NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

CHAPTERS:

Bay Area
Del Norte
49er
High Sierra
Jedediah Smith
Monterey Bay
Mother Lode
Mt. Shasta
Peter Lassen
Redwood Coast
Sacramento-Tahoe
Southern San Joaquin
Wyntoon
Kings River College Student
Sierra College Student

119 Jewett Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

May 23, 1983

Mr. August Hormay
101 Acadia Street
San Francisco, CA 94131

Dear Mr. Hormay:

Enclosed please find a photo of you receiving the Golden Membership Award from SAF. This is for your personal use; I've mailed group photos for publication in the Journal and the local Newsletter.

I appreciate your attending the meeting on May 13, and the opportunity to meet you.

Sincerely,

Jere L. Melo/mm

Jere L. Melo
Chairman
Northern California SAF

JLM:mm
Encl.

cc: Paul Cox

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Helena Ranger District
301 S. Park - Drawer 10015
Helena, MT 59626

Reply to: 2230

Date: May 25, 1983

August Hormay
101 Acadia St.
San Francisco, CA 91341

Dear Gus,

I have enclosed a copy of the East-French Allotment Management Plan as you requested. I apologize for the delay in getting it to you.

I hope we can inspect the allotment with you once the system is in. I appreciate your interest and assistance in the project.

Sincerely,

Maury Archer
for MAURICE W. ANDING
District Ranger

MONTANA

DEPARTMENT OF

FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Helena, Montana 59620
May 27, 1983

Mr. Dick Cosgriff
Resource Area Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 1048
Dillon, MT 59725

Dear Cos:

Just a note to bring you up to date about the Wildlife Division's field trip to the Matador July 6, 7 and maybe the 8th, 1983.

Mr. Joe Wagenfehr has graciously volunteered some Forest Service (and perhaps BLM) vans to help us out with our transportation needs on the Matador. I will bring 5 vans from the state motor pool in Helena. There could be as many as 87-90 people attending. I imagine about 3 of your people will attend.

We have made arrangements to house and feed our division at Western Montana College. This invite is extended to you and the Forest Service people for meals (and sack lunch).

Gus Hormay has contacted you about this and I presume Mr. Cross of the Matador knows we are coming.

The BLM and the Matador people can certainly be proud of the operation on the Beaverhead Ranch.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Egan, Asst. Administrator
Wildlife Division

JLE:kc

cc: J. Wagenfehr
G. Hormay

AUGUST L. HORMAY
RANGE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

101 ACADIA STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94131

May 31, 1983

Joseph L. Egan
Assistant Administrator
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Wildlife Division
Helena, Mt 59601

Dear Joe:

The title of your March 31, 1983 draft of the article for the Great Plain's handbook leads me, a rancher or farmer, to believe I will get enough information on rest-rotation grazing out of the handbook to practice it. I'd expect this from a handbook but as you are keenly aware rest-rotation grazing can't be packaged this way.

I suggest changing the title to something like "Improving wildlife habitat with rest-rotation grazing" even though it is redundant. This will direct attention to the other part of your story and make getting into details on rest-rotation grazing less compelling.

Just acquaint the reader with rest-rotation grazing. Outline its "basic features" as you put it - its underlying principles, general form, how it is applied and what is accomplished with it. Refer, as you have, to my publication for details. As often as you can, relate rest-rotation effects to wildlife habitat and wildlife.

Write in your inimitable style for comprehension by the rancher and farmer for whom the handbook is primarily intended. Avoid scientific lingo and high sounding words. To the rancher or farmer, plants replenish their food supply not their "energy requirements." I would not use the first illustration. The term "energy transfer" baffles me. Looks like electrocution.

Although hard to do refrain from getting into details. Avoid dealing with grazing formulas, grazing treatments, grazing schedules, pasture layouts etc.

I would omit the illustration on pasture layout. The rest of the illustrations are good. The last one is a prize; I just "love" it.

Following are some thoughts you may find useful in preparing the final draft:

Wildlife Habit

Describe its make up briefly
Vegetation, water, etc
Prime habitat areas
Riparian, meadows, etc

Vegetation

Most important component of habitat - food, shelter, etc.

Abundance and kinds of plants determine the abundance and kinds of wildlife on an area.

Controls soil erosion and land production capacity.

Vegetation deterioration

On the Great Plains (and throughout the West) vegetation heavily deteriorated by continuous year in - year out grazing by livestock.

Desirable plants - bluegrama, western wheatgrass, porcupine grass and bluestem weakened and killed out over large areas.

Undesirable plants - sagebrush, rabbit brush, fringe sage, prickly pear and club moss have invaded and taken their place.

The result - wildlife habitat deteriorated, grazing capacity for livestock reduced, soil erosion increased, the quality of the environment degraded.

Continuous grazing still practiced on most ranges both public and private, on the Great Plains and throughout the West today. The vegetation is continuing to deteriorate with increasingly serious consequences.

There is need for a grazing method that will prevent further deterioration of the vegetation and effect its improvement.

Such a method has been developed. It is called rest-rotation grazing. It is a proven method. Results with it can be observed on ranges throughout the West. The key element is timely resting of the range from use. Rest-rotation grazing involves use of pastures. Operation of a 3-pasture system will be described later.

Need for rest

It is important to know that the plant makes its own food in its leaves when the leaves are green. If the leaves are grazed off at this time the plant can't make food so it dies.

However the plant stores some of the food it makes each year in its roots, and stems as well in the case of a woody plant, for future use. It stores enough to last several years. With continuous grazing reserves are exhausted in time and the plant dies. Each year the plant gets smaller and weaker and finally succumbs, literally of starvation.

The plant is weakened but does not die with a year or two of use. It can be restored to full size and vigor and increased in abundance with timely resting from use. This is the fundamental basis of rest-rotation grazing.

With this method of grazing the range is rested from use objectively to:

1. Allow plants time to make and store food - to recover size and vigor.
2. Allow seed to ripen.
3. Allow seedlings to become established.

The vegetation is improved and maintained with these measures.

Pastures and systems

To practice rest-rotation grazing the range has to be divided into pastures. Some of these are grazed and others rested each year.

The number of pastures needed depends on the season of use, green period (summer) or dormant period (winter) and the kinds of plants on the range and their growth requirements. These conditions vary from range to range so the number of pastures may vary. A specific grazing system including a certain number of pastures is developed for each range separately.

Formulation of a sound practical system requires knowledge of plant growth requirements, rest-rotation grazing principles, and most important, experience with applying systems on the ground.

Plant requirements are much the same from area to area so some systems have wide application.

A system for the Great Plains

The following 3-pasture system has general application on summer ranges throughout the Great Plains Region.

The three pastures are grazed and rested in a given year as follows:

1. At the beginning of the grazing season all the livestock to be grazed on the range are put in one of the pastures, pasture 1.
2. At seed-ripe time, about mid season, the stock are moved from pasture 1 to a second pasture, pasture 2, and grazed there until the end of the grazing season.
3. The third pasture, pasture 3 is rested from use season long.

The grazing plan is exceedingly simple. Two pastures are grazed and one is rested each year. Different pastures are grazed and rested from one year to the next. Livestock are allowed to graze freely in the pastures without restraint. They are disturbed by handling but once a season when moved between pastures.

With this as with all rest-rotation grazing systems the vegetation is improved to site capacity resulting in enhancement of wildlife, livestock grazing and all other renewable resource values.

Results with this 3-pasture system may be observed here in Montana on the Matador Cattle Allotment on the Dillon Resource Area of the Bureau of Land Management, some 40 miles south of Dillon.

I urge you to visit this range.

Sincerely,

A. L. Hormay

ALH/pbs