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Blackhorse/Lick Creek Riparian Protection Fence

Contract#: 43181

Project#: 1992-026-01

Report submitted by: Linzi Smith
Range specialist

The Blackhorse/Lick Creek Riparian Protection Fence was completed ahead of schedule by Pineda Post & Pole on 9/10/09. The final amount spent on the Blackhorse/Lick Creek Riparian Protection fence was \$66,773. BPA contributed the generous amount of \$31,680.

The Wallowa Valley Ranger District and Hells Canyon Recreation Area agree that this new fenceline will reduce that chance of cattle accessing Lick Creek, which could: trample streambanks allowing for more sediment input into the stream, browse woody vegetation decreasing vigor and shade cover, change stream morphology by disrupting streambed characteristics, or possibly step on redds. Lick Creek's streambank is currently in excellent condition. We appreciate the public, permittees, and partners with their patience and cooperation during the construction of the fence, and installation of cattleguards.

The final inspection was completed by myself and Shawn Mork, whom are both rangeland specialists. We concluded that the fence will be functional; however we had many "lesson learned" opportunities as listed below:

- Lesson learned #1 – Shawn Mork and I spent nearly every day in the field supervising the construction of the fence, and letting the foreman know that we had concerns about certain aspects of the fence. However, we could not help the short-comings of communication within the contractor's crew. Messages were not consistently passed down within the crew properly, thus work was continually being reconstructed, and we had to address fence spec inadequacies continuously. Therefore, we realize it is imperative to ensure *effective* communication between: the contractor, crew, inspectors, and agency personnel.
- Lesson learned #2 – Assume the contractor will *not* read the fence specifications, and read them out loud to the contractor in the pre-work meeting. This seems redundant, but in effect, this will bring up questions the contractor needs to address before beginning construction, and will also ensure the enforcement of the specs.
- Lesson learned #3 – Improve the forest service fence specifications. A "let-down fence under tension" is justifiably more complicated than a typical 4-strand barbed wire fence. The contracting and range departments agree that we need to work together on improving those specs and diagrams required.
- Lesson learned #4 – The best inspectors are experienced with fence construction. They will notice details that can easily be overlooked by inexperienced inspectors.

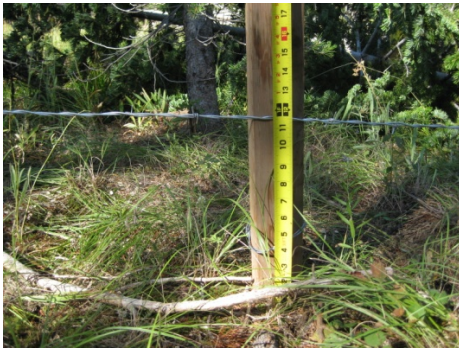
In conclusion, the final product will meet the stated objectives, which will be monitored for annually. The permittees have committed to the maintenance and/or adjustments for modification, as needed to fulfill those objectives. The permittees will be able to work on other tasks, rather than focusing on one area of the allotment. Lick Creek and Big Sheep Creek will be able to maintain the present excellent condition for critical listed fish habitat. Once again, the forest service would like to thank BPA for their continued support.



wrong...



...made right



wrong...



...made right

Final Product

