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Management
Pine Ranges

Berkeley, California
~~August 9, 1932~~
July 22, 1932.

MEMORANDUM FOR FILES

July 13-21 were spent by Mr. Hormay and myself in the examination of certain areas in the pine type on the Modoc and Lassen Forests. The purpose of the trip was to get a further size-up of conditions as a basis for the selection of a center of work for range research in the pine type and specifically to examine certain Methods-of-Cutting Plots on Logan Mtn. on the Lassen Forest, similar plots in the Badger Springs township of the Modoc and the fenced Potter Cow Range also on the Modoc for the purpose of learning whether or not these three areas were suitable as sites for the range studies we expect to undertake. With the exception of the first day, on the Modoc we were fortunate in being able to fit our examinations in with a general grazing inspection trip by Supervisor Cronemiller and Asst. Regional Forester Nelson and thus had the benefit of their advice and knowledge of the country and grazing conditions.

The Badger Springs Area. This area, where silvicultural studies are already under way is, in many ways, well suited to range studies. The vegetative, topographic, and timber conditions apparently are representative of considerable areas of both sheep and cattle range on the Modoc. The area is fairly accessible, being 40 miles from Alturas and but ten miles from the proposed headquarters camp of the Pickering Lumber Company, to be located on the S. P. Railway at Jaquima Reservoir. Portions of this area apparently are not well watered and thus would afford information on use of this type of range as compared with adjoining areas where water is adequate. A start in the determination of the relation of distribution of water to utilization of forage has already been made on this range in the construction of exclosures 1/4, 1/2, 1, and 2 miles from water. Three of these exclosures were built in 1929, and one in 1930. Moderate damagd to ponderosa

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pine appears to be rather widespread. Some of the damage may be due to winter use by deer but probably fairly heavy use by sheep along the roads, is responsible for most of it. The range is used by 2500 sheep from June 1 to October 31 while the permitted season for the adjoining cattle range is April 1 to November 15. Opportunity is thus afforded for a study of the effect of these different seasons of use on sheep and cattle ranges, as well as that of other phases of management.

Potter Cow Range. This area of some 17,000 acres, carrying 500 cattle for a 7½ months period is completely fenced and supplied with four wells from which the stock are watered. The forage is furnished without charge to the permittee for a ten-year period in the return for the construction and maintenance of the improvements necessary to develop the range. The existing improvements, the above arrangement which more or less guarantees stability in the use of the range for at least seven more years, the excellent financial status ~~for~~ of the permittee, together with the interest of the supervisor provide a set-up for range studies which would be difficult if not impossible to duplicate elsewhere in the pine region. Whether or not this area will be the principal center of work for range research in the pine region cannot yet be decided but its advantages are so apparent that, subject to Mr. Talbot's approval, its selection as one of the areas where we will want to get work under way, can be made at once.

Lassen Method-of-Cutting Plots. This area in the vicinity of Camp 10 on the Bogard Ranger District does not appear suitable to range studies. The area is not typical of the practically pure ponderosa pine type in which we are primarilly interested. It is low in carrying capacity, much less accessible to grazing animals than is the usual range in the pine type and would present considerable difficulty in any attempt to secure uniform utilization of the forage.

F. G. Renner

F. G. RENNER
Associate Range Examiner

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MANAGEMENT
Bordering Pine Range
Potter Pasture

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Pine Region
Grazing-Reproduction

July 26, 1932

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR KOTOK

Preliminary work in the so-called east side pine type is proposed on the Potter Pasture and areas adjoining Badger Well, in the Modoc National Forest about 40 miles northwest of Alturas. The Potter Pasture occupies most of T. 44 N., R. 7 E., whereas Badger Well is in T. 44 N., R. 8 E.

The objectives of the coming trip into the Modoc National Forest are

1. To make a type and cultural feature map of Potter Pasture.

2. To establish plots and quadrats in the Potter Pasture in order to study the effect of methods of grazing on western yellow pine reproduction as well as to carry on other range studies.

3. To establish quadrats inside and outside of exclosures erected by the Modoc National Forest on sheep range south of Badger Well.

Because the Potter Pasture promises to be the center of a considerable amount of range investigative work in the future a rather detailed map of it is warranted. A map showing vegetative types, accompanied by composition and density figures, and cultural features such as fences, roads, water developments, and buildings is invaluable in its usefulness for planning and determining methods of approach on a grazing problem such as the one on hand. It affords information on the area and extent of the vegetative types which is necessary for a judicious selection of plots. Figures will be available for the estimation of the carrying capacity of the pasture and individual types.

The location, size, and ~~slope~~ shape of plots and quadrats as well as methods of study will be determined in the field.

A number of exclosures at increasing distances from the Badger Well were constructed in 1929-30 by the Modoc National Forest to study the effect of sheep grazing on vegetation (including reproduction) at varying distances from water. To observe more closely the vegetative changes occurring and the injury to reproduction resulting it is advisable to establish quadrats inside and outside the exclosures.

Equipment to be Purchased

1 Tent, 8 x 10

1 Hammer, 3 lb. sledge

1 Mess outfit, gov. 6 man

1 Stove, 2 burner gas Coleman

1 Lantern, Coleman

1 Bucket

1 Basin, wash

Nails (assorted, 2 lbs.)

Tags (marking seedlings)

Wire (for tags and quadrat straps)

A. L. HORMAY