Deer Mountain/Dry Lake Allotment Boundary Fence Proposal

Background

The Gooseneast Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest proposes the Deer Mtn/Dry Lake Allotment Boundary Fence project, which will construct approximately 3 miles of fence. The new fence will close the currently open boundary between the Deer Mtn. and Dry Lake grazing allotments. The new fence will address the issue of cattle drifting from the Deer Mtn. to the Dry Lake allotment. Cattle drift between the allotments is a nuisance to the livestock permittees, and is not consistent with the terms of the grazing permits for either allotment. This proposal will serve to ensure that livestock use of both allotments continues to be sustainable and consistent with the Forest Plan and grazing permits for both allotments.

The project is located within the Butte Creek 5th field watershed and within the Upper Butte Creek and Horsethief Creek 6th field watersheds. The project is about 15 miles south of Macdoel, CA in Township 43 North, Range 2 West, Sections 4, 5; and Township 44 North, Range 2 West, Sections 29, 32, and 33, Mt. Diablo Meridian. Vicinity and project maps are included below. Elevation ranges from approximately 5300 to 5500 feet.

Management Direction

The 1995 Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan, as amended) includes Standards and Guidelines from the Northwest Forest Plan. The Forest Plan provides forest-wide and management area (MA) direction for project-level projects.

MAs within the project area are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. MAs found within the project boundary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Area</th>
<th>Miles of Proposed Fence</th>
<th>Appx. Acres Proposed for Treatment*</th>
<th>Pages in Forest Plan</th>
<th>Goals Pertinent to This Proposal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Forest, MA-17</td>
<td>3 miles</td>
<td>Approximately 0.4 acres</td>
<td>pp. 4-131 to 4-132</td>
<td>MA17-17: Utilize these areas as transitory range when opportunities become available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forage, MA-16</td>
<td>0.25 miles</td>
<td>Approximately 0.03 acres</td>
<td>pp. 4-128 to 4-130</td>
<td>MA16-22: Manage existing grazing allotments in a manner consistent with area goals. MA16-23: Design range improvements so they are complimentary to deer and pronghorn habitats.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The IDT designed the project to be consistent with all applicable law, regulation, policy, and direction.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose and need for this project is to:

- The purpose of this project is to complete the allotment boundary fence. The need for this project is to ensure that management of the Deer Mountain and Dry Lake grazing allotments are consistent with the Forest Plan and the terms of the grazing permit.
Existing Condition

The allotment boundary fence between Deer Mtn. and Dry Lake grazing allotments is not complete. Some drift from Deer Mtn. to Dry Lake allotment (downhill) typically takes place annually. Drift between allotments is not consistent with the Forest Plan or grazing permit for either allotment. Rangeland health issues have not been documented as a result of cattle drift. Documentation of annual utilization monitoring of both allotments shows that livestock utilization has consistently been less than what is permitted as part of the Annual Operating Instructions.

Desired Condition

The desired condition is a complete boundary which disallows drift of animals between the two allotments. A fence is the most practical way of achieving this end, since there are no natural features in the area to discourage livestock travel between the allotments.

Proposed Action

The proposed action was designed to meet the purpose and need of the project. The proposed action will construct approximately 3 miles of fence. Construction of the fence is expected to disturb soils on approximately 0.4 acres or less. Fence will be either a 3 or 4 wire design, and will use smooth wire for the bottom wire in order to facilitate wildlife travel. A cattle guard will be installed where the fence crosses Forest Road 44N31Y in order to allow for unimpeded vehicle traffic on the road.

Access

Access for this project will be principally accomplished by use of roads on the National Forest Transportation System.
Vicinity and Project Area Maps

Dry Lake-Deer Mountain Boundary Fence 2016
Goosenest Ranger District, Klamath National Forest
Project Vicinity Map

Legend
Private Land

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