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MANAGEMENT  
Ponderosa Pine Ranges

Berkeley, California  
March 17 9

C. R. HORSLEY, BLACKS MOUNTAIN BRANCH

FROM: A. L. HORMAY, Range Conservationist

Dear Ray:

Hope the winter hasn't been too rough on you. Felt for you when I heard that you were having water trouble. From here it looks like spring is just around the corner and we'll be heading your way in a month or so.

Wish you would make a few observations for me on snow melt and vegetation growth as the season opens up. On snow melt, need the following dates:

1. First ground showing around headquarters buildings. \_\_\_\_\_
2. First ground showing in meadow south of headquarters. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Snow pack virtually all melted around headquarters buildings. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Snow pack virtually all melted in meadow. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Snow pack completely melted over soil thermograph element  $1/4$  inch under soil surface. \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetation

Between the dormitory and office building I have about a dozen staked plants. Some of these are 10 to 20 feet south of the dormitory (the building in which I sleep) and the others are just north of the office, also about 25 feet away from the building. Each of these stakes bears a designation like SIh 1 100% clip, which identifies a plant located about 6 inches in front of it. The lettering faces the plant. I would like to have a record of when these plants start to grow and how much they grow at weekly intervals.

To simplify this record, perhaps it would be better for you to number the stakes consecutively from 1 on. You can put the numbers on the back of the stakes. The following form would be satisfactory:

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Stake No.	Start of growth <sup>1/</sup> (Date)	Sample Form				
		April <u>4</u>	April <u>11</u>	April <u>18</u>	April <u>25</u>	May <u>2</u>
1	April 1	.25	.50	1.50	2.50	3.00
2						
3						
4						
etc.						
Bitterbrush	April 4	1/16	1/8	1/2	7/8	

1/ Record the very first signs of leaf growth. Measure the average height (above soil) of all leaves to nearest 1/4 inch. Measure from the same soil point each time. Perhaps you can push a large spike down flush with the soil surface and measure from the top of it.

The staked plants are bunchgrasses and mule-ears. In addition to these, measure the growth on bitterbrush -- on the plant just east of the site factor instrument shelter. As in the other plants, record the date of the start of growth and the average length of the leaves. Later on record the date of the peak of flowering. To catch this date about right, it would be well to record the date the first flowers open and the time the last ones "fade" away.

Sounds like a lot of work but I am sure it will not take over 15 or 20 minutes to make the observations once a week. If you can, I wish you would send one -- or still better -- two reports each week from now on, on snow depth and when the snow pack is likely to disappear. Also whether Blacks Mountain can be reached by automobile from any direction and what the general weather is like. You can send these notes to Dave Tackle as in the past and I will see them.

Thanks.

A. L. HORMAY

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