

U. S. FOREST SERVICE WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Director, California Station

APR 17 1957

Richard E. McCardle, Chief

I-SUPERVISION-Honor Awards

AIR MAIL
STAFF ONLY

We are pleased to inform you that we have word from the Department that the recommendation for a Superior Service Award for August L. Hormay has been approved.

The 1957 Honor Awards ceremony will take place Tuesday, May 21, at 10:30 o'clock at the Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument Grounds.

We would appreciate your arranging to have Mr. Hormay come to Washington for the presentation ceremony. As you no doubt know, travel costs and per diem expenses for such a trip have to be borne by your unit. If Mr. Hormay wishes to bring any of his family to attend the ceremony, at his own expense, this is entirely appropriate and they will be most welcome. You are asked to let us know by May 6, the names of any family members who are coming, so that we can complete informal entertainment arrangements.

We will be glad to make hotel reservations for Mr. Hormay if he wishes us to do so. As this is a busy tourist season, he should write us as soon as possible, indicating type and number of accommodations desired, dates and preferences, if any as to hotels.

Publicity on the Awards Program is taken care of by the Department Office of Information. Our I&E Division is cooperating on Forest Service Awards. As soon as information is issued I&E will notify the field units so that they can arrange such appropriate local publicity as they see fit. Meanwhile please treat this confidentially.

Please ask Mr. Hormay to report to Mr. Anderson's office, Division of Personnel Management, Room 4105, South Agriculture Building, by not later than 9:30 of the morning of May 21. If he arrives in town the day before and during office hours wants to contact the office by telephone, the number is RE-7-4142, extensions 2709, 4189 or 5136.

We are enclosing one copy of the write-up as submitted to the Department. Additional copies are being sent you under separate cover, one of which may be given to Mr. Hormay for his personal use. Invitations to the Department's Honor Awards ceremony for Mr. Hormay to send friends and relatives if he wishes will be sent to you as soon as they are available.

Attachment

xc: CAL Sta.

cc: Region 5

xc: CAL /w/ 4 copies of write-up

cc: personnel folder of August L. Hormay

Richard E. McCardle

A. L. HORMAY, SRC

April 30, 1957

E. J. WOOLFOLK

RR-CAL, RESEARCH PROGRAM, Working Plans (Harvey Valley Allotment)

Several months ago I reviewed rather carefully the revised study plan for Harvey Valley and set down some comments on a few items. This was never sent you because I hoped we could discuss the points in question. This hasn't yet worked out so before any more time lapses, here are my comments. Also, I think it is timely to take a close look at this program which you are relinquishing in the main to someone else.

As they appear herein, the items comments upon correspond to numbers placed on the margins of the text. In addition I have done a little editing and suggested some changes in word selections. A case in point is the level of range use allowed the first year and second half of the third year for a given unit by the rest-rotation system. As mentioned before, I think it is unwise to speak of close or heavy use in connection with the Harvey Valley system. There is too much likelihood of misunderstanding by and criticism from people who have heard us preach against heavy use. The real meaning is uniform, full use to a specific level and that is not the same as most people call heavy or close use.

(1) P. 4, 5, and 15. What is the basis for precise pinpointing of range condition classes, 17 percent excellent, 56 percent good, 9 percent fair, 18 percent poor? Estimate or mapping according to written standards? Think there should be written standards based on soil and vegetation criteria especially now that the main job is to be handed on to someone else.

(2) P. 15 and 21. This strikes me as a tremendous undertaking and I doubt that it will pay off. Thirty species at 10 to 25 plants per species, in all the exclosures at two week intervals over seven months adds up to a whale of a big job. Besides heights of leaves and flower stalks there are stages of growth, boot, flowering, seed ripe, etc. It will take half of one man's time to do this. Isn't there enough information on many of these species from Burgess Spring studies to suffice?

(3) P. 16. Why study condition and trend only on that part (9 percent) of the range in fair condition? Suppose the allotment goes downhill instead of up as expected. The 73 percent in good and

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excellent condition will change much faster and farther than will the area in fair and poor condition. I don't think we can talk safely about trend if the data are tied to only one condition class representing 9 percent of the usable allotment area.

(4) P. 17. Observations of trend in range condition should be scheduled on a regular plan--not determined by observation of a few photographs.

(5) P. 17. Calculation of herbage yield from density and weight estimates is extremely tricky. Why not clip for yield or estimate straight from square-foot or other plots and why worry about range production of herbage anyway? Unit area production of herbage has to be worked out every year so again, why not clip for production?

(6) P. 19. This ties back to #5 and again I wonder if it is worthwhile and sound. Won't it be necessary to measure or estimate the basal area of each plant clipped and correlate area and wouldn't it be better to gather less information and squeeze it a little harder? I think we should talk about several points before a new man is assigned and field work goes too far. Also, it seems a good deal more detail and clarity are needed for the plan to serve well as a guide for someone else to follow. As it is I can't follow exactly the procedures set up for collecting some of the data.

My copy of the plan is attached for your convenience. I would like it returned when you have finished with it.

Attachment

EKWoolfolk:mm