the fact Round Valley rancher George White controlled much of the countryside (see entry P&P and Keter 1994a). There were a few settlers in the Hoaglin and Kettenpom Valley area and just to the east on Long Ridge. To the east of the NFER, W. H. Doolittle and his family settled at Red Mountain meadows (see HA01). Doolittle was one of the earliest settlers--possibly the first--in this remote region.

In addition to early settlers in Hoaglin and Kettenpom Valleys (see entries), there were a few other "squatters"—some whose names are lost to history--that tried to homestead within the NFERW during this era, but were either driven off or murdered by George White's henchmen known locally as "White's buckaroos" led by the infamous John Wathen known as Wailaki John (see entry P&P).

Besides White, several other large ranching operations (including that of George White's brother Pitt White) were centered to the west of the NFERW along the main Eel River between the mouth of the NFER and Alderpoint. These ranchers used some of the prehistoric trails that crossed the NFERW as "trail ways" (see the Ben Arthur Trail HTNF-

Introduction-Contents-Index

19) in order to drive their herds of sheep east to the high country in the summer (see Keter 1994a).

The murder of Jack Littlefield (see B07) by some of White's men in 1895 marked the beginning of the end of his stranglehold on the NFERW (see Keter 1994a and the George White, Jack Littlefield, and Packwood brother entries). Littlefield who lived on Long Ridge was well-known and respected locally for having stood up to the threats of George White and Wylackie John (about 19 murders were committed in this area over a three decade period most attributable to George White--see Keter 1994a). The murder caused a furor throughout the state with the governor even becoming involved. The Trinity County sheriff visited the scene of the crime (see the Red Mountain House section HA01 for photos, also Keter 1994a for more information) and led the investigation. Several individuals were charged with murder and were tried and sentenced to prison. White although eventually charged with the crime was never brought to trial.

By the mid to late 1890s with George White now no longer in control of thousands of acres of what were in reality federally held public domain lands, a few new settlers began moving into the area. Some settlers squatted on the land prior to the GLO surveys but eventually most arriving settlers filed for entry under the 1862 Homestead Act, however, some of these tracts were not listed until after the TNF was established in 1905—see the HA file for these entries.

Given the region's remoteness, lack of water, and limited agricultural potential, however, most of the homestead applications (see HA files) during this time were filed by family members of residents already living in the area (for example the Willburn, Duncan, Hoaglin, and Burgess Families). Many of these entries were filed by descendants who were listed as "Indian" on the census rolls and qualified for a 160 acre tract "Indian allotment" of public domain land under the General Allotment Act of 1897 (see IA files).

1905 to 1945: The Homesteading Period

In April of 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed the Trinity Forest Reserve under authority provided to him by the Forest Reserve Act of 1891. Most of the public domain lands within the NFERW north of about Hulls Creek (i.e. the study area) were included within the new forest reserve boundaries and were administered by the Mad River Ranger District. The next year, on June 11, 1906, President Roosevelt signed the National Forest Homestead Act. Under one provision of the new law, a settler could acquire title to 160 acres of national forest lands at no cost (known as a "June 11th homestead claim") if they met the requirements of the law (see Keter 2014, 2015).

The establishment of the TNF clearly marks the end of the unregulated use of public domain lands by the local ranches and a major change in the dominant land-use activity grazing as over the next two decades increasingly stringent grazing regulations were enacted by the Forest Service (see Keter 1989 and 2015).

Introduction-Contents-Index

It was during this era that the number of homesteads and the population of the NFERW reached its zenith. Many of the homestead (see HF files) and Indian allotment entries (see file IF files--after passage of the National Forest Indian Allotment Act in 1910) were filed by family members of local residents who were trying to "block-up" or increase the amount of property they owned.

During this era a complex trail system evolved that not only connected settlers with the outside world, but provided links between the various homesteads. In addition, the Forest Service, after 1905, constructed new trails and improved existing trails for the administration of national forest lands. The trails were used to patrol for and fight fires and provide access to forest guard stations built in the remote backcountry.

By the first decade of the 20th century, numerous quarter Section homesteads dotted the open prairies of the NFERW. This brief florescence of homesteading activity lasted about three decades. By the mid-to-late 1920s many of the homesteads were being abandoned and there was a steady decline in the number of people inhabiting the region that is reflected in census records (see also Keter 2014). New residents moving to the NFER region ended almost completely after congress amended the National Forest Homestead Act in 1934 to prohibit homesteading on national forest lands within the continental United States (Keter 2015: 140).

By the end of World War II nearly all of the old homesteads and Indian allotments had been acquired by ranchers and timber companies at rock bottom prices. In reality, it was simply impossible to maintain a viable homestead on 160 acres of marginal agricultural lands in this area.

1946-1970 Post World War II Period—Development and Resource extraction

With the end of World War II and the enactment of the G.I. Bill (see Keter 2011a) enabling returning veterans to purchase their own homes--there was an increased demand for lumber nationwide. In 1947 the Mad River Ranger District of the Trinity National Forest was placed under administration of the newly established (by congress) Six Rivers National Forest. It was during this era that the first significant logging on the private tracts within the NFERW took place. By the early 1950s timber access roads were constructed under Forest Service issued permits to cross national forest lands. More often than not, these roads followed the old trails along the trending ridgelines to access many of the old Homestead and Indian allotment tracts that had been purchased by local ranchers or timber companies.

During the 1970s and 1980s, the Forest Service undertook a number of timber sales and initiated a significant road construction program throughout the region further compromising the original trail system.

Taken together, the timber harvesting activities in this area greatly affected the features and artifacts found on the old homestead and Indian allotments and the ecosystem at the

Introduction-Contents-Index

landscape level (see Keter 2011a). There are a number of CRIRs located in HR at SRNF for timber sales and land exchange projects in this area containing useful information that are well worth the effort to review (see for example the Yellowjacket, Raglan, Solider Basin and Double Gate CRIRs).

A final note:

The evolution of land-use activities over the last half century within the NFERW that will be the subject research by future historians

It is clear that over the last half-century significant changes have occurred in the socio-economic demographics and land-use activities within the NFERW and southwestern Trinity County. These changes in land-use activities have resulted in major effects to the environment. The dates presented below are subjective, but it is already clear this "close to history" that over the last several decades major changes to the environment of the NFERW have taken place as the result of the increase in land disturbing activities based on the cultivation of marijuana.

c1971-c 2000 The Back-to-the-land movement)

The recent history of this era remains to be written, but it is clear that beginning in the late 1960s and early 1970s significant changes to the environment at the landscape level—especially for private lands—occurred as a result of changes in demographics and land-use activities. With the arrival of new "homesteaders" who were part of the "back-to-the-land-movement" -- the primary motivation for settling on the land (and its relative value) was no longer derived from the cutting of timber, but the desire for a rural lifestyle. Eventually, this led to what became by the late 20th century a "marijuana based economy."

Also by the 1970s the first intensive logging and road construction within the NFERW by the Forest Service began. For some insight into this era see Keter 2011a.

c2000 to ???

As this research project is being completed in the spring of 2017, and when viewed from the historical perspective of a southern Humboldt County resident who moved here in 1977 to "homestead" 25 acres during the "back-to-the-land" movement of the 1970s, it is clear that this socio-economic era is being overtaken by a new "gold rush" in northwestern California. With the legalization of marijuana and the rise of commercial marijuana farming, a new demographic of individuals whose primary focus is to make money has strained the social fabric of the entire area. So far, the effects to the environment have clearly been negative. Future researchers can sort this all out, but it is clear that a new era in the history of the North Fork Eel River region is now being written.