

RR
MANAGEMENT
Ponderosa Pine Ranges
Burgess Spring-Squaw Valley

July 6, 1944

Forest Supervisor
Lassen National Forest
Susanville, California

Dear Joe:

I know you are keenly interested in the Burgess Spring cattle grazing experiment and the results that have been obtained to date this season. Three weighings have been made of the cattle so far and Hornay has analyzed the results as follows. The average weight per head and the average gain per head per day of the cattle in both the timber and meadow types are tabulated below. The animals used were young unbred Hereford heifers.

Average weight per head (pounds)

	<u>June 2</u>	<u>June 17</u>	<u>July 1</u>
Timber type*	437	441	459
Meadow type**	437	438	460

Average weight gain per head per day (pounds)

	<u>June 2 to 17</u>	<u>June 17 to July 1</u>
Timber type*	.27	1.31
Meadow type**	.06	1.57

* Based on 20 cattle

** Based on 10 cattle

In both types the cattle gained very little during the first two weeks, from June 2 to June 17. The lack of gain is attributed primarily to the lack of sufficient development of the feed -- that is, to the lack of sufficient fiber and starch to make a balanced ration. This young tender growth is rich in protein, minerals, and vitamins but it lacks carbohydrates. Cold weather during this period no doubt also tended to retard weight gains. When the cattle were placed in the pasture the bunchgrasses averaged 4 to 5 inches tall and were leafed out, but the flower stalks had not begun to develop. On the second weighing (June 17) the flower stalks were developing in the "boot" but were not showing.

LCB

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During the next two weeks ending July 2 the feed developed to the point where the bunchgrasses were just about to flower. The cattle gained approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds per day during this period even though the weather remained cold during most of this period too. It warmed up only during the last 4 or 5 days. The gain in weight of the cattle is attributed to the more advanced development of the feed.

At the present time the cattle in the meadow are doing a little better than those in the timber. The full story of the trends will be revealed as we get more weight figures and plant development notes during the season. The data collected so far show that the cattle are not likely to gain weight on timber or meadow range especially if the weather is cold until the flower stalks of the bunchgrasses are evident in the "boot".

We appreciate the help that the Lassen has been able to give to this project. The assistance of Phil Lord, P. D. Hook, and J. Brockway in various phases of the work has been most timely and beneficial. As you well know, we have not been able to provide Hornay with assistance from this end to carry on this important work because of the lack of money and suitable manpower. We have been flirting with the idea of trying to get two C. O's on the job if possible. They could stay at the cabin at Cone Troughs and carry on the necessary maintenance and improvement work on the fences, corrals, and other facilities and also assist in carrying on the experiment. Bradshaw of our office has checked with the regional office and it is O. K. with them to use two men on this work if it is acceptable to you and if you have the men and can spare them from other work. We would appreciate knowing whether arrangements can be made to have two of these men work at Burgess Spring. We can follow up on details as soon as we hear from you.

Very truly yours,

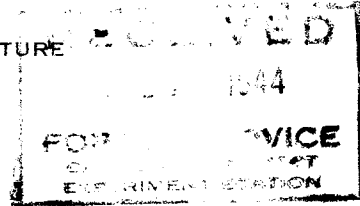
M. W. TALBOT, Acting Director

By *W. P. Stockwell*

Acting

W. P. Stockwell

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST



SUSANVILLE, CALIFORNIA

ADDRESS REPLY TO
FOREST SUPERVISOR
AND REFER TO

RR
MANAGEMENT
Ponderosa Pine Ranges
Burgess Spring-Sqaw Valley

July 10, 1944

O
SUPERVISION
Emergency Programs
CPS Camp

M. W. Talbot, Acting Director
California Forest and Range Experiment Station
330 Giannini Hall
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Talbot:

Your letter of July 6th is received.

We truly appreciate the information contained in your letter regarding the condition of cattle uses in your Burgess Spring experiment.

In regard to loaning you two CPS men to live in the cabin at Cone Troughs and carrying on the necessary maintenance and improvement work on the fences and other facilities, as well as carrying on the experiment, I feel very embarrassed and hardly know what to tell you. I am sure you know we want to cooperate in every way possible, but at the present time the pie is so small that it is hard to divide it up so that any one agency will get any value out of these men.

At the present time, we only have 23 effectives on the Forest. One is in the hospital with the mumps, and one of our foremen who has been handling CPS men is also down with the mumps. We do not know what will happen within the next few days. We may have several more casualties. Assuming that we continue to have 23 effectives, it will only leave, after deducting 2 five men fire suppression crews, a total of 13 men. It was our plan to use as many of the men who could qualify for timber cruising work. Now, the question for us to decide is just what is the most important project to consider first? Shall we abandon our 2 five men suppression crews and take a chance on filling these crews with transient labor which so far has been very unsatisfactory? Will your Range Experiment bring greater returns than the proposed timber survey work? If so, I am, of course, very willing to allow you to have 2 of the CPS men. However, before making

Handwritten notes:
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CPS men
Burgess Spring
Sqaw Valley

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a decision, I would like to have the Regional Forester's reaction and am therefore sending him a copy of this letter and if he feels the C.O.'s should be turned over to you, I will let you have them.

We appreciate the work your station is doing and desire to help in every way possible. These are trying times, both for the station and for the administrative section of the Forest Service. We are all trying to keep the boat afloat with mighty poor sailors. Real good men are mighty scarce in our neck of the woods.

As soon as I hear from Mr. Show's office, I will write you further.

Very truly yours,



J.E. ELLIOTT
Forest Supervisor

cc: Regional Forester