

FD 1717
File

FOREST SUPERVISOR - Lassen

December 7, 1953

DISTRICT RANGER - Bogard

G - COOPERATION - Harvey Valley Demonstration Area

This year of 1953 marked the first full year that the Harvey Valley allotment has been managed completely under the Five Pasture Grazing system.

By August 1st, all fences dividing the allotment into five pastures were completed and cattle placed according to plan. The status of the program is shown in the table.

The I & E impact of the program on District activities was considerable. The groups shown the allotment were:

1. Chico State College Conservation Workshop.
2. Toiyabe Forest and Nevada Bureau of Land Management personnel.
3. Officials of the California Sheepmen Organization.
4. Officials of the California Farm Bureau and Officers of the Big Valley Soil Conservation District.
5. California State Soil Conservation Commission.
6. Regional Forester Hendee's Advisory Council.
7. A large group of Plumas and Modoc farmers.
8. The President of the California Cattlemen's Association and the Secretary of the American National Livestock Association.

Show-me trips involved 58 hours of ranger time plus an additional 22 hours of preparing for the trips, a total of 80 hours during the year. Construction of improvements, maintenance, reseeding and management accounted for an additional 98 hours. Total ranger time was 178 hours or approximately four and one-half weeks work. In addition, the assistant ranger spent about 24 hours on this allotment.

Major accomplishments this calendar year were the sowing of 50 acres in the early spring, completion of one and a half miles of fence, construction of watering troughs at Aspen Well, installation of two metal gates, the contract reseeding of 100 acres this fall and making a stockpile of 500 wooden fence posts.

All of the large allotment signs are framed and ready to be installed in the early summer of next year.

Management

It becomes increasingly important that the scales and corrals at Harvey Valley be constructed soon. Also that a man from either the Experiment Station or the ranger district be assigned to make the measurements of cattle weights and forage utilization contemplated in the plan.

In September of 1953, pasture #1 appeared to the permittee as completely fed off. I also had been watching this pasture rather closely and it appeared to me that the amount of forage removed was far in excess of the 66% planned. It is true that a considerable portion of the squirrel tail (Sitanion) mostly seed stems, were not taken because of their low palatability. At this time and for a period of about 10 days I allowed the permittee to open the gates into pasture #2, the alternate for pasture #1 in the management plan. Cattle used both pasture #1 and pasture #2 during this period.

I feel that in the absence of measurement guides, the ranger must be forced with the decision each year as to what point to allow relief to the pasture receiving the heavy use. It is true that this pasture having been rested one and a half years and scheduled for rest one year following this use should not be harmed too greatly by a very heavy utilization of the forage. However, the weight gains on the calf crop will level off about a month ahead of when they should unless an alternate field is used. It may well be that as more grasses are established and the volume of forage produced increases, the need for relief will eventually diminish to the vanishing point.

We are, more or less committed to carrying out this program without a reduction in numbers. Having to do this will require the use of the alternate pastures for several years. The ranger needs quantitative measurements to guide him in his decisions as to when the alternate field should be used.

The maintenance of interior fences, a Forest Service responsibility under the plan, continues to be a heavy load on the ranger district. No funds are allotted for this job and it gets done by contributed time and at the expense of other needed work. I maintained quite a lot of these fences myself on my own time in order to have them serviceable.

We may have to construct water development improvements in excess of what was originally planned. Developments adequate for cattle spread out over the entire allotment are proving to be inadequate for a large number of cattle confined to a single pasture. This proved to be true at Cone Spring although we had originally planned a development there anticipating somewhat the results we had in 1953.

It is expected that we will continue to have the interest shown in this project by those interested in range management and that a large proportion of the ranger's time will be taken in the management and I & E aspects of the Harvey Valley allotment.

/s/ Joseph V. Flynn

JOSEPH V. FLYNN

RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

HARVEY VALLEY DEMONSTRATION ALLOTMENT

	: Total	: Estimated	: Completed	: Need to	Proposed Program FY's							
					: Amount	: Cost Per	: to	: be	: 1954	: 1955	: 1956	: 1957
: Improvement	: Needed	: Unit	: Date	: Completed	: Amount	: Cost	: Amount	: Cost	: Amount	: Cost	: Amount	: Cost
Fences	34.5	1200.00	24.5	75%	10.0	1 1/2	1,200	5.8	6,960	3.9	4,680	
Reseeding	615A	12.00	585	95	30	2/			100			
Sagebrush	4,675A	3.00	1750	37	2925			1154	3,462	1304	3,912	467
Spring	2	800	0	2				1	800	1	800	
Development	14	500	8	1/6				2	1,000	2	1,000	2
Reservoirs	3	300	3	0								
Wells	1	2,500	0	1				1	2,500			
Weight Scales and Corrals												
Total							1,200		14,822		10,392	2,401

1/ Includes cattle guards and gates.

2/ 30 acres in pasture #3 to be harrowed and drilled only in fall 1954.

W Cost based