

North Fork Wilderness Owyhee BLM Project Survey

On May 17 twelve members of Squaw Butte and four BLM employees did a survey ride to locate a safe route and GPS the project fence.

Camp		N42	34.440	W116	44.121	5274	Camping
Unload		N42	36.088	W116	45.612	5663	BLM Truck
Canyon	P010	N42	36.345	W116	45.577	5519	
Fence	L p009	N42	36.445	W116	45.654	5633	Lower Fence
Fence	U p002	N42	37.504	W116	46.266	6109	Start of fence
Fence	U p003	N42	37.790	W116	46.330	6221	
Fence	U p004	N42	37.998	W116	46.395	6251	
Fence	U p005	N42	38.040	W116	46.398	6254	
Fence	U p006	N42	38.691	W116	46.455	6342	
Fence	U p007	N42	38.892	W116	46.632	6400	End of Fence
End of survey		N42	38.986	W116	46.662	6437	End of ridge Cliffs

Notes

Distance from Camp to P007 is a bit over 7 miles

Distance from Unload point to P007 3.5 miles

The road between camp and the truck has a gate (cattle grazing) at the creek crossing

Only water is at P010 while on the project

Description: From the camping area, there is a ride of 3.5 miles north on a dirt road that the BLM will take a truck for hauling out the recovered fence wire. From this unload point; route finding is required as there are no defined trails. During the Survey 20 horse traveled the route so it might be possible to follow our tracks, but I would not count on it. The route follows a draw down in to a canyon where the two creeks meet, P010. This is a good place to water the horses as it is the last water available. Staying on the left side of the lower fence, climb north up the ridge. As you climb higher, rock

formations will be on your left and the current creek canyon on your right. The easiest travel is to keep the rocks to your left and don't cross the ridge line until you're almost reach P002. Juniper trees are dense along this ridge and at times make travel difficult. Almost all of the riders had painful encounters with one or more during the survey ride. This may be a problem with pack stock, so plan your route well to avoid hanging up a load.

The Project is to remove the Upper Fence starting at P002 and going north to P007. It is not continues, and because the fence was attached to trees that have grown around it, the fence will have to be cut up in a lot of short sections and then rolled up. A hiker team will be doing this work.

Starting at P002 we will be building loads from the piles of fence, and then taking the loads back to the truck, dumping them and then returning to pick up a second load. Due to the difficulty of the route and distances, I think two loads will be about maximum we will be able to do in a day.

This is amazing country, but it is also very challenging and our best packing and riding skills will be needed to perform this project safely.

Laurie took some pictures which will be available for viewing on the website; I suggest you look at them to get an idea what this will be like.

Squaw Butte members of the Survey Team

Rob Adams, Laurie Bryan, Janine Townsend, Lou Ann Gaskell, Robbin Schindele, Shelly Duff, Jon Seel, Linda Erickson, Devon Mills, Charles and Lorraine Chick.

