

Prehistoric and Historic Trails of the NFERW

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Preface

This section of the study on the trail system of the North Fork Eel River region could not have been written without the help of numerous individuals who lived their entire lives in this region or spent their careers working for the Forest Service on the Six Rivers National Forest. I am greatly indebted to the late Maxwell (Max) Rowley and his cousin Winston Garcelon for their pioneering research on the trails of eastern Humboldt and western Trinity Counties. I not only worked with Max for over 20 years but we were good friends sharing a love of local history--especially for of the old trails in Pilot Ridge and Yolla Bolly country (see also Keter 2013c). Max was born in Hydesville in 1928 and knew many of the early homesteaders or members of their families who had homestead or established ranches in the Shower Pass and Pilot Ridge country. His cousin Winston Garcelon lived in southwestern Trinity County for many years and left a detailed map and overview (Appendix 5 ms: 01) describing many of the early homesteads in the area.

See Appendix 1 Layer 2 for the Base Map Historic Trails layer.

See Appendix 2 for the historic maps used in this study.

Introduction

This section deals with documenting and mapping the historic trails located within the North Fork Eel River watershed study area. Today most of this area falls within the boundary of Six Rivers National Forest (SRNF). Since my research and on-the-ground surveys over the last three decades have been focused primarily on the NFER region, in this study, the only trails plotted on the Base Map beyond the study area (NFERW) are those that were major "thru" trails or had some other direct link to the NFERW. [For additional trails on the Mad River Ranger District, SRNF, see Keter 1997c, and 2011.]

Given the geology of the North Fork region, for example; sharp well defined ridgelines, numerous deep cut drainages, and sections of the river canyon that were impassible on foot, most of the trails followed logical routes based on the topography. For that reason, many of the historic trails in this region date to the prehistoric era. During the late ethnographic period the Southern Athabascan speaking Wailaki Lassik and Pitch Wailaki lived in semi-permanent winter villages along the lower portions of the North Fork Eel River--extending to the south from about Soldier Basin (Goddard 1924).

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Lee Stapp (A6: I#448) noted that:

Most of the trails in the North Fork which the homesteaders used were old Indian trails. This system of trails connected many of the homesteads and made travel easier in the rough caynon country of the North Fork.

Given the relatively high population density for the region, and the large number of archaeological sites (flake scatters and multi-component sites) that have been recorded at springs and along the trending ridgelines and watershed divides, it is clear that trails were an important and significant cultural feature of the prehistoric landscape. The Wailaki communities (see Keter 1991, 1993d) inhabiting the NFERW spent much of the summer in the hills and mountains to the east and west of their riverine villages where the temperatures were cooler. Thus, by the beginning of the historic era, the Wailaki living within the NFERW and the neighboring groups inhabiting the Yolla Bolly region had created a complex network of interconnecting trails.

These trails were used to facilitate the hunting of game (deer generally summer in this area above 4,000' in elevation) and to provide access to areas where plant resources could be collected much later into the summer season. The aboriginal inhabitants of the region also used trails to link their villages with nearby communities, for access to spiritual locations, and for inter-tribal contacts--including trade, communication, and social interaction. Thus, during the prehistoric era, trails provided much the same function to their users as modern roads and freeways provide societies today. In reality, prehistoric trails can be defined more accurately as "travel corridors." There were no blazes and few if any trail markers (there were at various locations on some trails in northwestern California "arrow trees" -- for good luck--and other markers of some sort, but they were for the most part only meaningful to the local populations). Over decades a trail route might vary somewhat in places, for example on broader ridges or where there were multiple alternatives to travel in a given direction, also as the result of erosion and deadfalls.

Trails within the North Fork Eel River Region

There were four basic kinds of trails found in this region during the historic era. The earliest historical trails, first used during the 1850s and early 1860s, were "thru trails" that provided a relatively easy route for travelers passing through the region; for example; the Round Valley to Weaverville Trail (HTNF-11), the Zenia to Round Valley trail (HTNF-04), the Long Ridge Trail (HTNF-12), and the Humboldt Trail (HTMR-27)--leading from Three Forks in the Mad River watershed east through the Yolla Bolly high country to Red Bluff. These trails all appear on most late 19th century historical maps of the region. They saw relatively heavy use and generally followed prehistoric trails that had been used for centuries; they were well-blazed and easy to follow.

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The second type of trail was developed by local ranchers (the most notable Pitt White, Charles Fenton, Doc Merritt, and Ben Arthur) beginning in the late 1860s and the 1870s and were used in some cases as late as the 1890s for driving livestock (mostly sheep) from their ranches along the Eel River east to summer range on South Fork Mountain and in the Four Corners Rock region of the Yolla Bollys. The Ben Arthur trail is an example of this type of trail (HTNF-19). These trails are often referred to as "trail ways" reflecting the fact that they followed a generally defined route that was relatively direct to summer range and was easily passable for livestock.

The third and most common type of trails were "connecting trails" established during the homesteading period by local settlers to link the various homesteads with each other and to the outside world. These trails reached their greatest level of use during the zenith of the homesteading era from about the late 1890s (with George White was no longer in control of the "Long Ridge country") to late 1920s and early 1930s when settlers began to abandoned their homesteads selling them to ranchers and timber companies. Many of these trails were ephemeral. I have found some examples of these trails (see for example HTNF-40) that were not blazed or poorly blazed and were never maintained by the Forest Service.

The fourth trail type--Forest Service administrative trails-- were the last trails to be constructed within the NFERW. These trails were constructed by the Forest Service to meet an administrative objective--for example a trail leading to a lookout or guard station.

During the homestead era the Forest Service hired local settlers to help maintain the trail system providing needed income to local residents (Keter 2014). Many of the administrative trails (for example trails to fire lookouts) were constructed by CCC crews during the mid to late 1930s. There was a CCC camp at Mad River and a "spike camp" at Zenia (see USFS Administration history section) during this era. In addition, the CCC "boys" improved and maintained many of the older trails on the Mad River Ranger District.

Blazes

Over the last 35 years I have hiked a majority of the remaining trails within the NFERW (see *Base Trails Map* Appendix 2 Layer 2). When I first began hiking in the North Fork region many of these trails still had significant sections with surprisingly good integrity and were still well-blazed. The earliest trail blazes were a single axe-cut on trees (at about 5-6 feet above the ground) with a double blaze sometimes found at major changes in direction. After 1905 many trails were maintained by the Forest Service for administrative and recreational purposes.

I found that the vast majority of trails maintained by the Forest Service had been re-blazed with the with a "dotted i" blaze--an elongated cut topped by a smaller-sized cut that resembles the letter "i" (Image NFT-01 shows a Douglas-fir with a rapidly--due to age--disappearing dotted "i" blaze). I did find a few trails with single blazes that seemed to suggest they had not been maintained by the Forest Service. This appears to have occurred

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in the 1950s when Forest Service employees (for some unknown reason) re-blazed many of the trails on the Mad River Ranger District with the "dotted i" blaze (MRRD Records). Furthermore, most of these blazes in the NFERW at some point (possibly in the early 1960s) were then painted yellow (it appeared to be tree marking paint). I am not sure why but it certainly helped them to stand out!

In some cases the trails were simply re-blazed with the dotted "i" blaze by placing a smaller sized blaze directly above the original blaze. Much of the time, however, it appears that new trees were blazed and then painted yellow.

In this region blazes last the longest on white and black oaks (*Quercus* spp.) and incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*). In the early 1980s one blaze on an incense cedar on trail HTMR-215--just to the east of Mule Slide on a ridge near the Lassics (associated with serpentine nutrient deficient soils)--dated back at least 75 and possibly 100 years (see Keter 1997c).



Image NFT-1

Surviving section of the Pilot Ridge Trail in 1997.

Note "dotted i" blaze on the Douglas fir. Blaze is probably under 50 years old
(Photo by T. Keter 1997)

Mapping Historic Trails

The Base Map (Appendix 2 Layer 2) contains all of the historic trails and early wagon roads (usually overlaying trails) within the NFERW study area identified during my

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research. Trails are defined as linear features on the ground having such physical characteristics as a tread and blazes. Also included are several historic trails with no visible identifying features remaining on the ground--or that I have not personally visited-- based on historical data including maps, documents, records, and interviews with knowledgeable consultants.

The *National Historic Trails Federal Trail Data Standards* (2010: 2.1.3: Appendix B) provides a useful definition of historic trails;

...Historic trails can consist of a path, a route, a corridor, a road, a river/stream, etc...Well-defined variants of an historic trail may be caused by changes in water, feed, and weather conditions; or the simple human desire to find a better, faster, and easier route. Routes frequently divide into braids. Trail braiding occurred when travelers found different routes around obstacles. One braid may go north of a butte and another south. At creek and river crossings braids spread out to find the best ford. If one braid was wet and marshy, a new braid was formed on higher, drier ground.

There may be many parallel swales running very close to one another. Swales occurred because travelers didn't like to eat one another's dust and would spread out whenever possible and also because old swales were often deeply rutted and muddy, making travel easier a few feet away.

Mapping Process for Plotting Historic Trails

The mapping of trails within the NFERW was accomplished by referencing numerous historical maps, interviews with consultants, field notes, and numerous manuscripts collected over the years from local residents, and various bits of historical information gleaned from the old records and files located in the basement of the Trinity County Historical Society (TCHS) in Weaverville and at the Mendocino Historical Society (MHS) in Ukiah. Also referenced and included is relevant data from the *Historic Trails of Mad River* overview (Keter 1997c).

Past field surveys have generally confirmed the accuracy of the contemporary USGS maps and Forest Service maps. There are however, a number of challenges the plotting the trails (and locations of the homestead parcels) using older maps due to problems stemming from the original GLO surveys in the 1870s and early 1880s.

Due to the remoteness of the Yolla Bolly country, well into the second half of the 20th century many of the Township and Section lines in this area remained poorly surveyed and inaccurately mapped. The problem stems from the original GLO surveys. These original GLO plot maps rarely match the Township and Section lines established by modern cadastral surveys as depicted on contemporary USGS and Forest Service maps. The GLO surveys in this region were notoriously inaccurate and Section lines and corners have been found to be as much as half a mile off in the

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North Coast Ranges. In Humboldt and Trinity Counties the initial GLO surveys of the 1870s and 1880s of remote areas like the Yolla Bollys were commonly referred to as "bar room" surveys since the surveyors never even made it into the field but drew their maps while sitting in the comfort of their local saloon. This historical fact is reflected today in the highly irregular Township, Range, and Section lines found on today's 7.5' USGS maps for this region versus the nicely laid out square mile Sections on the original GLO plots in remote country that at that time still remained virtually unexplored.

Thus, plotting the location of some of the lesser known trails was more art than science and at times was based on my over three decades of on-the-ground surveys and exploration of this region.

A significant number of trails within the NFERW were first documented in a trails study published in 1997; *Historic Trails of the Mad River Ranger District, Six Rivers National Forest* (herein referred to the MRHTO). Given additional documentation and field work, the routes for some of these trails have changed.

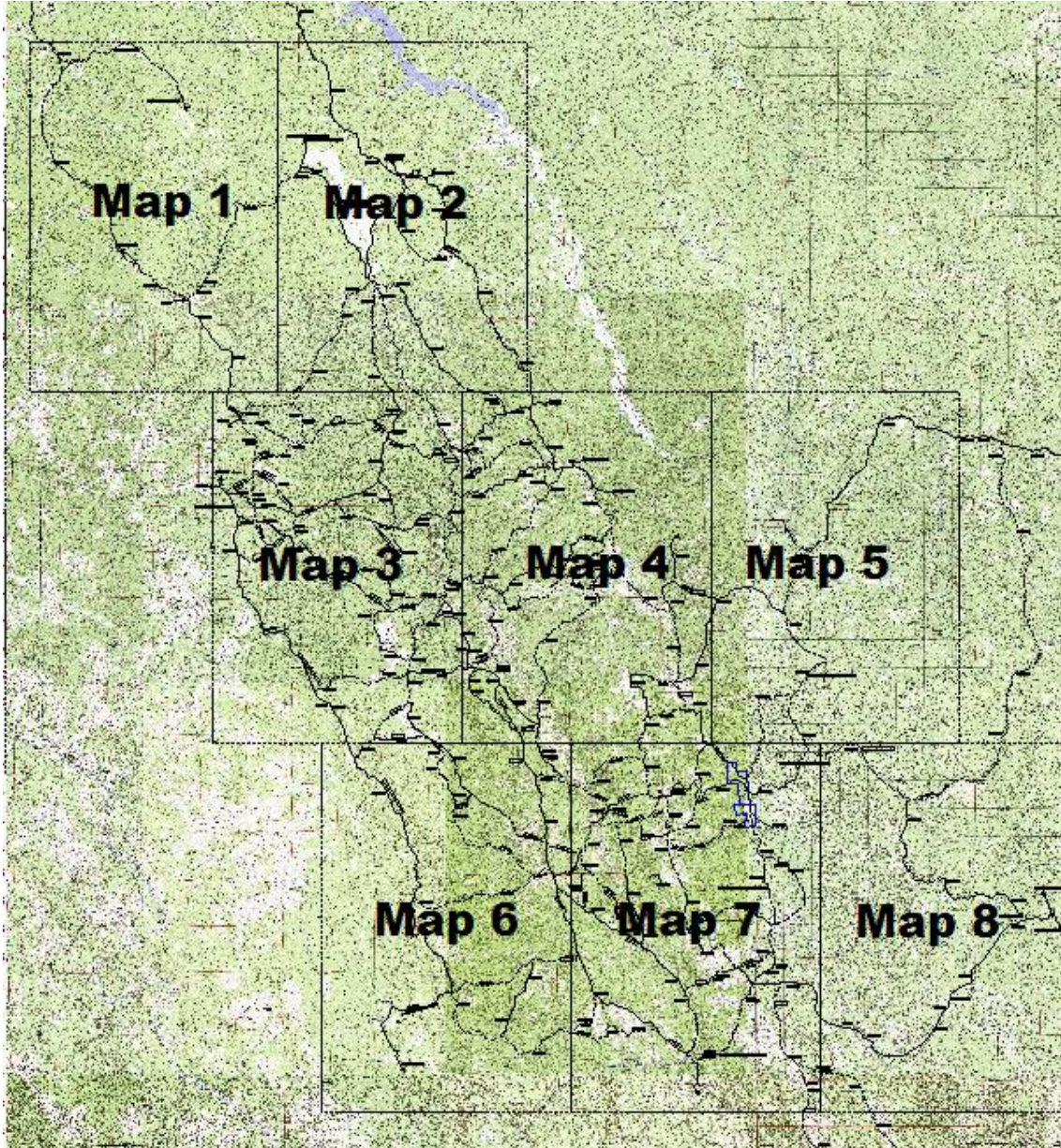
Some of the geographic place names as well as the names of many of the trails have changed over time. Moreover, historical maps often disagree on precise routes or routes have been inaccurately plotted. In such cases to map a particular route, I have also referenced and studied topographical maps, Google Earth, information from consultants, general topography of the terrain, and relied on my knowledge of the area.

No trails were mapped unless they were identified and plotted on at least two historic maps or were discussed and fully documented and referenced in the historic record.

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Trails of the North Fork (Appendix 1 Layer 2)

The *Base Maps* section in Appendix 1 (Layer 2) contains the Historic Trails Map for North Fork Eel River. The Base map is divided into eight subsections for ease of use and for printed copies. The eight trails maps are provided below—see also Base Map Layer 2 in Appendix 1 for the jpg copies of these maps.



Trail Location Map

Refer to Appendix 2: Layer 2 for jpg files

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HTNF-01 (Map 7)

This trail was recorded by Robert Thomas and me in 1986 as part of the Red Mountain House (HA01) site record (05-10-54-308) referenced as Trail #6. We hiked in and spent the night at Red Mountain Meadows--the location of one of the earliest homesteads (the Doolittle place) within the NFERW. It is also one of the most significant historical sites located in southwestern Trinity County.

We spent two days recording the site. During our survey of the area, we discovered this previously unknown and unmapped trail (at least to long-time Forest Service employees) heading up Red Mountain Creek in a southeasterly direction on the south facing slope of Red Mountain at about the same contour or slightly higher than from about where trail HTNF-11 leaves Red Mountain Meadows dropping to the south to cross Red Mountain Creek. We followed the trail for almost one mile passing through small openings surrounded by dense manzanita and one stand of conifers. The single-blazed trail was eventually lost in dense manzanita.

This appears to be a very old trail. It is not noted on any of the historic maps used for my research. One possibility, it may have been used by the Red Mountain House residents to access local resources further up Red Mountain Creek. To travel to the head of the watershed divide in this direction would be impractical; given the steep topography and dense manzanita brush in the Red Mountain Creek headwaters region. The region of the Middle Fork Eel River lying to the east of the divide can be more easily accessed via trails HTNF-11 and HTMR-31 from Red Mountain Meadows.

HTNF-02 (Maps 6 and 7)

From its junction on Haman Ridge with HTNF-04--the old Zenia-Round Valley Trail/Wagon Road (now County Road 503)--this trail basically followed the headwaters divide between Salt Creek and several short drainages facing south including Lousy Creek that drained into the NFER to the west of Hulls Creek. The trail eventually connected to the east with the Long Ridge Trail (HTNF-12). Some consultants (Rowley and Garcelon A5: ms01) referred to this historical trail as the "Betts Trail."

Parts of County Road 522--today referred to as "Betts Road" by locals-- and a Forest Service road now overlay most portions of the old trail from where it left HTNF-04 (County Road 503) southeast all the way to what locals refer to as the "old Nielsen Place" (F03). About one kilometer to the northwest of the Nielsen Place, a trail (HTNF-33) dropped down into the headwaters of the Salt Creek watershed and headed to the northeast to connect with trail HTNF-14 (see site record 54-274). At the Nielsen place a trail, HTNF-02 Spur A (now a road), led downslope in a southerly direction from the Nielsen place several hundred meters to the Betts Place (F02).

From the Nielsen place, the plotting of the trail HTNF-02 is problematic and is approximate. Most maps disagree on the route or do not have it plotted. It appears that the trail continued in a northeasterly direction eventually dropping down and crossing Lousy Creek about two kilometers north of its confluence with the NFER. The trail is depicted on the 15'

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HV 1931 map (A2: 23). Given the survey problems in this area, it is likely that although plotted just to the north, the Seward McVay place (HF10) was probably not too far from the trail or it may have even passed through the homestead. Just to the east of Lousy Creek the trail climbed the trending ridge to the northeast to connect with the Long Ridge Trail (HTNF-12). From about the Nielsen place Spur B continued easterly at about the 2,400' contour to Long Ridge where it met the Long Ridge Trail about 1.5 kilometers to the north of where that trail joined the Round Valley-Weaverville Trail (HTNF-11) near the confluence of the NFER and Hulls Creek. By the 1970s it was a jeep road used to access Long Ridge.

Today (2016) a primitive ranch road follows the general route of Spur B. Spur B is not found on most maps but appears on the SRNF 1994 map (A2:21b) and also shows on the Metsker Trinity County map (A2: 22) as well as contemporary 7.5' USGS maps; this would be a logical route to connect the headwaters of Salt Creek region with the Long Ridge Trail (HTNF-12) if one were traveling south towards the confluence of Hulls Creek and the NFER. Given the mapping problems this route is very tentative and approximate,

HTNF-03: Ben Duncan Mail Box Trail (Map 6)

This trail was discussed in the MRHTO (refer to trail 05-10-54-182). I hiked this trail and recorded the Ben Duncan cabin site in about the mid-1980s (on file SRNF). I followed the trail from the county road (HTNF-04, Haman Ridge Trail/ Wagon Road) east to Salt Creek. I also noted in the report a still visible trail heading to the west from the county road dropping down into the main Eel River watershed (this trail probably led to the Haman place). At that time, the Ben Duncan Mailbox Trail was still in fairly good shape as far as Salt Creek (the area just to the east of Haman Ridge had no FS roads until the late 1980s).

Ben Duncan homesteaded a tract of land along Cottonwood Creek and the trail (see HF17 with photos). After dropping down off the ridge, the trail paralleled the creek east to Duncan's homestead. As noted at HF17:

Due to problems with the initial GLO survey it appears that the location of Duncan's original cabin now sites on National Forest land. When I hiked the trail, I recorded a dilapidated cabin at this location the site record has photos and a diagram of the cabin. When he lived here the homestead was only accessible by trail and Duncan parked his car at the county road and then hiked or traveled by horseback down to his cabin (Garcelon A5: ms01).

The trail continued east from the cabin along Cottonwood Creek to Salt Creek—this section was still in excellent condition in the mid 1980s-- it then crossed Salt Creek and immediately headed upslope along a trending ridgeline to Long Ridge. The eastern terminus of the trail was on Long Ridge at its junction with the Long Ridge Trail (HTNF-12). Lowden's 1894 Map (A2: 09) shows this area east of Haman Ridge as "unsurveyed" lands. It is likely that the first intensive use of the historic trail dates to the establishment of the Duncan homestead sometime around the turn of the century. This trail may also have been used to drive sheep east to the Yolla Bolly in the early summer given its location relative to the major sheep ranching operations located to the west along the Eel River (Charlie Fenton, Ben Arthur, Pitt White).

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This trail crosses the watershed divide at a relatively low point in elevation on Haman Ridge. To the east it is a direct and relatively gentle grade dropping down and paralleling Cottonwood Creek to Salt Creek. This trail likely dates to the prehistoric era. From personal observations while working in the area it is clear that this would also have been a major wildlife migration corridor--especially for deer --linking the NFERW with the main Eel River watershed.

The TNF 1909 map (Appendix 2: 8b) depicts the Duncan cabin but not the trail. Interestingly, later dated TNF maps also do not depict this trail; however, the cabin is depicted on some later TNF maps. This may indicate that the trail was not originally part of the Forest Service system of trails and that it was maintained by Duncan who also had extended family members living out on Long Ridge. The trail does show up on the 1941 TNF map (A2: 15) and 1947 SRNF map (A2: 21b). The earliest map depicting the trail that I could locate was the 15'HV1931 map (A2: 23).



View ENE from Haman Ridge near the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek NW to Long Ridge in middle ground upper left. A foot trail led from near here east to the Ben Duncan homestead (HF07)
(T. Keter 1985)

HTNF-04: Zenia to Round Valley Trail/Wagon Road/County Road 503 (Maps 3 and 6)

It is likely that this trail (more accurately a travel corridor or pathway) along the generally broad north/south divide between the NFERW to the east and the main Eel River

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watershed to the west was a major travel route during the prehistoric era and numerous multi-component prehistoric sites are located in the area. It was also in the general vicinity of many of the earliest homesteads established in southwestern Trinity County. As a result, this was one of the earliest and most heavily used trails in the region, as it provided a direct route linking Zenia and southwestern Trinity County with Round Valley; Trinity County Road 503 and the Mendocino County Mina Road south to Round Valley now overlay much of the original route.

The trail is depicted on most of the late 19th century maps for this region (Appendix 2: Maps 1-4). To the north, this trail route connected at Zenia with a trail heading to the northwest across the slope of Pine Mountain to Blocksburg. Other trails at Zenia led north to Hettenshaw Valley (HTNF-24) and northwest to the summer range for livestock in the high country of the Lassics region (HTNF-22). By the late 19th century a wagon road (see map below) had been constructed for that section of trail extending south from Zenia along Haman Ridge past Lake Mountain to just north of where the trail crossed the NFER.

Consultant Interviews

The following information was recorded concerning the Zenia To Round Valley road and its construction.

Tom Duncan (in 1951, A5: ms05] noted that:

The Simpson Grade, later called the Rock Cut was built by a man named Simpson who got the contract to build it. Made it all by himself, I heard his blasting but can't recall at what date. He did the work, only know he must have been a powder man for he did a good job and alone.

The Simpson Grade on Harmon Ridge was built several years before the road north to it was made, also the W.P.A. put work on it, you folks know when that was

Dave Martin noted that in 1912 when his family settled in the area:

The alleged roads were only in use for hauling from April or May until November. They were on grades up to 25 percent and trees along the sides showed scars from being struck by the hubs of passing wagons....The Haman Ridge road was being built, not in use. There were signs of the old Round Valley trail which was well worn into the ground along some of its course along Haman Ridge and past Seven Cedars and Kettenpom Peak. [Dave Martin, 1951, A5: ms05]

Wayne Martin (A:6 I#395) noted that:

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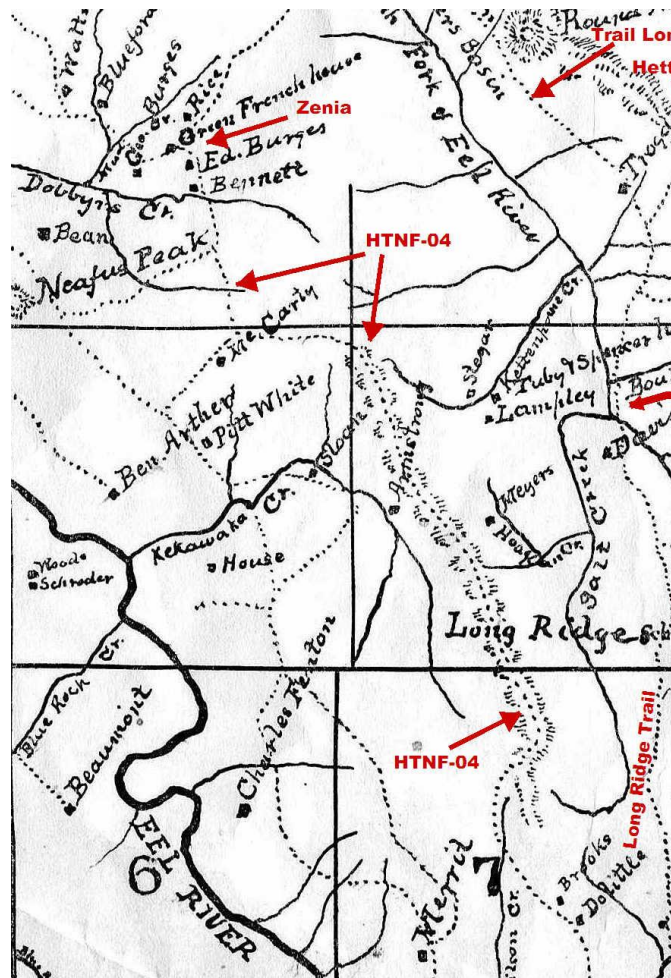
The Covelo-Zenia road was still not passable by wagon the entire distance. The rock cut on the Haman Ridge section (see map) was blasted about 1919, before this time this section was passable only by trail.

Leona Miller (A6: I003) indicated that:

In order to reach our claim we used part of the old Covelo-Fort Seward Government road. There were still old tin signs reading "Covelo-Fort Seward". "I am very sorry I did not save one of them, they were all destroyed by the loggers a few years ago."

The above information is included as this appears to be another name for the Covelo-Zenia road but it has not been further documented.

In the 1980s a portion of old the phone line and poles that paralleled the wagon road and portions of the original trail still remained where Haman ridge narrows about 3.5 miles south of the County Road 521--above the road to the west at its narrowest point (personal observation).



Zenia-Round Valley Trail HTNF-04

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Lowden's Map Trinity County C. 1886 to 1896
(Appendix 2: Map 4)

Covleo-Zenia Road--bridge over the NFER

Merrill Reed (Appendix 8) provides an in-depth overview of the various bridges that have been constructed on the Covelo-Zenia Road. The following describes the first bridge to cross the river. Included in Appendix 8 are descriptions and figures related to cost and construction materials for all bridges at this location.

In 1906 Mendocino County appropriated some money to build a Bridge across the North Fork of the Eel River. The people living here did the work for very small pay. There were no saw mills so all of the timbers were "hewn" The bridge was of two spans, the middle rested on some short posts 5 feet high on a rock in the middle of the river, they were floored with 2 x 12 plank hauled in from Branscomb, by wagon. The approaches were floored with fir poles. This bridge was 8 feet wide. The people here gave a BIG pot luck picnic and dance to celebrate their FIRST BRIDGE, This affair lasted well over 48 hours.

The bridge lasted about 20 years, with some repairs, it finally fell into the river-- with some help-- as it was very dangerous. We had to ford the river for about 3 years.

In 1923 the County appropriated more money for another Bridge This was all sawed lumber. Zeek's mill at Hulls Valley sawed the lumber. It was a laminated structure. It was set on posts about 10 feet high on the same rock. It was so full of joints it had to be repaired several times during the time it was used. [From the original.]

HTNF-05 Tom Duncan Mailbox Trail (Maps 3, 6, and 7)

Trail HTNF-05 is labeled on some national forest maps as FS system trail 7E15.

This trail was referred to by locals as the Tom Duncan Mailbox Trail. Contemporary USGS 7.5 maps have incorrectly labeled a trail immediately to the south as the Tom Duncan Mailbox Trail--see HTNF-06 for a discussion of this mapping problem. I have mapped the trail using several sources including the 1935 USGS Hoaglin 15' map (A2: 23), interviews and historical references in order to document the correct location of this heavily traveled trail that led from Hoaglin Valley to School House Spring (F07) on Long Ridge and continued east to the Caution Post Office to its original location at Red Mountain House (F20a). The last portion of this route to the east leading from trail HTMR-11 to Caution is

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plotted here as trail HTMR-23 as the Caution Post office was moved to location #2 (F20b) after a few years.

According to consultants, the Tom Duncan Mailbox trail left Hoaglin Valley crossed Salt Creek and hit Long Ridge at Schoolhouse Spring in Section 36. The trail then continued east from Long Ridge down slope to the John Duncan place (HF05). This parcel although inaccurately mapped shows up on Lowden's TC survey map for 1894 (Appendix 2: 5). From there, the trail continued to the northeast east dropping down to the NFER. After crossing the river, the trail splits-- a spur trail, labeled Spur C, headed north for a short distance to connect with trail HTNF-13. The main trail continued easterly to connect with HTMR-11 just to the south of the James Wilburn place (HF01) on a tract owned by Fannie Willburn Place (HF07).

For several years during the zenith of the homesteading era in the NFERW, the Caution Post Office (second location F20b) and the Caution School were located about one mile to the north of the HTMR-11/HTNF05 trail junction and the trail was still used at that time to deliver the mail to the relocated post office. At that point, a trail designated here as HTNF-23 provided a direct link east to the Red Mountain House located about 2.5 miles to the east, and as noted above, the location of the first Caution Post Office.

According to Garcelon (A5: ms01) this trail was one of the earliest east-west trails in the region. During the late 19th century, he noted that: "the trail was from Long Ridge [and continued] to the east--Red Mountain--Shell Mountain and you could go on over to the Yollo [sic] Bolly and on down Cottonwood Creek to Red Bluff. Many of the cattle drives were over these trails."

HTNF-05 Spurs A and B

Heading northwest to Hoaglin Valley from School House Springs on Long Ridge historic maps show that the trail split just before it crossed Salt Creek. The main trail after crossing the creek continued northwesterly towards Hoaglin Valley, while Spur A followed Salt Creek southwesterly for about one-half mile before crossing it and climbing a trending ridge northwest to rejoin the main trail at Hoaglin Creek just before the it enters Hoaglin Valley. It appears that this spur trail connected to a homestead or squatters cabin plotted as F30 (Garcelon A5: ms05).

Contemporary 7.5' USGS Long Ridge maps show Spur A connecting with (or actually part of) a trail labeled as the "Tom Duncan Mailbox Trail"--actually unnamed trail HTNF-06 where it heads off to the southeast just before Spur A crosses Salt Creek and turns to the northwest and passed by F30 before rejoining the main trail. This is a mapping error; much of this confusion, as noted earlier, is a result of the problems with the original GLO surveys and the subsequent changes on section and property boundary lines as the result of new surveys. See HTNF-06 for further comments on this problem.

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After Spur A rejoined the main trail at Hoaglin Creek just to the east of Hoaglin Valley, the trail again divided with one trail heading northwest to meet trail HTNF-32 at the northern end of Hoaglin Valley (to about F06 where the Hoaglin Post Office was located for a number of years—see entry) for those travelers heading north to the Kettenpom Valley and Zenia. The second fork--subjectively labeled Spur B--heads directly to the west towards the southern end of Hoaglin Valley where it joined HTNF-32 about two kilometers to the west of the Zenia-Round Valley Trail/Wagon Road (HTNF-04). As noted in the HTMRO, the western terminus of the trail leading into in Hoaglin Valley from the east has been obliterated by logging activity and roads.

This trail was plotted based on the contours off of the 15'HV 1931 map topographic map (A2: 23).

HTNF-06 (Map 6)

In the 1997 HTMRO this trail was recorded as site 05-10-54-247. It was erroneously documented as being the "Tom Duncan Mailbox Trail" (see trail HTNF-05). This error was made due to the fact that trail HTNF-06 is inaccurately identified on the 7.5' Long Ridge (1967) USGS map as the Tom Duncan Mailbox Trail.

To summarize the problem; on the Long Ridge USGS map, the Tom Duncan Mailbox Trail is shown as heading east from Hoaglin Valley to Salt Creek via a section of trail that I have designated as trail HTNF-05 Spur A. At about the point, where trail HTNF-05 Spur A crossed Salt Creek and headed to the northeast to rejoin the main trail HTNF-05, the trail I have designated HTNF-06 began by following Salt Creek upstream (to the south) for nearly a mile. There, it climbed to the east along the trending ridge dividing the Gypsy Creek drainage to the north and an unnamed tributary of Salt Creek to the south terminating at its junction with trail HTNF-03--just to the west of Long Ridge. The point where trail HTNF-03 hits Long Ridge is about a half mile to the south of Schoolhouse Spring.

Interestingly, the section of trail from Salt Creek south and east to trail HTNF-03, designated here as HTNF-06, does not show up on most of the historical maps. For example, this trail is not shown on Metsker's TC map (A2: 22)--usually quite accurate for this area. It also does not show up on the 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 23). On the other hand, the 15'HV 1931 map does accurately show the actual route for the Tom Duncan Mailbox Trail as being trail HTNF-05.

Forest Service maps are inconsistent on even the existence of trails HTNF-05 and HTNF-06. Some TNF maps (see TNF 1909 and 1922 maps, Appendix 2: Maps 8a, 11) show the trail from Hoaglin Valley leading to School House Spring (note that the section lines are inaccurate on these maps). More recently, the SRNF 1947 map (Appendix 2: 21b) shows only trail HTNF-06, while just to make things more confusing, the 1977 SRNF map (A2: 20) shows both trails!

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This trail may have been constructed by the Forest Service after 1935 during the CCC era when there was extensive work on the trails system. Further research is needed to determine if this is the case.

It appears that this mapping trail name error concerning trail HTNF-06 took place at some point in the late 1940s or 1950s. What is clear, however it happened, is that the Long Ridge 7.5' USGS map is inaccurate in labeling trail HTNF-06 as the Tom Duncan Mailbox Trail.

A logging road has destroyed parts of this trail in the portion on private land near its south eastern end in Section 36.

HTNF-07 (Maps 6 and 7)

The designation for this trail route has been changed since it was first recorded for the HTMRO where it was plotted as trail HTMR-16.

Trail HTNF-07 led from the Long Ridge Trail southwest for about one mile to the Church Willburn Place (HA05). Just to the west and upslope from the Willburn Ranch, a trail--HTNF-43 Spur A --headed north to junction with trail HTNF-43 at the location of the third Caution Post Office (F20c). From the Wilburn Ranch, the trail continued southeast downslope towards the NFER. Just above the river, the trail split. One trail--designated HTNF-09--crossed the river and headed north to link up with trail HTNF-05. From this point, trail HTNF-07 continued south paralleling the NFER for about a mile and a half where the trail terminated at its junction with the Round Valley-Weaverville Trail (HTNF-11) at Jacks Flat where that trail crossed the river and headed towards east.

HTNF-08 (Maps 6 and 7)

This trail was referred to as trail HTMR-18 in the HTMRO. Given additional information on trails HTNF-05 and HTNF-06, I have revised the original route of trail HTMR-18 so that it is now simply a spur trail dropping down slope to the northeast from Long Ridge about a kilometer south of the location of the Long Ridge School. The trail linked the Long Ridge Trail (HTNF-07) with the John Duncan Homestead (HF05, F06).

The trail route is approximate as the trail does not show up on the 15'HV 1931map (A2: 23) and TNF maps. This trail appears to have been used by local homesteaders to connect with Long Ridge for travelers heading to the south towards Hulls Creek and Round Valley. The trail route is approximate based on topography and the route of the existing road that overlies much of the old trail. The sections of this trail that are on private property have been logged.

HTNF-09 (Map 7)

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This trail connected trail HTNF-07 with the Tom Duncan Mailbox Trail HTNF-05.

The trail headed north from trail HTNF-07 for about one kilometer as it dropped down to the NFER. After crossing the river, the trail continued north crossing Red Mountain Creek, climbing to a prominent ridge to the north of Red Mountain Creek. The northern terminus of the trail is where it met the Ben Duncan Mailbox Trail (HTNF-05).

The trail route is approximate based on contours of the 15' HV 1931 map (A2: 23--it is not depicted on the 15' KV 1955 map A2: 24). The trail is also depicted on the 1941 TNF map (A2:15) and Metsker's TC map (A2: 22) but not most of the other TNF and SRNF maps.

It is possible that this was a locally used trail providing access to homesteads in the area. The 15'HV1931 map shows two different locations along this trail with structures. The first location is before the trail crosses the NFER at about the 1,500' elevation. According to Garcelon (A5: ms01 location 3--green) it was the homestead of one of the members of the extended Wilburn family in the first decades of the 20th century.

After ascending the ridge to the north of Red Mountain Creek the trail passed by the location of the second structure noted on the 15'HV 1931map located at about the 2,000' contour level in the SW quarter of (what is now) Section 32. This appears to have been the homestead established by Emma Willburn (IF03). Location of the improvements is approximate.

HTNF-10 (Maps 4 and 6)

After the county road was constructed out to Long Ridge (see HTNF-12), an old section of this trail was converted into a road/jeep trail. The trail ran south from the northern end of the Long Ridge--where the old Long Ridge Trail (HTNF-12) began its descent to Salt Creek. Trail HTNF-10 paralleled the crest of Long Ridge south for over a mile along its eastern flank at about the 2,700' (+/- 100') elevation to access the Willie Hoaglin place (IF04). The trail intersected with trail HTNF-13 just to the south of the Hoaglin place. From there, the trail continued south at about the 2,500' contour to end at its junction with trail HTNF-13 at the Bob Hoaglin place (this tract shows up as a private parcel on the 1977 SRNF map (A2: 21b).

This trail is shown on the 15'HV1931 map (A2: 23) but not on TNF and SRNF maps. It is possible that this was a locally used trail to access the Hoaglin and Duncan homesteads from Hoaglin Valley (saving about 500 feet in elevation gain (and winter snow) by avoiding the need to climb to the top of Long Ridge to travel south on trail HTNF-12).

HTNF-11 (Maps 5 and 7) Round Valley-Weaverville Trail

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The Round Valley to Weaverville Trail was recorded as trail HTMR-26 in the HTMRO. This was the only trail in that report determined to be eligible for the NRHP in the southern portion of the Mad River Ranger District (Keter 1997c).

Dating to the mid-1850s, this trail is one of the oldest historic trails in the region (Carranco and Beard 1981: 268). It is likely the exact route of this trail has varied over time and therefore it is plotted based not only on historic maps, but also a description of the original route of the trail contained in *Genocide and Vendetta* (Carranco and Beard 1981) and from my field work in the area.

The trail led north from Covelo and passed through Summit Valley. It then dropped down to the confluence of Hulls Creek and the NFER. At that point according to Carranco and Beard (1981: 268-269):

The trail crossed the North Fork Eel River where the river made a sharp bend around the end of Long Ridge and where Hulls Creek empties into it. Then the trail went along the west side of the river for a mile, crossing a little piece of ground which is still known as Jacks Flat.

Jacks Flat is located to the west (across the river) from a large rock outcropping several hundred feet high (see also Goddard 1924) and is named for Jack Littlefield (B07) who was arrested by Trinity County Constable Bayliss Van Horn at this spot in 1895 (see Littlefield entry). At Jacks Flat, a second historic (and likely prehistoric) trail HTNF-07 continued north paralleling the river eventually connecting with Long Ridge. At Jacks Flat the main trail according to Carranco and Beard (1981:268-269):

...then crossed the river and worked its way up the mountain over open range cut by steep, wooded ravines. At a distance of about two miles the trail went through a gap in a spur ridge that ended on a high knoll known as Wylackie Hill.

Although it is clear where the trail left the river heading east upslope, few historic maps show this trail (some of Lowden's early maps (A2: 1-4) although not very accurate show a trail in this general area) nor is it on any of the USGS 15' maps. Therefore, the depiction of this route is very tentative. Moreover, the route probably varied somewhat over the years--especially after construction of a jeep trail over much of the original trail tread probably sometime after World War II (see for example the USGS 7.5' Long Ridge map).

From Wylackie Hill (where Spur A rejoins to the main trail) the trail headed north to a point on the three-way watershed divide between the NFER (to the west), the Littlefield Creek drainage to the north (it is also about where trail HTNF-48 comes in from the northwest) and the Antone Creek drainage to the south and east. At that point, the main trail headed north dropping down into the headwaters of the Littlefield Creek drainage (see image below). The trail crossed Littlefield Creek twice as it followed the creek to the

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north towards Red Mountain House (HA01) After the first creek crossing the trail passed by the grave site of Jack Littlefield (B07) who was "dry-gulched" at this location in 1895 (following his murder, the ensuing investigation, and sensational murder trials held in Weaverville almost bankrupted Trinity County). His grave site is marked with a granite headstone (remains of a collapsed picket fence around the grave were still visible in 1987). Refer to Keter 1994a for an overview of the Littlefield murder.



HTNF-11

View from Antone Ridge where trail HTNF-11 drops into the Littlefield Creek drainage. Refer to HA01 and B07 for more information on this trail (TCHS)



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Trail HTNF11

This is at the foot of the trail as it ascends Red Mountain from the flat at Red Mountain House after the 1987 Travis fire. Note the even-age Douglas firs in the background.



Trail HTNF-11 crosses a spring area just below Jones Ridge.
(T. Keter 2009)



View to Red Mountain from near the trail junction with the Jones Ridge road.

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Note the regrowth of brush species. There are also some oaks growing from the bases of dead trees. The 1987 Travis Fire burned upslope and very hot in this area (T. Keter 2009)

I recorded this historical site (site record 05-10-54-317) in September of 1987 during the Travis Fire before the fire was controlled due to the fact that a fire line was being constructed over sections of the trail near the grave site. Later that year, I guided the grandnephew of Jack Littlefield down the section of trail from Antone Ridge to the grave site. Worth noting is also the fact that I identified a western juniper growing near the trail just to the south of the grave site (see Keter 1995). See B07 for a description of the grave site.

After passing the Littlefield grave site, and crossing the creek for the second time, the trail continued north keeping well to the east of Littlefield Creek. The trail then crossed Red Mountain Creek before finally reaching Red Mountain House (HA01). Five historic trails all came together at Red Mountain House. At this point the Round Valley-Weaverville Trail continued to the northeast climbing Red Mountain passing just to the north of its summit on a narrow trending ridgeline that leads east to Jones Ridge. At that point, trail HTMR-31 headed to the southeast along the NFER and Mad River watershed divide to the Yolla Bolly high country. The Round Valley-Weaverville Trail continued north along Jones Ridge dropping down to the South Fork of the Mad River where it was joined by trail HTNF-37. The main trail then continued northeast for just over one mile to Three Forks.

From Three Forks, the trail paralleled the Mad River north to about the site of the former Forest Service Guard station at Ruth (the old location before the reservoir was constructed). The trail then climbed South Fork Mountain before dropping down to Peanut and continuing on to Weaverville via Hayfork. Three Forks was also the beginning of the Humboldt Trail (HTMR-27) leading to the Yolla Bollys and Red Bluff (refer to the HTMRO and Keter 2013c for information on this trail).

In 1987 I noted that the portions of this trail within the Littlefield Creek drainage (Spur B see below) as well as the section from Red Mountain House to Jones Ridge (this is now FS trail 12W13 and is still maintained) were still in fair to good condition and could be easily followed.

Given the importance of the historical events that are associated with this trail during the homesteading era it was determined eligible for the NHRP under criteria A. These two sections of trail with fair to excellent integrity totaling about 4-5 miles in length are now within the Yolla Bolly Wilderness Area.

There are two other trails that are directly associated with The Round Valle-Weaverville Trail designated as Spurs A and B.

HTNF-11 Spur A

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Spur A is a logical route to access the high country to the east of the NFER from the Pitch Wailaki villages that were located in the vicinity of Hulls Creek and its confluence with the NFER and quite likely dates to the prehistoric era. Subsequent to the historical use of the main trail from Hulls Creek along the river north to Jack's Flat, a second trail I have designated Spur A split off from the main trail just to the south of the confluence of Hulls Creek and the NFER. The trail crossed Hulls Creek (thus avoiding two crossings of the NFER when the river was running high) and headed northeast to the present location of the Travis Ranch (F05)--this section of trail may have first been used during the historic era after Thomas Hayden settled at that location. I mapped some portions of Spur A from Hulls Creek to the Travis Ranch based on the 15'HV1931 map (A2: 23)--but this route given the mapping problems in this area is only approximate.

From the Travis Ranch Spur A continued northeast crossing a small drainage and then climbed northeast to the divide between the NFER and Antone Creek watersheds just north of Brush Mountain where it then rejoined the main Round Valley-Weaverville Trail at about Wylackie Hill.

HTNF-11 Spur B

At the three-way watershed divide mentioned above where trail HTNF-48 comes in from the northwest and the main trail starts to drop down to the north into the Littlefield Creek drainage, a third trail--Spur B--headed northeast along the divide between Littlefield Creek and Antone Creeks (known locally as Antone Ridge) and then circled around to the northwest dropping down into the Littlefield Creek drainage to reconnect with the main trail after its second crossing of Littlefield Creek. This spur trail is noted for inventory purposes as it shows up as FS system trail 8E04 on the 1994 SRNF map.

Spur B only shows on later maps and was probably constructed during the logging boom of the early 1950s. Until the 1990s the Red Mountain House parcel was owned by Larry Brown of the Flying Double A Ranch as was the Travis Ranch. It is likely that the jeep trail was constructed to connect these two parcels despite its crossing national forest lands (a permit may have been required to cross national forest lands). The Red Mountain Fields 160 acre parcel of land (HA01) is one of several of old homesteads and Indian allotments in this area that were traded to the FS in an exchange for national forest lands elsewhere (see the USFS SRNF Brown Land Exchange CRIR; there were a number of owners for both these parcels prior to Brown).

Spur B--the jeep trail--was still passable as late as the fall of 1987 when I drove it while working on the Travis Fire.

HTNF-12 Long Ridge Trail (Maps 4, 6, and 7)

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I recorded this trail (site record 54-172) in 1980. By that time the original trail had essentially been obliterated, it had been overlain in most places by Trinity County Road 520.

The county road to Long Ridge was constructed by the WPA in the late 1930s or the very early 1940s (although I have not yet determined the exact date CCC records may shed light exactly when it was constructed).

Given its strategic location, there is little doubt that this trail was used during the prehistoric era (there is also a chert quarry located near the northern end of the ridge near the trail see site record 05-10-51-171). It was quite likely a major travel corridor during the ethnographic period (when traveling north to south in this region, this ridge route is much more efficient despite the gain in altitude than following the winding and deep-cut canyon of the NFER).

This is quite possibly the oldest historical trail in the region. The first documented travel over Long Ridge by Euro-Americans was by Frank and Pierce Asbill, Jim Neafus, and the Kelsey Party in May of 1854. During my research on the region's past environment (Keter 1995), I noted that Long Ridge is where in 1860 domestic pigs first escaped and began to impact the local ecosystem. The Asbill brothers were driving a herd of pigs north from Round Valley to Weaverville where pork was in great demand by Chinese miners (with the gold to pay for it). While camping on Long Ridge several "brown bears" (it was not clear but they were probably grizzlies) came into camp and the pigs scattered in every direction; where wild pigs --as Carranco and Beard (1981: 174) wrote: "would be hunted for the next fifty years." Consultants told me that by the late 1890s feral pigs had become so numerous and destructive (grazing on acorns and bulbous species of plants common to the region) in the Yolla Bolly country that as kids they would be paid a bounty for each pig they shot (Keter 1994a).

This trail was used extensively by homesteaders who settled out on Long Ridge during the late 1800s and early 1900s. The trail is depicted (sometimes inaccurately) on nearly all of the historic maps for this region (Appendix 2). The Long Ridge School (F07) opened in 1879 and was located at Schoolhouse Spring just below the trail in Section 36. The Ben Duncan Mailbox trail (HTNF-05) leading from Hoaglin Valley to the Caution Post Office when it was located to the east of the NFER crossed over Long Ridge at Schoolhouse Spring. Both of these trails were used by the children of local homesteaders who attended the Long Ridge School.

This is one of the most remote regions in northwestern California and one of the last to be surveyed and mapped--see Lowden's 1894 map (A2: 04). Long Ridge was still only accessible by trail until the late 1930s or early 1940s when the CCC and WPA constructed a bridge over Salt Creek and extended County Road 520-- from there to the southern end of Long Ridge. Garcelon ms. (Appendix 5: ms. 01) noted that the road was: "not built until during or just after World War 2. The road was built to Salt Creek and over a bridge to about a mile beyond the bridge by the WPA."

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In the original site record I recorded the old unused sections of the county road as being part of the original "wagon road." Although the bridge and county road were not constructed until the early 1940s, it should be noted that Wayne Martin (I#395) indicated that that it was possible to get wagons to Long Ridge but that it was a difficult process. It appears some sections of the original county road had simply been rerouted over the years and in a few places along the ridge some sections of the old abandoned road were still visible--this was recorded as part of an old wagon road in the site record--this conclusion is somewhat questionable.

After the Round Valley to Weaverville Trail (HTNF-11) crossed the NFER at Hulls Creek and headed north paralleling the river, the Long Ridge Trail split off climbing northwesterly to the southern end of the crest of Long Ridge. It then continued north generally following the ridgeline. This was one of the most heavily traveled "through" trails in the region and numerous spur trails connected from Long Ridge to points east and west. The trail passed by School House Springs in Section 36 and continued to the northern end of Long Ridge (the distance from Hulls Creek to this point is just over 10 miles).

The section of the trail labeled as Spur A is a section of the newly constructed county road that did not follow the general route of the original trail to make the grade of the route from the northern end Long Ridge where it descends steeply to Salt Creek accessible by automobile. The main trail dropped off the northern end of Long Ridge circling around to the northwest to cross Salt Creek at about the location of the present day bridge.

At that point the trail again split. The main trail continued up a small drainage west to junction with trails HTNF-13 and HTNF-32 at the southern end of Kettenpom Valley. Spur B headed north from about Salt Creek bridge (just to the northeast of a small drainage coming in from the northwest about 100 meters north of the bridge) climbing a steep trending ridge out of the Salt Creek drainage. The trail, after hitting the top of the watershed divide and turning to the west, split with--both the north and south forks of the trail (depending on if you were headed north towards Soldier Basin or south to Kettenpom Valley) ending in about a quarter mile where they met the Kettenpom to Hettenshaw Valley Trail (HTNF-15).

Note trail HTNF-45 connecting with the Long Ridge Trail at the northern end of Long Ridge. Refer to that trail record for a discussion of its prehistoric and historical links to the Long Ridge Trail.

HTNF-13 (Maps 6 and 7)

The western terminus of this trail is located about two miles south of the northern end of Long Ridge at trail HTNF12. It was first recorded as HTMR 19 in the HTMRO. The route of this trail has been modified since it was first plotted it in 1997. It is clear from consultants and further research that the trail was used to link northern end of Long Ridge with points to the east of the NFER including a number of homesteads and the Red Mountain House (HA01). The trail dropped down from the Long Ridge trail (HTNF-12 to the Bob Hoaglin

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Place and then continued down slope to the southeast to the NFER. There are several trail junctions associated with this trail. Some consultant data suggest that the mail was carried via this trail to the Caution Post office rather than the Tom Duncan Trail--refer to the Ted Shannon reference in People and Place Names.

Trail HTNF-13 continues east to junction with trail HTMR-11 at the Jim Willburn homestead (HF01).

Trail HTNF-13 Spur A splits off the main trail to the southeast to connect with trails HTNF-05 and HTNF-09 about one mile to the west of HTMR-11. This route is approximate and was plotted based on the 1931 HV 15' USGS map (A2: 23), TNF maps (see Appendix 2), Metsker's TC map (A2: 22), and Garcelon (A5: ms01)

HTNF-14 (Map 6)

This trail leaves the southern end of Haman Ridge at the same location as HTNF-02. Today a FS road (5S32) overlies much of this trail. Originally this trail was listed as HTMR 54-183 in the MRHTO. Although this trail does not lead to the Nielson Place (F03), two consultants (Rowley and Garcelon (A5: ms01) both insisted that this trail was called the "Nielson Mail Trail." Garcelon wrote:

The Nielson Mail Trail started off Haman Ridge Road at the same place the Betts road [HTNF-02] started. It went down the ridge on [the] opposite side of Betts Rd.--almost parallels to a fork of Salt Creek. There is now a forest access road to Salt Creek Basin and it travels in the same area as the trail went. Parts of the old forest trail are still visible [early 1980s] along with old forest trail [dotted "i"] blazes on the trees. I traveled the trail many times with horses. Nielson could have branched off this trail and followed a trail to the south [HTNF-33] up one of the forks of Salt Creek and over the dividing ridge between the heads of Salt Creek and Lousy Creek.

After dropping down to the east from Haman Ridge, there is a large flat terrace with a nearby spring and historic hunting camp (see site record 54-274) about where the trail hits Salt Creek --this area was also used heavily during the ethnographic era and the historic trail likely dates to the ethnographic period (personal note--I recorded a number of prehistoric sites in the vicinity see SRNF site records). Crossing Salt Creek, the trail continued east climbing an ascending ridge to the crest of Long Ridge, while trail HTNF-33 headed south from this point, climbing to the headwaters of Salt Creek where it connected with trail HTNF-02.

This trail shows up on the 1931HV 15' map (A2: 23) and 1955KV 15' map (A2: 24) as well as the 1941 TNF map (A2: 15).

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HTNF-15 (Maps 2 and 3)

Although the historic name of this trail is not definitive--it was known as the Kettenpom to Hettenshaw Valley Trail by locals. The trail was documented in the HTMRO as trail 54-232 (portions were also recorded as site 54-231--see also trail 54-200). In that report it was referred to as the Soldier Basin Trail. This is incorrect although it is known by some consultants as "the trail to Soldier Basin from Kettenpom Valley" (see HTNF-19). This trail was the most direct route--a distance of about 10 miles--leading from Kettenpom Valley north to Hettenshaw Valley (Map 2).

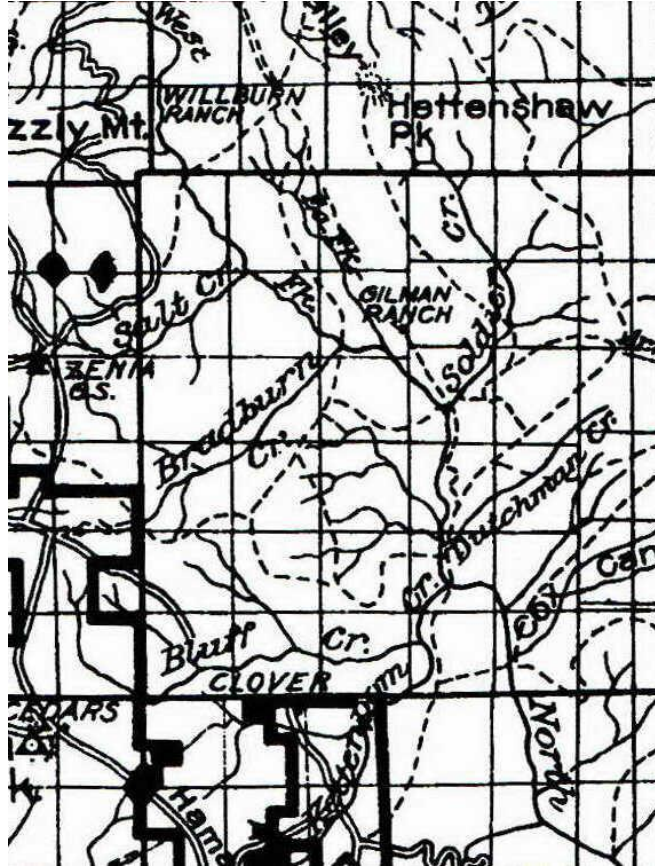
Given the ethnographic data for the area, it is clear that this would have been a major travel route linking Pitch Wailaki and Lassik Wailaki winter villages along the NFER like the one at Soldier Basin (B03, Goddard 1924) with summer villages and subsistence resources procurement locations in Hettenshaw, Kettenpom, and Hoaglin Valleys. This trail was also one of the earliest trails to be used during the historic era. It was over this trail--north from about the mouth of Kettenpom Creek--that the Asbill brothers, Jim Neafus, and the Kelsey party in May of 1854 traveled to Hettenshaw Valley from Long Ridge. During the historic era this was a heavily used trail providing access to a number of homesteads within the NFERW stretching from Hettenshaw Valley south to Kettenpom Valley.

The trail heads north from Kettenpom Valley to about the confluence of Kettenpom Creek and the NFER. After crossing the river, the trail then headed north paralleling the river towards Soldier Basin and the Gilman Ranch (HF11). From there it connected with trails leading to the east and west (HTNF 19, HTNF-20). Trail HTNF-15 continued north staying slightly to the east and well upslope from the deep-cut river canyon for about four more miles to terminate at the south end of Hettenshaw Valley at the James Wilburn place.

Although somewhat inaccurately plotted it is obvious that Lowden's TC maps (A2: 1-3) depict this trail. The trail also shows up on the 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 23). Interestingly, a section of trail south from Hettenshaw Valley for several miles does not show up on many of the earlier TNF maps (see for example the TNF 1909 (A2: 8a) and 1915 (A2: 10) maps--it does however show up on the 1941 TNF map (a2: 15) and the 1947 SRNF map (A2: 20).

The HTMRO notes that sections of the trail in the south in the vicinity of Kettenpom Valley on private lands had been destroyed by logging and road construction. In the early 1980s, many sections of the trail--from where it first leaves Hettenshaw Valley at the head of the North Fork Watershed near the site of the old James Willburn place--south to the mouth of Kettenpom Creek--still retained fair to good integrity in many places.

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Map 2

Kettenpom to Hettenshaw Valley Trail (right center)

Six Rivers National Forest 1947.

(A2: 20)

HTNF-16 (Map 4)

This trail was documented as trail 05-10-54-198 in the HTMRO. The southern end of the trail was located at the confluence of Cox Creek and the NFER. From about the point where trail HTNF-46 crossed the NFER, trail HTNF-16 headed northeast climbing along the steep divide between Cox Creek and Raglan Creeks. After leveling out at about 2,500' in elevation (location of a timber harvest unit in the 1980s), the trail continued on the more gentle ascending ridgeline separating Tub Creek and Raglan Creek to Mad River Ridge where it connected with the Mad River Ridge Trail (HTMR-12).

The site record noted:

There are some older blazes (single blazes and triple blazes) that are partially overgrown and are difficult to discern along the trail. However the majority of blaze marks consist of Forest Service double blaze [dotted "i"]
...Most of these blaze marks have been painted yellow.

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About one-half mile to the west of Mad River Ridge at about 3,200' in elevation, a trail (HTNF-20) split off from HTNF-16 and headed north towards the Raglan Trail. This trail eventually connected with the Kettenpom-Hettenshaw Valley Trail (HTNF-15) at the Gilman Ranch (HA11).

According to the site record: "Portions of this trail are located on the General Land Office Survey Plats for 1880." Trail HTNF-16 is shown on the TNF 1931 (A2: 13) and 1941 (A2: 15) maps, but not the earlier TNF 1909 (A2: 8a) and 1915 (A2: 10) maps. It is also shown on the 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 23). By the late 1980s although several very short sections with blazes still remained, Forest Road 3S45, and logging activities (Raglan Timber Sale) had destroyed much of the trail from Mad River Ridge west to about the 2,500' contour level where the old trail began to steeply descend to the mouth of Cox Creek.

HTNF-17 (Map 4)

This trail is located to the north of Packwood Flat. This name is associated with the Packwood brothers (see entry) who may have settled here before one brother was murdered and the other on driven off by George White's henchmen.

At the time of the HTMRO, it appeared to be a contemporary jeep trail that was shown on the Shannon Butte 7.5' USGS map. Portions of this trail were recorded as trail 54-200 and trail HTMR-13 in the HTMRO. Interestingly, the trail is not plotted on TNF maps or SRNF maps (A2) or the 1931 HV 15' (A2: 23) map. It does show up (except for the most easterly section passing through the Yellowjacket place) on the 1977 SRNF map (A2: 21b). Max Rowley (Appendix 4) indicated that the Packwood wagon road which ends at Rock Creek was probably in before 1949.

This trail was recorded by Williams and Maniery in 1981. They noted that numerous prehistoric artifacts were located along the trail including chert cores, flakes, and ground stone. At that time portions of the area were still owned by Simpson Timber Company (see Base Map) and had been logged--with much of it overlain by a jeep trail. The trail as recorded in the site record included a section of trail that I have designated as trail HTNF-47. The recording of this trail was subjective and also related to the project that they were working on at the time. With further research, I have determined that during the zenith of the homestead era the trail was used to link the Fred Crabtree place (HA07)with Kettenpom Valley and the trails leading to Zenia and Round Valley (Garcelon A5: ms01). The trail has been mapped as connecting to the west with trail HTNF-15.

The site record noted that this trail (in T3S, R7E, S36 and T3S, R8E, S31) shows up on the 1880 GLO plats. The trail was blazed and included half-mile and mile markers indicating that it had been a FS system trail. The trail had been blazed with the dotted "i" blaze and painted yellow.

Trail HTNF-17 headed to the northwest from the Packwood Flat Trail (HTNF-47) from a point located about a half-mile to the west of the Rock Creek Trail/Wagon Road (HTMR-

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10). At the point where trail HTNF-46 Spur A came in from the north. The trail then headed to the west and southwest along the divide between Tub Creek and Yellowjacket Creek. Finally, the trail turned to the southwest and dropped down into the Yellowjacket Creek watershed crossed the creek and ended at about Crabtree place (HA07, F09). Here, the main Yellowjacket Trail (HTNF-46) came in from the northeast and continued on west towards the NFER and eventually Kettenpom.

There are problems with the accuracy of the various historical maps in this area and many of the early maps conflict on the routes of both trails HTNF-17 and HTNF-46 (for a discussion of this problem see trail HTNF-46). For example, the 15'HV 1931 map does not show this trail but does show the Crabtree place (a structure symbol is shown on the map at this location). The trail also does not show up on the 15'KV 1955 map (A2: 24). The various TNF maps also conflict on the route of this trail. In addition, the usually reliable Metsker's TC map (A2: 22) does not show this trail. For that reason this may not have been a FS system maintained trail but was used mostly by locals. By the 1980, much of this trail from HTNF-47 to the Crabtree place was overlain by a jeep road.

HTNF-18 (Maps 3 and 4)

This trail was documented as trail 54-197 in the HTMRO. Locals called it the Raglan Flat Trail or Raglan Trail. The trail was named after Thomas Raglin (B02—that is the correct spelling). The parcel of land encompassing Raglan Flat was first claimed by Sally Hoaglin's first husband Silas Hoaglin ("Hoaglen" on the map) sometime prior to 1894 as it is shown on Lowden's 1894 map (A2: 5). Refer to B01 for a discussion of the history of this tract of land.

For some reason the 1894 Lowden TC property map (A2: 5) shows an entire 640 acre section as being held in the name of S. Hoaglin at this location (see also Appendix 1 layer 3). This map also shows a parcel to the south in Section 36 of the same Township and Range labeled with the same name. This simply may be a mapping error given the early entry date for this parcel of land (before it was accurately surveyed). The 1907 (A2: 07) and 1909 TNF (A2: 08b) maps show the parcel under the name of "S. Hoaglin" and at about 160 acres in size. See the citations for Raglin and Susan Hoaglin in the *People and Place Names* section of this study for more on this subject.

The trail was recorded in 1981. At that time, a "square tin plaque on a fir tree identified the jeep trail as the Raglan Flat trailhead" (Maniery and Williams: 54-192) marked the western end of the trail. The trail began on a private parcel of land that had been logged and for a short distance (.8 miles) part of the trail was then a jeep road. From the end of the jeep road west the remainder of the trail was in excellent condition. The trail was maintained by the FS (7E10) and the blazes were the standard FS dotted "i" blaze. As with many of the trails on the MRRD, the blazes were painted over with yellow paint. In the Raglan Flat area there were rock cairns painted yellow that designated the route of the trail in the open prairie as it dropped down off the flat to the southwest into Raglan Gulch.

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Given its strategic location connecting the NFER with Mad River Ridge (trail HTMR-12) the trail most likely dates to the ethnographic era. In addition to several prehistoric sites being recorded in the vicinity of the trail, chert flakes, ground stone artifacts, and an obsidian biface were noted along the trail corridor when the site was recorded. During more than half-a-dozen hikes on this trail from Mad River Ridge to Raglan Flat before the FS road to Raglan Flat was constructed in the late 1980s, I also noted chert flakes and groundstone artifacts at several locations along the trail corridor. For more information on prehistoric sites associated with this trail refer to F31c and the Yellowjacket Timber Sale CRIR 05-10-293.

I recorded the Raglan place in 1984 (B01)—this was at one time a substantial homestead. Heading west from the homestead (see photos at B02) after it dropped down off Mad River Ridge, the Raglan Trail, after about a third of a mile, crossed trail HTNF-20. From this point trail HTNF-20 headed north and then west towards the Gilman Ranch (HA11). This trail ended a short distance to the south at its junction with trail HTNF-16. From its junction with HTNF-20, the Raglan trail continued to the southwest to Raglan Flat. From there, the trail passed through an open prairie on the north side of Raglan Gulch before crossing Dutchman Creek and ending where it met the Kettenpom to Hettenshaw Valley Trail (HTNF-15) about one mile south of the Gilman Ranch.

This trail shows up on most TNF maps and the 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 23). It also shows up on Metsker's TC map (A2: 17). Today, a FS road overlies much of the original route of this trail but a few sections of the original trail still remain between Mad River Ridge and where the trail first crosses Raglan Gulch about where sections 23 and 24 (T3S, R7E) meet on the USGS 7.5' Shannon Butte map (as of 2004 when I last visited the area).

HTNF-19 (Maps 3 and 4) Soldier Basin/Ben Arthur Trail

This site was originally recorded during the HTMRO as trail HTMR-14 showing only that section of the trail extending from Mad River Ridge west to Soldier Basin--the section to the west of Soldier Basin was not documented at that time. There is little doubt that this route was a major travel corridor during the ethnographic period between Solider Basin (B03) and points west; including the abundant perennial springs in the Zenia area where there were summer encampments. To the east from Soldier Basin, the trail led to Mad River country and South Fork Mountain.

This trail was referred as the Soldier Basin Trail by some locals, however, during the heyday of the sheep ranching era of the 1870s and even later this trail it was referred to as the Ben Arthur Trail. Ben Arthur, one of the earliest settlers in the region, owned a ranch on the main Eel River south of Alderpoint and used this "trail way" in the late spring to drive his herds of sheep to summer range in the South Fork Mountain/Yolla Bolly region (Keter 1994a). The portion of this trail leading from Double Gate Ridge to Soldier Creek was also known by locals during the early 20th century (and today) as the Double Gate Ridge Trail.

Prehistoric and Historic Trails of the NFERW

At near what is today the location of the Zenia-Hoaglin School (the Zenia to Round Valley Trail/Road HTNF-04) the trail headed southeasterly towards the watershed divide between the NFER and the main Eel River (this divide is very broad in places and over the years it is likely the route of this "trail way" varied somewhat--for that reason the trail is labeled the route approximate). At about the watershed divide--where it crossed trail HTNF-23--the trail turned to the northeast crossing over Double Gate Ridge. A number of trails intersect with this trail as it descended to the northeast and crossed a large flat in section 16. Trails HTNF-27 and HTNF-29 coming in from the south provided a link with Kettenpom Valley. A short section of trail labeled HTNF-19 Spur A connected the main trail with the Bradburn-Hettenshaw Valley Trail (HTNF-21). That trail heads northeast as it drops down to the mouth of Bradburn Creek. This section of the Bradburn Creek-Hettenshaw Valley Trail was still in fair condition in the late 1980s.

After crossing the Prescott place on a large flat (HF09), the trail dropped steeply to the NFER just to the north of the mouth of Soldier Creek where it met the Kettenpom Valley to Hettenshaw Valley Trail (HTNF-15). The trail then headed south on the east side (the short section of trail along the river is also recorded as part of the Kettenpom Valley to Hettenshaw Valley Trail) of the river crossing Soldier Creek at its mouth (B03) and passed by the Gilman Ranch (HA11). The trail then turned east and climbed the trending ridge that formed the divide between Gilman Creek and Soldier Creek. A short distance up the ridge, trail HTNF-20 split off heading to the south and east. Trail HTNF-19 continued following the watershed divide to the northeast. At about a half-mile west of Mad River Ridge trail HTNF-28 headed off to the northwest from the Soldier Basin Trail. This trail after dropping down and crossing Soldier Creek climbed to the divide between Soldier Creek and the East Fork of the NFER and followed it north to the Van Duzen River divide where it ended at the James Wilburn place at the southern end of Hettenshaw Valley.

After climbing to Mad River Ridge the trail continued to the east dropping down to the Mad River. From there, a number of trails led to the high country along the crest of South Fork Mountain. The trail route was plotted based on the 15 'HV 1935 map, Metsker's Trinity County map, and some TNF maps (Appendix 2).

HTNF-20 (Map 4)

This trail was listed as trail 05-10-54-199 in the HTMRO. The site record notes that it was blazed with the "dotted i" FS blaze and the blazes were painted yellow indicating it was likely a maintained FS trail. The trail begins in the south at trail HTNF-16 and heads north a short distance to cross the Raglan Trail (HTNF-19), before it bends to the southwest generally following the divide between Dutchman and Gilman Creeks for about a mile. The trail then splits with the main trail dropping down to cross Gilman Creek. It then climbed to the divide between Gilman and Soldier Creeks where it ended at its junction with the Ben Arthur/Solder Basin Trail (HTNF-19). The second trail, Spur A circled to the southwest and after crossing Gilman Creek rejoined the main trail.

Prehistoric and Historic Trails of the NFERW

Portions of the trail to the west of Mad River Ridge in section 24 were on private property and had been logged by the time the trail was recorded in 1981. Some sections of the trail on FS lands were still in good condition in the mid-1980s.

I hiked the section of this trail down the divide between Gillman and Dutchman Creeks several times in the mid-1980s to access prehistoric and historic sites at about the point where the trail splits and Spur A circles to the southwest.

At that time portions of the original trail were overlain by a primitive jeep road. It is likely the Tunsen place was located adjacent to this trail (refer to *People and Places* section). Also, there is an isolated protohistoric site near this trail (see site record 54-201) -- see F31a.

Both of these sections of trail are depicted on the 15'HV 1935 map (A2: 23). Today FS roads and timber harvest units overlay most of this trail.

HTNF-21 (Maps 2 and 3) Bradburn Creek to Hettenshaw Valley Trail.

One consultant (Garcelon A5: ms01) indicated that this trail was called the Bradburn Creek to Hettenshaw Valley Trail. The western end of this trail was at about the current location of the old Zenia Guard Station (at the NFER/main Eel River divide and the junction of several trails and now the county road). According to the 15' HV1931 map (A2:23), the trail headed easterly towards Little Round Mountain. After passing just to north of Little Round mountain, the trail dropped rather steeply to the southeast to cross Bradburn Creek. The trail then climbed to the northwestern edge of the large flat (ancient river terrace) in Section 16. At this point, the trail intersected with a short section of trail labeled as HTNF-19 Spur A; this trail headed south a short distance (maybe a tenth of a mile) to meet the Ben Arthur/Soldier Basin Trail (HTNF-19).

From the trail junction, the Bradburn Creek to Hettenshaw Valley Trail headed to the northeast descending to the confluence of Bradburn Creek and the West Fork of the NFER. The section of this trail dropping to the mouth of Bradburn Creek from the large flat was still in fair condition when I last hiked it in the late 1980s. At the confluence of the West Fork and Bradburn Creek the trail turned north and climbed the trending ridge that divides the West and East Forks of the NFER. The trail generally followed the divide between the West Fork and East Fork north for about a mile (a FS logging road and timber harvest units now overlies much of the original trail along the ridge) before dropping down to more or less parallel the East Fork north to the James Wilburn place situated at the extreme southern end of Hettenshaw Valley right at the Van Duzen River/NFER watershed divide.

The trail, as described above, shows up on the 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 23) and a number of Trinity National Forest maps (A2). Mapping of this trail, as is often the case, was problematic due to resurveys.

Prehistoric and Historic Trails of the NFERW

Spur Trails

Two spur trails have been plotted that connected this route with nearby trails. Spur A led from the main trail (on the Shields homestead see F12) southwest to cross trail HTNF-23 spur A to join trail HTNF-19 about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile south of the Barkdull place (F21). It continued southwest to connect with trail HTNF-19 at about its junction with trail HTNF-23 (see Base Map).

At some point after 1931 it appears that a short-cut section of trail was constructed (or at least was mapped at that time) that split off the main trail before it dropped down to cross Bradburn Creek-- I have designated this as HTNF-21 Spur B. The trail headed to the northeast steeply descending directly to the mouth of Bradburn Creek where it rejoined the main trail--this trail would have saved a significant amount of travel time and distance over the main route. It should be noted, therefore, that this spur trail, given its more direct route to the mouth of Bradburn Creek, may very well have been in existence and used prior to when it first shows up on historic maps.

HTNF-22 (Maps 1 and 3)

This trail within the NFER watershed was previously recorded as part of trail HTMR-04 in the HTMRO (the section of this trail to the north of the NFER watershed at Grizzly Mountain is still labeled that way and is discussed for HTMR-04 below).

This trail generally follows the crest of the broad ridge that is the divide between the NFER and main Eel River watersheds northwesterly from about the Zenia Guard Station to Grizzly Mountain (NF03). During the prehistoric era this trail route was more like a "travel corridor" than a specific route with numerous side trails leading to springs and areas with subsistence resources. During the historic era the Lassics region was used as summer range for ranchers in the Zenia and Blocksburg areas (Keter 1989, 1994a). Also the area was used extensively for subsistence hunting by settlers and Watts Lake was a place that locals would gather to socialize with annual get-togethers there every Fourth of July. Watts Lake was substantially larger than today. I was told that after construction of the paved FS road (in the late 1970s) the water flow into the lake was disrupted and that it no longer contains as much water in the summer as in the past (personal communication Andy Burgess).

Between about 4,500' and 5,900' in elevation the Lassics provided a longer growing season into the late spring and early summer for desirable plant species as well as summer habitat for deer. There are numerous prehistoric sites as well as historic hunter's camps in this area.

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Beyond Grizzly Mountain (NF03) the trail continues to the northwest roughly along the Van Duzen River/main Eel River watershed divide to about Red Lassic. There it joined the Green Mountain Trail (54-215); see below (HTMR-04) and the HTMRO for more information on these two trails.

HTNF-23 (Map 3)

This unnamed trail beginning at about the current location of the Zenia Guard Station headed to the south along the relatively broad crest of the divide that separates the NFERW from the main Eel River watershed in this area for about three miles to connect with trail HTNF-39 at its southern terminus.

Given the local topography (the relatively broad crest of the watershed divide in headwaters of Bradburn Creek and Bluff Creek region) and the plentiful perennial springs in the area, the trail as depicted here should be viewed more as a "travel corridor" rather than a specific trail. This trail linked the numerous homesteads to the east of the Zenia-Round Valley Trail/Wagon Road in the region in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with the outside world.

Again subjectively, short sections of connecting trails branching off the main trail have been designated as HTNF-23 Spurs A and B. The main trail and spur trails were plotted based on the 15'HV1931 map (A2: 23). At its southern end the trail meets HTNF-30 that leads to Kettenpom Valley.

HTNF-24 (Maps 2 and 3)

This is approximately the route of the original late 1850s and early 1860s trail connecting Hettenshaw Valley with the Zenia area. The trail connected two of the earliest homesteads in the region--the George Burgess place at Zenia with Hettenshaw Valley and the James Wilburn homestead. The Base Map (Maps 2 and 3) depict the route based on the 15'HV1931 (A2: 23) map and Lowden's Trinity County Maps (A2: 1-3). Also, the entire trail is depicted on the Metsker's TC map (A2: 24).

Given the lack of detail and accuracy of the Lowden maps, the route has been plotted based on the 15' maps and topography. Therefore, this route should be viewed as a "best guess" of the original route that was later replaced by the county road.

Spur A is shown on the 15'HV1931 map. At the spur trail's northern end, it splits from the main trail and headed south dropping down to cross Salt Creek; it then connected with trail HTNF-21 the Bradburn Creek to Hettenshaw Valley Trail near Little Round Mountain.

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HTNF-25 (Maps 1 and 2)

This trail (possibly named the Grizzly Mountain Trail) headed southwesterly to Grizzly Mountain from Hettenshaw Valley via Refuge Valley generally following the divide between the West Fork of the NFER and the West Fork (Big Meadow Creek) of the Van Duzen River. This should be considered a main travel corridor during both the prehistoric and historic periods linking Hettenshaw Valley with the high country in the Grizzly Mountain/Lassics region. The trail is plotted based on the Lowden's TC maps and the 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 23). Today a Forest Service road overlies much of the original trail.

HTNF-26 (Map 2)

This short section of unnamed trail provided a direct link between the east side of Hettenshaw Valley and Mad River Ridge for travelers heading towards Ruth, the headwaters region of the Mad River, and the Yolla Bollys. The trail forked just before it hit Mad River Ridge with one fork connecting to HTMR-12 for those traveling south and the other for those traveling trail HTMR-12 to the north. This trail is on the 15'HV1931 map (A2: 23) and several TNF and the Metsker's TC map (A2: 24).

Forest Service roads in the Hettenshaw Peak area along the watershed divide (2S30A for example) and jeep trails on private land overlay much of the original trail.

HTNF-27 (Map 3)

There were several homesteads in this area just to the west of the NFER in the early 20th century (F12, HF13). This trail connected the homesteads to points west (Zenia, Blocksburg) via the Soldier Basin Trail (HTNF-19). The trail headed southeasterly from the Soldier Basin trail, passed over the northern edge of the large flat in Section 28 and then dropped steeply to terminate at the NFER just to the north of its confluence with Dutchman Creek where it joined the Kettenpom to Hettenshaw Valley Trail HTNF-15.

A spur trail designated as HTNF-27 Spur A provided a shortcut for those travelers heading to the south towards Kettenpom Valley via trail HTNF-29. This trail is on the 15'HV1931 map (A2: 23).

HTNF- 28 (Maps 2 and 4)

This trail (originally recorded as HTMR-15 in the HTRMO) connected the extreme southern end of Hettenshaw Valley with the Soldier Basin-Ben Arthur Trail (HTNF-19). The trail first headed to the southeast from the James Wilburn place (the barn now collapsed was standing in the 1980s and is situated at the East Fork NFER and Van Duzen River (I recorded this site in about the mid-1980s). The north side of the roof of the barn

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(constructed in 1920s or 1930s) drained into the Van Duzen watershed and the south side into the NFERW. It collapsed sometime in the late 1990s but the site record has photographs of the barn still standing.

The trail climbed a fairly gentle slope--the divide between the two watersheds (this is now a jeep trail) east for about 1.5 km to the headwaters of the watershed divide between Soldier Creek and the East Fork of the NFER. At this point the trail headed to the southeast along the divide. This section of the route was still a jeep trail (with some remaining blazes) in the 1980s (I recorded several prehistoric sites along this ridgeline). Today (the area was visited in about 2012) FS road 2S30A overlies much of the original trail along the ridge. At a point near where the FS road dead-ends, the trail continued dropping down and crossed Soldier Creek. It then climbed a trending ridge to the southeast and connected with the Soldier Creek-Ben Arthur Trail Raglan Creek Trail.

HTNF-29 (Map 3)

This trail connected Kettenpom Valley to the north with the Ben Arthur Trail (HTNF-19).

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries there were numerous homesteads in this area (see for example HF13). This was one of a number of trails linking these isolated homesteads with Kettenpom Valley to the east and to the west the Zenia-Round Valley wagon road (HTNF-27, HTNF-27 Spur A, and HTNF-30).

This trail was on the 15'HV 1931 map and Metsker's TC map. Today much of this trail route is overlain by Forest Service roads.

HTNF-30 (Map 3) Zenia-Hoaglin Mail Trail/Bluff Creek Trail

During the early 20th century this trail was referred to by locals as the Zenia-Hoaglin Mail Trail (Garcelon A2: ms01). During the 1970s and 1980s the trail was referred to by locals and Forest Service employees as the Bluff Creek Trail. It can be found on most of the historic maps dating after 1900 and the section of trail from the Zenia-Round Valley Wagon Road to Kettenpom Valley appears to have been a heavily used trail.

The original trail went down to the Gray Ranch (F18) later a road was constructed just to the east plotted as Spur B.

It is likely this trail dates to the prehistoric era. It provided a direct link between Kettenpom Valley and the NFER /main Eel River divide via Bluff Creek. There are a number of prehistoric sites in this vicinity and the area appears to have been heavily used during the ethnographic period (see 05-10-54-109). The trail headed generally to the southeast from the Zenia Covelo wagon road (HTNF-04) about at a point of what is today its junction with Blue Rock Ranch Road. The trail continued past several trail junctions with side trails heading to the north and south to local homesteads (see for example F11).

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The trail split just before its final descent to Bluff Creek. The main trail continued to the south and after crossing Bluff Creek the trail then climbed out of the creek bottom continuing to the southeast where it met trail HTNF-29. This trail led south about a half mile to Kettenpom Valley (the likely route of the Mail Box Trail). At this point, the main Bluff Creek Trail (as I have plotted it) continued east dropping down to cross Kettenpom Creek. The trail then ended where it met the Kettenpom to Hettenshaw Valley Trail (HTNF-15).

Where the Bluff Creek trail divided, the second trail HTNF-30 Spur A continued to the east dropping down to meet Bluff Creek. The spur trail then paralleled Bluff Creek east for about 1.5 miles where it terminated at trail HTNF-29. Today (I last visited this location in 2010) there is a hunters camp at the junction of these old trails and a major prehistoric site in the vicinity. FS road 3S16 now crosses Bluff Creek at this point and overlies much of trail HTNF-29. From the road, a section of the Bluff Creek Trail Spur A heading to the west on the north side of the creek is still visible in this area (some dotted "i" trail blazes can still be found). I followed the trail to the west from the hunter's camp several hundred meters (it is now used as a livestock trail).

HTNF-31 (Map 3)

This short section of trail provided a direct link from Kettenpom Valley with the Zenia-Round Valley Trail/Wagon Road HTNF-04. The trail headed east from the NFER/main Eel River divide (HTNF-04) for about 1.8 miles (through one of the few areas within the NFERW that has tanoaks) and entered Kettenpom Valley from the southwest. Today the Long Ridge Trail County--Road 520--generally follows the same route of the original trail. The 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 23) shows that a road was already located here at that time. A Forest Service Guard Station ("Fireman Sta." on the 15' map) was located just about where the road hit the valley floor (NF01).

HTNF-32 (Maps 3 and 6)

This unnamed trail HTNF-32 was one of the earliest wagon roads in the area. Today County Road 521 overlies most of the original route. Most of the land in this area is private property. This trail provided a direct link for travelers in Kettenpom and Hoaglin Valleys heading south towards Covelo and Round Valley. Along with Kettenpom Valley, Hoaglin Valley in early to mid-1860s was the location of some of the first settlers in this section of the county (Keter 1990).

This trail shows up as a road on the 15'HV1931 map (A2: 23). This trail already shows up as a road on the 1909, 1915 and 1922 TNF maps (A2: 8a, 10, 11). Lowden's 1890s map

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(A2: 02) shows the Hoaglin place in Hoaglin Valley but no trail. As noted earlier, the Lowden maps are somewhat inaccurate in this area of southwestern Trinity County. This trail (corridor) given the regions topography probably dates to the prehistoric era.

Wayne Martin (I#395) indicated that there was an earlier foot trail leading into Hoaglin Valley to the north of the current country road--the trail as mapped. This short section of trail is labeled as HTNF-32 Spur A non the Base Map.

HTNF-33 (Map 6)

Trail HTNF-33 connects the headwaters area of Salt Creek divide near the Nielson Place with the Trail HTNF-14. As noted for trail HTNF-14, there is a hunter's camp with a spring adjacent to the large flat near where these two trails meet at Salt Creek. This is a nice camping spot and is worth visiting in the spring.

This roughly 1.5 mile unnamed trail is on the 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 21), the Metsker's TC map (A2: 22), and several TNF maps (see 1931 map, A2: 13).

HTNF-34 (Maps 7 and 8)

Much of the route of this historic (and likely prehistoric) trail now lies on private property and BLM lands--I have never visited this area. It is included here since the trail's western terminus was within the NFERW. This trail provided direct access from the NFERW to the high Yolla Bolly Mountain region (Middle Fork Eel River watershed [MFERW]) via Morrison Camp. I have plotted trail HTNF-34 based on the 15'HV1931 map (A2: 23) and Metsker's TC (A2: 22) map.

The west terminus of the trail was at about the location of the Travis Ranch (F05). From there, the trail headed east towards Brush Mountain--the divide between the NFERW and Antone Creek (in the Hulls Creek watershed). Crossing the watershed divide, the trail dropped down and crossed Antone Creek. The trail then, after crossing Lynch Creek near its confluence with Casoose Creek, headed south along the creek. At about the confluence of Red Rock and Peterptor Creeks the trail climbed to the northeast along Foot of Bull Ridge (the divide to the north Peterptor Creek) to Vanns Cabin.

Some maps show a trail junction with a trail heading from about the mouth of Red Rock Creek southwest to Lightning Camp Ridge (see Metsker's TC map). This was not plotted on the Trails Map since I am not familiar with this area.

From Vanns Cabin the trail continued to the northeast to the NFER/North Fork Middle Eel River watershed divide. After crossing the south facing slope of Big Butte at about 5,500' in elevation, the trail crossed into the MFERW and dropped down to Morrison Camp. From

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Morrison Camp, a trail continued east dropping down to the MFER where trails then led further into the Yolla Bolly high country and south to Hoxie Crossing.

At Morrison Camp, trail HTMR-32 headed north and west towards Little Butte where it hit the NFER/MFER watershed divide. Here, the trail headed north generally keeping to (or just to the east) of the trending ridge along NFER and MFER watershed divide; there, it connected with trail HTMR-31 at Jones Ridge. {Some of this area just to the south of Jones Ridge burned in the 1987 Travis Fire}.

HTNF-35 (Map 7)

This trail branches off of trail HTNF-34 just before it climbs to the Brush Mountain divide. Today most of this trail is on private and BLM lands and I have not visited this area. I have mapped the trail since a small section just to the east of Travis Ranch (F05) is within the study area. The trail route is based on the 15'HV 1935 maps and Metsker's TC map (A2:22) (see also the MNF Yolla Bolly Wilderness Area map).

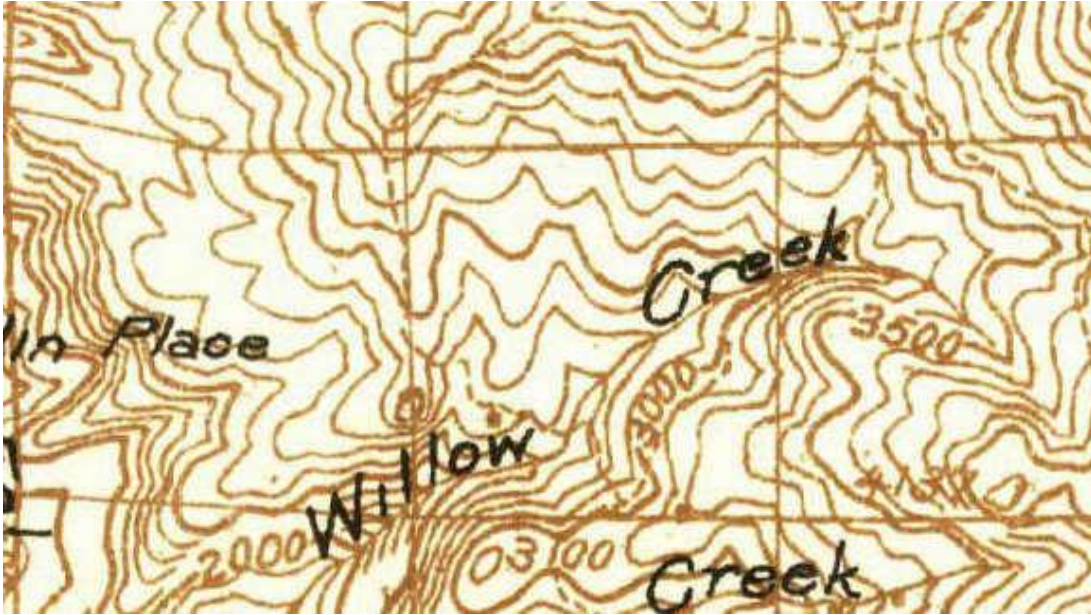
After dropping down and crossing Casoose Creek the trail divided. Spur A climbed southeasterly to Lightning Camp Ridge and the hunters camp at Lightning Camp Spring. Spur B headed in a southerly direction to the current location of Browns Ranch and south towards Hulls Creek (refer to the 15' Covelo 1952 USGS map).

HTNF-36 (Map 4)

This trail circled to the west from the Rock Creek Wagon Road Road/Trail (HTMR-10) at about the point where trail HTNF-37 headed to the north. This is about 1.4 miles to the south of the Augustus Russ homestead (HA08). The trail circled to the south, where it then descended to Willow Creek. After crossing the creek it ended at trail HTMR-11--the trail leading south to the Travis Ranch. I hiked portions of this trail (still used by livestock) just to the west of the Rock Creek Wagon Road in the late 1980s.

This was more than likely a trail used to access the Maud Willburn place (HA08) and does not show up on most FS maps. It does, however, show up on the Metsker's TC map (A2:22). The problems placing the trail on a contemporary map are related to the original inaccurate GLO surveys.

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HTNF-36 USGS Hoaglin 1931

This map shows the trail (top center and center) dropping down to Willow Creek. It also shows a structure along the trail.
(A2: 23)

Note the trail is further to west in the section than as it is plotted on the contemporary USGS maps including the HTNF36 trail map but conform to the topographical features-- note the location of the prominent point just to the west of the structure identified on the map. It is likely that this trail connected the Willburn homestead with the Rock Creek Wagon Road to the north and Caution and the Willburn families living immediately to the south.

The trail was plotted referencing the 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 23) as well as the section of this trail that is shown on the USGS 7.5' Long Ridge map.

HTNF-37 (Maps 4 and 5)

This trail would have provided a fairly direct route linking the Russ Place (HA08) with other homesteads in the headwaters region of Rock Creek with Three Forks on the Mad River. At the trail junction of the Rock Creek Wagon Road (HTMR-10) and trail HTNF-36, trail HTNF-37 climbed upslope to the east for a few hundred meters where it hit the NFER/Mad River watershed divide to the west of Hayden Roughs. Here, the trail headed north to the three-way divide between the headwaters of Secret Creek and the South Fork Mad River watersheds to the east and the NFERW to the west.

[Much of this ridgeline has had fire breaks recently constructed that generally follow the old trail along the ridgeline.]

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At this point a trail designated HTNF-38 Spur A came in from the north following the divide between the NFERW and the headwaters of Secret Creek, while trail HTMR-37 headed to the east along the divide between Secret Creek and the South Fork Mad River finally dropping down to the river where it ended where it joined the Round Valley-Weaverville Trail (HTNF-11) a little under 2.0 km. to the southwest of Three Forks.

This trail shows up on the 15'HV1931 map (A2: 23) and the Metsker's TC map (A: 22).

HTNF-38 (Map 4)

This unnamed trail was one of the many trails in this area where numerous homesteads were located in the early 1900s. It left the Rock Creek Wagon Road (HTMR-10) just to the north of the Russ place (HA08) at about where it crossed Rock Creek and climbed ascending ridge to the Van Horne (Mad River)--Rock Creek (NFER) watershed divide. At that point the trail split. The main trail continued north and easterly dropping down a steep ridge to Van Horne Creek. The trail then followed the creek to the north and east about 2.5 miles to its confluence with the Mad River.

Where the trail split, a spur trail HTNF-38 Spur A headed to the east along the watershed divide and connected with trail HTNF-37.

The main trail and Spur A both show up on the 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 23). This trail would have been used heavily during the peak years of the homesteading era.

HTNF-39 (Map 3)

This short section of unnamed trail led easterly from the Zenia-Round Valley road/trail HTNF-04 (just over a half mile north of the Kettenpom store) east to about the location of the Tawne Place (see 15'HV 1931 map A2: 23). Further to the east trail HTNF-23 came in from the north and ended where it joined trail HTNF-39. The trail continued northeast from the trail junction for about a half mile before ending at the Zenia-Hoaglin Valley Mail Trail (HTNF-30). The surrounding region was one of the most heavily settled areas of the NFERW during the first few decades of the 20th century and this trail would have been one of the numerous trails--many of them lost to history--that linked the homesteads together and with the outside world. This trail can be found on the 15'HV1931 map (A2: 23).

HTNF-40 (Map 7)

This trail was formally recorded as the "Red Mountain Creek Trail" (05-10-54-293) by USFS forester Joe Niesen. He was a very accomplished and trained archaeological surveyor (CAS) and paid great attention to detail. He was very woods savvy having worked for the FS for nearly two decades.

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This very short section of trail was not on historic maps and is noted here for inventory purposes. Niesen also found part of a plowshare (Image 1) in an open prairie near the trail (see site record). It appears that the trail may have connected to the west with trail HTNF-09 and to the east with the trail to the Travis Ranch (HTMR-11). Niesen hypothesized that the trail led to several local homesteads including possibly the Robert Cantrell and Church Wilburn homesteads (see IF02).

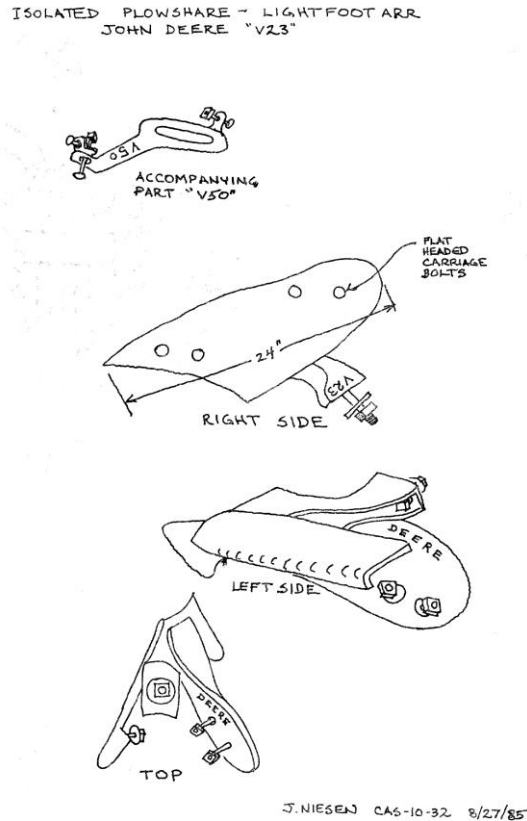


Image 1

Plowshare found in prairie near trail HTNF-40
(Niesen1985)

HTNF-41 (Map 7)

This trail headed to the west from trail (HTMR-11) near the Hiram Wilburn homestead (HF11-location of Caution Post Office #2 and Caution School--F20b) along the north side of and above the north branch of Lightfoot Creek. The trail paralleled the creek just to the north along a ridge for a short distance before steeply dropping down to the mouth of Lightfoot Creek where it ended at trail HTNF-13. The 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 23) shows a structure (possibly for a homesteader's or squatter's cabin) just to the south of the trail along the divide between Lightfoot and Willow Creeks before the trail descends to the NFER.

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This trail would have provided a direct link between the homesteads to the east of the NFER with Long Ridge. The route of this unnamed trail is approximate--It is plotted using the 15'HV 1931 map.

HTNF-42 (Map 7)

This trail--just to the north of Red Mountain Creek--led west from Red Mountain House to trail HTMR-11.

This trail route is problematic. I could find no TNF maps that showed the trail. The 15' Kettenpom 1955 USGS map (A2: 24) also did not show this trail. The only historic maps showing this trail were the 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 23)--usually quite accurate, and the 7.5 USGS Long Ridge map used for this study that shows a "Pack Trail" at about this location heading east from trail HTMR-11. The trail, however, simply dead ends on the map where it crosses into Section 30. This trail does not show up on the FS 1967 USGS Long Ridge Map. It appears that portions of the road dropping down to Red Mountain Creek that have been labeled HTMR-11 Spur A overlies portions of the original trail. All of this is rather confusing--see HTMR-11 for a discussion of mapping problems in this area. In addition, this route appears to cross some very deep-cut drainages that drop down to Red Mountain Creek. As a result this route, given the topography, appears to be very questionable and further research is needed to confirm the existence of this trail .

As mapped, the trail headed easterly about a quarter mile to the south of the junction of trails HTMR-21 and HTNF-44 on the south facing slope that dropped steeply down to Red Mountain Creek. The 15'HV 1931 map, however, disagrees with the USGS 7.5' map and shows the trail leaving HTMR-11 slightly further to the north at about the 3,000' contour.

The possible trail headed generally to the east and northeast and ended where it met the Round Valley to Weaverville Trail (HTNF-11) just to the south of Red Mountain House.

HTNF-43 (Map 7)

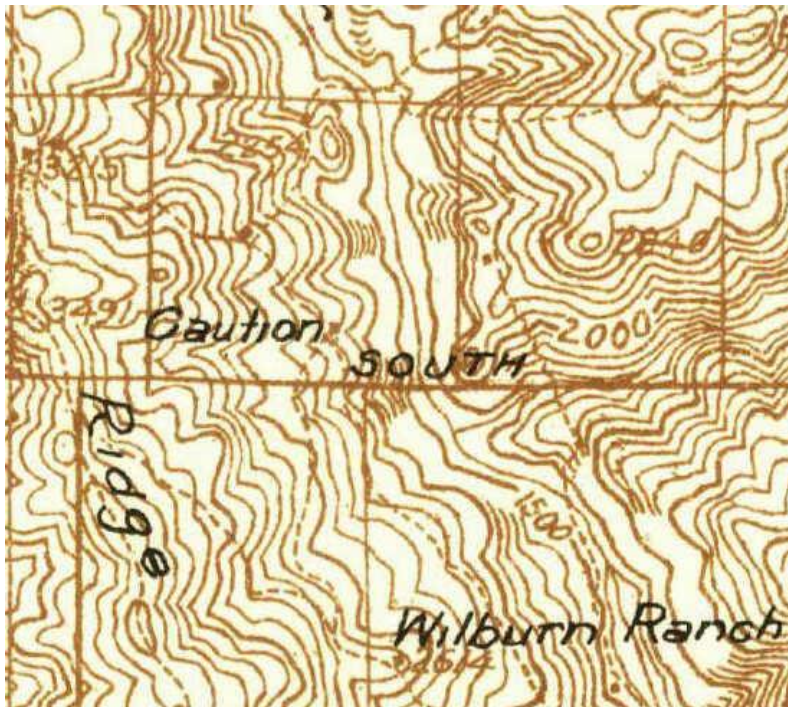
The northern terminus of this trail is located on the eastern slope of Long Ridge about one mile to the east of School House Spring (F07) at the Tom Duncan/John Duncan place (HF05). Portions of this unnamed trail were identified as trail HTMR-20 in the HTMRO. It is likely that this trail was used most heavily during the late 19th and early 20th centuries to connect the Duncan and Church Willburn (HA05) homesteads located on the east facing slope of Long Ridge (during the winter the trail would have been below the snowline of about 4,000').

The trail headed south from HTNF-05 (the Tom Duncan Mailbox Trail) for a short distance and then split near the third location of the Caution Post Office (F20c).. The main trail

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continued to the south and east for about a mile and a half before ending where it joined trail HTNF-07. The other trail labeled HTNF-43 Spur A headed due south gaining and losing little in elevation before it ended at trail HTNF-07 about a half mile to the east of Long Ridge.

For a short period of time the Caution Post Office (F20c third location) was situated at the junction of the trails HTNF-43 and HTNF-43 Spur A. Included below is a section of the 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 23) that shows these two sections of trail and where they met at the Caution Post Office. Metsker's TC map (A2: 22) also shows the section of trail leading south from the Duncan Place to the site of the Caution Post Office. From there, however, that map only shows trail HTNF-33 Spur A continuing south towards the Wilburn Place. The trails are plotted based on the contours of the 15'HV 1931 map and local topography.



Trail NTNF-43: Note the location of Caution at the trail junction and the two sections of trail heading south from that point. (15'HV 1931 A2: 23)

HTNF-44 (Map 7)

The eastern terminus of this possible trail is at trail HTMR-11 about .75 miles to the north of Red Mountain Creek.

This trail is included for inventory purposes. The existence of this trail is problematic as it is not clear how it suddenly "appeared" on the contemporary (after the 1980s) 7.5' USGS

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Long Ridge maps (it may well be a mapping error). Trail could not be found on any of the historic maps that I used for this study. On the USGS map it simply dead ends several hundred feet to the south of Trail HTNO-05--given the topography it is possible that this trail could have continued north to link up with trail HTNF-05.

Note that further research (2017) indicates that this trail clearly lead to the P. Willburn Indian allotment--see IA13

The trail is plotted based on the 7.5 USGS map. Interestingly, the trail is not shown on the Long Ridge 1967 USGS 7.5' FS version of this map used by employees of SRNF.

HTNF-45 (Map 4)

This trail is located at the northern end of Long Ridge and drops down to the mouth of Salt Creek. Although not shown on the 1931 HV 15' map (A2: 23) and Trinity National Forest maps this route is a "best guess" based on both my knowledge of the area, discussions with some local residents, and the fact that the some of the early Lowden Trinity County maps (see for example A2: 4) show a trail dropping off Long Ridge to the mouth of Salt Creek in this vicinity. This would be a logical route for travelers heading north from Hulls Creek to Hettenshaw Valley (since the NFER canyon is nearly impassable in places east of Long Ridge). It also would likely have been a major travel corridor during the ethnographic period. The trail appears to be on Lowden's earliest survey map for Trinity County (A2: 3) published sometime in the late 1870s or possibly in the early 1880s. This conclusion is based on the maps relative accuracy (or inaccuracy) of the region and the fact the Long Ridge School is not shown on the map (the Long Ridge School (F07) was built in 1879). Lowden's other maps show the Long Ridge School and the later maps also show "Dutch Bills" (one of the earliest settlers to homestead east of the NFER) at the location of Red Mountain House (HA01) then owned by the Doolittle family.

The main trail drops to the north from the crest of Long Ridge (trail HTNF-12) descending to the mouth of Salt Creek. At the mouth of Salt Creek, the trail I have labeled HTNF-12 Spur A comes in from the west and is discussed below. At that point the trail led north paralleling the NFER to Soldier Basin and eventually Hettenshaw Valley. During the historic era it is likely this would have been one of the earliest routes used for traveling through the region. The Asbill- Kelsey Party, the first Euro-Americans to enter the North Fork region, probably traveled on this trail (they followed "old Indian trails--see the Frank Asbill Ms. on file MHT in author's possession) in May of 1854, on their way from Round Valley to Hettenshaw Valley (see Carranco and Beard 1981: 171). Although a trail in this vicinity appears on the several of the early Lowden Trinity County maps, I could find no later historical maps (USGS, TNF, etc.) showing this trail. The ridge trending down to the mouth of Salt Creek from the northern end of Long Ridge (unlike today this area would have been fairly open due to anthropogenic fires; see Keter 1987, 1995c, 1997a).

Prehistoric and Historic Trails of the NFERW

From the mouth of Salt Creek (where Spur A left the main trail) the trail headed north paralleling the NFER. For the next mile or so it is relatively easy to travel within the canyon of the NFER. There was no trail heading south at this point. Only a few hundred meters to the south of the mouth of Salt Creek it becomes impossible to continue traveling along the river bottom due to the steepness of the canyon walls (and in the ethnographic era deep pools in the NFER). It is relatively easy, however, in most places to continue traveling to the north, paralleling the river--eventually connecting with trails leading to Soldier Basin and Hettenshaw Valley (HTNF- 15) as well as trails leading east towards the Mad River region.

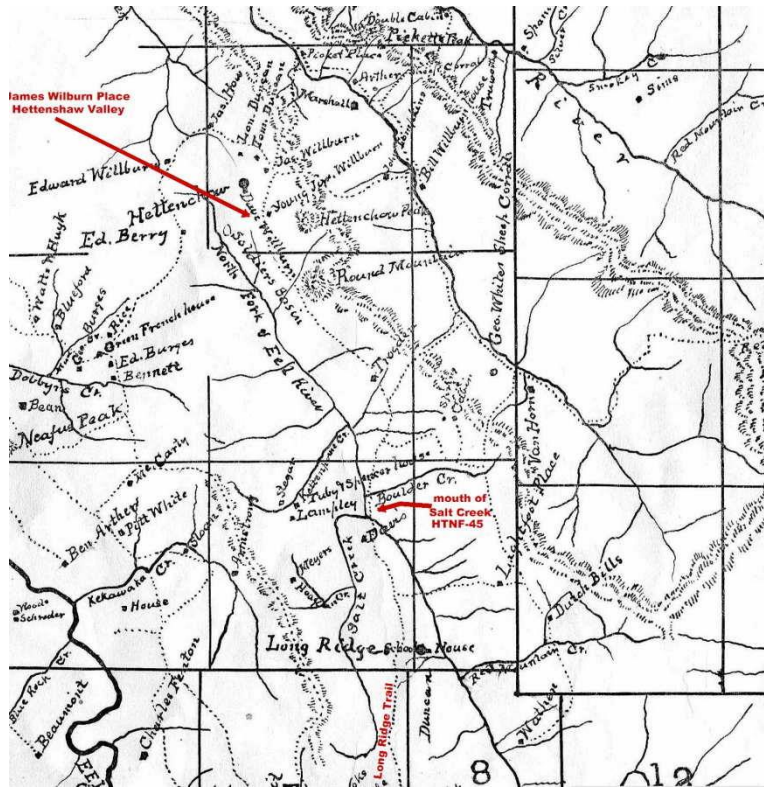
Just before the trail ended in the north at its junction with trail HTNF-46, it passed by the Shannon Place (see HF16a, b).

Spur A

Although only a cow path is now evident, it is clear that the section of lower Salt Creek from the Salt Creek bridge east to the mouth of Salt Creek, a distance of just over half a mile, would have been a major "travel way" during the prehistoric era (now a cow path, it is still easy to hike but there is lots of poison oak). I have hiked this trail several times and have identified and recorded a number of prehistoric sites in the area. Goddard (1924) identified a possible village site along lower Salt Creek (possibly even a winter village see SRNF archaeological site records). Not too far to the east of the bridge there is a very deep pool great for swimming--and at one time it contained summer steelhead (see Keter 1992, 1995a)

Given its strategic location connecting Hoaglin Valley and lower Salt Creek with the NFER there is little doubt, given the number of prehistoric sites in this vicinity, that this trail was heavily used during the ethnographic period. Frankly, I cannot explain why this section of trail is not plotted on historic maps. It may be as simple as the fact that there were no homesteads that were more easily accessible by this route than via other trails (see the homestead section of this overview).

Prehistoric and Historic Trails of the NFERW



Map 4

Note that Salt Creek is misspelled as "Galt Creek." This error was corrected on Lowden's later maps. This map (although somewhat inaccurate cartographically) shows the trail I have labeled HTNF-45 dropping off of Long Ridge to the mouth of Salt Creek.
(C 1888 to 1890 Lowden map A2: 02)

HTNF-46 (Map 4) Yellowjacket Trail

This trail and was referred to by locals (in the early 1980s) as the Yellowjacket Trail. The trail headed to the southwest from trail HTMR-10 (just west of Mad River Ridge) along the divide between Cox Creek and Yellowjacket Creeks for about three-quarters of a mile to the Yellowjacket homestead (B02). Portions of this trail were originally recorded in the HTMRO as trail HTMR-9. The trails in this area have been modified based on subsequent consultant information and historic maps.

After heading to the southwest a bit more than a quarter of a mile from its eastern end (this section of trail is now overlain by a logging road), a trail came in from the south (now also part of the logging road in places). This trail, I have labeled HTNF-47 Spur A, provided a link to the Packwood Flat Trail HTNF-47.

Trail HTNF-46 continued west along the watershed divide to the Yellowjacket Place (B02). In the 1980s a logging road was constructed down this ridge (from about its junction with HTNF-47 Spur A) to access a stand of timber above Cox Creek (north slope) about 300

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meters to the east of the Yellowjacket Place. This road was closed and (I think) put to bed sometime in the last decade or so.

Yellowjacket and his wife Sally lived there for a number of years before she passed away (she is buried on the homestead) and Yellowjacket moved to Round Valley (see B02 for a discussion of the homestead and photos). From the Yellowjacket homestead, the trail dropped down past the Tom Crabtree homestead (F09) to just north of the Shannon Place (HF16a) where it crossed the NFER. Just before crossing the river, trail HTNF-16 came in from the northeast. After crossing the river, the trail continued east where it ended at trail HTNF 15 the Kettenpom to Hettenshaw Valley Trail.

Given its strategic location on an east west descending ridge connecting Mad River ridge directly to the NFER it is likely that this trail dates to the prehistoric era. During the 1920s Yellowjacket used this trail when traveling west to Zenia where he was interviewed and photographed along with Lucy Young by C.H. Merriam.

It appears that at least portions of this trail were maintained by the FS as some sections of the trail still had dotted "i" blazes spray painted yellow. A section of the trail in Section 36 is located on private property (in the 1980s the 160 homestead parcel was owned by Simpson Timber Company). This parcel was logged and a logging road destroyed much of the trail in this area sometime before 1980.

This trail shows up on the 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 23) and several TNF maps (A2) as well.

HTNR-47 (Map 4) Packwood Flat Trail

This trail was known by locals as the Packwood Flat Trail (see People and Places for a discussion of the Packwood Brothers). It connected the northern end of Long Ridge to Packwood Flat and the Rock Creek Wagon Road/Trail (HTMR-10). Portions of this trail were documented as trails 54-200 and HTMR-13 in the HTMRO. After further research, it is clear that this trail was plotted inaccurately as portions of two different trails.

The trail provided a direct route (given the region's topography) linking Mad River country to the east and the crest of Long Ridge to the west. There is a multi-component prehistoric site in the vicinity of the trail near Rock Creek and I recorded another site (flake scatter) on the eastern edge of Packwood Flat. This trail likely dates to the ethnographic period and would have been a major travel corridor.

The main trail headed west from the Rock Creek Wagon Road/Trail (HTMR-10) for about a half mile. At that point the trail split and a spur trail I have labeled HTNF-47 Spur A headed to the north for about a mile, first dropping down and crossing Cox Creek before it joined the Yellowjacket Trail (HTNF-46) just to the west of trail HTMR-10 (the Rock Creek Wagon Road). The spur trail would have provided an alternative for those heading to the north on the Rock Creek Wagon Road.

Prehistoric and Historic Trails of the NFERW

The main trail continued to the southwest towards Packwood Flat. At the western end of Packwood Flat the trail (the route here is an approximation due to the mapping problems) descended steeply to the southwest to hit the NFER near the mouth of Rock Creek and was more than likely used sometime after WW II as a tractor trail during the logging boom of the 1950s and 1960s. Near the mouth of Rock Creek, the trail crossed the river and then headed up slope to the south. The trail passed by the Willie Hoaglin Place (IF04) a short distance where it bisected trail HTNF-10. The trail continued a short distance up slope from there to join the main Long Ridge Trail (HTNF-12) on the crest of Long Ridge.

Ken Wilson (SRNF FARCH) and I first hiked this trail in May of 1985, from the Willie Hoaglin Place (IF04) east to its junction with HTNF-17 Spur A at the head of Yellowjacket Creek. We recorded a cabin on Packwood Flat (see entry; site 05-10-54-279) that appeared to be under 50 years old.

From the western end of Packwood Flat, a jeep road overlaid most of the original trail east to its terminus at HTMR-10. The portion of the trail leading from the Willie Hoaglin Place to Rock Creek was still maintained good integrity (1985); however, the section that climbed to Packwood Flat from Rock Creek was poorly defined and we found no blazes as we climbed the steep ridge to Packwood Flat from the mouth of Rock Creek--most likely we did not follow the old trail in this area but the ascending ridge leading from the mouth of Rock Creek just to the east a few hundred meters (see Base Map)

This trail shows up on the 15' HV 1931 map (A2: 23) and several FS maps--given the survey problems and placement of the trail on the various maps--however, the plotting of this route between the western edge of Packwood Flat southerly and easterly to the mouth of Rock Creek is problematic and is an approximation.

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View to east HTNF-47 trail route east side of Packwood Flat.
(T. Keter 1985)

HTNF-48 (Map 7)

This plotting of this unnamed trail was problematic. Its eastern terminus it is located about 1.4 miles north of the Travis Ranch (F05) at the divide between the NFER, Littlefield Creek, and Antone Ridge where it joins the Round Valley to Weaverville trail (HTNF-11). From that point it descends steeply to the north and west dropping down meet trail HTMR-11.

Given the heavy use of this area during the ranching era and the homestead era it could have served as a more direct route to Antone Basin from northern portions of the NFERW via HTMR-11. A short section of this trail was recorded as trail HTMR-17 in the HTMRO, however, further research provided some additional information and as a result, I extended the trail down slope to the west to a point where it would have connected with trail HTMR-11. This route as is often the case in this poorly mapped region (due to problems with the original GLO surveys) area is approximate.

Portions of this route show up as a "jeep trail" on contemporary USGS 7.5' maps. The trail also shows up on the 15' Black Rock Mountain 1954 and 15' K 1956 (A2: 24) maps. The trail, however, does not show up on the 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 23).

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HTNF -49 (Maps 2 and 3) Zenia to Hettenshaw Valley Road

This road was routed based on grade and geology and had never been a foot trail. Wayne Martin (A6: I#395) indicated that in 1924 there was still not road linking Zenia with Hettenshaw Valley only trails. This is probably incorrect by a couple of years as the 1922 TNF map (A2: 11) does show the road while the 1920 TNF map (A2: 10a) does not show it. At this time there is no exact date for construction of this road but it likely dates to the early 1920s.

Trails Numbered and Referenced in the Historic Trails Mad River Overview

The following trails are discussed and updated using the same reference numbers as the HTMRO.

54-215 Green Mountain Trail (Map 1)

Although to the north of the NFERW, the Green Mountain Trail (54-215) is discussed and plotted since it was a major trail linking the Hettenshaw Valley to the Lassics region. I recorded this trail in 1982 see site record 54-215.

This trail corridor was used heavily during the prehistoric era and there are a number of flake scatters that have been recorded (mostly by me) in the vicinity of the trail. During the historic era it was used to access the summer range of Lassics high country by ranchers and hunters. The Marsh Cabin was recorded by the author in the 1980s. There is an interview on the history of the cabin, photos, and additional information on this site in the site record file.

Today, much of this trail is overlain by FS Road 1S11. As late as 2008, when I last visited the area several sections of the original trail remained visible. One remaining section (portions are a jeep trail) runs along the open serpentine divide just to the east of Mule Slide--the old blazes (dotted "i") here on the incense cedars are still visible. In 2008, I also hiked the section of trail that left FS Road 1S11 to the west of Green Mountain (near its junction with 1S12) and managed to follow it most of the way southeast across the southwest facing slope of Green Mountain (I finally lost the tread and blazes in dense brush) where it again met the FS road. See the HTMRO and site record for more details on this trail.

HTMR-04 (Map 1)

The section of this trail within the NFER watershed from about the Zenia Guard Station to its junction with trail HTNF-25 (the Grizzly Mountain Trail) was previously recorded as part of trail HTMR-04 in the HTMRO and is now designated in the text and on the Trails Map as HTNF-22.

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From Grizzly Mountain (NF03), the trail continued north from HTNF-25 along the divide between the main Eel River and the West Fork Van Duzen River to the Lassics high country region. The trail was used extensively during both the prehistoric and historic eras and there are numerous prehistoric sites and hunters camps along or in the vicinity of the trail. Watts Lake was visited by local residents during the summer (see trail HTNF-22 for comments on the use of Watts Lake).

A section of this trail (from about the Zenia Guard Station to the Grizzly Mountain trail junction shows up on the 1903 Lowden TC map (A2: 01). Later maps--see the 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 23)--show the route as a jeep road following the general route of the original trail north to Goat Hill the site of a FS lookout. The road from Goat Hill to the Lassics was constructed sometime after WW II.

HTMR 10 (Maps 4 and 7)

The northern portion of this trail from Mad River Ridge to about Rock Creek (near the Russ Place) was converted into the Rock Creek Wagon Road. Although it is not certain when the trail was converted into a wagon road, the June 2, 1914 *Report on Forest Homestead Application* for Maude Willburn (HA08) notes that: "the nearest wagon road is at Russes' [sic] ranch, north 3 miles distance." A homestead entry report for Augustus Russ dated June of 1908 (see HA08) noted that the: "Nearest wagon road in Mad River [was] two miles distance by trail." Therefore, it appears that the wagon road was completed sometime between the summer of 1908 and 1914. Although the original trail may date to the prehistoric era it was a major access trail and later wagon road to numerous homesteads and Indian allotments dotting the east side of the NFERW during the early 1900s.

At its northern end, the original trail left Mad River Ridge just above Tub Spring and headed south. Numerous trails branched off this trail as it crossed Cox, Yellowjacket, and Rock Creeks. As noted earlier, the original Rock Creek Wagon Road ended at the Russ homestead (HA-08, 54-300). Here, the trail continued south to a point just to the west of the headwaters of Willow Creek where it ended at a junction with trail HTMR- 22 that led southeast to Red Mountain House (HA01) and trail HTMR-11 that led west and then south to the location of a number of homesteads including the Fannie Willburn Place the site of the Caution Post Office (location #2 F20 b) and a school (briefly).

HTMR-11 (Map 7)

This unnamed trail was recorded for the MRHTO. It was heavily used during the homesteading era of the early 20th century and numerous trails led to the east and west from this trail to homesteads and Indian allotments in the immediate area. Given its strategic location connection with points north of Red Mountain Creek and the springs

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located near the Travis Ranch (F05) to the south this trail likely followed a general "pathway" dating to the prehistoric era.

Given the disagreements on the various maps over the exact route of this trail north from the Travis Ranch to Red Mountain Creek, several routes and spurs are recorded. Given the mapping problems these routes should be considered approximate as the section lines have changed since the original GLO surveys.

From its junction with HTMR-10 and HTMR-22 near the headwaters of Willow Creek about two miles south of the Russ Place (HA08), the trail headed west dropping down along the south side of Willow Creek. After it intersected with the southern end of trail HTNF-36, the trail turned to the south roughly following along the same elevation contour to the Fannie Willburn Homestead (HF06). At that point several trails came in from the west including the Ben Duncan Mailbox Trail (HTNF-05). Trail HTMR-23 led east to Red Mountain House.

Trail HTMR-11 continued south from the Wilburn place dropping down and crossing Red Mountain Creek before ending at the Travis Ranch (F05) a distance of about five trail miles. At the point it ended it met the Round Valley-Weaverville Trail (HTNF-11).

As noted above, plotting this section of trail was one of the most difficult for the entire NFERW. Most TNF maps and SRNF maps either do not show this trail or different routes are mapped. The 15" HV 1931 map (A2: 23) was used to plot much of the original trail route. This route, however, is at variance with other maps (see the 15" KV 1955 map A: 24). Sometime after World War II a jeep road (that was steadily improved) plotted here as HTMR-11 Spur A was constructed linking the area to the north of Red Mountain Creek with the Travis Ranch. Again given the problems with the early GLO surveys the Section lines vary from map to map. For that reason, the route of the jeep trail, HTMR-11 Spur A, is plotted based on the USGS Forest Service 1967 7.5' USGS map for Long Ridge.

The FS road that today in places overlies the original route was constructed after World War II when logging in this area first took place on the private parcels (see also HTMR-10). Refer to the Appendix 5 MS 08 for the Travis Brothers Ranch for a discussion of when the road was constructed.

In this area due to the ranching activities and logging on private tracts of land, there are a number of jeep roads that overlay many of the old trails--most were constructed after WW II during the logging boom of the 1950s when many of the old homestead parcels were logged (See A5: ms08 for dates and timber companies). It was at that time that it became a major haul route for timber. At some point (again see A5: ms 08) many of the parcels were sold to a local rancher (Larry Brown) of the Flying Double AA Ranch who used the logging roads and jeep trails for access to manage their cattle (and cut any standing merchantable timber that remained). [Brown owned the land during the 1980s].

During the late 1980s a second round of logging activity took place in this area--this time by the FS (Lightfoot, Raglan, and Yellowjacket Timber Sales--CRIRs are on file HR SRNF). At

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this time major haul routes were constructed as well as numerous spur logging roads throughout the area--many of them using the same logical routes as the earlier trails.

Spur B

The trail shows up on the 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 23), but as noted earlier, the route varies from the TNF and SRNF maps (some maps do not even show a trail) in Appendix 2. Given the many problems mapping this trail as the route it should be viewed as an educated guess. See also Appendix 5 ms08 for a discussion of the route of this trail.

HTMR-12 (Maps 2 and 4) Mad River Ridge Trail

This trail is referred to by locals as the Mad River Ridge Trail. This trail clearly dates to the prehistoric era and would have provided a major north-south travel corridor for local inhabitants. The trail begins well to the north of highway CA 36; Max Rowley, long-time FS employee and avocational historian, indicated that at one time this trail extended north to about the mouth of Pilot Creek. The section of trail north of CA 36 lies on private lands and was not included in the HTMRO. From CA 36, the trail continued south generally following Mad River Ridge for approximately 40 km to Tub Springs where it connected with several other trails including the Rock Creek Wagon Trail/Road (HTMR-10).

The trail enters the NFERW at its northern end at the three-way divide between the Van Duzen River and Soldier Creek to the west and Mad River to the east at its junction with trail HTNF-26 that led northwest to Hettenshaw Valley. At that point the Mad River Ridge Trail continued south along the ridge to Tub Spring passing several trails coming in from the west from the NFERW and dropping down to the east to the Mad River. This trail has been subjectively depicted the trail as ending in the south Tub Spring where it connected with the Rock Creek Wagon Road (HTMR- 10).

Most of this trail has been obliterated by roads. One section (T1S, R6E, Sections 25, 26) several miles to the north of the NFERW is about 2 miles in length still retains high integrity and is maintained as a FS trail (as of about 2010). It is part of the Mad River Ranger District Trails system (trail 6E27) and is called the Devils' Gut Trail. The section of this trail from what is now CA36 south to Mad River Rock already was a wagon road by 1927. Also, a short section of trail north from Tub Springs was already a FS road by 1931 (see 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 23)). Much of the section of the trail along Mad River-NFER divide has been overlain by a logging road.

This trail shows up on the 1927 TNF map (A12), however, for some reason, this trail does not show up on many of the Trinity National Forest Maps (for example the TNF 1936 map) nor on Lowden's TC maps.

HTMR-21 (Map 7)

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The western terminus of this trail is located at its junction with trail HTMR-11 about one-half mile to the north of where that trail crosses Red Mountain Creek.

This trail is what might be considered a "connector trail." From Trail HTMR-11, the trail climbed a well-defined ridge to the northeast to the divide between Red Mountain Creek and Lightfoot Creek. There are some significant prehistoric sites in this area to the east of trail HTMR-11 (see 54-303). The trail hit a high point of the ridge near peak 3780 on 7.5' USGS maps where it crossed trail HTMR-23 and continued north along the divide about for just over a mile where it ended at trail HTMR-22. By the 1970s the lower section of this trail near HTMR-11 was used as a jeep trail by ranchers.

The trail shows up on the 1931 TNF map (A2: 13).

HTMR-22 (Maps 4 and 7)

The trail led from Red Mountain House northwest to the current location of the "line cabin" near the headwaters of Willow Creek just to the east of the junction of trails HTMR-10 and HTMR-11. Given its relatively easy grade and open oak woodlands and prairies, the trail was used as a jeep road by the local rancher who owned the Red Mountain House 160 acre parcel of land (Larry Brown of the Flying Double A Ranch). This parcel was acquired by the FS in the 1980s--see the Brown Land Exchange CRIR.

From the trail junction with trails HTMR-10 and HTMR-11 the trail headed south and east to the watershed divide between Red Mountain and Willow Creeks where trail HTMR-21 came in from the south. From that point, the trail continued to the southeast to join trail HTMR-25 at Little Red Mountain Creek just to the north of Red Mountain Fields. I first hiked in on this primitive jeep road to record sites in the Red Mountain Fields area for the Brown Land Exchange project in 1986 (see the Red Mountain House HA01 reference from more details). From the Willow Creek-Little Red Mountain Creek divide to the east the area is now part of the Yolla Bolly Wilderness Area.

This trail most likely dates to the prehistoric era. It provided a direct link between the headwaters region of Rock and Willow Creeks with Red Mountain Fields to the east. This area at the western foot of Red Mountain just above Little Red Mountain Creek has some of the most productive perennial springs in the entire watershed and was used heavily during the ethnographic period. During the historic era it was the location of one of the first homesteads in the NFERW--the W.H. Doolittle place known as Red Mountain House (HA01). This was also a gathering location for local settlers and a stop on the trail from Round Valley to Weaverville (HTNF-11). It also served as the first location of the Caution Post Office (F20a).

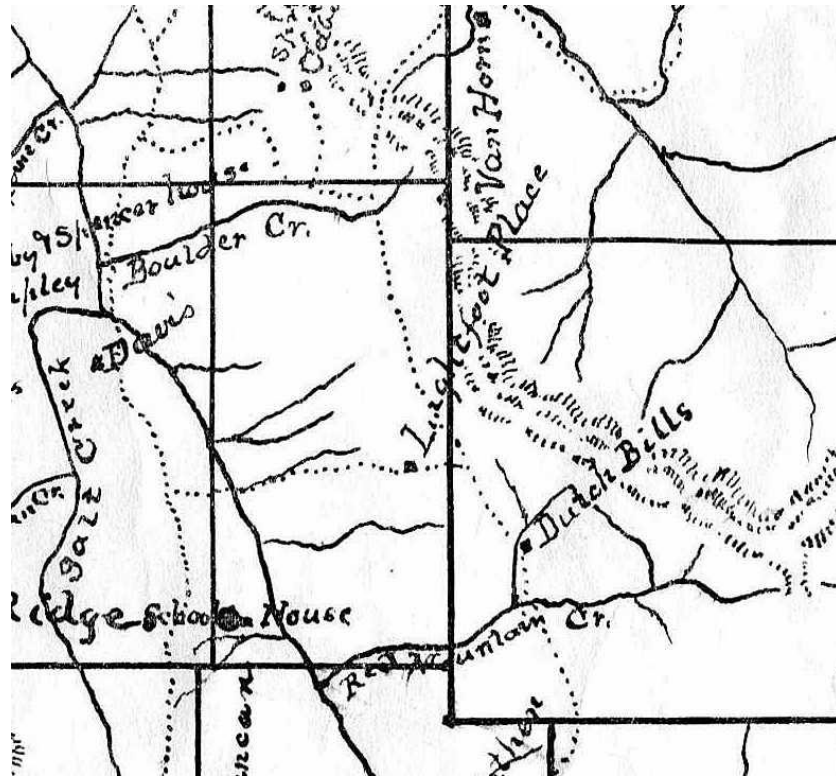
Although not obvious at first given the maps scale a closer look at Lowden's TC map (see below) shows the section of trail leading from "Dutch Bill's" (Red Mountain House) as it heads northwest towards the headwaters of Willow Creek (about the junction of trails

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HTMR-10 and HTMR-11). This is clearly not the Weaverville-Round Valley Trail (HTNF-11) as that trail almost due east from Red Mountain House climbing to Jones Ridge, but rather is more likely the route of trail HTNF-22. See also the other 19th century Lowden maps in Appendix 2.

This route makes sense as it would avoid the higher in altitude Jones Ridge section of the Round Valley Weaverville Trail. One could travel via HTNF-22 and HTMR-10 to Tub Springs and then drop down the Mad River to rejoin the main trail to Weaverville.

This trail also shows up on the 1909 TNF map (A2: 8b) and the 15'HV 1931 map (A2: 23).



HTMR-22 Map 1

Note the trail from Dutch Bills heading to the northeast (HTMR-22). This map clearly shows that the trail was not heading east as Jones Ridge is shown accurately on the map.

Lowden c. 1886-1896 (more likely the earlier date)

Map (A2: 2)

HTMR-23 (Map 7)

This unnamed trail served as a direct link between the Red Mountain House (HA01) and the Fannie Willburn homestead (HF07). When the Caution Post Office (location #1 F20) was located at Red Mountain House (1903 and 1904) the mail was brought in over this trail from the Willburn place and it could also be considered an eastern extension of the Tom Duncan Mailbox Trail (HTNF-05). In the mid-1980s I followed this blazed trail east from

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the Willburn place for about one mile before I lost it. I also found a short section of the trail in the open oak woodland area near its eastern junction with trail HTMR-22.

This trail is not shown on the 15'HV1931 (A2: 23) or the 15' K 1955 (A: 24) maps or the 1909 and 1931 TNF maps (A2: 8a, 13). It does, however, show up on the 1941 (A2: 15) TNF map and Metsker's TC map (A: 22).

HTMR-25 Blue Jay Mine Trail (Maps 4 and 5)

The eastern terminus of this trail is at headwaters of Littlefield Creek at Jones Ridge along the divide between the NFER and the Mad River. It follows the divide west from about .75 miles and then circles to the south along a descending ridgeline past the location of the Blue Jay Mine (F19) before dropping down to meet trail HTNF-11 just to the north of the Red Mountain House (HA01).

This trail may have been constructed in connection with the Blue Jay Mine. It does not show up on TC maps or TRNF maps. It appears to date to the time when a road was constructed from Jones Ridge to the Blue Jay Mine. A trail then continued from the mine dropping down to Red Mountain House. The trail shows up on the SRNF 1977 (A2: 21b) and Metsker's map (A2: 22) but not the early TNF maps. During the 1980s this was a popular trail used by locals for hunting deer. See the Blue Jay Mine reference in People and Places for more on this road and mine.

HTMR-27 (Maps 4 and 5)

The Humboldt Trail is one of the oldest historic trails in the region. The trail is discussed in this study as it was a major thru trail leading from Three Forks east across the high peaks of the Yolla Bolly Mountains to Red Bluff. During the late 19th century via pack trails Red Bluff and Fortuna were about the same distance from this area to travel for supplies. Max Rowley indicated that this trail was first pioneered in the early 1850s (possibly the first year was 1852) by Joseph Russ, Barry Adams, and Slaughter Robinson in order to drive cattle into Humboldt County from the Sacramento Valley (see Keter 2013). Pierce Asbill used this route in the spring of 1855 traveling from Hettenshaw Valley with seven pack horses loaded with deer hides to Kingsley's Trading Post near present day Red Bluff (Carranco and Beard 1981, Keter 1990).

HTMR-31 (Map 7 and 8)

This trail is located on Jones Ridge--and begins just to the east of Red Mountain on the divide between the NFER and the Mad River at its junction with the Round Valley Weaverville Trail (HTNF 11). The trail essentially circles the headwaters divide between the Eel River and Mad River Watersheds.

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This trail linked Red Mountain Fields and areas to the west in the NFERW (via the section of the Round Valley Weaverville Trail HTNF 11 from Red Mountain House) with the headwaters of the Mad River-North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Eel River region and the high country of the Yolla Bolly Mountains further to the east. The section of trail leading to Waterspout Camp along Jones Ridge from Three Forks was also referred to as the Jones Ridge Trail by FS employees and locals during the 1980s. By then a major paved haul route overlaid most of this trail south to the three-way divide between the Mad River, Middle Eel River, and NFER watersheds (see HTNF-32).

The trail after circling to the east along the headwaters region the Mad River-Middle Fork Eel River divide eventually circled back to the north to a point near South Kelsey Peak where it joined the Humboldt Trail (HTMR-27) to Red Bluff.

HTMR-32 NF (Map 8)

From the Jones Ridge Trail (HTMR-31) at the three way divide between the NFER, the Middle Fork Eel River, and the Mad River this trail heads south generally along the divide between the NFER and North Fork Middle Fork Eel River for about four miles before dropping down just to Morrison Camp in the upper reaches of the Middle Eel watershed. At Morrison camp trail HTNF-34 comes in from the southwest. At this point a trail also heads to the east dropping down to cross the North Fork Middle Fork Eel River. There, the trail splits; one trail heads to the north along the river for Sulphur Camp where trails lead to Shell Mountain and the high Yolla Bollys. The second trail heads to the south towards Henthorne Lake and Hoxie Crossing. The Wailaki are known to have fished in this area (see Goddard and Merriam, Keter and Heffner McClellan 1991).

In the 1987 Travis Fire, a fire break was built along the ridge south from the Jones Ridge FS road. I cannot remember how far it went but a good distance to the south possibly to Ant Point or Little Butte. Portions of this trail (now within the Yolla Bolly Wilderness) are shown on the 15'HV1931 map (A: 23) and today it is used as a hiking trail.