

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Department of Agriculture—Forest Service

Berkeley, California 94701

Memorandum

TO : Glen D. Fulcher, Chief
Range Management Staff

File No. 4210

FROM : A. L. Hormay

Date: December 30, 1966

SUBJECT: Monthly report

Your reference:

AIRMAIL

This report summarizes my activities from September 13, 1966 to date. During this period I spent all but about 10 days of my time on Bureau work. My efforts were directed at:

1. Checking the status of pilot rest-rotation grazing allotments in the field.
2. Explaining rest-rotation grazing to Bureau personnel, stockmen, and others.
3. Counselling on special range problems.

Pilot allotments. These allotments are serving to check and demonstrate the effectiveness of rest-rotation grazing under a variety of range conditions in the west. I visited 36 test allotments covering about 1.5 million acres in 28 districts and 10 states during the summer. Twenty of these have been operating for one year, one for two years. Seven others will become operational in 1967. Still eight others are in the planning stage.

Plans that have been prepared for operating allotments are quite adequate. Satisfactory results can be obtained if the plans are carried out with understanding. Some adjustment in existing plans was made in most cases as a result of my visit.

Permittees involved in rest-rotation grazing were contacted in 21 cases. In most instances the permittees did not understand rest-rotation grazing adequately and did not participate to the extent desired in planning the system used.

When rest-rotation grazing was explained more fully, the somewhat fearful and cautious attitude of the permittees changed considerably in almost all cases. What the users feared most was that they would not be allowed the freedom they desired and needed in handling their livestock. When the inherent flexibility of rest-rotation management was made more clear, the permittees saw the grazing system in a different light. Practically all of them expressed the opinion they could "live with it." Several operators who have completed a year of scheduled operation are pleased with the results. Some are enthusiastic.

Extension of rest-rotation grazing. On about 15 different occasions I had an opportunity to explain and discuss rest-rotation grazing with permittees, other stockmen, and still other people interested in range and wildland management. These sessions were held indoors. They were somewhat formal in character and lasted from 2 to 6 hours. Included was a presentation at the annual meeting of the Wyoming Woolgrowers in Casper on November 11, and another one at the annual meeting of the Wyoming Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Sheridan on December 2.

Two other meetings of a special nature were arranged by the Rock Springs District Wyoming. One was with ELM permittees belonging to a corporation with range holdings in the vicinity of Little America, Wyoming. Jack Igo, president of the Corporation and 5 other permittees attended a day-long field and indoor session. The other meeting was with the Uinta Livestock Corporation. It was held indoors in Evanston, Wyoming on December 10 and lasted about 6 hours. Approximately 10 permittees and two attorneys for the Corporation attended. Bureau representatives from both Wyoming and Utah were present. You will no doubt hear about the meetings from the Rock Springs District or State offices.

On eleven other occasions, I made presentations to permittees in the district offices. From 2 to 16 permittees attended a session. A total of 69 was reached in this manner. On-the-ground discussions were held with still 18 other permittees.

Other people that attended some of the meetings were:

1. Dr. Payne, professor of range management, University of Montana - September 16 at Dillon, Montana.
2. Two Forest Service representatives - October 12 at Rifle, Grand Junction District, Colorado.
3. Three Forest Service representatives and county agent - November 9 at Lakeview, Oregon.
4. Three Soil Conservation Service representatives - November 15-16 at Riverside District, California
5. Two Soil Conservation Service representatives - November 17 at Las Vegas District, Nevada.

Explanations of rest-rotation grazing were well received in all cases. The general reaction was--it looks sound and practical. It provides a positive approach to the solution of range problems and offers hope for future use of ranges by livestock.

Training. During the week of December 5, 1966, I conducted a training course in rest-rotation grazing for Forest Service personnel (Region 4) in Ogden, Utah. No formal week-long training courses for Bureau people were held during the summer. However, a total of 164 men from district, state, and service center offices attended the meetings previously described and still others held strictly for Bureau people. These meetings were of some benefit to those who had taken the week-long training course but it is doubtful that they did the uninitiated much good. In some cases, I have observed that a little knowledge has done more harm than good.

Contacts with Bureau personnel and permittees during the summer emphasize the need for immediate further formal training of Bureau people in rest-rotation grazing. Relatively few men have sufficient know-how yet to design a practical plan that meets both resource and livestock requirements and to make the plan clear and acceptable to the range user. Difficulties have developed on the ground in many cases because rest-rotation grazing was not thoroughly understood and because conventional grazing practices were superimposed upon it.

Before undertaking further in-service training and before talking further with stockmen and others, I would appreciate an opportunity to discuss rest-rotation grazing with Director Rasmussen and his staff and with the State Directors.

Special problems. Kaiparowits and Always Wash allotments. While in the Kanab District, Utah on October 20, 1966, I had an opportunity to inquire into the Kaiparowits Plateau allotments and to visit the Always Wash allotment which lies a few miles northwest of the Kaiparowits Unit and just southwest of the town of Escalante. I did not get to the top of the Kaiparowits Plateau because there is no road to the top and because I did not have time to arrange other means of gaining access. However, from color photographs and descriptions furnished by four members of the district manager's staff and by Grant Rogers (State Office), I got a fairly good idea of the range situation on top.

There are two allotments, Mudhole and Lake, on the Plateau. I feel satisfied that both can be put under rest-rotation grazing management to advantage and without reducing livestock numbers. I visualize a 4-unit plan for the northerly Mudhole allotment and a 2- or 3-unit plan for the southerly Lake allotment. Both can probably be developed with less than 10 miles of fence and some additional water. Whether cultural work is needed or justified should await results of grazing management.

Materials needed for fencing and water developments probably can be packed up the Plateau by horseback or lifted by helicopter.

Part of the day spent in the vicinity of the Kaiparowits Plateau was used in appraising the Alveys Wash allotment on which the Bureau is considering livestock reduction. This area appears to lend itself to a 3-unit rest-rotation plan. This number of units can probably be established with 3 or 4 miles of fence. The area is heavily deteriorated but rest-rotation grazing probably can be started with the same number of livestock that have been grazed on the range for the last several years.

I would be glad to help develop management plans for the Kaiparowits and Alveys Wash areas.

Work plan for January 1967. I intend to concentrate on two main projects:

1. Range training guide. Finish revision of manuscript and send to Forest Service, Washington D. C. for publication.
2. Trend method. This is a research project started in 1960. Write up a procedure for appraising range trend under rest-rotation grazing.

ALHormay:ed

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December 30, 1966

Mr. Robert M. Hyde
Cooperative Extension Service
of Kansas State University
Waters Hall
Manhattan, Kansas 66502

Dear Bob:

I am preparing a range training guide which covers rest-rotation grazing and related material like that presented at Worland. The editor is about finished with the manuscript and I expect the guide to be published in two or three months. I will send you a copy.

Slides covering the highlights of rest-rotation grazing will be available to interested parties. Just how they will be provided will be determined by the time the guide is out. I will let you know.

I have not published anything on rest-rotation grazing since 1961. The coming guide will be the most comprehensive report on the subject to date.

Sincerely,

A. L. HORMAY
Range Conservationist

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