

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. L. HORMAY, Susanville Research Center

DATE: Sept. 8, 1958

FROM : KEITH ARNOLD Director

SUBJECT: R-CAL PUBLICATIONS, Production

Reference is made to your memorandum of August 22.

Your proposed handout describing work at Susanville, will go to the printer soon. Your second version of a research note covering Burgess Spring work is being revised slightly and should be on its way in short order.

On your long manuscript the editing is about one-third completed, with a target date the middle of this fall and then on to Washington.

I am glad you raised questions about these manuscripts because we don't want to have any of them delayed past their initial target date. I am hoping to put special emphasis on the necessity for meeting target dates in connection with publications during the coming year.

Keith Arnold

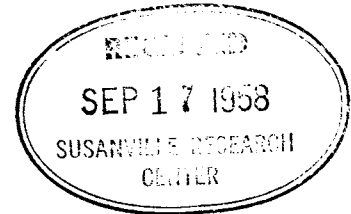
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TO : A. L. HORMAY, SRC

DATE: September 15, 1958

FROM : KEITH ARNOLD, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: R-CAL, PUBLICATIONS, Production

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This refers to my September 8 memo concerning the status of several of your manuscripts which are intended for publication.

This morning in conversation with Joe Woolfolk I learned of the decision for you and Tony Evanko to meet on October 20 in Berkeley to complete the Burgess-Spring-Harvey Valley handout. I think this is an excellent idea and in further conversation with Clyde Walker have determined that he will be able to give you some assistance at the beginning of your detail and later again to check the results of this cooperative effort. This memo, therefore, confirms the arrangements for the last two weeks of October which were discussed with the group in Susanville on Sept. 10.

Keith Arnold

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TO : KEITH ARNOLD, Director

DATE: September 17, 1958

FROM : E. J. WOOLFOLK, Chief, RMR

SUBJECT: R-CAL, SUPERVISION, General, ~~SIC~~ *Harvey Valley*

On Tuesday, September 9, Merton Reed and I attended the Harvey Valley field day arranged by the Lassen Forest and handled largely by A. L. Hormay. There was a total attendance of 35, of which 25 were Forest Service personnel, 3 Bureau of Land Management, 3 ranchers, and 4 members of the permittee's (Roney) family. Travel was by bus and Gus did his usual good job of presenting the principles of rest-rotation grazing and discussing various technical phases of range use and management. Supervisor Parker, R. M. DeNio, Ranger Alberico, and permittee Elwin Roney contributed appropriate remarks concerning the history of the area and details and possible applications of the grazing system.

Next day a review of the Harvey Valley project was held in the Lassen office. In attendance were-V. A. Parker, P. B. Lord, F. J. Alberico, R. M. DeNio, W. E. Wood, A. L. Hormay, M. J. Reed, and the writer. This meeting had been desired for sometime by the forest, the R. O. and myself. The following items were discussed freely and fully.

1. Conduct of the Harvey Valley demonstration in accordance with plans. The H. V. project is based on three levels of planning; (a) the management plan which sets forth the grazing schedule, stocking rate, amount and kind of range improvements both physical and cultural, etc., (b) the study plan which outlines the technical study aspects, i.e. how soil, vegetation, and livestock responses will be studied, etc., and (c) the permittee plan, an annual set of instructions to the permittee outlining the use of the allotment, amount, time, and kind of livestock handling desired, maintenance of improvements, etc. The ranger prepares this plan and uses it as does the permittee for guidance during a particular year. The management and study plans were prepared originally by A. L. Hormay.

The R. O. has been concerned with the management of H. V. largely from a financial standpoint. Slight deviations from the plan or even deviations in the timing of items covered by the plan can and have caused inefficient use of range improvement and maintenance monies. This can and will lead to difficulty and embarrassment in view of the ever-tightening control of national forest operations and the stricter accounting which is being enforced. Also, some items in the plan, well merited at the start, are

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now viewed in a different light and are strongly questioned. The job of assaying or appraising the success and accomplishments of the demonstration becomes more difficult and complex with each deviation or introduction of a new unapproved idea. This also has a bearing on the salability of the project and the grazing system and the degree to which they are accepted by visitors and customers. I have been deeply concerned about these aspects.

I have been concerned too about the study plan--what it provided and the methods suggested for handling certain items. In my view it is too elaborate--includes too heavy a work load which is built up by studying minor or unimportant aspects or characteristics of the range. These things which were called to ALH's attention by my memo of April 30, 1957 are borne out by the fact that it has taken six years to make the initial observations and do half the compilation job using all available seasonal, temporary, and borrowed help at SRC, the Forest, the Berkeley office and the SJER. The Forest and the R. O. have been concerned about the study plan too because they have never seen it and consequently don't know what aspects of the range are being studied. Too, they have been anxious for study results which could be publicized and given to other forests for range management guidance.

Because it is redone each year, the permittee plan has been of less concern but even so inconsistencies between it and the other two are suspected. Also, it has not passed through R. O. and Station hands in the past before being put into use.

Throughout the development and handling of all these plans too much has been left to Gus for decision and execution on the ground. For example, some physical improvements have been incorrectly located, even though Forest personnel were aware of the situation and could have suggested proper locations.

2. Conduct of research or experimental plot studies in Harvey Valley.

All of us have been concerned by the growing tendency to locate new reseeding and plant control experiments in Harvey Valley. Don Cornelius of ARS does this kind of research for and upon the request of national forest administration. A large area in Grass Valley was made available by the Forest a number of years ago for this type of work. There is still ample room in Grass Valley. The most recent study (Summer 1958) in Harvey Valley deals with the control of rushes in a wet meadow. Last fall a fertilizer trial was relocated at the last minute by firm negative decisions in the R. O. and Station to put it in Harvey Valley. Before that it was a species adaptation trial, etc. Each of these adds to the clutter and confusion of operating a national forest allotment. Visitors are likely to view the set-up as a complicated maze of plots and pastures which they could not simulate under any circumstance. Too, each fenced plot regardless of size, has some artificial effect on cattle habits and their movements over the range-- and therefore on the over-all application of the rest-rotation system.

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3. Field Days. Two years ago it was mutually agreed that a general public field day would be held in Harvey Valley every even year. Said field day was to be arranged by the Lassen Forest, publicized by neighboring forests and programmed or conducted largely by A. L. Hormay. This year's experience indicated that the system might be unsatisfactory. All neighboring forests were contacted but only two besides the Lassen sent representatives. Only three ranchers attended. This thing needs to be effectively publicized and dressed up.

4. Presentation and interpretation of the rest-rotation system.

Bearing in mind that range and livestock data from Harvey Valley have not yet been made available, some of the free discussion on changes, effect, and future range trends is questionable and somewhat disturbing. The R. O., Forest, and Station believe these points require more careful handling. For example:

a. Increase in grazing capacity should not be emphasized until they are firm and realistic and data are available to back up our statements. True, the same number of cattle now require only 60 percent of the grazing capacity that was used before Harvey Valley was set up as a demonstration. In effect this is an increase, but it came from inauguration of the system, not from range improvement. Some reseeding has been successful but the corresponding increase in grazing capacity is not known. Premature claims of increased grazing capacity can create new problems for the Forest and the Region, on this and other allotments.

b. Grazing pressure. The heavy grazing use which characterizes treatment A season-long and treatment C during the second half season is taken to mean full use of the grazable herbage to an allowable stubble but without excessive trampling. Such use is lighter than the ordinary heavy use commonly permitted on many ranges and is recognized for its value in the rest-rotation system. At the field day and in the Harvey Valley review, Hormay over-emphasized this treatment in my view. Gus' point is that one and a half years of rest will compensate any degree of use. Many of us disagree and in fact can cite examples and areas where many years of rest are required for recovery. And again, data to back up this position are not available. Until support can be cited, this concept should be soft-pedaled.

c. Condition and use of seeded areas. The previous statement concerning use of native range holds too for seeded areas. Also, experience in Harvey Valley with such areas is too short to warrant positive far-reaching statements on the reaction of seeded stands to rest-rotation grazing. Smooth brome grass has been seeded widely on western range lands since the turn of the century. Its usual performance has shown a flush of growth and heavy production for a few years then steady decline to a very low level because of root-binding and insufficient nitrogen. It seems unlikely that the stands in Harvey Valley will respond in a different manner.

d. Seedling establishment--the presence of new plants on a range positively indicates some improvement provided they remain to maturity. Again without data it seems risky to simply designate a spot with seedlings as an indicator of range improvement.

5. Publications. The Forest and the R. O. have been impatient as have we to see some of the Burgess Spring and Harvey Valley results in print. Hormay has a major manuscript on the editor's desk at present. A year ago he and Evanko were assigned the task of developing a pictorial handout. This hasn't been done. Last December Hormay was asked to develop a research note or Station paper type of publication on Harvey Valley. He produced a manuscript but some features of it seemed unsuitable so processing has not yet been completed. Consequently, the only written treatment of rest-rotation grazing is a mimeographed handout prepared in 1954 and revised in 1956.

The following decisions were made and mutually agreed upon as a result of the discussions reported herein.

1. The Harvey Valley management and study plans will be revised and fully developed before the 1959 season starts, in line with previous reviews and the points outlined herein. Both of these plans will be complete in every detail of the demonstration and will be approved by the R. O., the Lassen Forest, and the Station prior to adoption and execution on the ground. Upon adoption copies will go to all the offices concerned, and future handling of Harvey Valley will be in strict accordance with said plan. At the same time the plan will be kept flexible enough to permit future needed changes agreed upon by all concerned. Added attention will be given to the permittee plan with a view to improving livestock management on the allotment.

2. No additional experimental or research installations on reseeding, plant control, fertilization, or other cultural practice will be installed in Harvey Valley. Needed research of this kind will be done in Grass Valley or other selected areas outside the Harvey Valley allotment.

3. All cultural range improvements carried out in Harvey Valley henceforward will be in strict accordance with the plan and based on appropriate research results which have been proven through test and preferably published.

4. Field days. Plans for popularizing, publicizing, and otherwise attracting interest in future field days will be drawn well in advance of the 1960 meeting. This may mean advance publicity in livestock trade journals and audience subsidy in the form of free barbecue, etc. An all-out effort must be made to get ranchers to these meetings.

5. Explanation and interpretation of the rest-rotation grazing system and its demonstration will be tightened up and improved through well-balanced treatment of important details, fuller use of supporting data, in-service discussion of

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controversial points and by division of presentations to visiting groups among R. O., Forest, and Station personnel.

6. Publications. The two-week period beginning October 20 was designated for the preparation of a hand-out, "how-to-do-it" type of manuscript on rest-rotation grazing by Hormay and Evanko. This will combine the hand-out and research note manuscript previously assigned. December 1 is the goal for publication of this manuscript. Hormay and Evanko will work in Berkeley under the guidance of Station Editor Walker. Mr. Walker will also expedite the editing of Gus' major manuscript on Burgess Spring. Even with good handling it will take a year to get this on the market.

The Forest is interested in developing a documentary film of rest-rotation grazing as it is being applied on Harvey Valley. Recent changes in procedures governing movie making may preclude this but it was agreed that Waldo Wood should go ahead with plans for such a film. Waldo will first determine the frame-work within which he must operate then if this is too restricting, perhaps develop the film himself.

In conclusion it should be recognized that this meeting was overdue, it was well worthwhile, and it accomplished a great deal by way of mutual understanding and realistic consideration of the Harvey Valley project.



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