

AUGUST L. HORMAY
RANGE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

101 ACADIA STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94131

August 13, 1982

Mr. David Little
Post Office Box 68
Emmett, Idaho 83617

Dear Dave:

I am pleased with the results you are getting with rest-rotation grazing in the Emmett area and on the Boise Forest. I last saw some of the ranges we toured on my recent visit in July of 1979. There has been striking improvement in these ranges in this short period of time.

Medusa-head and cheatgrass on areas around Emmett are giving way to desirable perennials--squirreltail, giant wildrye, etc.--as fast as site conditions will permit. At the lower elevations responses in the Station Gulch Fields and at the higher elevations in the Webb Creek and Red Basin Fields have exceeded my expectations. It should give you a feeling of satisfaction that you are demonstrating a solution to a serious range problem that has baffled "range experts" to date.

You can expect Jim and Brad to come up with their own ideas on how to best apply rest-rotation grazing on the portions of the ranch for which they are now assuming responsibility. Their questions and comments indicate to me that they believe strongly in rest-rotation grazing and are striving to apply it in the most effective and practical manner possible. It will take time and adjustments to get down to steady smooth operations.

Following are my replies to some of the specific questions raised by Jim and Brad and also comments on other matters that came up during the trip.

SOUTH OF THE PAYETTE RIVER

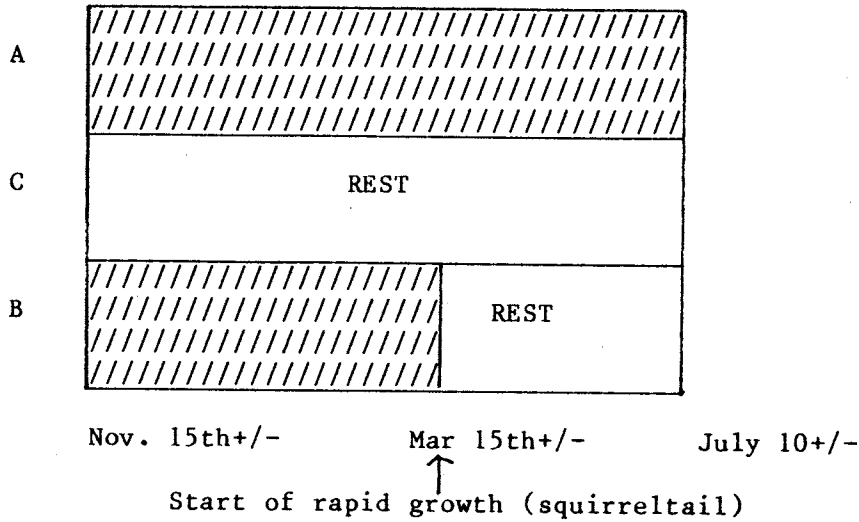
Brad

Proposal 1: Set up three new 3-pasture rest-rotation grazing systems involving fields in the present Tunnel, Black Canyon, Boehm, and Sand Hollow management areas as follows:

<u>System</u>	<u>Fields</u>
I	6, 7, 8
II	4, 5, 14
III	11, 12, 15

The 3-pasture grazing formula suggested by Brad:

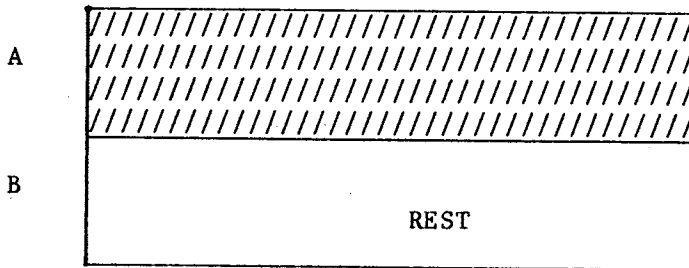
See next page.



Proposal 2. Set up an alternate grazing system involving fields in the present Tunnel and Black Canyon management areas.

3 Combine Fields 1 and 2 in Tunnel to form one pasture. Use Field in Black Canyon as the second pasture.

The grazing formula:



Alternate the grazing treatments, A and B, in the pastures from one year to the next.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

Proposal 1

The 3-pasture grazing system is good. The vegetation will be improved and maintained with it, provided grazing under treatment B is not continued after the start of rapid growth of squirreltail in springtime.

More of the vegetation is used under the 3-pasture system than under a 4-pasture system such as the one currently in use in Black Canyon, so greater livestock production may be expected with this system. However, there is less flexibility in management because of the lesser amount of old growth available during the winter grazing period.

The 3-pasture system may prove to be best under the circumstances. The pastures are in place so try it. The range will not be damaged.

Proposal 2

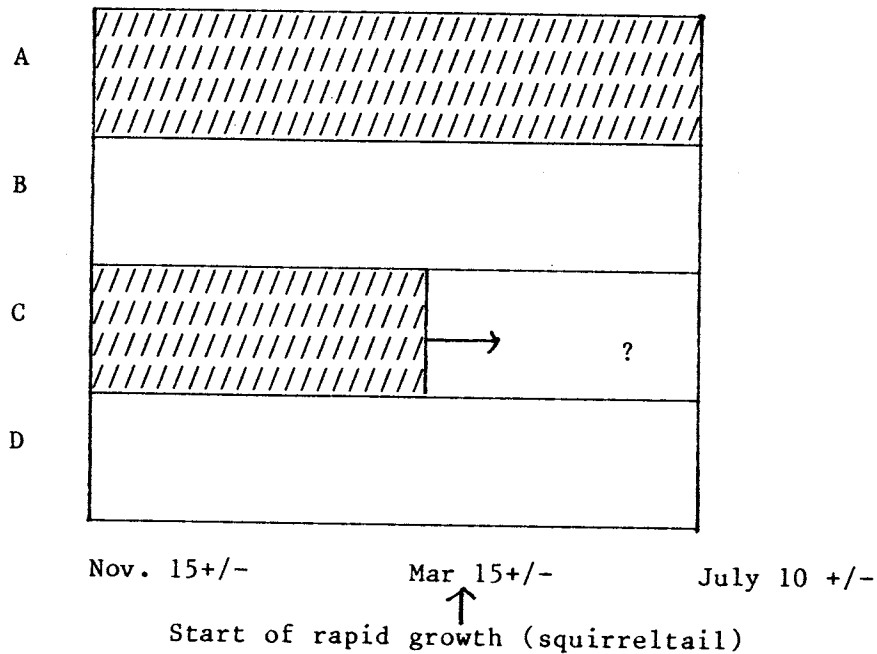
Not enough rest is provided in an alternate grazing system to maintain the vegetation. Maximum grazing capacity cannot be realized with this system. The range will slowly decline.

No great harm will be done by using the system temporarily for a few years until a way is found to set up either a 3- or 4-pasture system.

NORTH OF THE PAYETTE RIVER

1. Jim's proposal on the Long Hollow 4-pasture grazing system.

The formula for the system:



Proposal: Graze longer under treatment C into about the middle of April when other range is ready for use.

2. Jim's 1982 seeding.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

1. Long Hollow

Whether grazing into April under treatment C is harmful or not can be determined only by actual trial. If seedbeds form in squirreltail after grazing is terminated in April, the grazing is not harmful.

I suggest grazing as desired under treatment C and observing results. No irreparable damage to the range will result from several years of such use even if the use is somewhat harmful. The experience will provide guides to getting with better management.

2. 1982 Seeding

This appears to be an exceptionally successful seeding. Much can be learned from it that could be of value in future seedings in the area.

The seeding was planted too heavily and should be grazed at the earliest opportunity to thin it out--this fall, if feasible. Keep the grazing pressure on until the start of rapid growth in spring. It would be a good idea to fence off an acre or two of the seeding so development of the grazed and ungrazed stands can be observed.

BOISE FOREST RANGES

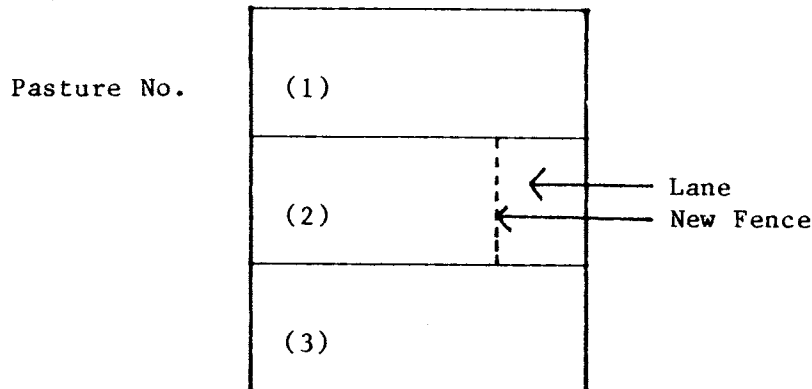
RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS

Bear Valley Allotment

A lane connection between the two outside (north and south) pastures on the allotment is needed to facilitate application of the grazing treatments and to reduce undue handling of livestock and possible reduction in weight gains.

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A likely location for the lane as discussed briefly in the field is on the east side of the allotment. See the diagram below.



The lane can be made part of pastures (1) or (3), wherever needed to best balance the grazing capacities of these two pastures.

RIPARIAN STUDIES

I appreciated the explanation by Dr. William Platts of the riparian type studies on the Bear Valley and Landmark grazing allotments and on the South Fork of the Salmon River nearby. These studies promise to yield information of much value in managing grazing on ranges encompassing riparian types such as these where fisheries as well as other values exist.

I am particularly interested in the studies on the South Fork of the Salmon where the effects of grazing by cattle under a 3-pasture rest-rotation grazing system and 4 levels of stocking on vegetation, stream channel and fish production are being appraised.

LANDMARK ALLOTMENT

I was taken back, to say the least, to hear that a 3-pasture rest-rotation grazing system of some 10 years standing on the Landmark Allotment was abandoned and replaced with a 2-pasture alternate grazing system. It is hard to understand what could possibly justify such a move.

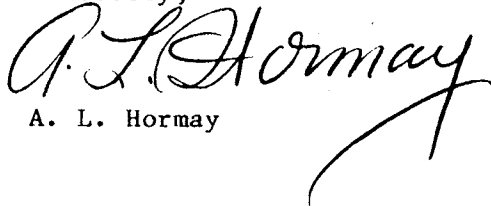
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The range cannot be maintained with an alternate grazing system under any practical stocking rate, however light. The merits or possible shortcomings of a 3-pasture rest-rotation grazing system are being determined at the present time practically on the allotment. Why have the results of these studies not been awaited?

I may not have answered all of the more important questions raised by you, Jim, and Brad. Please write me if I overlooked any and also if I can be of any further help at this time.

Enclosed is an invoice covering my recent services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. L. Hormay". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

A. L. Hormay

enclosure

Berkeley CA
Aug 16, 1982

Dear Don

You prepared quite an opus on the history of The Black Mt Experimental Forest. You covered more than I could assimilate in a quick once over. I feel it should be shorter. Considerable repetition would fall out by simply reorganizing the material in general following through on a major subject over time instead of spacing it out piecemeal chronologically. Attached is an outline indicating how this might be done.

Also a general suggestion —

Assume the reader knows little or nothing about forestry and California and does not know any of the people in your story.

I did not have time to read the manuscript carefully and check up on details. There will be time for that as the draft is edited. I think the broad suggestions I am making now will be more helpful to you as you strive to meet your deadline.

A copy of your outline with page numbers is enclosed for reference along with mine.

Gus

History of the Blacks Mt. Exp. Forest

1933 Through 1981

Gordon version

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ALH Outline

Berkeley CA
Aug 16, 1982

History of The Blacks Mountain Experimental Forest
1933 Through 1981
Donald T Gordon

A The Author

B Acknowledgments

I Introduction

A Thumbnail sketch of the history of BMEF covering all the important points brought out in the body of the manuscript.

Date established

Location

Forest type

Purpose

Research projects

Principal study - Unit Area Control F.M.

Brain child of Duncan Dunning

Personal history DD

Education, Forest Service

Date retired, died.

Highlights Unit Area Control Study

Methods of cutting plots

Methods of logging

Road system

Portable loader

etc.

①

History BMEF 1933 Through 1981 Gordon

I Introduction Cont'd.

- Period of logging activities
- Period of studies and status
- Principal results
- Research

Silviculture, forest management
 Logging methods
 etc.

II Before Our Time

- The Land (36-40) ↓
- Indians (13)
- Immigrants Place (14-16)
- Livestock Interests names (16-25)
- Timber Interests (25-29)
- The Lassen National Forest (29-33)

III Establishment BMEF (2-4)

- IV Establishment BM Branch Sta. (41-49)
- Purpose: Headquarters, researchers
 - FM BMEF & Swain Mt (82)
 - Entomology
 - Range management
 - Facilities
 - Period of use

↓ Page numbers Gordon outline, text.

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V The Susanville Research Center
& Redding Silvicultural Project (127-132)

VI Research and other activities
at The BMEF

Unit Area Control

Dunning's ideas, plans { (58-65)
(97-100)

Method of cutting plots (76-79)

Forest Inventory (50-52)

Compartment's, road system (52-56)

Insect Control (65-70)

Other research 1947, '48, '49 (92, 94-96)

Other activities

Tree planting (110-113)

Pruning (113-115)

Thinning (115-117)

Porcupine control (117-118)

Prescribed burning (133-135)

VII Logging activities

Western Pacific } Harold's -of- cutting study (76-79)
RR. Weave in } Getting started 1937 (70-74)
1938 (74-76)
1939-1947 (80-92)

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History BRIEF 1933 Through 1981

Gordon

VII Logging Activities Cont'd

Break in logging 1948-'49
1950-1960

(94-96)
(100-110)

VIII Logging related studies

Mill Study 1939
Cost Study 1943, 1944

(81)
(87, 88, 89)

IX Camp operations and
personnel 1943, '44, '45, '46, '47

(88, 89, 90
91, 93)

X Other Cuttings since 1960

Patterson Sale
Cone Sale
Blacks One
Blacks Two
Blacks Salvage
Patterson Salvage

(136-141)

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ALH outline

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(End)

AUGUST L. HORMAY
RANGE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

101 ACADIA STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94131

August 20, 1982

Rex Christenson, Area Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Salmon District Office
P. O. Box 430
Salmon, ID 83467

Dear Rex:

Thanks for showing Hugh Harper and me around the Morgan Creek Allotment this past July 16. Sorry I did not have time to see more of it. The tour up Darling Creek and across pasture 2 and into the upper reaches of Ellis Creek in pasture 3 gave me a good feel of the responses you are getting with rest-rotation grazing. I saw these portions of the allotment last in 1979. The vegetation cover has increased markedly.

There is little doubt that grazing capacity for livestock has increased substantially and that wildlife habitat has been enhanced. The bighorn sheep should be "happier." Most important, soil erosion is being controlled, resulting in better watershed conditions and increased land production capacity. There is room for still further improvement.

Larkspur poisoning will continue to be a problem on the allotment. The only way to avoid it is to keep the cattle off larkspur infested areas until the poison period is past. This means holding them on the lower portions of the pastures, mainly BLM, until sometime in July or later. Grazing on the forest before the latter part of July, or even early August in a late year like the present one, could be hazardous.

There may be enough grazing capacity on the lower ranges now to carry the cattle until the poison period is past. It appears that not all of the capacity is being realized. There is considerable feed on hillsides that is not being used, perhaps because of lack of water. Also, the cattle have been passing up a substantial amount of feed as they have grazed uphill in springtime.

Explore more closely possibilities for developing water on these ranges. Also salt the cattle low down as they are turned on to the range in springtime. Move salt uphill progressively with advance of season as the cattle clean out the forage in the areas they are grazing and push up hill. Hold them in check to the extent feasible and desirable by riding as well.

I want to compliment you and the permittees for following the grazing formula so closely. Stay with it and much more will be accomplished.

Sincerely,



A. L. Hormay