Fire on the Mountain:
The Yellowjacket and Raglin Homesteads 1983 to 2021

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With Contributions by:
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Three Rivers, California
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Preface

I first visited the Yellowjacket and Sally Jacket Indian Allotment homestead in the fall of 1983, and the Thomas and Susan Raglin Indian Allotment homestead in the late summer of 1984, in order to map, photograph and record these historic sites. At that time, I also recorded a dancehouse pit feature located in the vicinity of Raglan Flat that was used by the Wailaki during the late 1890s or very early 1900s.

Over the next several decades, I have periodically revisited the two homesteads and dancehouse pit feature to monitor their site integrity, and as part of an ongoing study on the cultural and environmental history of the North Fork Eel River watershed. This portion of the study focuses on how the wildfires of 2017 and 2020 have impacted both the environment of the Yellowjacket and Raglin homesteads, as well as the integrity of the cultural resources found on these sites.

In August of 2017, the Dutchman Fire burned over the area where the Raglin homestead and a nearby dancehouse pit feature are located. In June of 2018, I visited the sites with Susan Nolan (avocational botanist) and a number of other specialists and environmentalists (Keter 2018a, 2018b), in order to study the effects of the fire to the integrity of the cultural resources, and to study the fire's effect to the surrounding environment. We also visited the Yellowjacket homestead at that time to document that site's integrity, and to record any changes to the surrounding environment since my last visit in 2004.

In August of 2020, the August Complex Fire burned over the Yellowjacket homestead, but this time the Raglin homestead was spared. In May of 2021, Susan Nolan and I again visited the sites, this time with Dr. Kirsten Hill (PhD. focusing on the ecology of insects and spiders in the grasslands) to record any changes or effects resulting from the fire to the Yellowjacket homestead, and to note any changes to the integrity of the other two sites and the surrounding environment since our last visit. I am indebted to both Kirsten and Susan for their contributions to this paper regarding the species of vegetation found on these

sites, and the effects of wildfires to the oak woodlands and grasslands plant communities of the North Fork Eel River watershed.

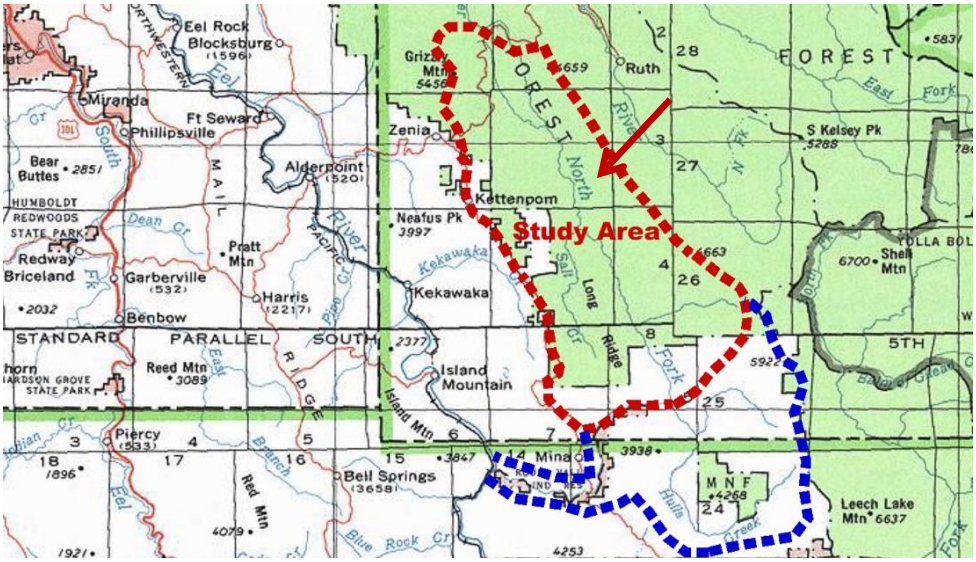
All of the tables, graphs, and maps are by the author unless otherwise noted. All images not taken by the author include the name of the photographer who took the picture. For a more in-depth overview of the environmental and cultural history of the North Fork Eel River watershed refer to The *Environmental and Cultural History of the North Fork Eel River* (1995), and *The Environmental and Cultural History of the Eel River Basin* (Keter 1997b).

The Wildfires of 2017 and 2021

Introduction

For the last four decades there has been an ongoing study on the cultural and environmental history of the North Fork Eel River watershed located in southwestern Trinity County and northeastern Mendocino County. The "Study Area" (Map 1 red dashed line) consists of that portion of the North Fork watershed to the north of the mouth of Hulls Creek. The majority of the lands within the watershed north of Hulls Creek are public lands managed by the Mad River Ranger District of the Six Rivers National Forest (Green shading on Map 1). The portion of the watershed below the confluence of Hulls Creek with the North Fork lies mostly within Mendocino County. A large portion of the watershed in this area (Map 1: blue dashed line) is owned by the Round Valley Indian Reservation and several private land holders, There are also a few tracts of public lands in the Hulls Creek watershed managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the Mendocino National Forest.

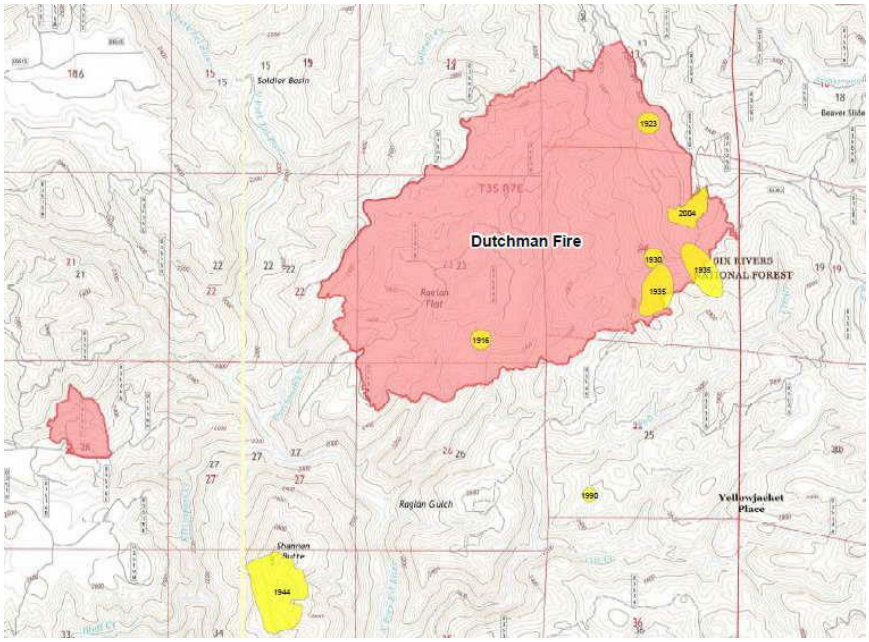
The Yellowjacket and Raglin homesteads are located (Map 1: red arrow) in the northeastern portion of the North Fork of the Eel River watershed--almost 100 miles from the county seat in Weaverville. This still remote region is referred to by local residents, and in county histories, as the "Yolla Bolly country" (Carranco and Beard 1981, Robb: 1978). The Yolla Bolly country stretches from about Zenia and Haman Ridge east to the high peaks of the Yolla Bolly Mountains, and north from Round Valley to about Ruth on the Mad River (the orignal location of Ruth is now under the Ruth Lake Reservoir) and encompasses the entire North Fork Watershed.



Map 1

2017: The Dutchman Fire

The Dutchman Fire in August of 2017 was the largest fire to have taken place within the study area since the Forest Service took over administration of the public domain lands in 1905 with the creation of the Trinity National Forest. Map 2 delineates the area burned by the Dutchman Fire as well as the date for each of the wildfires that have occurred in the study area since 1905. Most fires were probably caused by lightning strikes as they are located near or at the head of the Mad River/North Fork Eel River divide. The Dutchman Fire of August, 2017, burned 1,573 acres on and adjacent to Raglan Flat. It was part of a complex of several lightning-caused fires named the Ruth Complex that consumed a total of 4,715 acres. The Yellowjacket homestead was not affected by these fires.



Map 2

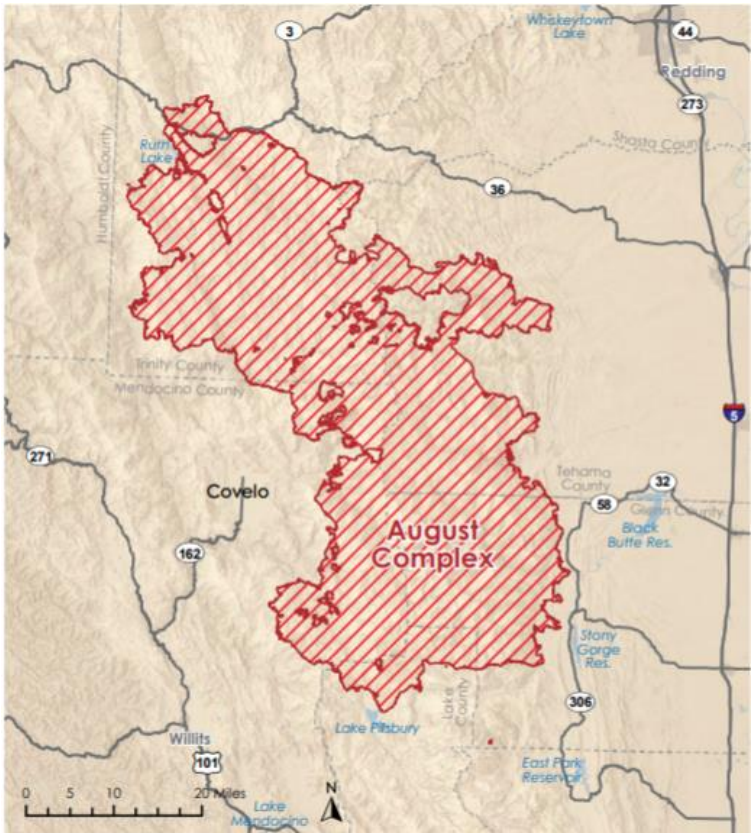
2020: The August Complex Fire

At the time it occurred the 2020 August Fire Complex was the largest wildfire in California history (it appears that record may have already been broken in 2021 as this paper went to press).

During this fire, the Yellowjacket homestead burned, but the Raglan homestead was just outside the burn area by less than 100 meters. CAL Fire (2020) has provided a brief summary of the fire's history and map (Map 3) of the area that was burned by the fire.

The August Complex began as 37 separate fires following a historic dry lightning event in Tehama, and Glenn Counties in the Mendocino National Forest on August 17, 2020. The fires merged, growing to become the largest wildfire in California history, ultimately consuming 1,032,648 acres. In the era of mega fires, this fire stands above all others in scale. The August Complex burned for over two months, threatening the communities of Willits, Covelo, Potter Valley, Mina, Kettenpom, Zenia, Ruth, Hettenshaw Valley, Lake Pillsbury, and multiple others in its path. Tragically, the August Complex claimed the life of a firefighter while fighting the Tatham Fire, one of 37 initial fires comprising the Complex.

The Fire encompassed a land mass in comparative size to the state of Delaware. Nearly the entire Mendocino National Forest was consumed by this fire in addition to portions of the Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests. The Fire burned within the boundaries of the Tehama Glenn, Shasta Trinity, Humboldt Del Norte, Mendocino and Sonoma Lake Napa Units.



Map 3

Map 4 displays a portion of the August Complex Fire Soil Severity Map. This satellite generated map shows the soil temperatures resulting from the fire for the general area surrounding the three archaeological sites... This map also reflects where the most intensive and destructive areas of the fire were located--i.e., those areas that burned the hottest--also destroyed the most trees and other vegetation and may have also damaged the soils.

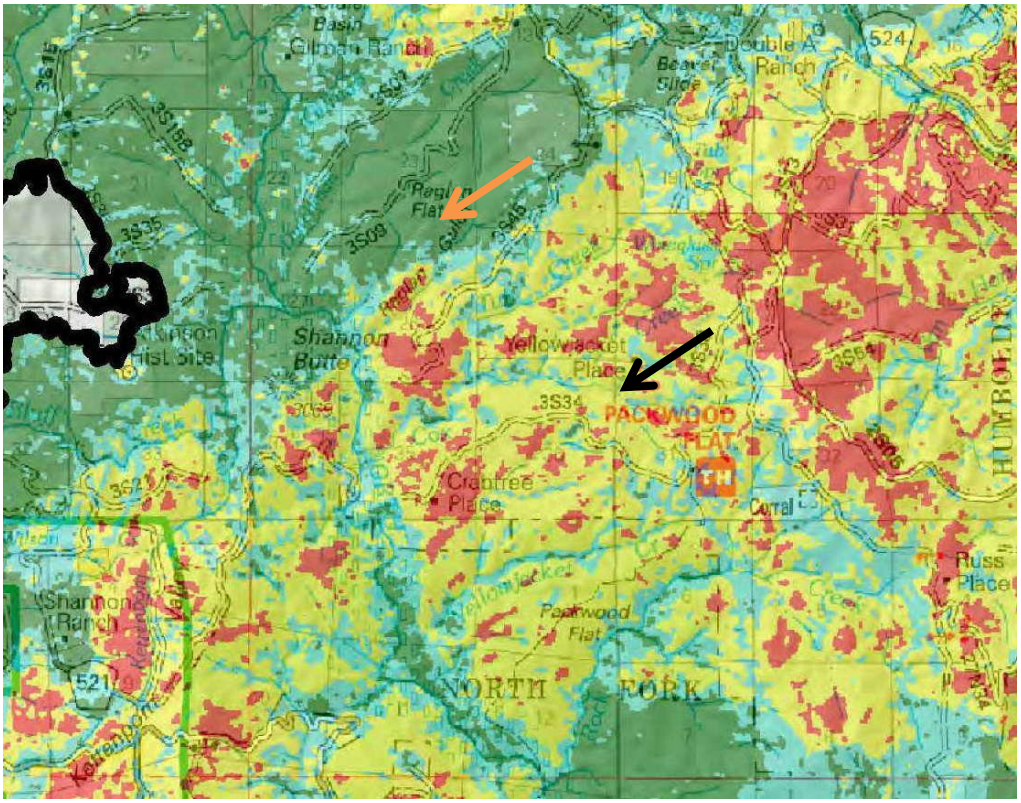
As can be seen on the Map 4, during this fire it was the Yellowjacket homestead (black arrow) that burned, while Raglan Flat (orange arrow) did not burn. See the respective sections below for specific impacts to each site from the recent fires.

* Red denotes areas that burned the hottest,

* Yellow denotes burning of moderate intensity

* Light blue are areas the burned with low intensity

* Green areas did not burn or were areas of very low intensity



Map 4
August Complex North Baer Assessment Soil Burn Sensitivity map

Cultural Resources on the Yellowjacket and Raglan Homesteads

A word about site confidentiality

In this paper no locational information for prehistoric or ethnographic sites within the North Fork watershed is provided except for the Yellowjacket and Raglin homesteads. In general, the location of cultural resources sites identified on national forest lands is not provided to the public in order to help prevent illegal artifact collecting, vandalism, and other impacts to a site's integrity. The Yellowjacket and Raglan homesteads discussed in this paper are, however, well-known to residents living in southern Trinity County. Moreover, the locations of both of these sites are shown on USGS 7.5 minute maps and numerous Forest Service maps. In addition, the location of both sites has been identified in articles published in numerous periodicals including *Trinity*--an annual historical journal published by the Trinity County Historical Society--and books including *South of the South Fork* by Walter Robb (1978).

Given the large number of deer hunters in the fall who use the old trails, it is likely that the removal of artifacts from these sites began shortly after they were abandoned. The first recorded incidence of artifact theft took place shortly after the dancehouse pit feature was recorded in the fall of 1984. Later that year, on a second visit, it was noted that a cast iron pot (Image 99) had been taken from the site.

The incident was witnessed by a Forest Service employee who was not aware that the theft of artifacts from a site was illegal. As a result, Forest Archaeologist Ken Wilson held a meeting with all of the employees working on the Mad River Ranger District in order to educate them on the laws related to the protection and conservation of cultural resources, and that illegal collecting was a violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA). In addition, funding was provided by the Regional Office to design and have several hundred signs printed to educate Six Rivers National Forest visitors. The signs (Image 1) were posted in public areas including campgrounds and dispersed recreation sites.

The problem, of course, is that despite these efforts, as will be documented below, these sites have been continually looted of artifacts for years--starting long before they were recorded. On top of that, add nearly four decades of weathering and decomposition since the sites were originally recorded. As a result, unfortunately, today, little remains on the surface of these sites for anyone to steal.

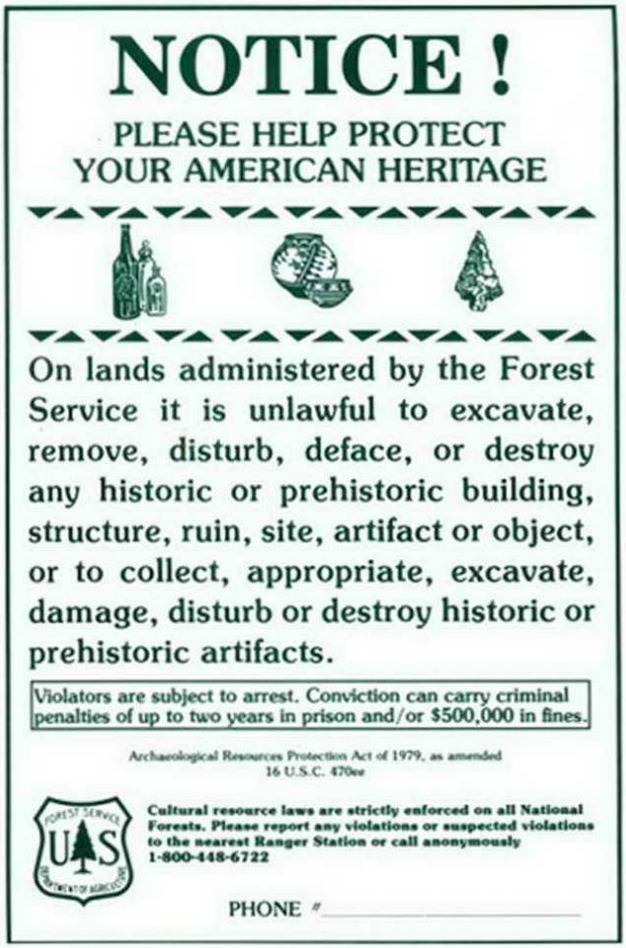
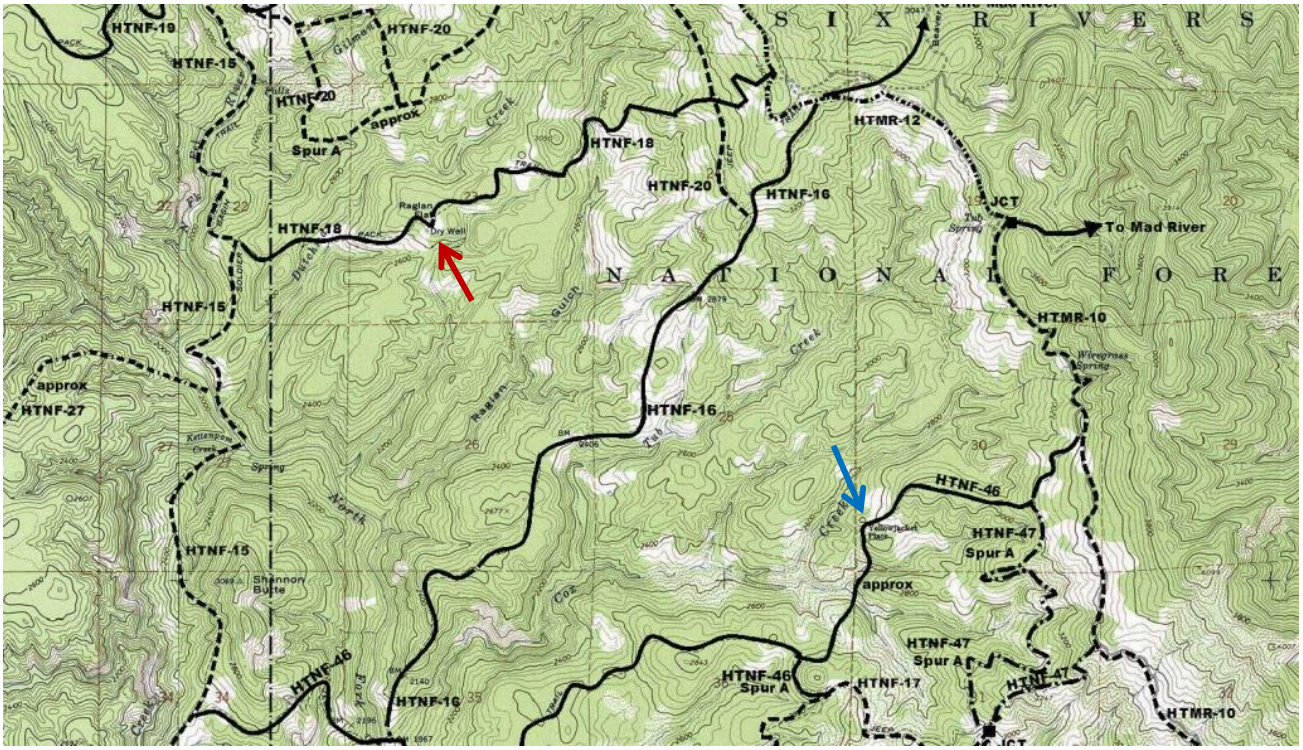


Image 1

Background

Until the early 1980s, the west facing slopes of the North Fork Eel watershed, from the Mad River Ridge divide dropping down to the river, remained a mostly roadless area. No bridge crossed the river for its first 35 miles, and there was only one "wagon trail" (TCC: Historic Trails: HTMR-10), now labeled FS Road 3S02, on the east side of the North Fork watershed above Rock Creek (Map 5). It crossed-over from the Mad River watershed into the North Fork Eel River watershed at about Tubb Spring. The primitive wagon road was completed sometime between the summer of 1908 and 1914. It is likely the original trail dates to the prehistoric era. The wagon road circled south in the upper reaches of the North Fork watershed at about 3,000 feet in elevation to about the Russ homestead (TCC: HA08) located in the upper Rock Creek drainage. This wagon road served the many isolated and accessible only by trail homesteads located further to the south toward Lightning Creek and Red Mountain Creek.

During the 1960s and 1970s a few spur roads were constructed to access some of the private inholdings that were then logged--possibly by the Twin Harbors Timber Company. They had, over the years, acquired some of the old homesteads and Indian Allotments (mostly 160 +/- acre tracts surrounded by national forest lands), or were granted logging rights by local land owners. The Forest Service issued Special Use Permits for the timber company to construct logging roads crossing national forest lands to access these tracts. Overall, however, the area remained mostly roadless, and trails (Map 5) were still used by the author in the early 1980s to access and record both the Yellowjacket homestead (Trail HTNF-46 blue arrow) and the Raglin homestead (Trail HTNF-18 red arrow). For more information on these two trails see the Historical Trails section of the TCC: Appendix 2.



Map 5

Historic Trails in the study area (TCC: Appendix 2)

By the early 1980s many of the remaining roadless areas on national forest lands comprising the Mad River Ranger District--including the Pilot Creek, upper Mad River, and North Fork Eel River watersheds--were being opened for the first time to road construction and timber harvesting activities (Keter 2011). As a result, several timber sales were proposed for the North Fork Eel watershed--including the Yellowjacket Timber Sale. The proposed timber sale boundary and associated timber access roads for the project encompassed the study area where both the Yellowjacket and Raglan homesteads are located.

As part of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), areas of direct and indirect effect resulting from the project were surveyed for cultural resources. The survey was contracted out to James Gary Maniery and Mary L. Williams Maniery, who surveyed the timber sale units and proposed roads in the late summer of 1981. Ken Wilson, Forest Archaeologist, was the COR (contracting officers representative), and I served as the contract inspector on this project, and spent a number of days in the field with them camping out and visiting the sites they had recorded.

In the late fall of 1981 they submitted an ARR (Archaeological Reconnaissance Report; 05-10-54-273) providing survey coverage maps and a report of their findings. During the course of their survey they recorded about 20 prehistoric and historic sites and trails. However, since the Yellowjacket and Raglin homesteads were outside the "survey areas" as defined by their Forest Service contract, those sites were not recorded at that time.

Both the Yellowjacket and Raglan sites were assessed as being within areas of potential indirect effects (for example increased visitor use and illegal collecting of artifacts) resulting from implementation of the project. Moreover, since it was likely the sites would qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, both the Raglan homestead and the Yellowjacket homestead were recorded by the author, and over the next 38 years they have been revisited numerous times--the last visit was on May 22, 2021.

The purpose of the following section is to document the condition, or as defined in cultural resources laws, the integrity of these sites over the time since they were first recorded. It is not to provide a complete listing and interpretation regarding the artifacts and features found on these sites. There are two variables to monitor in determining a site's integrity. The first is concerned with the types of artifacts and features remaining on the site, and their ability to withstand the ravages of time. For example, stone artifacts (including projectile points, bifaces, and ground stone artifacts) will far outlast the decomposition of many, if not most historic artifacts--including metal stove parts. The second factor affecting site integrity is vandalism (for example shooting old cans and bottles, or the destruction or disturbance of features) and the theft of artifacts from the site (including by illegal excavation).

The Yellowjacket and Sally Jacket Homestead

As part of the Yellowjacket Timber Sale, a proposed spur road from what was then a 4wd trail--now FS Road 3S34--led west out a narrow ridgeline following the same route as the old trail (TCC: HTNF-46). The spur road ended at a landing approximately 450 meters to the east of the homestead (Image 2: Location #2). The timber harvest unit was located on the north facing slope of the ridge that drops down to Cox Creek;

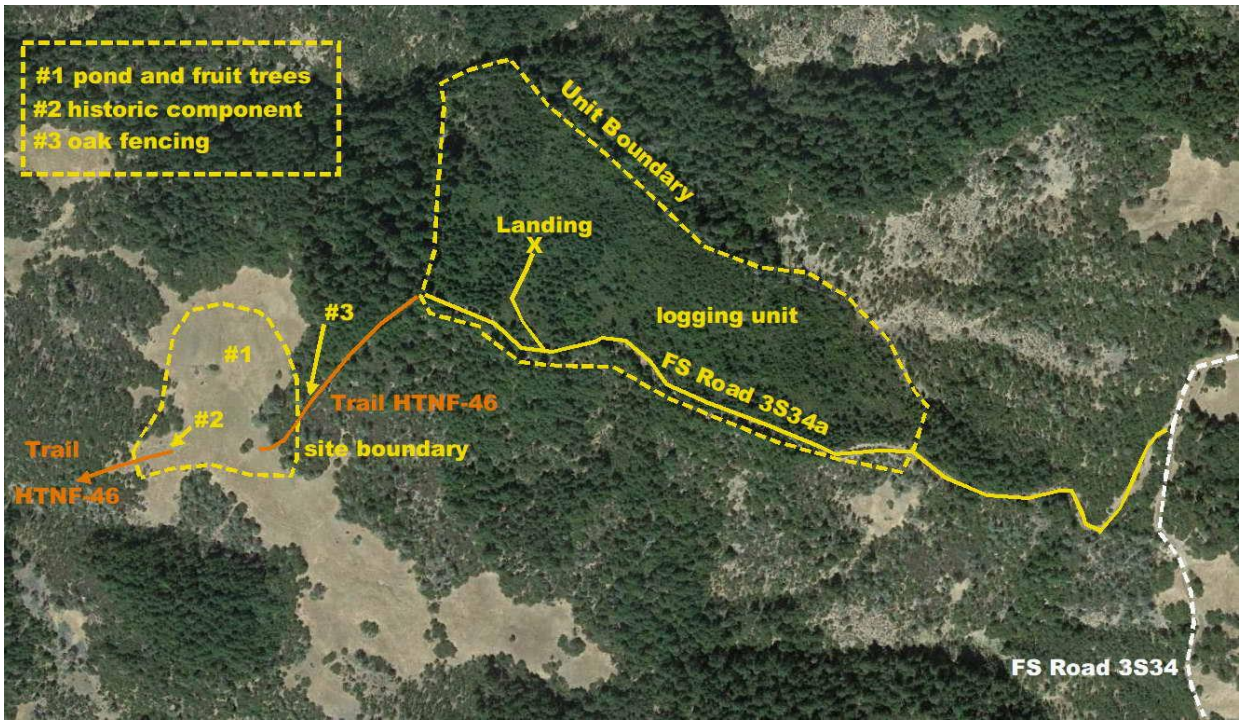
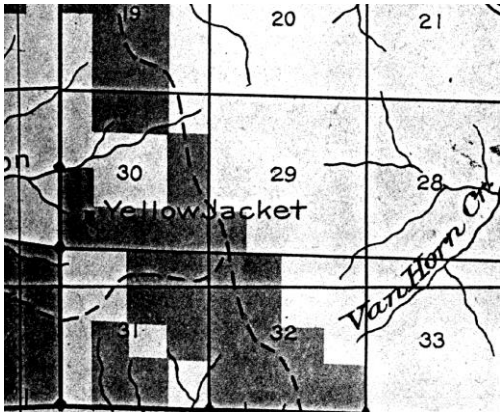


Image 2
The Yellowjacket homestead, logging unit, and associated road building activities
(Google Earth August, 2017)

Due to potential impacts to the site from implementation of the project, on October 19, 1983, the Mad River Ranger District seasonal archaeologist Walt Schlager and I formally recorded the Yellowjacket homestead.

At that time, the two 160 acre tracts comprising the Yellowjacket homestead had been only recently acquired by the Forest Service. A 1907 Trinity National Forest Map (Map 6) shows these two tracts of land (FS lands are in white) totaling 320 acres as being private lands labeled "Yellowjacket" on the map.



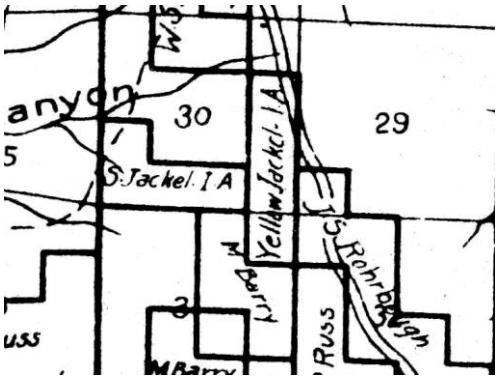
Map: 6
1907 Trinity National Forest map showing the two 160 acre tracts owned by Sally Jacket and Yellowjacket.
(TCC Appendix 2: 07)

Although referred to in this study as homesteads, these two tracts of land were claimed as "Indian allotments" by Yellowjacket and Sally Jacket under the Dawes General Allotment Act of 1887 (also called the Dawes Severalty Act). The law, similar to the Homestead Act of 1862, permitted Native Americans to declare entry on a 160 acre tract of certain public domain lands and gain ownership once the applicant met the intent of the law.

Trinity County records show the county issued a deed to Yellowjacket on October 15, 1907, for one of the 160-acre tracts. It is assumed given the conveyance of two tracts totaling 320 acres to the couple, that a similar determination was made at about this time for the tract claimed by Sally Jacket.

> Whereas, there has been depicted in the General Land Office of the U.S. a schedule of allotments approved by the Secretary of the Interior, February 24, 1897, whereby it appears that Yellowjacket an Indian of the Wintoon tribe or band has been allotted the following described land.
>
> The E 1/2 of the SE 1/4, and the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 30 and the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 31 in T.3S., R.8E., of HM CA. containing 160 acres.
>
> The federal government will hold the lands described above for a period of 25 years in trust for the sole use and benefit of said Yellowjacket, and at expiration of said period, the U.S. will convey the same by patent to said Indian or his heirs... (Book 82: page 437)

A 1915 Trinity National Forest Map (Map 7) shows that the two tracts were conveyed to the couple as Indian Allotments.



Map 7
1915 Trinity National Forest Map (TCC Appendix 2: 28)

Given the information found in the county records, it appears that Yellowjacket and Sally Jacket had formally filed for Indian Allotments under the General Allotment Act by sometime around late 1896 or early 1897. It is not known when these tracts were sold by Yellowjacket, but as discussed below, he moved to Covelo after the death of his wife, and passed away in about 1936. Therefore, the sale of this property probably dates to the mid to late 1930s. This information may be available in the Lands Office of Six Rivers National Forest.

The 320 acres were still identified as being private property on the 1977 Six Rivers National Forest Map (TCC: Appendix 2: 21b). However, by the time the site was recorded in 1983, the two tracts had been acquired by the Forest Service. It is likely that the 320 acres were part of a land exchange with Twin Harbors Lumber Company sometime after 1977 and before 1981.

The Yellowjacket Homestead: a Brief History

[To provide context for a discussion of the archaeological resources found on the site, the following section on Yellowjacket and Sally Jacket is excerpted, abbreviated, and edited from their biography (TCC Vol 2: B02).]

Yellowjacket and his wife Sally Jacket (as locals referred to her) were among the best known setters living in Yolla Bolly country. He was interviewed by ethnographer C. H. Merriam in June and July of 1922 at Zenia.

It is unclear where Yellowjacket was born and there are a number of local legends. May Burgess (TCC Appendix 6: I#186), interviewed in January of 1979, indicated that she knew

him very well. She said that he was a young Indian boy, when he was picked up by a group of men at Hayfork after a massacre that took place there, and that his mother was killed during the massacre. This comports with ethnographer C. Hart Merriam's recording (see below) that his mother was *Norelmuk* Wintun from Hayfork. At some point, a man named Jack French brought him to the Zenia area and raised him. In later years, he sheared sheep for a living. Some sources give no specific location, but say that Yellowjacket's father was killed when soldiers were in the area in the early 1860s, and that he was then adopted by Jack French. The 1928 California Indian census lists: "French, Jack, Trinity, CA, Hoaglin Valley #3599" -- That was his Indian Census number (personal communication David Heller).

C. Hart Merriam's field notes on Yellowjacket

The following information was found by the author in the field notes of ethnographer and geographer C. Hart Merriam at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. (Merriam n.d.: see LBC files A/Il/G14). Merriam's linguistic data suggest that Yellowjacket was indeed from the North Fork Eel River region and was, like Lucy Young, Wailaki. That would explain why he chose to live there. Merriam's field notes indicate that Yellowjacket spoke a slightly different language (dialect) than Lucy Young. A summary (edited for clarity) is provided below. It is suggested that future researchers should review the original notes to insure that the Athabascan (Wailaki) terms recorded are correct (Merriam used his own phonetic system not the standard system used by linguists like Pliny Goddard who also worked in the area).

> Besides [interviewing Lucy Young], I have the great good luck to find here [in Zenia] an old full blood man called Jack French or Yellowjacket who is visiting here for a couple of days and who lives with his old Norelmuk wife in the upper Mad River country not accessible by road and whom I particularly wanted to find.
>
> He belongs to another division of the southern *Ken-nés-tĕ* [Wailaki] from Lucy's people [Lucy Young] but most of the words are the same--only a few different. He calls his subtribe *Si-yahn* [this term may be spelled incorrectly] (meaning "sand eaters," from *Si ´--e*, sand) and says they are called ___ [illegible] meaning "pitch or resin stealers."
>
> He says his country was the Bald mountain and Castle Peak region--the southern part of South Fork Mountain ridge--extending east or northeast to North Yolla Bolly and included the upper or northern portion of the North Fork of the North Fork of the [Middle] Eel River and the upper parts of Hulls Creek.

[Note there is a Yellowjacket Creek on USGS maps near Sulfur Camp in this area of the Mendocino National Forest.]

In his day [they] had no roundhouse but had feasts and ceremonies of [similar to or with] their neighbors and friends the *sitten biden*. [Lucy Young's was Wailaki from *sitten biden* a village near Alderpoint.]

The photograph below was taken by Merriam when he interviewed Yellowjacket at the Clark residence in Zenia.

Image 3 (TCC: B02-1)
Yellowjacket, Lucy Young, and her great granddaughter at Zenia
Merriam's photographic note:
"Mrs. Lucy Young with Yellowjacket of the *che-teg'-ge-keah*.
Yellowjacket; Caution; Trinity Co.; 1 July 1922; 1 print"

Making a go of it in the Yolla Bolly Country

Today the Yolla Bolly country still remains one of the most remote and least visited areas in the state. As noted earlier, Irene Willburn Stapp and her husband Lee Stapp of Hettenshaw Valley were interviewed by the author in the 1980s and both remembered Yellowjacket and knew Yellowjacket personally (TCC Appendix 6: #I448). Lee Stapp related a story about him showing some homesteaders how to catch steelhead hiding under a rock in a deep pool on the North Fork near Soldier Basin. Yellowjacket placed a large rock on his

shoulder and it made him quickly submerge---he held his breath an unbelievably long time and came up with the fish---he was an old man probably in his 70's when he did this.

Irene Stapp (TCC A6: I#448) said that Yellowjacket was raised by Jack Frech and it seems that he did not practice as many traditional parts of his culture as Lucy Young and some of the others—this of course may be due to his upbringing with the French family. Yellowjacket's wife was known locally as Sally Jacket and was well-respected in the local community. She was a full-blooded Indian who had been captured in the big round up of the mid-1800s (Keter 1990). One consultant (TCC A6: I#316) indicated that "She was a "wild Indian" who was sent to school. She was real educated and was a smart lady." Sally passed away in 1932. The consultant believed she was over 100 years old when she died and was many years older than 'Jacket.' According to the 1930 census she was 23 years older than Yellowjacket and based on the census records it appears that she was about 97 years old when she died (TCC Appendix 3: 1930).

Yellowjacket moved into Covelo shortly after Sally Jacket died, and for a number of years after her death, he traveled back and forth between Covelo and his homestead. When spending time in Covelo, he often visited with Bill Doobie (Wailaki), an elderly Wailaki man, and with Jim Hoaglin (part Wailaki) from Long Ridge country in the North Fork Eel watershed. Another old friend from Long Ridge, Bill Hoaglin (part Wailaki), and Yellowjacket traveled together throughout the Yolla Bolly country, and were always welcomed wherever they went. Sometimes Bill Hoaglin's wife, Hattie, also Wailaki, would also travel with them.

When Irene Stapp (a Willburn whose grandmother was Wailaki) was a child living in Round Valley, among those who visited her house were Lucy and Sam Young, Nancy Doby , Bill Dobbyns, YellowJacket, Ellen Tom, and Mary Major. She remembered: "it was a small house with a large crowd" (TCC A6: I#448). She said that Yellowjacket always rode horses, but many of the others walked. These "Sunday gatherings" took place in the early 1930's when the old timers began to die of old age. Many of these people were in their 80's and even possibly in Nancy Doby's case 100.

Edith Murphey, who was a avocational botanist and worked for the Indian Health Service in Round Valley, was a friend of Yellowjacket and Lucy Young. In a recorded interview She said that: :

> In his old age I knew Jack French and tried to help him in various ways. When I saw him come riding into Covelo with his wide black hat with the buckskin thong under his chin, setting erect despite his years, I always mentally pulled up the picutre of him in his youth swimming in the river with his new hat on and mentally took my own hat off to him.
>
> [Mendocino Hositical Society; Transcribed by Eric Smith]

Irene Stapp was not sure what Yellowjacket died of, but that she was about 12 years old at the time and went to his funeral in Round Valley. This was about in 1936. There were lots of flowers and floral pieces with pine cones at his funeral. It was a Christian funeral. Yellowjacket is buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery in Covelo.

Recording Cultural Resources on the Yellowjacket homestead

As noted earlier, I first visited the Yellowjacket homestead in October of 1983, along with Mad River Ranger District Archaeologist Walt Schlager, in order to record the site (FS# 05-10-54-266). The site record contains a sketch map of the site, photographs, and list of artifacts and features noted on the site.

On our first visit, a substantial number of historic artifacts were lying around the immediate area where rock alignments for the foundation of the structure remained visible. Image 4 is a view overlooking the homestead west to Kettenpom Peak (the highest peak on the horizon) located just to the west of the Zenia-Round Valley Wagon Road--about 12 miles away by trail. The store at Seven Cedars (TCC: P&P: 163-165) near Kettenpom Peak was the closest general store (it opened in 1903) to their homestead for supplies. Zenia, where Merriam interviewed Yellowjacket, was about another five to six miles by trail further to the northwest. It was over 25 miles and a long day's ride (or more) to Round Valley.

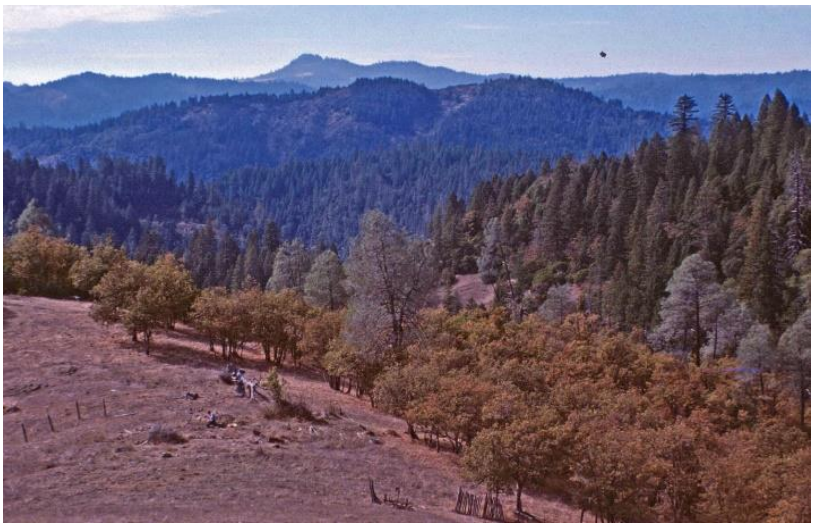


Image 4
View west to the location of the house (left lower center)
--on the horizon is Kettenpom Peak

The following images illustrate site integrity and the kinds of features and artifacts that were identified on the site when it was recorded. Images 5-7 show the rock alignments (red arrows) for the structure foundation.

Image 5

Image 6

Image 7

There were numerous historic artifacts (Images 8-11) associated with the structure, as well as a number of groundstone artifacts (used for acorn and grass seed processing). Historic artifacts included shovels, saws, horse shoes, porcelain pans, machine made cans, nails (machine cut), and some broken glass--including some purple glass (pre WW I era). There were also some fruit trees on a small flat just to the northeast of the structure. It is not clear when the pond was constructed. As there is no evidence (obvious ground disturbance) of a caterpillar tractor "punching" in a primitive road, it is possible that the

pond was constructed by hand by Yellowjacket. It has remained full even on visits to the site during the months of September and October, so it is clear why Yellowjacket and Sally Jacket selected this place to live.

Image 8
Cross-cut saw

Image 9
Cook stove

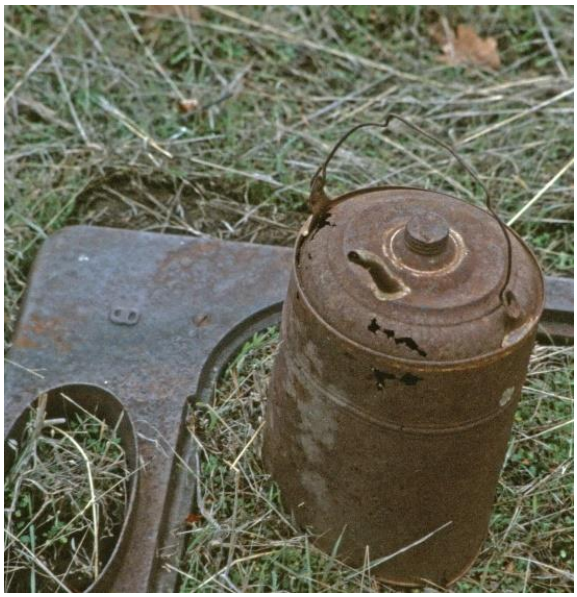


Image 10
Probably for carrying Keroscene

Image 11
Remains of a tin can

One of the most interesting artifacts recorded was a horse or mule-drawn sickle-bar mower (Image 12). With no nearby road this mower must have been partially disassembled to be brought in via trail. White oak fencing (discussed in more detail below) remained visible at several locations around the homestead (Image 13).

Image 12

Image 13

Site integrity over the years

After recording the site in the fall of 1983, the next few visits during the 1980s and 1990s were made before the era of digital photography and taking pictures was a somewhat expensive endeavor. For that reason some of the visits to the site were not documented with photographs (some notes and black and white photos of these visits may be located in the site record file at the Forest Supervisors Office in Eureka). Most of the images used here were taken by the author with his personal camera as slides and were later converted to jpg files.

What became clear over the intervening years was that with each subsequent visit, the number of artifacts visible on the surface of the site steadily decreased. As would be expected those cans, bottles, and other artifacts that were in the best condition were the first ones to be removed from the site.

<u>Site visit April 2004</u>

On the April 2004 Coyote Fred Downey and Ernie Merrifield accompanied me on a visit to the Yellowjacket and Sally Jacket homestead. Coyote is a resident of Hulls Creek, and a

direct descendant of the Wailaki who inhabited the North Fork Eel River watershed prior to the historic period. His great grandmother was born at Soldier Basin less than two miles from the site. It is likely according to Coyote that Yellowjacket was a distant relative (personal communication: 2018). Ernie Merrifield, also of Wailaki descent, has family connections to this region as well. At the time of the 2004 visit, he was a member of the Round Valley Indian Reservation Tribal Council.

Since this was now the digital camera era, a number of photos were taken on the visit. Unfortunately, on our visit to the site it was noted that not only had a significant number of artifacts been removed from the site, but the sickle-bar mower had been taken. Since the site is far from any road, the mower was probably stolen during helicopter logging operations (during 2002-2004) on private lands nearby. An ARPA violation report was filed with Six Rivers Law Enforcement at that time and is attached to the site record and there is also one in the author's personal files.

Image 14
Note that the mower had already been stolen by the time of this visit

Site visit June 2018

By the time the site was visited in June of 2018 most artifacts of any consequence including most of the embossed stove parts, cans, and broken shards of purple glass had nearly all disappeared. One large wash tub with its bottom rotted out and a few small badly rusted stove parts were the largest artifacts remaining on the site (Image 2 Location #2).

Image 15
View east to the location (center) of where the dwelling was located

Site visit May 2021

On our visit to the site in May of 2021 as a result of the fire of August 2020, little remained visible on the surface except for a few widely scattered artifacts (Images 16-18)) along with part of the rock alignment for the structure foundation (yellow arrow Image 19), and a few fence posts. As for any effect to cultural resources resulting from the recent fire, there was little effect to the site other than the loss of the fencing (discussed below see Image 20).

Image 16
View west to the remaining foundation: a number of the oaks survived (far right), but all of the gray pines (tall tree to right) surrounding the site were killed by the fire

Image 16a
A few stove parts remained visible on the site

Image 17

Image 18

Image 19
View north to location of the rock foundation alignment
Note that some of the white oaks survived the fire

Image 20
A portion of the rock alignment for the foundation remained visible
(Susan Nolan)

1983 to 2021: Cultural Resources Site Integrity

As noted earlier, two variables can affect the integrity of a site over time, and it is clear that both processes were taking place here; the natural processes of weathering and decomposition related to the passage of time, and the illegal collecting of artifacts and vandalism of a site. The theft of artifacts can be attributed to the occasional hunter, cowboys rounding up their cattle, and in some cases, local residents interested in collecting historic artifacts. Equally as important,--prior to the passage of cultural resources laws and their enforcement--Forest Service employees working in the field often collected artifacts from both Native American and historic sites.

By 2004, much of the rock alignment for the foundation (Image 19) was no longer as easily visible as compared to when the site was initially recorded, and by the last visit in May of 2021, only one section of the rock alignment remained clearly visible and few artifacts remained visible on the surface.

One of the most interesting cultural features remaining on the site in 2018 was a short section of white oak fencing that once surrounded much of the homestead. It was located just to the north of the trail--just before it entered the clearing from the east (Image 2: Location # 3). This remaining section of standing fence line had been, in 1983, mapped and recorded as the eastern boundary of the site.

Image 21 was taken in 1983. It is clear that when the photograph was taken, the manzanita had already been encroaching on the fence line for many years.

Image 21
1983: White oak fencing to the north of trail HTNF-46:

By 2004 condition of the fence had deteriorated, but it remained standing. Note that by this time manzanita had completely overgrown the fence line.

Image 22a
2004: same area as the 1983 Image 21

Image 22b was taken in 2018 and shows a small section of the old fence still remained standing in the same general area as the last two images. At that time, the fence was probably about 100 years old (proof of why white oak was the choice of homesteaders for fencing). Given that the manzanita in this area has grown for another 35 years since, the site was first visited, and that as manzanita matures it becomes denser and burns hotter, it is clear that with no fires, the fuel load in this area had increased significantly over the last century. Conditions were ripe for a catastrophic fire.

Image 22b
The fence line in 2018

In August of 2020, the entire 320 acre tract of the Yellowjacket homestead was engulfed by the August Complex Fire. On our visit to the site in May of 2021, the area where the old fence line in the manzanita was located had burned extremely hot. As a result the old fence was destroyed. Only the wire used to weave the white oak slats together survived the fire (Image 23).

Image 23
2021: Only wire remains where the fence line once stood

Conclusions

Other than destruction of the oak fence, the impacts to the site from the 2020 fire were minor. By 2021 it is difficult to conclude whether the ravages of time or the theft of artifacts has resulted in the most negative impacts to the site's integrity. The direct result of both, however, is that the cultural materials that today still remain visible on the surface of the site are only a small vestige of what was present when it was first recorded in 1983.

The Changing Environment

The Yellowjacket and Sally Jacket Homestead: 1983 to 2021

The following groups of images are intended to document the changes, or in some cases the lack of any change, to the vegetation associated with the Yellowjacket homestead since it was first recorded in 1983. It focuses primarily on the distribution and species of vegetation found on and adjacent to the site, and the overall effects to the ecosystem due to the passage of time, resulting from the August Complex Fire of 2020.

Image Group #1: Overview of the Yellowjacket Place

[The section below includes portions of the paper documenting the 2018 visit to the site (Keter 2018a).]

The first group of photos provides an overview of the site from the eastern edge of the open grassland looking west to where the remains of the structure and most artifacts were located (see Image 2: Location #2). The images were taken from the point where the trail enters the opening from the east (just west of Image 2: Location #3).

Site visit October 1983

Note the 1983 photograph (Image 24) shows that the homestead was situated in a saddle on a west facing slope dominated by open grasslands (grasslands are referred to locally as "prairies") and Oregon white oak woodlands associated with scattered gray pine. Gray pine is uncommon in the watershed and is found only at a few locations with similar marginal soils and xeric exposures (Keter 1995, Griffin and Critchfield 1972: Map 56). These trees are found most often at lower elevations on dry south and west-facing slopes, especially to the east of the North Fork of the Eel River. The more continuous distribution of gray pine in the North Coast Ranges begins in Round Valley, and extends southward throughout the lower elevations of the interior Coast Ranges (Griffin and Critchfield 1972: 89).

Note that a section of the oak fencing (lower right) was still standing. The horse or mule - drawn sickle-bar mower can be seen just to the left of the fencing.

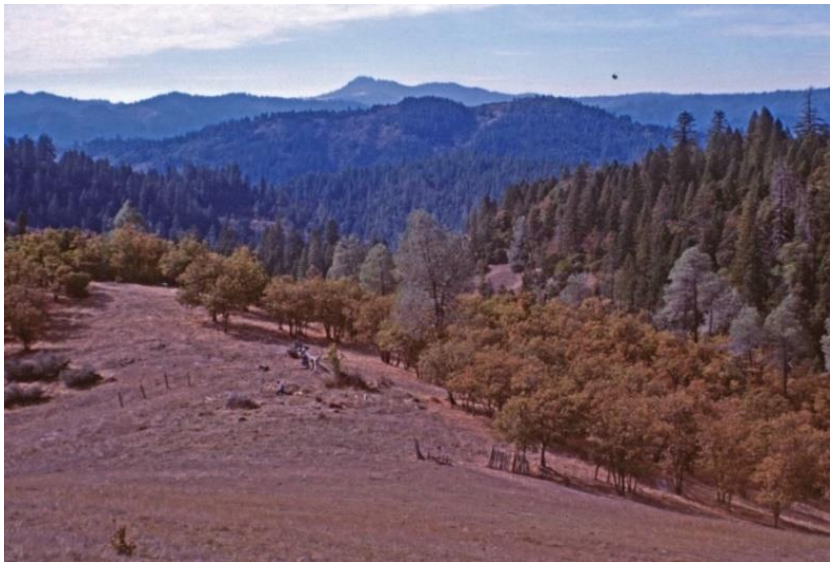


Image 24
The gray pines are the light green trees in the photo

Site visit April 2004

A 2004 photo of the same area (Image 25) shows that during the intervening years there had been little change in the distribution or extent of vegetation growing on the site. By this time, however, the hay mower had been stolen from the site, and the section of fence (lower right) had collapsed, although a few of the vertical oak posts remained standing.

Image 25

Site visit June 2018

The same view (Image 26), taken during the 2018 visit, shows the oak fence posts still standing and that little has changed in the distribution of trees associated with the site since the first visit in 1983.

Image 26
(Pat Higgins 2018)

Site visit May 2021

On the visit to the site in May of 2021 (Image 27) it was clear that the area surrounding the homestead in every direction had burned extremely hot (see the Soil Burn Intensity Map: Map 4). The open savanna grasslands and oak woodlands area immediately surrounding the site had managed, for the most part, to have survived the fire with little effect. Some of the manzanita adjacent to the living area burned, but the fire appears not to have impacted to any great extent the general area containing most of the cultural resources.

Image 27

Image 28 provides a wider view to show the impact from the August Fire to the entire watershed. Note here and in the other images below that the fire burned with nearly 100 percent mortality (especially manzanita) in the areas immediately surrounding the site.

Image 28
Grizzly Mountain is the high point on the horizon (upper right)

Image Group #2: View from the upper meadow to the fruit trees and pond area (Image 2: Location #1)

Just to the north of the living area about 50 meters is another small flat. In 1983 there were five fruit trees growing in this area by a small pond situated just below a spring.

Site visit October 1983

Image 29 shows a view to the northwest to the small flat where the five fruit trees and pond are located. It is clear why this site was chosen, as the pond was still holding water in October. Consultants living in the area noted in interviews that springs have dried up on many of the old homesteads, or now run with less intensity. Moreover, during the 1980s and 1990s the author recorded a number of homesteads in the area where the springs had nearly or completely dried up. One of the likely causes for this situation can be linked to the significant increase in Douglas firs growing in the watershed over the last century (see Keter 1995, 1997).

Image 29
View west to Grizzly Peak on the horizon

Site visit April 2004

By the time of this visit two of the fruit trees had died, but little else had changed.

Image 30

Site visit June 2018

Image 31 taken of the same area in 2018 shows the larger of the two remaining fruit trees had died (its trunk and limbs were still lying on the ground), but that little else had changed and virtually no manzanita or other vegetation had invaded the area.

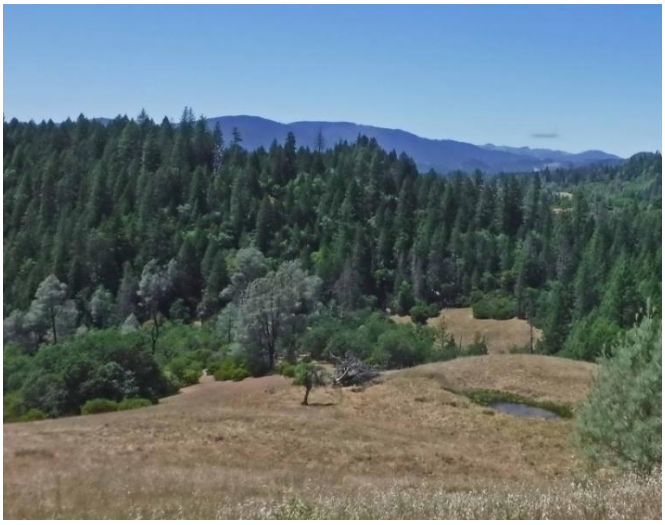


Image 31
(Pat Higgins 2018)

Site visit May 2021

On this visit (Image 32) the last fruit tree and the remains of the one noted as having just died in 2018 had both been consumed by the fire. As far as could be seen, not one ponderosa, incense cedar, gray pine, or Douglas fir survived the fire in the entire Cox Creek watershed to the northwest of the homestead.

Image 32

Image Group #3: View east from the living area (Image 2: Location #2) towards the eastern boundary of the site

This group of images shows where the historic trail enters the meadow from the east (top center of photo). For more details on the integrity of this trail, see the section below.

October 1983

Note that at this time (Image 33) the eastern edge of the grassland savanna was clearly defined.

Image 33

Site visit June 2018

The photo below (Image 34) shows that, as elsewhere on the site, there has been little encroachment of manzanita or conifers into the opening along the eastern boundary of the site.

Image 34
(Susan Nolan)

Site visit May 2021

The entire area above the homestead burned very hot due to the density and age of the manzanita and the buildup of slash (Image 35). Despite that fact, the meadow with less fuels did not burn as hot and has recovered very quickly.

Image 35

It is not clear if all of the oaks survived. While some have already leafed out, a number of oaks affected by the fire did not lose their leaves, but the leaves have turned brown. It is not clear if all of these trees will survive, but several of them already have sprouts growing from their trunks at ground level from their undamaged roots system.

Image Group #4: Historic Trail HTNF-46

When the site was recorded in 1983 access to the homestead was still via the original trail (Image 2: trail HTNF-46). At that time, the trail was still in excellent condition and was used by both cowboys and their cattle during the summer and fall to travel between the old abandoned Yellowjacket place where there was a water source, and the upper Mad River Ridge--used for summer grazing. As noted earlier, a timber access road (3S34A) constructed in the late 1980s, now overlays most of the old trail to the east of the homestead.

Site visit October 1983

No slides were taken of the trail in 1983, but some black and white photos and negatives of the trail may be found in the original site record. At that time the trail to the site was well-defined and was easy to follow and was used by cattle to access the pond.

Site visit April 2004

At this time, the timber access road west along the ridgeline to the logging landing was still open to vehicles. From the landing a section of the original historic trail--about 250 meters in length--and still in relatively good condition--led southwest downslope to the site boundary (Images 36-37).

Image 36

Image 37

View east to sections of the remaining historic trail to the west of the landing

Site visit June 2018

By 2018 the invading and rapidly growing manzanita had made hiking the spur road and old trail more difficult. The section of the now closed spur road near its intersection with 3S34, was being invaded by manzanita, but was still relatively open (Image 38). In one area on the spur road just to the east of the landing, however, the invading six to eight foot high manzanita was so dense that it was difficult to hike on the old spur road at all. Instead, it was necessary to hike paralleling the spur road in the pole-sized stand of Douglas fir on the south facing slope in order to access the old landing. The photo below (Image 39) is near the eastern boundary of the historic site just to the east of the old fence line (Image 2). See Appendix 2 for a brief summary by Susan Nolan of the grasses and forbs noted on the site during our visit.

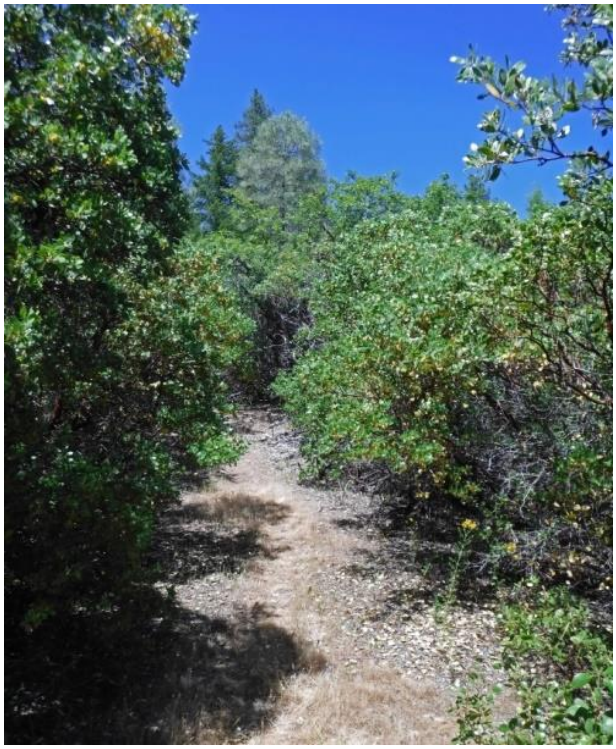


Image 38
View west on the spur road where the manzanita is closing in
(Pat Higgins)

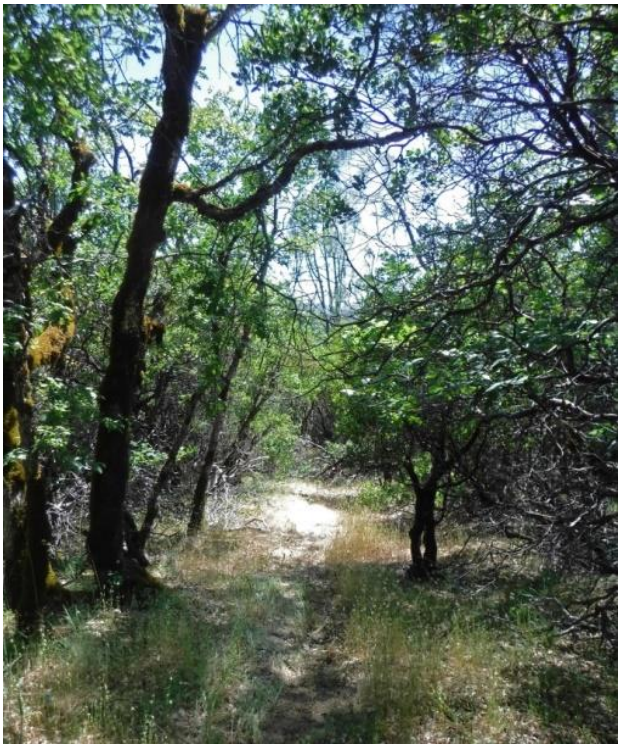


Image 39
View to east on the trail just to the west of the landing

Site visit May 2021

The August 2020 fire burned extremely hot in the headwaters of Cox Creek to the east of the homestead. The unit was logged sometime in the late the 1980s. At the time of the fire, it was dominated by brush species including manzanita.

The first photo below (Image 40) is a view from the trail (at about Image 2: Location #4) looking east toward the landing (just over the top of the hill). Note that the fire burned so hot in this area that many of the mature manzanita plants had been completely consumed.

Image 40
View of the trail heading east just below
the landing and end of the spur road

Image 41 shows where the trail drops down to the west to the homestead from about the same vantage point as Image 40. No conifers or brush species survived the fire in this entire area. Note, however, the oaks (Image 41a), although seemingly not spared by the fires, are already sprouting, as is manzanita (41b), and other pioneer species of plants.

Image 41
View west to the Yellowjacket place from
about the same location as Image 42

Image 41a

Image 41b

Image Group #5: Forest Service Spur Road 3S34A

Site visit June 2018

It appears, that Forest Service timber access road 3S34A (Image 2) was put to bed sometime between 2004 and 2010. In 2018 the first two hundred meters of the old spur road, paralleling 3S34 and located immediately downslope just to the west, remained relatively open (Image 42).

Image 42
View to the SW of the spur old logging road as it heads downhill from near its eastern terminus with the main haul route 3S34.
(Pat Higgins 2018)

At the point where the spur road turns west to follow the old trail along the ridge (Image 43), it also remained fairly clear of invasive brush species.

Image 43

However, as the spur road that divides the two sub drainages of Cox Creek continues to follow the narrow ridge west, a few hundred meters before reaching the eastern edge of the area that was clearcut (Image 2: logging unit), manzanita and other brush species had now begun to aggressively invade the original road bed.

From this point, it was necessary to leave the trail and to hike along the south facing slope just below the ridgeline in the stand of Douglas fir that now dominated that area (Image 44) and then circle back to the trail at about where the spur road ended at the landing. Although manzanita was beginning to grow across the trail in a few places, this old section of trail, from the logging unit to the homestead, was still in fair condition.

<u>Site visit May 2021</u>

Image 43a shows the spur road winding to the west along the ridgeline. The photo was taken from near where the spur road leaves 3S34. The fire burned so hot in this area that the soils may have been impacted as few grasses and other plants have even started to grow back in most of this area.

Image 43a

The photographs below (Images 43b-43c) are from the spur road north to the headwaters of Cox Creek. The fire burned very hot in this area and no Douglas firs survived. There were a few grasses and forbs growing in the area immediately adjacent to the streambed.

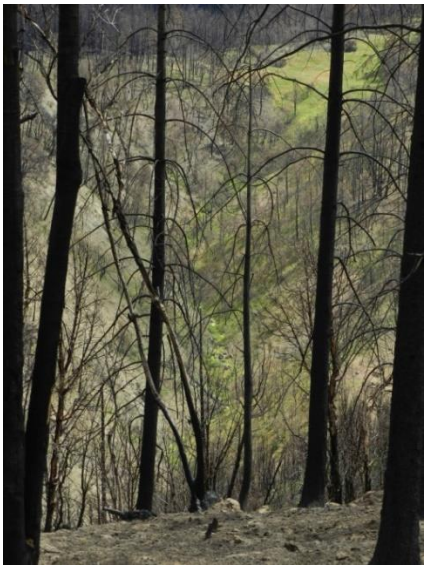


Image 43b

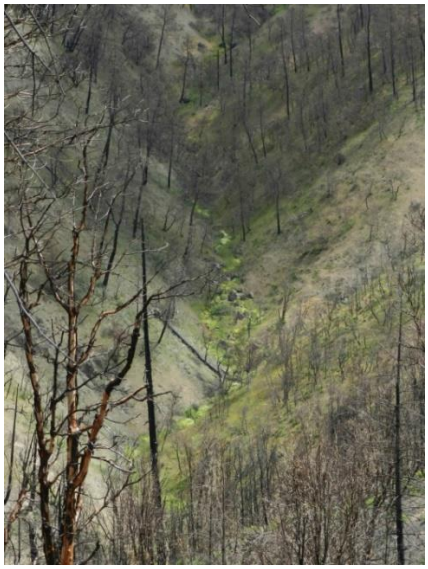


Image 43c

Group #6: Pole-sized Douglas fir invading and dominating the oak woodland on the south facing slope along the historic trail above the south branch of Cox Creek

Site visit June 2018

By the time of this visit, most of the oaks on the south facing slope along the spur road that drops down to a branch of Cox Creek were dead or dying--having been over-topped by

pole-sized Douglas firs. There were many dead oak tree trunks and limbs lying of the ground creating a very dense buildup of fuels. Note in the photograph (Image 44), that the Douglas firs growing on slope are all about the same age. Given their size and growing conditions (a dry growing site), this stand is probably about 60 to 80 years old and was not here when the homestead was occupied. It is clear why the August fire of 2020 burned so hot in this area, as there has been a significant buildup of deadfall and duff.

Image 44
(Pat Higgins)

Site visit May 2021

As noted earlier, on our visit to the site after the fire in 2020 not one green tree was visible in the entire watershed surrounding the Yellowjacket homestead. Image 45 below shows just how hot the fire burned in the area shown in Image 44.

Image 45

Effects to the Environment as a result of Logging and Road Building

The purpose of this section of the study is to illustrate using Google Earth images how the area affected by the timber sale has recovered over time since it was logged in the late 1980s. The most obvious and surprising thing observed on the 2018 visit was the aggressive encroachment of manzanita into portions of the old roadbed since the last visit to the site in 2004. The logging unit itself was not inspected due an almost impenetrable barrier of dense brush in that area.

At some point subsequent to the visit in 2004, and before 2010, the spur road was "put to bed." That is, it was permanently closed. It is not unusual in this area to close a spur road to a logging unit after it has been logged. Sometimes an earthen barrier or gate is used. Here, in the area where the spur road left the main haul route 3S34, the old road bed was recontoured to conform to the original slope making the road inaccessible to vehicles.

The following Google Earth air photos (Images 46-51) show the Yellowjacket place and the surrounding area in a series of images taken between 1993 and 2017. Note that the lines to depict the historic trail and logging road are drawn to closely parallel these features, rather than directly on them so that they can be easily seen in the photos.

Image 46 was taken in June of 1993 about three to five years after the unit was logged. The lack of standing Douglas firs in the unit indicates this was probably a clearcut unit. The trail leading to the east from the historic site is still well-defined. Also note that the Douglas fir invading the south facing slope below the landing and spur road have not yet overgrown and crowded out the oaks.

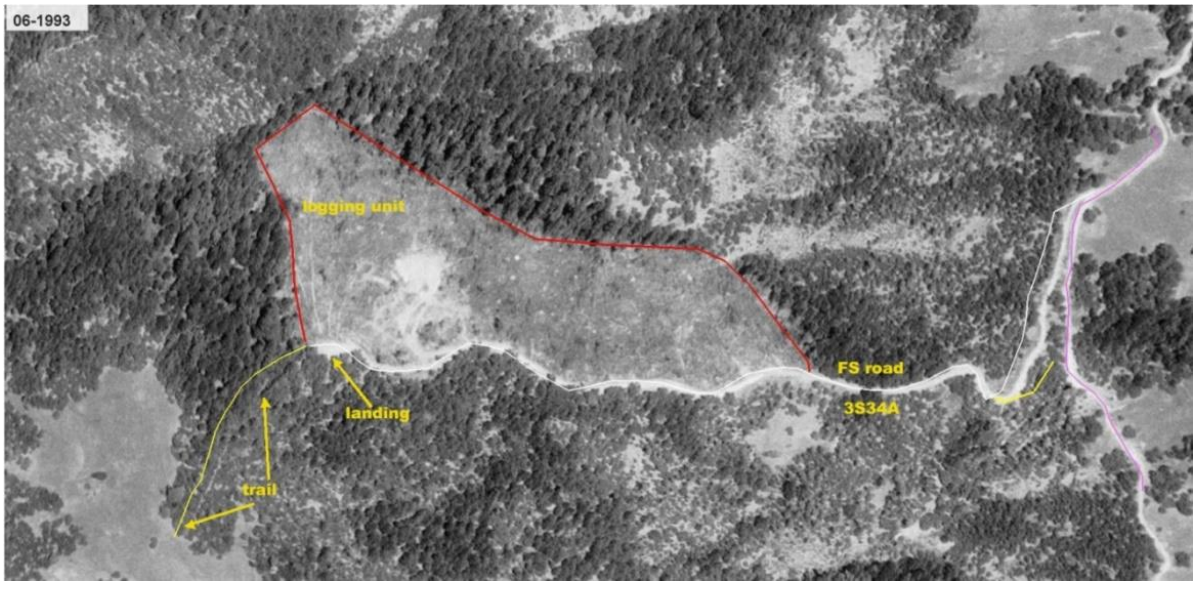


Image 46
(Google Earth June, 1993)

The following photo (Image 47) was taken in August of 1998--about a decade after the unit was logged. Some brush was now beginning to grow in the clearcut. Note that the conifers growing on the south facing slope of the ridge below the new road are beginning to close in the canopy in some places.

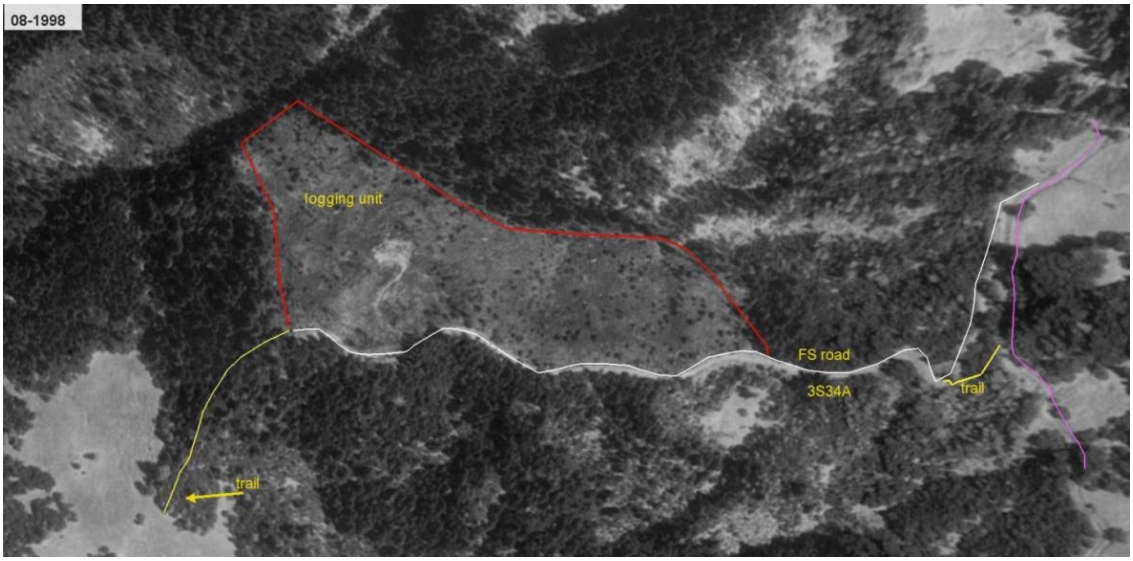


Image 47
(Google Earth August, 1998)

Image 48 was taken in 2005; by this time, brush clearly dominated the old logging unit. The remaining section of trail to the historic site can still be seen in this photo.

Image 48
(Google Earth December, 2005)

By 2010 (Image 49), it appears that some trees were growing within the unit (it is unclear from the images what species). At this time there is no data to indicate if the unit was replanted--although it does not appear to have been replanted. A closer view of this image shows that by now the spur road 3S34A had been closed and put to bed.

Image 49
(Google Earth September, 2010)

By 2014 (Image 50), Douglas firs were beginning to shade-out a section of the spur road near its western end. It also appears that few if any trees are growing within the old logging unit.

Image 50
(Google Earth May, 2014)

On the visit in 2018, one section of the spur logging road, as noted earlier, was by then so overgrown (Image 51) that it was necessary to avoid the nearly impenetrable manzanita by hiking along the edge of the even-aged Douglas fir stand now dominating the south facing slope. Note the closed canopy of even-aged Douglas firs in this photograph as compared to the 1993 air photo (Image 46). In this area, the dead and dying oaks had now created a significant buildup of fuels. The stage was set for a catastrophic wildfire. It was not long in coming.

Image 51
(Google Earth July, 2017)

Conclusions

When the Yellowjacket homestead was first visited in 1983, it had been abandoned for almost 50 years. Since then another 38 years have passed—a not insubstantial amount of time to provide for some perspective on the changes that have taken place over the years.

The photos taken of the homestead from 1983 to 2018, as well as the Google Earth air photos (Images 52-53), clearly show that the opening where the historic homestead was located (yellow arrows point to location of structure and associated artifacts) has maintained its integrity since it was abandoned in the early 1930s. As noted earlier, this is likely due to a combination of slope, aspect, and soil types conspiring to make this a rather xeric area (proper conditions--inducing high soil moisture content--are needed for Douglas fir to become established). Although the August Complex Fire of 2020 fire burned very hot in this area, except for the loss of the 100 year old fence line, the original homestead and the vegetation immediately surrounding it managed to avoid any serious negative effects from the fire.

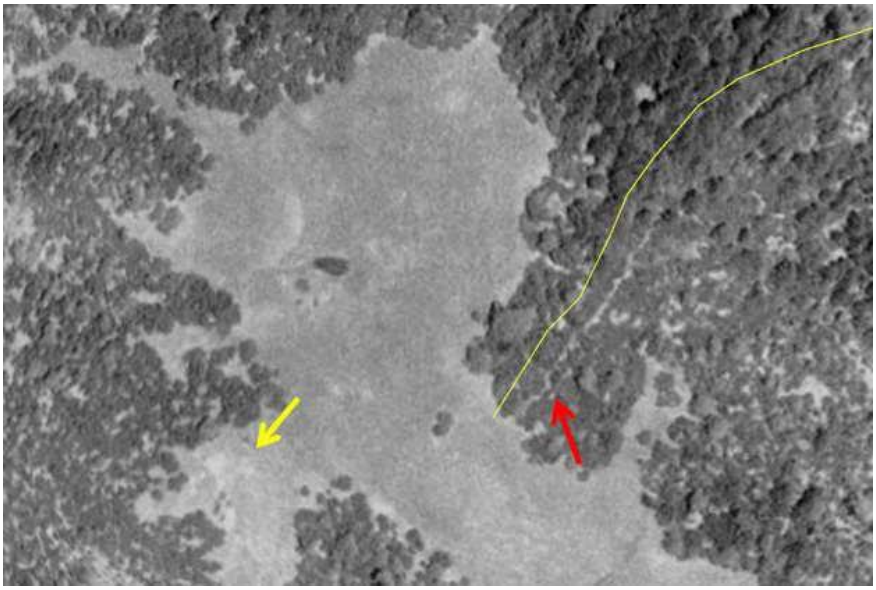


Image 52
Photo taken in August 1993; note that the pond still has water.
(Google Earth 1993)

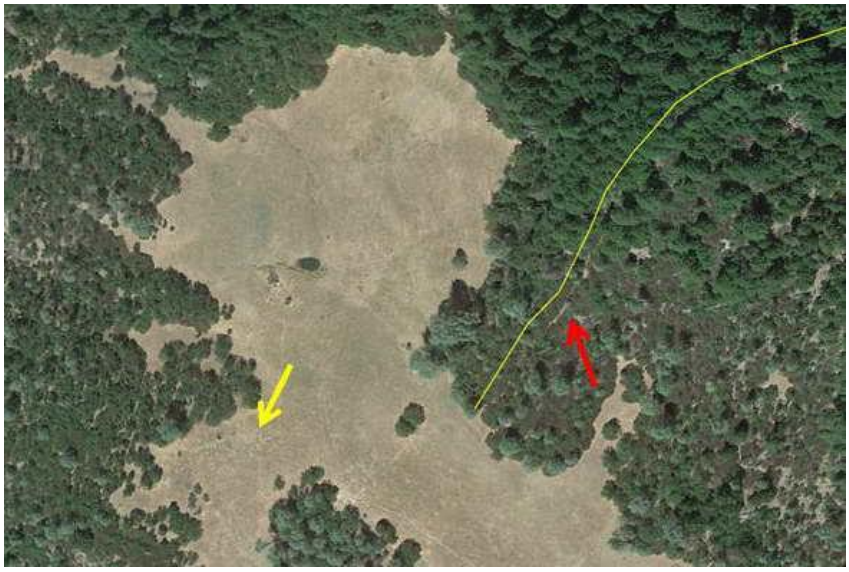


Image 53
August 2017, this photo shows there has been virtually no change
in the distribution of vegetation surrounding the site since 1993 and
most likely, since the homestead (yellow arrow) was abandoned over 80 years ago
(Google Earth 2017)

Prior to the fire, it is clear that the greatest effects and changes over that time to the vegetation growing on this 320 acre tract were associated with the timber harvesting activities that took place in the late 1980s; including a timber unit, and construction of an access road and landing to yard the timber that affected the historic trail (Images 52-53 red arrow). All of these logging activities, however, took place several hundred meters to the east of the homestead (yellow arrow Images 52-53). Cattle continued to graze the grasslands of the area and often congregated around the pond, but the numbers allowed under the grazing permit dwarfed those of the late 1800s, so the effects have been relatively minimal.

The Thomas Raglin and Susan Hoaglin Raglin Homestead

Introduction

The historic site at Raglan Flat was recorded by the author on November 5, 1984. The site consists of the historic homestead of Thomas and Susan Raglin. Although this location is labeled “Raglan Flat” on USGS and Forest Service maps, this spelling is incorrect and "Raglin" is the correct spelling. The mistake may have begun when Thomas Raglin was listed as "Thomas Raglan" on the 1880 Blocksburg census. In the 1900 and 1910 census listings, the name is recorded as "Raglin" (TCC Vol. 2; B01). The problem today is that -- "Raglan" is used on all USGS and Forest Service maps, as well as in many histories of the area. Given this inconsistency, it is necessary to acknowledge that a problem exists. Therefore, in this overview, “Raglan” is used in the text for all references to the geographical location, since it is labeled that way on all USGS and historical maps and in nearly every publication discussing the site.

The site record (FS# 05-10-54-273/CA-TRI-991/H), including site sketch maps and black and white photographs, is located in the cultural resources files at the Six Rivers National Forest Supervisor's Office in Eureka. Raglan Flat (Image 54), totaling roughly 12 acres, is situated on an ancient and relatively flat river terrace. Since the site was first recorded it has been visited numerous times to update the site record.

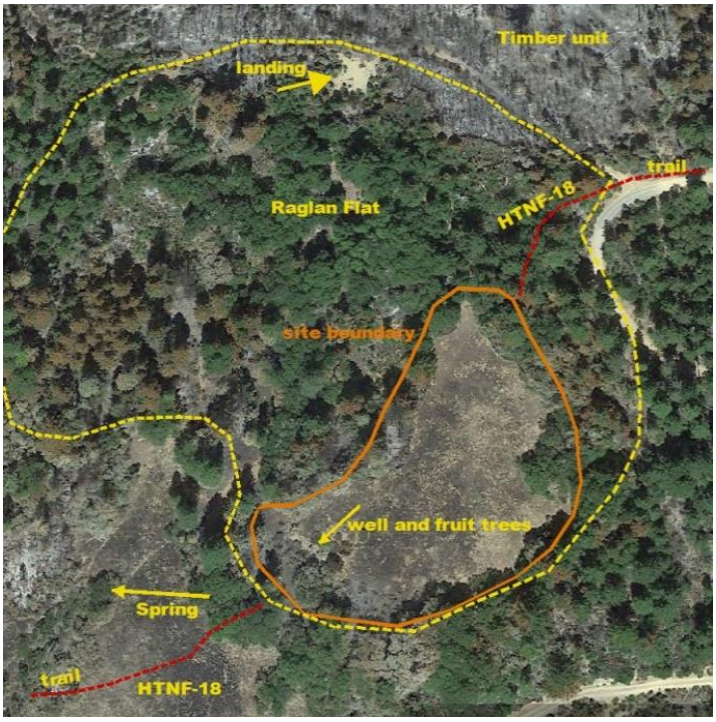


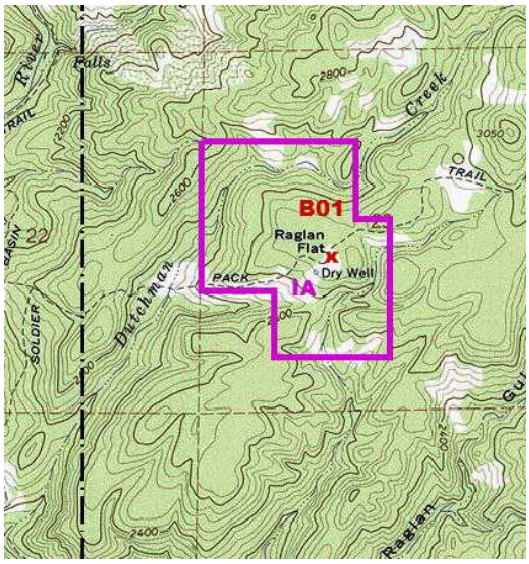
Image 54
Google Earth August 2017

Up to the late 1980s, prior to construction of Forest Service road (FS 3S09) leading to Raglan Flat, the site of the homestead was rarely visited by the public (except for a few hunters, cowboys, and Forest Service employees). At that time, to visit the site, it was necessary to hike in about two miles from Mad River Ridge via the Raglan Trail (HTNF-18).

In October of 1989, due to potential indirect impacts from the proposed timber sale, the timber unit boundary to the north of the site was modified (moved further to the north of the site boundary) in order to protect the cultural resources on the site. Also, at that time (October 1989) the author undertook a more complete recordation of the features and artifacts found on the site, as part of the effort to mitigate effects to the site resulting from the project (refer to the site record addendum). Since that time, the site has been revisited a number of times--the last visit was in May of 2021.

Raglan Flat

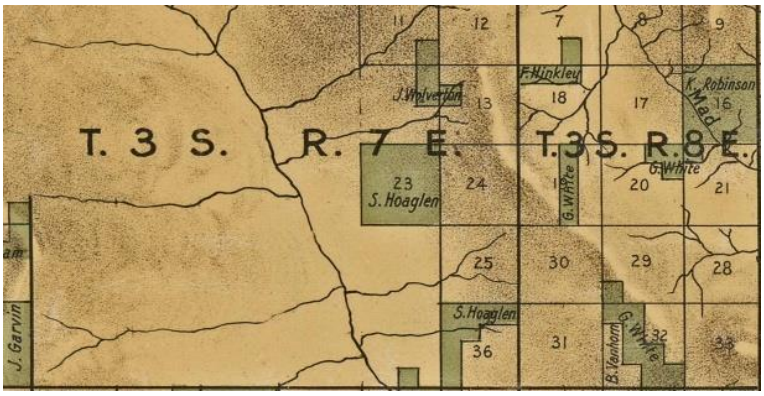
During the late 1800s Thomas Raglin and Susan Hoaglin settled on a 160-acre tract (Map 8) centered on what is now known as "Raglan Flat."



Map 8
USGS Shannon Butte 7.5' Quadrangle

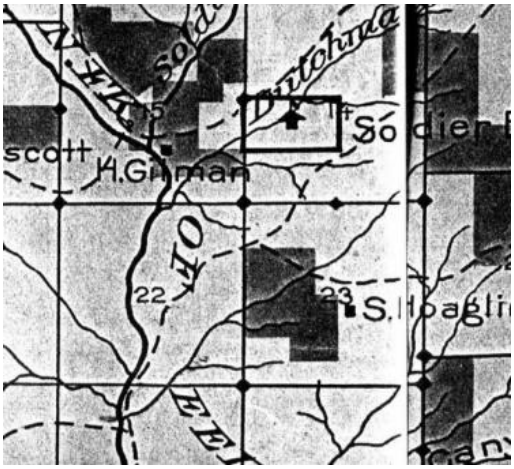
Tom Raglin married Susan Hoaglin (she was of Wailaki descent) in 1889 when he was fifty-five. She had been previously married to Silas Hoaglin. (TCC A3: Vol 2: B01). The Silas Hoaglin family had lived in Powellville (Blocksburg) and moved back to New Mexico sometime before 1887. After his death, she returned to California with Thomas Raglin. After Susan Hoaglin and Raglin returned to Trinity County from New Mexico, it appears likely that this is when she filed a claim for the tract as an Indian allotment under the Dawes General Allotment Act of 1887.

It is clear that a patent was issued to Susan Hoaglin at some time prior about 1894 (Map 9). Lowden's 1894 map also shows a tract to the south in Section 36 as being owned by "S. Hoaglin." No information could be found related to the disposition of that tract of land, but it does not show up as private on the 1915 TNF map (TCC A2: 28) or the 1977 SRNF map (TCC A2: 27b).



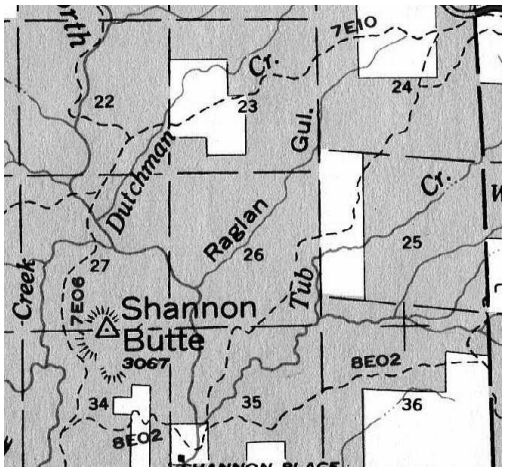
Map 9
This map incorrectly shows all of Section 23 as being owned by Hoaglin
(Lowden 1894: TCC: Appendix 2: Map 05)

The 1907 Trinity National Forest map (Map 10) shows the tract as being roughly 160 acres, centered in the western portion of Section 23--note that a structure (possibly their house or barn) is shown in this Section as being just to the east of the entry claim. This may very well have been the result of problems with the original GLO survey.



Map 10
Section 23: Raglan/Hoaglin tract in 1907: Note that the trail to
Raglan Flat HTNF-18 is not plotted accurately
(TCC Appendix 06 Trinity National Forest 1907)

At some point in the late 1970s or early 1980s, this tract was acquired by the U. S. Forest Service (the tract was still private in 1977). It may have been part of a land exchange with Twin Harbors Lumber Company (this is also about when the Yellowjacket Indian Allotment was acquired by the Forest Service). During the 1960s, the company had purchased a number of private tracts (old abandoned homesteads and Indian allotments) in the area. The 1977 Six Rivers National Forest Visitor's Map SRNF (Map 11) shows the parcel as still being private property.



Map 11
The 1977 Six Rivers National Forest Visitor's Map
still shows the tract (section 23) as private property
(TCC: Appendix 2: Map 21b 1977 SRNF)

Thomas Raglin and his wife Susan Hoaglin were among the first homesteaders to settle in the region to the east of the North Fork Eel River. It is not certain exactly when the Raglins settled at what is now referred to as Raglan Flat, but it appears—given the information discussed earlier regarding Silas and Sue Hoaglin--it is likely to have been sometime about 1889, or possibly the early 1890s. Thomas Raglin was born March, 1834, in Missouri. He first shows up in this region on the Great Register of Humboldt County (#3298) at age 44 with no other demographic data (given his age, this document would have been published in about 1880). Raglin also shows up on the 1880 census living in Powellville (Blocksburg) working as a "laborer." The order of the census listing for Powellville suggests the Hoaglin family was living at the same location or nearby.

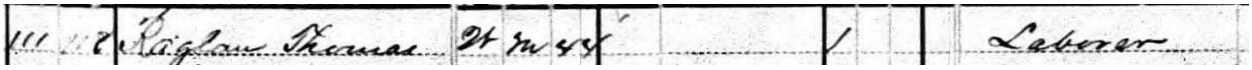


Image 55
1880 Census record for Powellville (Blocksburg) records his last name as "Raglan"
(TCC Appendix 3: 1880)

It was said that Raglin built his house over a well that he dug on the flat. The well (Image 58) was rock-lined and of very good construction and still retains its integrity. Although there is no evidence of any structure associated with it, the homestead at one time had some type of small house or cabin and an outbuilding--possibly a barn of pole construction. At the time it was recorded there were four fruit trees (apple and plum) growing not too far from the well.

One consultant (TCC Appendix 6: I#444) indicated that Raglin did not stay long in this country and was driven out by George White. Given the time-frame discussed for when White was "in control" of this area (see Keter 1994, Carranco and Beard 1987), that would suggest that they lived here only a few years and had abandoned the homestead by the mid-1890s. This fits in with some consultant interviews and the age of the artifacts remaining on the site when it was recorded.

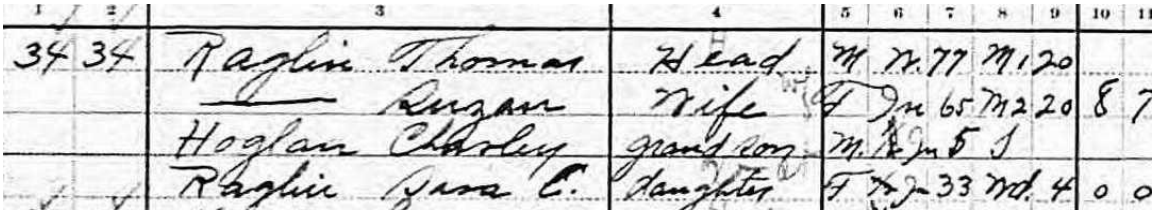
Some information, however, suggests that the homestead may have been occupied at least seasonally into the early 1900s. For example, according to the 1900 census Thomas Raglin and Susan Hoaglin had been married for 11 years—giving credence to the idea that they settled on this tract in 1889 or shortly thereafter. Susan had 9 children of which 6 were living. Raglin was 66 years old, and although the 1900 census had "unknown" for date of birth for Susan, the 1880 census listed her age as 48 (this seems to be old to have so many young children--her youngest child would have been two years old at that time). If the 1880 census is accurate, in 1900 she would have been 68 years old. Although they showed up on the census listing for the North Fork in this area, it could not be determined from the census listing if they were living at Raglan Flat at that time.

Image 56
1900 Census record Long Ridge (TCC Appendix 3: 1900-4)

Just to confuse things a bit more, it appears that Sue Hoaglin kept getting younger with each census, as the 1910 census recorded her age as 65 (note that she was 48 in the 1880 census--30 years later she was 65!). Given the age of her children listed on the 1880 census it is likely that the 1910 census data is more accurate.

Given their placement on the 1910 census rolls--taken in June of that year-- it is quite possible that they were still living part time at Raglan Flat (Tom Raglin was 77 rather old to be living on an isolated homestead in the winter). It is possible they may have been living or were spending time at nearby Soldier Basin. In the 1910 census it appears that they along with their daughter and grandson were living on the Gilman homestead (located just south of the mouth of Soldier Creek). That is only a couple of miles by trail from Raglan Flat. The Raglin family was listed as #34 on the census role. The Gillmans were listed on the

census roll as #33, and Sam and Lucy Young (related to Susan Hoaglin) who were then living at Soldier Basin were listed #35 on the list.



34	34	Raglin Thomas	Head	M	M	77	M	20		
		Susan	Wife	F	M	65	M	20	8	7
		Hoglan Charley	grandson	M	S	5				
		Raglin Lena C.	daughter	F	W	33	Wd.	4	0	0

Image 57
1910 Census Long Ridge (Appendix 3: 1910-7a)

The following information was provided by a direct descendant of Susan Hoaglin--Rafaella Wantt (TCC Appendix 5: ms04)--although the exact time frame is not clear. This information needs to be further confirmed as it is not documented elsewhere in the historical record. According to Rafaella Wantt, her mother and her mother's sister Susan Raglin--who was her aunt—were both Wailaki and lived at Soldier Basin. Rafaella spent time there with them. Given her age, Rafaella probably visited the place sometime in the 1910s to about the early 1920s. They may very well have been the two elderly Indian women mentioned by her as living at Soldier Basin with Lucy and Sam Young at Soldier Basin (TCC: B03). It is not clear when Thomas Raglin died.

Based on the above data, it appears that the Raglins were not living full-time at Raglan Flat in 1910 and that Raglan Flat had not been occupied on a full time basis since about 1900 or a few years earlier (see also TCC interview: Appendix 6: I#448).

It should also be mentioned that Book 30 of Deeds located in the Humboldt County Recorder's Office, has a homestead entry for Raglin recorded in the summer of 1907 for a tract in T3S, R7E S 26 SE ¼. This would have been just to the south of Raglan Flat. It appears that this entry was never approved as it remained national forest land.

> Summer of 1907...80 acres of glade--remaining portion brush.
>
> 1910--6 families reside in the Township...Caution 6-7 families 5 miles SE. ...failed to find any "springs living water"....streams dry up after July...lots of oaks...only generous use was grazing. [Book 30 of Deeds, pages 443-446.]

This homestead entry mentions a date of 1910. Therefore, although this entry was not approved, it would give some credence to the fact that the Raglins were, at that time, still spending at least some of their time at Raglan Flat.

Raglan Flat Cultural Resources and Site Integrity

The following section focuses on documenting the effects to the integrity of the cultural resources found on the Raglan homestead since it was first recorded. Unfortunately, as noted for the Yellowjacket homestead, prior to the age of digital cameras, the only photos of any quality are a few slides taken by the author with his personal camera, and later converted to jpgs. There are, however, additional black and white photos with the site record.

When the site was recorded in 1984 there were five fruit trees (apple and plum) still growing on the flat. Four of these trees were located within 15 meters of a well. The well is the only one to have ever been recorded in this general area. Most people just built their structures (usually small cabins with a dirt floor covered over with bear hides) near a perennial spring, or as close to one as possible. The well was about 3 meters deep and was carefully constructed by lining the hole with rocks. The well was dry when the site was recorded (November 5, 1984) and on every subsequent visit. Given the invasion of Douglas fir into the oak woodlands (discussed below, see also Keter 1995), it is likely that the water table in this area has been greatly reduced over the past 100 years. Despite the passage of time, however, the well still retained a high degree of integrity in 2021 (Image 58).

Image 58
Hand dug well May 2021

From interview data it appears that the house was located adjacent to the well, and that a barn-type structure (based on the distribution of square nails) was located to the northeast of the well. By 1984, nothing remained of any kind of foundation for the house--therefore it is not exactly clear if the cabin was actually located adjacent to or over the well. On the site

numerous artifacts were scattered across the ground (Image 59) Among the artifacts found were a few scattered cans, broken shards of glass, square nails, some cast iron stove parts, and a 7' in length cross-cut saw blade. There is a complete list of artifacts attached to the site record.

Image 59
1984: Stove parts and other artifacts scattered on the ground near the fruit trees

The site record also notes a few standing oak fence posts and a "1.0" mile Forest Service trail marker (a low post in the ground) placed by the Forest Service that indicated it was one mile west by trail from Raglan Flat to the North Fork Eel River. As with the Yellowjacket homestead, the passage of time and the theft of artifacts from the site, have both significantly affected the site's integrity. Among the most sought after artifacts are embossed metal parts, bottles, and tin cans. The stove part in Image 60 was removed from the site sometime after the visit in November of 1984.

Image 60
12 inch x 18 inch embossed cast iron stove door

In October of 1989, as noted earlier, due to the potential negative impacts to the site from the logging of the timber sale unit and proposed road adjacent to Raglan Flat, the unit boundary was moved further to the north to protect the site's cultural resources. During the site visit, the author also undertook a more in depth recordation of the cultural resources remaining (refer to the site record). At that time, it was still necessary to hike in about two miles to access the site from Mad River Ridge via the Raglan Trail (HTNF-18).

On a visit to the site in July of 2002 it was clear, given the location of the newly constructed road (Forest Service road 3S09) within about 50 meters of the eastern site boundary, that illegal collecting was not only continuing, but was now getting worse. There were a number of excavated areas (Images 61-62) and numerous artifacts missing from the site including the 7' cross-cut saw. The excavated areas were photographed and a report regarding the incident was filed with law enforcement.

Image 61

Image 62

In April of 2004, I visited the site accompanied by Coyote Fred Downey and Ernie Merrifield. As noted earlier, Coyote is a resident of Hulls Valley, and a direct descendant of the Wailaki who inhabited the North Fork Eel River watershed prior to the Contact Period. Ernie Merrifield, also Wailaki, also has family connections to this area. At the time of the visit, he was a member of the Round Valley Indian Reservation Tribal Council.

On our visit to Raglan Flat there was fresh evidence of digging and more artifacts had been removed from the site. No photos for this date could be located showing the disturbance to

the site (there may be some with the site record), but Six River National Forest law enforcement was notified of the illegal digging that was observed during the visit, and an ARPA violation report was filed along with the Yellowjacket ARPA report (MS. in the author's possession).

In 2017 the Dutchman Fire (Map 8) burned Raglan Flat and the surrounding area. It was for that reason, in June of 2018, as noted earlier, the site was visited by a group of 17 individuals led by the author in order to gain insights into how the Dutchman Fire had affected the integrity of cultural resources and the surrounding environment (Keter 2018a).

By this time the only artifacts remaining visible on the surface were a few rusted stove parts and other pieces of rusted metal. There were no cans, bottles, or square nails remaining visible on the surface. There was again evidence indicating that recent digging for artifacts had taken place on the site (Image 63). Although numerous artifacts have been collected off the site since it was first recorded, it is clear the passage of time and natural decomposition have also taken their toll. As a result, regardless of the cause, little remains of the historical component of this site as compared to when it was first visited in 1983.

Image 63
A "pot hunters hole" had been filled back in by the looters

As mentioned earlier, Raglan Flat did not burn in the August Complex Fire of 2020 (see Map 4). During the visit in May of 2021, there was no evidence of digging or other human disturbances to the site (Image 64). By this time, however, not much was left to steal, since very few historic artifacts remained visible on the surface of the site. Moreover, the meadow was now covered in a dense growth of grasses and herbaceous plants further restricting visibility.

Image 64
View east past the dead fruit trees to the plum tree
that managed to avoid being consumed in the 2017 fire

Raglan Flat: 1984 to 2021
Changes to the Environment

Introduction

The following environmental description for the site is quoted from the original 1984 site record.

> This area is a mosaic of open grasslands (locally referred to as prairies), oak woodlands of white and black oak, scattered areas of gray pine on poor soils, and stands of Douglas fir (mostly under 100 years old in 1985), all in complex associations. Significantly, no tanoak or buckeyes were noted--they are common about 2 miles to the west (on north and northeast facing slopes). Mixed in with the species listed above are areas of manzanita often on the edges of openings or mixed in with gray pine on some slopes. Raglan Flat is situated on a relatively large (for this area) ancient river terrace that is fairly level and well defined.
>
> On the flat, Douglas-fir has invaded what appears to have been in earlier times more open country. Directly to the northeast of the site along the Raglan trail, the stand of timber is composed mainly of pole size Douglas-fir with only a very few widely scattered larger fir. The pole sized fir appear to be under 100 years old and have crowded out the oak trees that are either dying, dead but still standing, or in many cases, have already fallen to the ground and are decaying. Also, several areas have dead manzanita which the Douglas fir has overgrown and crowded out.
>
> Generally, the Douglas fir trees in this area are concentrated in well-defined stands, many of them of even age and under 100 years old. It is probable this flat was mostly open with scattered oak about 100-150 years ago.
>
> Within the homestead tract, the open grassland areas are still being invaded by conifers. Several openings on the flat (see site map) have conifers (mainly fir 3' to 15' in height) invading and reducing the size of the openings from year to year.
>
> In summary, it appears that grasslands and oak woodlands in the area are rapidly being invaded by Douglas fir and that the lack of wildfire has played an important part in the changing vegetation patterns of this area since the contact period.

The following groups of images highlight the changes to the vegetation associated with the site since it was recorded in 1984.

Image Group #1: Overview of the vegetation and fire history of Raglan Flat

When the site was first recorded in the fall of 1984 manzanita had not yet begun to invade the meadow (Image 65). The oak woodlands surrounding the meadow, however, were being invaded by Douglas fir saplings--most about three to six feet tall (see Appendix 3).

Image 65
View east across Raglan Flat

Although they had fallen over by the fall of 1984, a couple of these fruit trees (apple and plum) were still alive (Image 66).

Image 66
View east from near the well

On a visit in the fall of 1985, the area to the south of the fruit trees (where the individual is standing at the far left in the photo--about where the historic trail dropped down slope to the west from the flat) was still open with no invading manzanita.

Image 67
View from the southern edge of Raglan Flat NW to the standing plum tree (center)

The most obvious change over the years to the distribution vegetation on the flat was the increase in manzanita--especially on the southern and southwestern edges of the site. By the time the site was visited in 2002, the manzanita had begun to invade the prairie along its southern edge (Image 68), but the rest of the meadow remained open. The other major change was the continued invasion of young Douglas fir sapling into the oaks surrounding the edge of the meadow.

Image 68
2002: Manzanita invading the meadow along its southern edge--the plum tree is on the far right

In the spring of 2004 the meadow still retained its integrity in the northern and eastern portions of the flat (Image 69).

Image 69
View to the northeast from near the plum tree

Subsequent to the Dutchman Fire of 2017, on visiting the site in June of 2018, it appeared that overall, the meadow and surrounding area had survived the fire with few apparent negative effects. For the most part, the smaller Douglas fir saplings under the oaks were killed by the fire (Image 70) as were a significant number of larger pole-sized Douglas firs that had been invading the oak woodlands surrounding Raglan Flat (Images 71-73). Many, but not all of the oaks surrounding the meadow, survived the fire.

Image 70
Note the young Douglas fir saplings growing under the oaks on the southwestern edge of the flat were killed by the fire. (Bill Eastwood)


Images 71-72
In some areas northwest of the prairie the pole-sized
Douglas firs were killed while some of the oaks survived the fire
(Bill Eastwood)

Image 73
View northwest from the spring area to the edge of the meadow--
All of the larger Douglas fir burned in this area.

Most of the manzanita and the ponderosa saplings growing under the oaks along the southern edge of the prairie were killed during the fire, while most of the larger oaks survived (Image 74-75).

Image 74
Manzanita and pines invading Raglan Flat were killed by the fire;
This view to the south is located immediately to the south of the Plum tree
(Pat Higgins 2018)

Image 75
Same area as above note the oaks survived the fire
(Pat Higgins 2018)

Site visit May 2021

During the visit to the site in May of 2021 most of the area had recovered from the 2017 fire. Although many of the Douglas firs were killed by the fire along the edges of the meadow (Image 76), some of the larger oaks had survived.

Image 76
Note that small manzanita plants are already invading the flat

The dead fruit trees that had been lying on the ground were not fully consumed by the fire, while the large plum tree seemed to be doing well, with little evidence of any effect from the fire (Image 77). As far as could be observed, the overall impacts to Raglan Flat from the fire seem to have been more positive than negative.

Image 77
The dead fruit trees were not burned by the fire

Image Group #2: The Spring Area

The spring (see Image 54) is located west of the well about 50 meters and appears to have at one time flowed year around. The site record notes that when Raglan Flat was first visited in August of 1984 that the "seep was damp," but no water was visible and manzanita was invading the area just above the spring. Cattle congregating in the area had also impacted the spring by compacting the ground and damaging the vegetation. Wiregrass (*Juncus sp.)* dominated the area immediately below the spring. Also, there was a large ponderosa pine growing out of the head of the spring as well as a few smaller-sized pine saplings growing nearby (Image 78).

Image 78
The spring in the fall of 1984

By November of the same year, the site record indicates that the spring was completely dry. Note that the surrounding stands of pole-size Douglas firs (see for example Image 73), and a dense stand of Douglas fir within the proposed nearby timber sale unit, had greatly reduced the amount of water supplying the spring. As noted earlier, it is not uncommon to see homesteads in this area associated with springs that are now drying up in the summer due to the increase in Douglas firs encroaching on the oak woodlands over the last century.

<u>Site visit October 1985</u>

Raglan Flat was again visited in the fall of 1985. By that time the spring had dried up, but a few grasses growing immediately below it still remained green (Image 79).

Image 79
View west to the spring area--Raglan Flat is to the upper left in the photo

Site visit Fall of 1989

The following photo (Image 80) was taken sometime in the fall 1989. Note that by this time the ponderosa saplings have grown a few feet, and the spring area, still dominated by wiregrass, was dry. Compare the grasses in Image 80 to Images 84-87 showing the spring area in 2021 four years after the 2017 Dutchman Fire.

Image 80

Site visit Summer 2002

By the summer 2002 the spring area was choked with vegetation and the manzanita and ponderosa pines had grown significantly (Image 81).

Image 81

Site visit April 2004

On the visit to the site in the spring of 2004, the younger Douglas firs and ponderosa pines had begun to close out the opening to the west of the site and to the north of the spring area (Image 82).

Image 82
View east to Raglan Flat
The Plum tree is in the center of the photo

Site visit June 2018

The 2017 Dutchman Fire had killed all of the vegetation surrounding the spring area including the large ponderosa pine at the head of the spring and manzanita that had crowded in over the last two decades (Image 83). Although the spring was running at the time of the visit in June of 2018, there were few grasses growing in the wet area surrounding the spring. See Appendix 2 for comments on the grasses and forbs noted on this site by Susan Nolan.

Image 83

Site visit May 2021

At the time of the visit in May of 2021, the spring was running and numerous grasses including slender hair grass (*Deschampsia elongata*) were growing below the spring. There had been 100% mortality to the ponderosa pines and manzanita surrounding the spring, and there was no evidence yet of their regrowth in that general area (Images 84-87). See Appendixes 1 and 2 for an overview of the grasses and forbs noted on the site during our visit. Nolan and Hill conducted two sample surveys at Raglan Flat and the listing of plants they recorded is found in Appendix 1.

Image 84

Image 85

Image 86

Image 87

Slender hair grass

Group #3: Timber Unit, Landing, and Spur Road

A survey of the general vicinity and air photos indicate that the most intense (hottest) fire in this area burned on the north facing slope of Raglan Flat within the clearcut unit logged during the Yellowjacket Timber Sale. The unit was on the steep north facing slope that drops down from Raglan Flat to Dutchman Creek. Associated with the unit was a newly constructed logging road (spur FS road 3S09B) that led to a landing (Image 88).

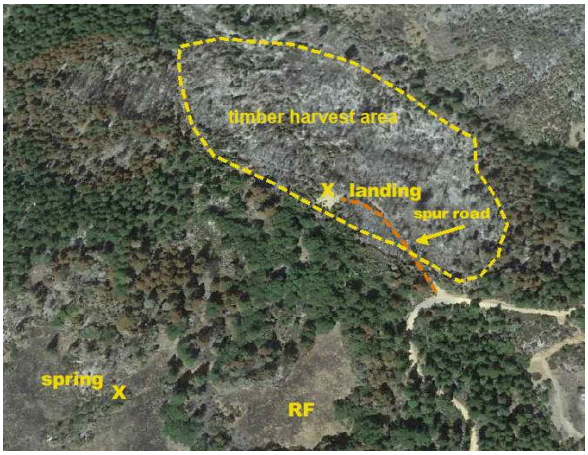


Image 88
Overview of timber harvest area in relation to Raglan Flat.
(Google Earth 2017)

This was either a clear-cut or a shelter-wood unit. It is not clear at this time if the unit was replanted after it was logged (Image 89). Whatever the silvicultural prescription, one thing is certain from the air photos; the fire burned very hot in this area (quite possibly creating such intense heat that it could have adversely affected the soils). It also appears from air photos (image 89) that a significant amount of brush had invaded the old unit over the last several decades and was crowding out and dominating any young conifers that may have been planted and hindering their growth. This may also explain why the fire burned so hot.

Image 89
Logging unit in 2015 before the fire;
(Google Earth 2015)

Although it is obvious from Image 90 that the fire burned very hot on the north facing slope, it is not known if the fire burned upslope or downslope. Whichever direction it burned, it is clear that there was 100% mortality to the vegetation growing on this slope.

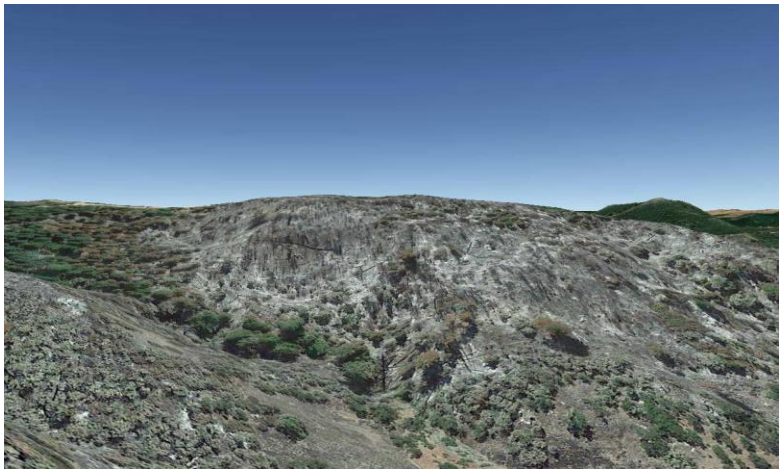


Image 90
The burned area in the center of the photo is the north-facing slope of Raglan Flat.
(Google Earth August 2017)

Adjacent to the landing and along the southern border of the logging unit (on the northern edge of Raglan Flat) tree mortality was nearly 100% (Image 91).

Image 91
View north to the northern edge of Raglan Flat and the southern edge of the timber unit
(2018 Bill Eastwood)

Manzanita and other brush species that had dominated this site (the old timber unit) prior to the fire burned very hot (brush species get denser and burn hotter with age). For that reason, it is clear why this area experienced such an intense burn. This situation where brush was dominating or crowding out young Douglas firs on replanted clearcut logging units (most from the 1970s and 1980s) could be observed (prior to the 2020 fire) on many of the old clearcuts and shelterwood logging units on the north facing slopes in the nearby

upper Mad River watershed just to the east of the North Fork Eel watershed divide (Personal observation). There was nearly 100% tree mortality in places along the northern edge of Raglan Flat. Just to the south of the timber unit and landing some trees managed to survive the fire in a few places (Image 92).

Image 92
There was near 100% Douglas fir mortality in
some places along the northern edge of Raglan Flat
(Bill Eastwood)

Interestingly, in one area immediately to the south of the old timber unit along the northern end of Raglan Flat, a number of the larger pole-size Douglas firs and saplings that had invaded the oak woodlands managed to survive the fire (Image 93).

Image 93
View north to the unit landing from the northern edge of Raglan Flat.

It should also be noted that in a few places along the northern edge of Raglan Flat some of the understory did not burn at all (Image 94). Since it appears that no retardant was dropped in this area (Image 96), it is not clear why it was not as greatly impacted by the fire—especially given its relative location to the north facing slope where the fire had burned very hot. There may have been a backfire from this location creating a fire line on the old spur road. Whatever the case, it is clear that some effort was made to protect Raglan Flat from the fire. The areas cultural resources values may explain the effort.

Image 94

The Dutchman Fire completely burned-over the brush growing in the landing and on the spur road and along the southern boundary of the logging unit. In that area, some manzanita plants and young oak trees (background upper center) and were already sprouting (Image 95).

Image 95
(2018 Bill Eastwood)

Aerial overviews of the Dutchman Fire Burn Area

Image 96 provides an overview of the entire area burned by the Dutchman Fire (the orange tinged areas along the edge of the burn indicate where retardant was dropped). The areas most affected by the fire (i.e. that burned the hottest) were those areas dominated by even-aged pole-sized stands of Douglas firs (12-25 inches in diameter and about 30 to 50 feet tall).

Image 96
Overview of the Dutchman Fire area relative to Raglan Flat (yellow arrow)
(Google Earth, August 2017)

Image 97 shows Raglan Flat before the fire in May 2014 and Images 98 and 98a shows the same area after the 2017 fire. Fire behavior is complex and given the numerous variables including: fuel load, moisture content of the fuels, temperature, humidity, time of day, wind speed, etc. each fire is in some ways unique. There are, however, some generalities that can be made concerning fire behavior. The Dutchman Fire, like most fires, burned at different intensities throughout the area, influenced primarily by vegetation associations and the amount of deadfall and forest litter on the ground. This was particularly evident on Raglan Flat and the adjacent area where the fire burned erratically--in some places leaving little evidence today that a fire had even passed through the area less than a year ago, while in other areas, there was 100 percent mortality of the vegetation.

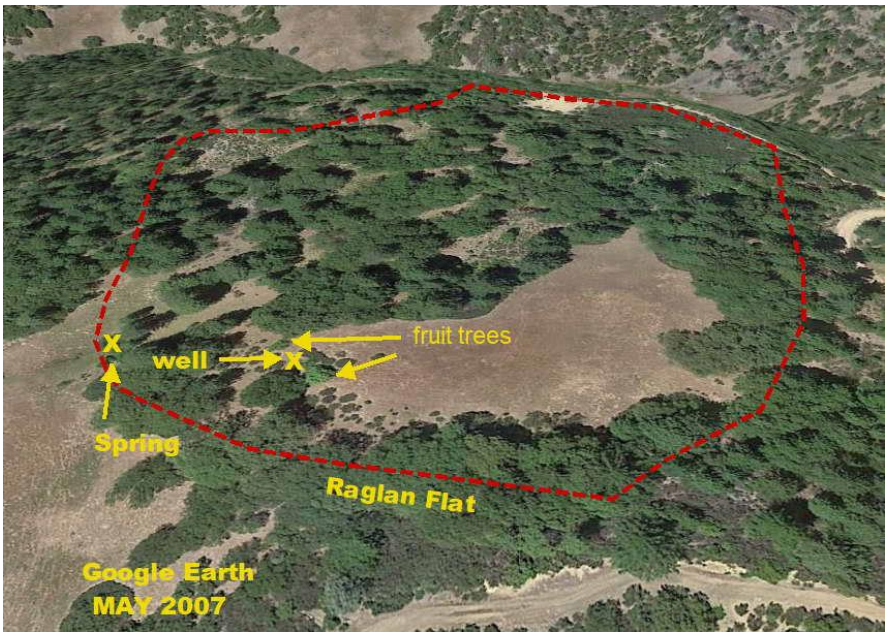


Image 97
May 2014: Overview of Raglan Flat (Google Earth)

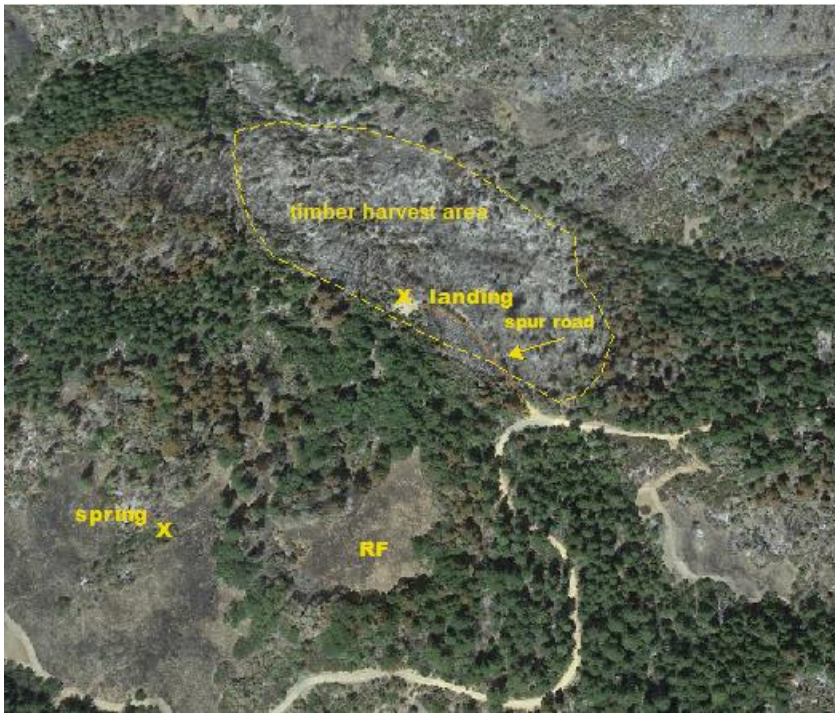


Image 98
August 2017: Overview of the general area just after the fire (Google Earth)

Image 98a
2017: Raglan Flat and the surrounding area shortly after the Dutchman Fire (Google Earth)

Conclusions

As can be seen in Image 98a the vast majority of oaks surrounding Raglan Flat survived the fire. The area that burned the hottest on the flat was the area immediately to the northwest of the spring (Image 63). As noted earlier, a large number of pole-sized Douglas firs also survived the fire in the northwestern portion of Raglan Flat (Image 93). Overall, the fire did little harm to the few remaining cultural resources (artifacts and features) on the site and helped to maintain the integrity of the oak woodlands that was rapidly being overtaken by encroaching Douglas firs.

Dancehouse Pit Feature: 1984 to 2021

The dancehouse and associated artifacts discussed in this section is located in the general vicinity of Raglan Flat and was recorded by the author in October and November of 1984. The exact location of the site (sometimes referred to as a protohistoric site) in not given here, but it was within the area that burned in the 2017 Dutchman Fire. As with the Yellowjacket and the Raglan homesteads, this section discusses both the effect to the integrity of the cultural resources values of the site, as well as, the changes observed over the last 37 years to the surrounding vegetation.

Unfortunately, like the other two sites, this site has also been impacted by the theft of artifacts. As noted earlier, the first artifact removed from this site after it was recorded happened in the fall of 1984 shortly after it was first recorded. A cast iron pot (Image 99) noted in the original site record just to the south and west of the pit feature (hanging on the large Douglas fir in Image 101), was stolen from the site sometime between October 22 and November 5, 1984. A Forest Service employee talked to a hunter leaving the area carrying it (personal communication with B. W. Forester, Mad River Ranger District). As noted earlier, this resulted in a District meeting with Forest Service Employees at Mad River to insure that everyone knew that the removal of artifacts violated the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA).

Image 99
A cast iron pot was stolen from the site sometime in the fall of 1984.
(October, 1984)

Background

During the 1980s and 1990s interviews with several local residents regarding the dancehouse pit feature were conducted by the author and Six Rivers National Forest anthropologist Kathy Heffner McClellan. Dave Alby (TCC : Appendix 6: I#378), a local rancher, who had a Forest Service special use permit to run cattle in the area (1985), first learned about the dancehouse in the early 1960s. He was told by Lee Duncan (who died about 1964) that it was where the Indians had built some "lodges, sweathouses, and a large ceremonial pit." Lee and his brother Glen Duncan (who died in about 1980) were from the remote Long Ridge country. Alby thought (correctly—TCC: Vol 3: HF17: Ben Duncan) that they were the sons of Ben Duncan. Ben Duncan's father John Duncan and mother Poly Duncan, who was Indian—most likely of Wailaki descent--were among the first homesteaders to settle on Long Ridge in the early 1870s (for a biography of the extended Duncan family see TCC: B06).

In 1991, I discussed the dancehouse with long-time residents Lee Stapp and Irene Stapp who, as noted earlier, lived in Hettenshaw Valley area (TCC: Appendix 6: I#448). Lee Stapp said that it had been described to him by George Duncan who had died several years earlier. Duncan had told him that the "earthwork" [pit feature] was the remains of an Indian ceremonial site (he was also a member of the extended Duncan family). Mr. Stapp (TCC: Appendix 6: #I448) also recalled that in about 1930, when he visited the site, the structure covering the pit feature was still standing. It had a peaked roof which came together in the middle and was made of shakes.

He remembered that at that time there was almost no vegetation near the pit except for a small oak tree on the edge of the berm that was about six feet high. This oak tree was cored in the fall of 1984 and it was approximately 85 (+/-5) years old at that time (see Image 100). The height of the tree in 1930 (along with the core sample) adds to the probablity that it sprouted sometime around 1900. When that date was mentioned for the dancehouse as possibly being in use between about 1895 and 1905 both of them thought that was a reasonable guess. Given the date of the oak tree, and the use of both cut nails (more commonly referred to as square nails) and wire nails (sometimes referred to machine-made or round headed nails--they were introduced in the mid to late 1890s) it appears that the construction of the dancehouse took place at about the time (as noted earlier) when the Raglin homestead was abandoned in around 1900.

1984: Recording the site

The site was recorded by the author in the fall of 1984. At that time numerous artifacts including tin cans, square nails, and shards of broken glass were visible on the surface of the site. The site record contains a list of artifacts noted on the surface, photographs, and a

site sketch map. In 1984 the dancehouse was well-defined and was about 10 meters in diameter. The floor of the dancehouse had been excavated and the fill used for the berm. The entrance faced to the east and the break in the berm at that point was about two meters wide. At the time it was recorded, the dancehouse floor was about 20 centimeters below ground level, but was probably a bit deeper (10-20 cm) when it was constructed. The berm is about 55 centimeters in height extending above the ground by about 35 centimeters. The berm was probably somewhat higher shortly after it was constructed.

The dancehouse is situated in a small opening (Image 100) that was being invaded by Douglas fir saplings, it had almost disappeared by 1984. At the time the site was recorded, some Douglas fir saplings were growing within the pit feature along with a very few forbs and grasses--all but the largest Douglas firs (one about 5" in diameter) were later removed when the pit feature was inventoried in 1989 (see below).

Image 100
The arrow points to the oak tree growing on the berm
on the north side of the dancehouse that was cored

1989 Surface inventory of artifacts

As a result of the potential indirect impacts due to the building of the new road and proposed timber unit, in the fall of 1989 the dancehouse and surrounding area was more completely inventoried. The young Douglas fir saplings growing within the pit feature and surface layer of organic matter were removed (Image 101).

Image 101
The manzanita (lower left) is at the entrance to the dancehouse.
The Douglas fir with radial branches (top center background) was killed in the 2017 fire

Image 102
View toward the dancehouse entrance after the
duff, Douglas firs, and manzanita were removed

The dancehouse floor was then divided into a one meter grid pattern to provide a provenience for the recording of the artifacts (Images 103, 103a). Numerous artifacts within and adjacent to the dancehouse were noted and photographed. A complete list is attached to the site record.

Image 103
View to the west from the entrance: The nails found within the dancehouse were aligned east to west centered on the entrance

Image 103a
1 x 1 meter unit containing the remains (including charcoal) of a possible fire hearth near the center of the dancehouse

The most common items within the pit feature were square nails and wire nails. Wire nails replaced square nails for the most part by about the mid-1890s, although some cut nails are still manufactured even today. The cut nails were the same size and types as those recorded for and were possibly taken from the Raglin homestead (Images 103b-103c). Worth noting is that no wire nails were found at the Raglin homestead. This further

suggests the dancehouse was built after the Raglan homestead was settled and it is even quite possible that it was built after the homestead was abandoned.

Image 103b wire nails in the dancehouse

Image 103c: Square nail located in the dancehouse

There were 63 square nails and 105 wire nails within the dancehouse. The square nails were nearly all 8.3 cm in length while the wire nails were 7.9 cm in length. Two wire nails were noted on the berm of the pit. Within the feature, the nails are not randomly distributed. Most were located towards the center of the pit feature. Approximately 73% (122) of the nails were located within one meter of the center of the pit on an east-west axis. In addition, another 18% were located just to the south of the center on the same east-west axis within two meters of the center of the feature.

The distribution of the nails strongly suggests that during construction they were used to tie the center support (or supports—given its size it appears there may have been more than one) and roof together. Two areas near the center of the pit had a number of nails protruding from the ground point--first in a circular fashion--with a diameter of roughly 10-15 centimeters. The location of these features is consistent with the placement of two center posts. The sloped roof would have peaked in the middle and confirms the information provided by Lee Stapp regarding the roof. The site record has a sketch map of the interior of the dancehouse along with a listing and location of each of the artifacts identified.

Site visit April 2004

Although the site was visited a number of times over the ensuing years, the next photos of the site date from 2004 when, as noted earlier, the Yellowjacket and Raglin homesteads were visited with Wailaki elders; Coyote Fred Downey and Ernie Merrifield. Coyote is a descendant of Mary Major, one of ethnographer Frank Essene's primary consultants. There is a dancehouse in Hulls Valley (Hulls Creek is a major tributary of the North Fork Eel

River) on Coyote's place that was constructed by Wailaki Tom. Wailaki Tom was the brother of Ellen Tom, who was Lucy Young's cousin. Lucy Young, who lived to be over 100 years old, was another one of Essene's and C. H. Merriam's principal Wailaki/Lassik consultants (Young 1941, Keter 2009). Coyote agreed that the pit feature was likely an important ceremonial site. Ernie Merrifield also considered this to be a culturally significant site for the Wailaki.

While illegal digging for artifacts was noted on Raglan Flat during this visit, there was no evidence of digging around the dancehouse. Very few artifacts, however, remained visible on the surface that was covered by a thick layer of duff (Image 104).

Image 104
2004: View west to the dancehouse entrance

Site Visit June 2018

The dancehouse site was also visited in 2018 during the field trip to the Raglan homestead. The fire actually burned much hotter here than on the Raglin homestead--especially in the area surrounding the pit feature where it consumed nearly all the vegetation. Note the large Douglas fir adjacent to the dancehouse (Image 105, center left) was killed by the fire. This was the tree where the cast iron pot (Image 99) was hanging on a dead limb when the site was recorded in the fall of 1984. By this time only a few artifacts (parts of cans, bits of broken glass) were still visible on the surface despite a rather thin layer of duff.

Image 105
View to west to the still well-defined berm. Note the large Douglas fir with dead and dying radial branches (upper left center) was killed in the fire

Site visit May 2021

The dancehouse was again visited in May of 2021. This time, while there was no evidence of digging on the site, there also were no artifacts remaining visible on the surface. The berm of the dancehouse (Image 106), however, was still well-defined as was the entrance.

Image 106
View west--the downed tree is lying across the entrance to the dancehouse

Conclusions

Today, virtually no artifacts are visible on the surface of the site. It is likely that time and natural decomposition are as responsible for the lack of artifacts remaining on the surface of the site as illegal collecting. The pit feature itself, however, is still well defined, but as noted below, manzanita are beginning to invade the floor of the dancehouse.

Image 106a
Manzanita are invading the opening where the dancehouse is located

Raglan Flat: 1984 to 2021
Changes to the Surrounding Environment

In 1984, after spending the previous four field seasons hiking the backcountry of the North Fork Eel River watershed, it had become evident that the lack of fire--both anthropogenic and natural-caused fires--over the last century had played an important role in the loss of oak woodland habitat to invasive even-aged stands of Douglas firs. With the absence of wildfires, the Douglas firs were becoming established under oak trees and in many areas they were already overtopping and killing the oaks. This was drastically reducing the extent of the oak woodlands within the watershed (Keter 1995. 1997a).

Today, the region is a mosaic of plant communities. There are open grasslands (savannas), and rapidly dwindling areas of oak woodlands of Oregon oak (*Quercus garryana*) and, at higher elevations, black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), The oak woodlands are interspersed with scattered mature ponderosa pines, incense cedars, and a few mature Douglas firs--often with radial braches extending all the way to the ground--evidence of growth in the open with little competition (Image 101). Manzanita is often found along the edges of these openings, or is mixed-in with gray pines growing on some of the slopes with poor soils.

The flat where the dancehouse pit feature is located, was, in earlier times, much more open oak woodland. Growing there in 1984 were a few older white oaks, and several widely dispersed mature Douglas-firs with lower radial branches. These were the trees that produced the seeds for the saplings and pole-size trees invading the flat. Also, present around the site were some dead and dying manzanita that the encroaching Douglas firs had overtopped and crowded out—including one dead manzanita plant that had been growing at the entrance to the dancehouse (Image 101).

Image 107
1989: Douglas fir saplings growing within the dancehouse

Numerous Douglas fir saplings were growing within the dancehouse (Image 107) along with a few forbs and grasses. All but the largest Douglas fir (about 5" in diameter) were later removed in 1989 when the pit feature was inventoried. As noted earlier, the oak growing on the berm (Image 108) of the dancehouse was estimated to be about 85 (+/-5) years old in 1984.

Image 108
1989: View south to the oak that was cored (center right) and Douglas fir saplings growing on the dancehouse berm on the north side of the dancehouse

Site visit October 1989

Over a period of five years since the site was first recorded, other than a continuing increase in the density of undergrowth, little had changed in the mix of vegetation growing on the site. The large Douglas fir in the photograph (Image 109 top left center) was probably the "mother tree" for many of the saplings growing in the opening. Its large lower branches were by this time dead and dying from the increased shade of the younger trees. This can result in increased tree mortality from wildfires. Note in later photos (Image 112) the tree was killed in the Dutchman Fire of 2017.

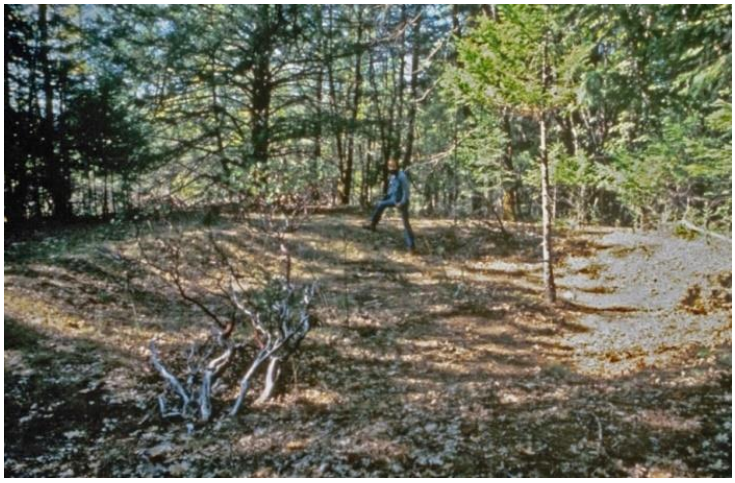


Image 109
After the dancehouse was cleared of vegetation
Note the large Douglas fir (top center left) burned in the 2017 fire

The stand of timber on much of the flat was composed of pole-size or smaller Douglas-fir saplings with some larger trees. By the late 1980s, the larger Douglas firs had already crowded out many of the oak trees growing on the flat, and they were either dying or already dead. In many cases the oak limbs and tree trunks had already fallen to the ground littering the surface with a dense bed of deadfall (Image 110).

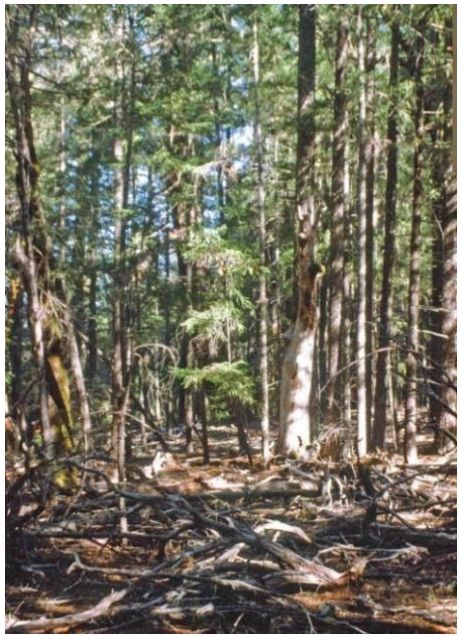


Image 110
Note the dead fall/ground litter, dead oak (center), and the even-aged pole-size stand of Douglas firs invading the flat and over-topping the oaks.

By 1989 the area immediately to the south of the dancehouse was thick with Douglas fir saplings packed so densely together in some places, as to form an impenetrable barrier (Image 111). See Image 113 for the same area after the fire in 2017.

Image 111
1989; View to SE from the dancehouse--note the density of young Douglas firs and the lack of grasses and forbs.

Site visit April 2004

On the visit to this site in 2004 with Coyote and Ernie Merrifield the vegetation surrounding the site had grown substantially and was crowding up against the berm in a few places (Image 112). The berm and entrance to the dancehouse remained well-defined, and the small fir that was growing in the pit in 1989 had not grown substantially. The oak tree on the berm still remained healthy, but the nearby Douglas firs were now starting to crowd in around the oak tree.

Image 112

Site visit June 2018

On the visit in June of 2018 to study the effects of the 2017 Dutchman Fire on the site, it was clear that the fire had burned the hottest and was most destructive of vegetation in the

area immediately surrounding the dancehouse. The oak (now about 120 years old) growing on the berm of the ditch appears to have survived. Its survival is, however, somewhat in question as there are burn scars on the trunk and some of the lower braches were badly burned. The large Douglas fir growing to the southwest and most of the other vegetation surrounding the dancehouse were killed by the fire (Image 113).

Image 113
The large Douglas fir (center) burned so hot that much of the main truck and limbs were destroyed by the fire.

In the area immediately to the southeast of the pit feature where dense stands of young Douglas firs had been growing (Image 111), the fire burned extremely hot and there was 100% tree mortality resulting from the fire (Image 114). Note the two shoots (lower center of the photo) sprouting from the base the dead white oaks.

In the area immediately to the southeast of the pit feature where dense stands of young Douglas firs had been growing (Image 111), the fire burned extremely hot and there was 100% tree mortality resulting from the fire (Image 114). Note the two shoots (lower center of the photo) sprouting from the base the dead white oaks.

Image 114
This is the same general area to the southeast of the dancehouse as image 110

Site visit May 2021

The following images were taken on the visit to the site in May of 2021. By this time, the area that had been densely packed with young Douglas firs and had burned so hot during the 2017 fire (Images 111, 114) was now being invaded by manzanita (Image 115). Also, shoots were beginning to sprout out of the oaks that had burned during the fire.

Image 115

Perhaps the most notable thing observed on this visit was the aggressive invasion of manzanita into much of the now-open area surrounding the dancehouse. By the time of the visit it was already about 18 inches to three feet in height (Image 116).

Image 116

.

Conclusions

Following the destruction in the 2017 fire of all the Douglas firs surrounding the dancehouse, it appears that manzanita are now aggressively invading the burned over area. It is unclear why this is the case. However, as compared to Raglan Flat, in this area the grasses and forbs do not appear to be recovering as quickly since the fire---compare Image 117 to the earlier images of the grasses and herbaceous plants growing on Raglan Flat.

Image 117
View west--the dead oak is lying across the entrance to the dancehouse

Appendix 1

North Fork Eel Wilderness Homesteads:
Grassland Characteristics Assessment

Kirsten Hill PhD.
June 2021

Susan Nolan and Kirsten Hill assessed the vegetation at two homestead sites on May 22, 2021. The area had burned recently in the August Complex Fire that started in August of 2020. This document is a summary of plant species that were seen in the grasslands of Yellow Jacket and Raglan Flat homestead sites.

Assessment Procedure

We assessed the grassland characteristics of YellowJacket and Raglan Flat homestead sites by first walking through the grasslands and writing down all the species of plants that we saw. Next, we used a point intercept frame to survey five grassland patches, three patches were located in Yellowjacket and two were in Raglan flat. These patches were surveyed using a 10-point intercept frame. Intercept points were established with 10 wire pin points. For each point, we recorded what "hit" the wire at 10cm and 20cm above the ground surface.

Yellowjacket Homestead

Three survey samples were obtained from the Yellowjacket site. The first survey sample was taken on a slope in which we had found a patch of California Oat Grass *(Danthonia californica).* We chose this spot to characterize the grassland where this native species of grass was found. This site was found between the house site and the pond (Image 2 #1 and #2). The second survey point was taken in a spot that was more characteristic of the grassland at large. It was taken near the house site (Image 2 #1) where the grassland was very dry and the annual grasses were senescent. The final survey point was taken underneath the oak trees, just downslope from the house site. It was between the house site and the pond. Shady areas under oak trees often are a refuge for native grasses and forbs not found in open grasslands. We wanted to capture any potential native species found in this area.

Raglan Flat

Two samples were obtained from the Raglan Flat site. The first survey point was taken near the spring (Image 54) roughly 60 meters to the west of the well (Image 58) below the house on a shaded slope, adjacent to running water. We wanted to capture the relatively lush green vegetation we saw here that had some native species present; mainly Yampah and California Oat Grass. The second survey point was taken upslope from the first survey point; it was more shaded and moister than the first survey point. It is likely that the point had recently had running or standing water present. We used this point to better characterize the spring area.

Summary of Findings

YellowJacket

Our grassland walk-through survey revealed that the vast majority of the grassland at the Yellowjacket site was covered with a mix of invasive annual grasses, with the greatest coverage appearing to belong to Soft Chess (*Bromus hordeaceus)*. Although the survey point samples were not enough to characterize the entire grassland, it should be noted that when the three survey samples were pooled together, Soft Chess comprised 21% of the sample. The second feature of the survey points taken at YellowJacket point was open space at 20 cm above the ground surface (28% of the points at 20 cm), suggesting that this grassland was characterized by small stunted plants

It is important to note here that at the edge of the burned forest at the top of the hill by the entrance road, there was a large patch of tall *Avena barbata* (wild oats). These grasses were notably taller than the grassland survey samples. Closer to the pond we found a patch of yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and some Blue Wild Rye (*Elymus glaucus).* There were rushes (*Juncus sp*.) near the edge of the pond. The area where the house had been located was desiccated invasive grasses with no native species to be found. The soil throughout the grassland area appeared impoverished. It is interesting to note that there were many native species present throughout the grassland although they were not abundant.

The first survey sample at the Yellowjacket site revealed that the California Oat Grass (*Danthonia californica*) patch that we had chosen was intermixed with non-native forbs like Filaree (*Erodium sp*), Klamath weed (*Hypericum perforatum*), and Red Sorrel *(Rumex* acetosella*)*. We also found other common non-native grasses like Rattail Fescue (*Festuca myuros*), Silverhair grass (*Aira carophyllea*). *Danthonia californica* comprised 22%

of this first survey sample. Non-native *Erodium sp.* was found primarily at 10cm above the ground and comprised 22% of the sample. *Bromus hordeaceus,* common throughout the grassland, comprised 17% of the sample. Klamathweed (*Hypericum perforatum)*, common in this and other meadows we visited in the region, was present (6%). Open space comprised 11% of the sample.

Survey Point 1

Summary	10 cm	20cm	Total	% of sample
Bromus hordeaceus	1	2	3	17%
Danthonia californica	1	3	4	22%
Festuca myuros	2	0	2	11%
Carex sp.	1	0	1	6%
Erodium sp.	4	0	4	22%
Hypericum perforatum	1	0	1	6%
open space	0	2	2	11%
unknown	0	1	1	6%

The second survey patch, closer to the house site, was comprised of *Bromus hordeaceus* (47%). The second most abundant distinction was open space (16%). A native dandelion found in this patch and seen throughout the region was not identified to species level due to lack of flower. Also found was native annual lupine and native vetch. The soil was crumbly and appeared less fertile than the first survey point.

Survey Point 2

Summary	10 cm	20cm	Total	% of sample
Agoseris sp.	2	0	2	11%
Erodium sp.	1	0	1	5%
Elymus caput-medusae	1	0	1	5%
Lupinus bicolor	1	0	1	5%
Bromus hordeaceus	2	7	9	47%
Hypericum perforatum	1	0	1	5%
open space	1	2	3	16%
Vicia americana	1	0	1	5%

The third survey patch underneath the oak trees revealed small, sparse native plants; four of the five plants surveyed here were native, but 55% of the canopy at 10-20 cm above the ground was open. Yarrow, Tom Cat Clover, and Purple Sanicle were found throughout the grassland and here as well. Purple Sanicle was the most common of these three natives. The other plant, Hedgehog Dogtail, is a non-native invasive herb, rated by the CAL IPC as moderate. Although not captured in the survey point, there were a few other natives clinging to life here, including the *Cardamine* and *Fritillaria* species noted in the species list. These two species thrive in moist shady sites. Yarrow, although not flowering, was growing underneath these oak trees. The soil was surprisingly dry and crumbly for underneath oaks. A cow had just been seen in the area and may have been grazing here.

Survey Point 3

Summary	**10 cm**	**20cm**	**Total**	**% of sample**
Achillea millefolium	2	0	2	10%
Trifolium willdenovii	1	0	1	5%
unknown	2	0	2	10%
Cynosurus echinatus	1	0	1	5%
Sanicula bipinnatifida	1	0	1	5%
Carex sp.	1	1	2	10%
open space	2	9	11	55%

Yellow Jacket Place: Some Native and Other Common Species Plant List		
Latin Name	**Common Name**	**Status**
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	Native
Acmispon brachycarpus	Hill Lotus	Native
Agoseris sp.	Dandelion	Native
Aira carophyllea	Silver Hair Grass	Non-native
Amsinckia sp.	Fiddleneck	Native
Avena barbata	Wild Oats	Invasive
Bromus diandrus	Rip Gut Brome	Invasive
Bromus hordeaceus	Soft Chess	Invasive
Calochortus vestae	Butterfly Mariposa Lily	Native

Cardamine sp.	Milkmaids	Native
Clarkia gracilis	Graceful Clarkia	Native
Clarkia purpurea	Purple Clarkia	Native
Cynosurus echinatus	Hedgehog Dogtail	Invasive
Danthonia californica	California Oat Grass	Native
Dichelostemma capitatum	Blue Dicks	Native
Elymus glaucus	Blue Wild Rye	Native
Erodium sp.	Filaree	Invasive
Erythranthre guttata	Seep Monkey Flower	Native
Festuca myuros	Rat-tail Fescue	Invasive
Fritillaria sp.	Fritillary	Native
Hemizonia congesta	Hayfield Tarweed	Native
Hypericum perforatum	Klamathweed	Invasive
Hypochaeris radicata	Rough Cat's Ear	Invasive
Lupinus bicolor	Annual Lupine	Native
Madia gracilis	Slender Tarweed	Native
Microcarpus californicus	Slender Cottonweed	Native
Monardella sp.	Coyote Mint	Native
Plectritis sp.	Plectritis	Native
Ranunculus californicus	Common Buttercup	Native
Rumex acetosella	Red Sorrel	Invasive
Sanicula bipinnatifida	Purple Sanicle	Native
Trichostemma lanceolatum	Vinegar weed	Native
Trifolium fucatum	Bull Clover	Native
Trifolium willdenovii	Tomcat Clover	Native
Triteleia hyacinthina	White Brodiaea	Native
Wyethia angustifolia	Narrow-leaved Mule Ears	Native
Vicia americana	Vetch	Native

Raglan Flat

Our walk-through survey at Raglan Flat house, the site revealed bare soils with a crumbly texture and very little vegetation. We did see annual Clarkias growing here along with Slender Cottonweed, Sheep Sorrel and Soft Chess. The paucity of Soft Chess and other plants was remarkable in contrast to the more densely growing grasses at the Yellow Jacket

site. We walked through this area that had once been heavily used and took our survey samples on a slope near a spring below the house site.

The first survey patch was adjacent to the spring and had an abundance of the native Yampah (21%). However, the invasive Soft Chess (26%) and Rat-tail Fescue (21%) and Little Quaking Grass (11%) comprised the bulk of the sample. California Oat Grass, Ribwort, Sedge and Rough Cat's Ear were accounted for in equal measure (5% each).

Survey Point 1

Summary	10cm	20cm	Total	% of sample
Perideridia sp.	3	1	4	21%
Danthonia californica	1	0	1	5%
Festuca myuros	2	2	4	21%
Briza minor	1	1	2	11%
Bromus hordeaceus	1	4	5	26%
Plantago lanceolata	1	0	1	5%
Carex sp.	0	1	1	5%
Hypochaeris radicata	1	0	1	5%

The second survey patch was found in the spring above the first survey point. The openness of the canopy found here was the result of moist bare ground that had likely recently been covered with water. Nearby, a few feet downhill, the spring still had running water at the time of our visit. The *Juncus* (rush) sp. that was found here is characteristic of moist shaded environments. The bulb forming native Yampah and Ookow (*Dichlostemma congestum*) are edible plants and were staples of Native American diets. Velvet grass (Holcus lanatus) is an invasive grass, infrequently witnessed here; it readily invades moister grassland environments.

Survey Point 2

Summary	10cm	20cm	Total	% of sample
Dichlostemma congestum	1	0	1	7.14%
Holcus lanatus	1	1	2	14.29%
Juncus sp.	2	2	4	28.57%
Unknown grass	2	0	2	14.29%
Perideridia sp.	2	1	3	21.43%
Carex sp.	1	0	1	7.14%
Phacelia sp.	0	1	1	7.14%

Raglan Flat: Some Native and Other Common Species Plant List		
Latin Name	**Common Name**	**Status**
Briza minor	Little Quaking Grass	Non-native
Bromus hordeaceus	Soft Chess	Invasive
Clarkia gracilis	Graceful Clarkia	Native
Clarkia purpurea	Purple Clarkia	Native
Danthonia californica	California Oat Grass	Native
Deschampsia elongata	Slender Hairgrass	Native
Dichlostemma congestum	Ookow	Native
Festuca myuros	Rat-tail Fescue	Invasive
Holcus lanatus	Velvet Grass	Invasive
Hypochaeris radicata	Rough Cat's Ear	Invasive
Iris	Iris species	Native
Juncus sp.	Rush species	Native
Microcarpus californicus	Slender Cottonweed	Native
Perideridia sp.	Yampah	Native
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort	Invasive
Ranunculus californicus	Common Buttercup	Native
Rumex acetosella	Red Sorrel	Invasive
Sanicula bipinnatifida	Purple Sanicle	Native
Sanicula sp.	Yellow Sanicle	Native

Appendix 2

Visit to the Yellowjacket and Raglan Flat Homesteads

2018 and 2021

Susan Nolan

June 2021

2018: General Impressions

What struck me about the grassland in the North Fork watershed was that it was mostly covered with weedy, less-nutritious, non-native annuals. There were non-native forbs such as Klamath weed. A few native perennials do persist however, including *Danthonia* and *Elymus*; the range manager identified *Festuca bromides*. However these observations are not entirely representative as at some locations a few species of *Brodeia* were present. Wiregrass grew at spring, and what looked like grass that was possibly a species of *Poa*. The poor condition of the range does not seem to have been aggravated by current management; I saw no concentrated trampling (except a little right at the spring), and the grass showed few signs of grazing, although clearly cattle had been there.

2021: The Yellowjacket site

This is a sunny, open site, with gently rolling terrain, steeper at the edges (Image A2: 1). The entire meadow area had a strong predominance of low grade invasive grasses and weedy forbs, which were short and mostly drying out on our visit, May 21 2021.

Image A2: 1

Looking toward the pond (Image A2: 2) (out of sight just beyond the second fence post on right), soil could generally be seen through the vegetation. It appeared quite dry and compacted, pale and gravelly.

Image A2: 2

The vicinity of the house site (Image A2: 3) was most impacted, with a thin cover of stunted weedy invasive.

Image A2: 3

An area under small oaks between the pond and house site that also appeared impacted by the fire was found to be dominated by short weedy species, but with a scattering of native forbs (Image A2: 4). In sunny (open) area surrounding the pond, *Danthonia* was common, but still a minority species.

Image A2: 4

2021: Raglan Flat

Today this site is much less grazeable than the Yellowjacket site, having a much smaller area of grass, more enclosed by and mixed with trees and shrubs. The spring has continued to recover since the visit in 2018 (Image A2: 5).

Image A2: 5

Deschampsia, a shade-tolerant native perennial, grew abundantly near the spring (Image A2: 6).

Image A2: 6

Conclusion

The soils at this site appear to be somewhat better than those at the Yellowjacket site. Unlike that site, Raglan Flat is somewhat sheltered from sun and wind. It appears that it for these reasons that the grasses here are somewhat taller and greener.

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Historic Records

TCC: Trinity County Compendium by Thomas S. Keter

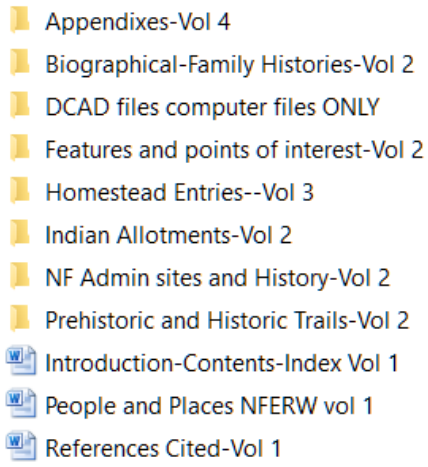
2018 Historic records, maps, images, interviews, and biographies regarding the History of the North Fork Eel River region of Trinity County referred to in this paper.

This information can be accessed via the internet. **www.SolarArch.org**

A hard copy and a computer hard drive pdf file FOLDER with all of the data is are also located in Weaverville at the Trinity County Historical Society office.

Files Listed in the Directory

The files listed in the *Internet Explorer Directory* (and on the DVD or thumb drive) contain the overviews, the write-ups, base maps, images, and copies of original source documents. .



Appendix 3

Size Classification of trees