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Management
Pine Ranges

Berkeley, California
June 13, 1932

MEMORANDUM FOR FILES

With P. R. Kevin of the supervisor's staff, and Hormay, June 9 and 10 were spent on the Plumas forest in the re-examination of the plots in Long Canyon and some further reconnaissance of Long Canyon itself and some of the other areas in this general vicinity.

Plots

About 3/4 of a day was required to re-examine the 39 fenced and unfenced milimeter plots. No measurements were necessary to map in the new vegetation as the plants could be readily located in relation to rocks, large branches, etc., which were very accurately mapped last year.

Climatic conditions for a favorable seed catch were probably better this spring than for many years past but only one 1932 tree seedling was found on the plots. This bears out Dunning's observation of last fall that there was a very poor seed crop and lends weight to his suggestion that we will have to resort to the sowing of conifer seed to have material to work with. Kevin stated that a good seed crop appeared fairly regularly about ~~but~~ once every five years.

I'm not so sure that this would be feasible

But two species had appeared in any abundance on the plots. Since annual vegetation is not being mapped, Collinsia parviflora was ignored. The other plant, Lathyrus sp. is already quite numerous in many of the plots and if it continues to increase as it did this year, it might conceivably have an important influence on the small coniferous seedlings. These lathyrus plants, while numerous, are small individually and do not yet make up any material density. Thus far the density factor has not entered into the observations, the perennial herbaceous vegetation being "located" but not mapped on the plot sheet. I feel very strongly that the density should be considered in succeeding mappings. Ocular estimates do not appeal to me as sufficiently accurate and I believe actual measurements of the perennial vegetation by the "Boise" method is entirely feasible.

One other point that impressed me was the advisability of recording whether or not the incoming conifers are found under the protection of sticks, cones, litter, etc., or out in the open. We know from casual observations that survival is higher where early protection of this sort is afforded. I think we should endeavor to secure some measurement of this factor.

Observations of Long Canyon and Other Areas

The lower end of Long Canyon in the immediate vicinity of the plots may possibly be Site III. Most of this drainage is undoubtedly Site IV, has poor soil, is rocky, with scattered timber that becomes poorer toward the upper end of the canyon. According to Kevin, timber conditions in this canyon are not representative of the east side pine type on the Plumas.

Water is not ordinarily available throughout the season in Long Canyon and the sheep using this area are trailed to Clover Creek several times during the latter part of the grazing period. In addition, it is reported that another band crosses this area in reaching their allotment. Because of this situation, as well as the general sparseness of the forage, the area does not appear representative of general conditions over the cut-over pine type on the Plumas.

Some time was spent riding through Grizzly Valley where cutting operations are now in progress. This area appears to offer a wide variety of desirable conditions. Part of it has been cut-over and Kevin reports cutting will probably continue for 8-10 years more. The cruise shows 73% pine and 27% fir. The site is II and III and the topography gentle. Soil conditions are apparently good. The area includes both sheep and cattle range. I believe further examination of this Grizzly Valley area as a possible site for some of our detailed work in the pine type is justified.

F. G. Renner

F. G. RENNER
Associate Range Examiner