

## Range Management Program

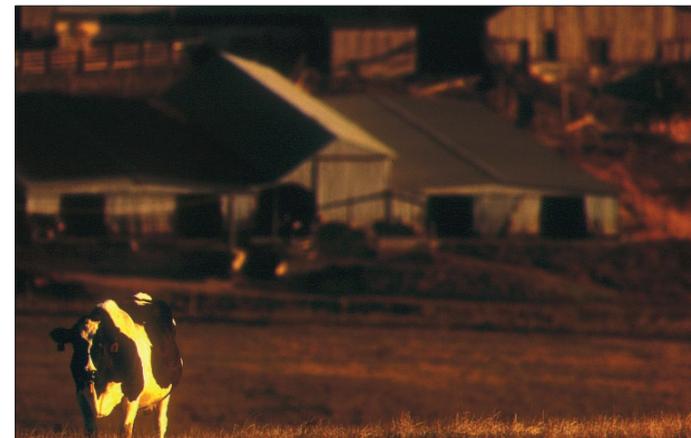
This year showed a renewed energy and commitment to the range program for dairy and beef ranches.

One of the highlights of the Range program this season has been the protection of aquatic resources along Home Ranch Creek. Working with the McDonald permittee, three bull pastures were fenced off to keep the bulls out of the creek. Another fence was installed on the opposite side of the creek to exclude cattle from the creek. A section of boundary fence was installed above the wet meadows at the mouth of Home Ranch Creek, preventing cattle from grazing and lounging in the wet meadows and directly accessing lower Home Bay. In addition, the McDonalds installed a 3,000 foot fence around an archaeological site to protect prehistoric artifacts along the eroding estuarine bluffs. The new fencing combined with the new septic system has resulted in a reduction of fecal coliform counts detected during water quality monitoring.

The Range program assisted NRCS and local ranchers with compliance and technical guidance on projects to conserve resources on rangelands at Point Reyes and Golden Gate. Water development projects are in various stages at G Ranch, J Ranch and K Ranch. Storm water

management from dairy operations was initiated at B Ranch. A manure management system was installed at I Ranch. Staff is in the early planning phases of fencing for seasonal enclosure of aquatic systems and water development at H Ranch.

The Range program has completed the first stage of the Tomales Bay Rangeland BMP Pathogen TMDL Implementation Project. With the assistance of an Americorps staff and a summer intern, pasture assessments were completed for all pastures that drain directly or indirectly into Tomales Bay. The results of the pasture assessments will assist park staff in understanding problem areas for the implementation of the next stages of the project and for future management actions to improve water quality from park lands.



Cow at the Historic B Ranch

