

The Legacy of Logging



Cutting a redwood tree, circa 1900.

Beginning in the 1850s, giant redwood trees were cut with axes and handsaws. Skid roads were built so workers and animal teams could drag logs and pile them in the river.

During heavy winter rains, dams built upriver to impound water were tripped sequentially. This caused a rush of water, like a tidal wave, to wash the stacked logs downriver to the mill.

In 1893, the railroad was constructed after all the timber was cut along the river and standing trees became less accessible.

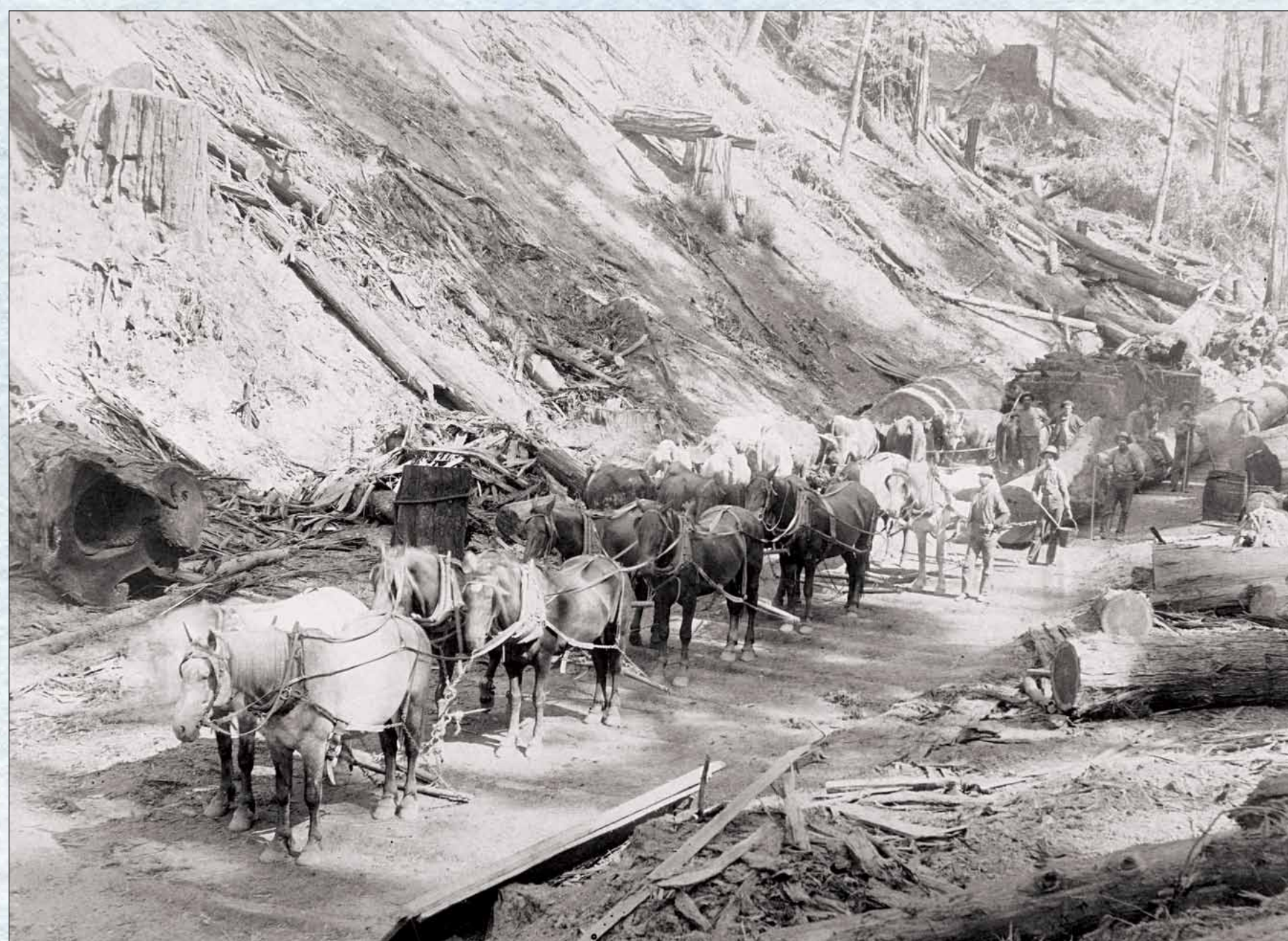
Booms, like New Boom in front of you, were built to stop the flow of logs. Motorized launches with cranes and winches collected the logs into rafts and towed them to the mill as needed.



Hellsgate Dam, 35 miles upstream from New Boom, circa 1912.



New Boom, circa 1927, situated across the river from where you are standing. Photo taken in 2010.



A horse team dragging logs to the river along a skid road. Oxen were used in steeper terrain.



Log train dumping logs, circa 1900.



Second mill at the mouth of Big River, 1863.