

MEMO TO: Barry Cooper, Crater District Ranger

FROM: Ronald J. Nagata, <sup>RSW</sup> Backcountry Ranger

SUBJECT: Current Status of Flattop Bog Endangered Plant Enclosure

Since five months had elapsed since the completion of the NPS/HSTP's Flattop Bog project, it seemed appropriate that an examination of the enclosure was due. On August 19, 1979, Linda Webb and I hiked up the [REDACTED] and then down through the Deschampsia grasslands to the bog. This is what we found:

1. The fence remains intact and in excellent condition. See slide #1.
2. All evidences of the old pig furrows appear to have "healed over".
3. There were no new pig furrows in the enclosure.
4. Surprisingly, there did not seem to be any recent pig activity in the immediate area surrounding the fence.
5. There are still a lot of fencing material left over from the project. These include rebars, posts and spare hogwire and they may be used to improve the fence such as to eliminate the shallow gaps between the bottom of the fence and the ground. See enclosed slide #2.

As a follow-up to this project, the Park should:

1. Have a sign wired to the fence that will explain the purpose of the enclosure. Such a sign may read:  

RESTRICTED SCIENTIFIC STUDY AREA  
ENDANGERED PLANT ENCLOSURE
2. Propose to the next HSTP fencing crew that they spend one day during their R & R trip to bolster the fence by utilizing the remaining materials. It should take a group of four only one day to complete this miniproject. All tools and any additional supplies will be hauled up by pack animal and these would include two sledges, possibly one wire stretcher, pliers, wire clips and reinforcement wire. Upon completion, the pack animal would haul all remaining fencing materials and tools back to Palikū. As an incentive, the Park should allow the HSTP three consecutive nights at Palikū.

In conclusion, the Flattop Bog enclosure has been an effective fence but we doubt if any pig has actually attempted to grub under the hogwire. By bolstering the fence (as proposed above) we may be more certain as to its 100% effectiveness. By placing a sign along the fence, we may deter human encroachment.

September 25, 1979