

Gordon,

Thanks for the email.

I'll look into the electric fence at C Ranch. Dave Press is working with the folks at B Ranch on raven issues. I'm swamped with deadline after deadline right now, but I do think it would be good to meet sometime, maybe toward the end of October or early November.

Thanks,

Devii

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On Thu, Sep 12, 2013 at 12:04 AM, <gbatmuirb@aol.com> wrote:

Devii: I'm guessing that this electric fence mentioned in the NorthBay Bird email copied below has something to do with Elk impacts at C-Ranch, which appear to be increasing (see photo). If so, then I'm hoping that PRNS can find some compromise so that cows, elk and birders can co-exist. It's probably not a good idea to risk zapping park visitors trying to walk over public land.

I've also noticed that there is an open hay-feed trough on the east side of SFD at center of B-Ranch, which, based on my frequent migration-season drive-bys, appears to be feeding more raven than cattle. This can't be good for Joe's pocket book and it certainly isn't good for the nearby nesting snowy plovers to have a surplus of ravens. My understanding was that ranchers were supposed to take at least some modest measures to avoid feeding ravens.

Lastly, I also have reports from birders of G-Ranch cattle in Abbotts Lagoon (again). This G-Ranch trespass (that has been occurring regularly for at least a decade) again makes my point that AUM discounts to supposedly reimburse PRNS ranchers for maintaining fencelines actual are a reverse incentive...the rancher keeps the discount, lets the fences fall into disrepair, and his cattle get free forage. If that FMV discount is valid, then it should not matter if the rancher gets upcharged for the fencing discount but PRNS then takes over the fence maintenance. This is the same problem that PRNS had when it gave ranchers discounts to maintain their buildings, but the buildings were never repaired so PRNS finally decided to upcharge the rent for the maintenance factor and then took over the building maintenance responsibility. Is that not a "lesson learned" for fencing also?

Perhaps we can talk soon about ranch issues again? There are a number of simmering issues that would be good to keep from getting to the boiling point.

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