



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ALTURAS RESOURCE AREA

P.O. Box 771
Alturas, California 96101

(C-027)
4120

[1988, July]

Dear Gus:

The Alturas Resource Area is initiating an Integrated Management Plan for the Tule Lake Allotment. This plan is a major planning effort that was developed within the Productivity Pilot Project concepts of testing new innovative approaches to improve efficiency, productivity and improving on-the-ground management capabilities.

We are implementing the following innovative processes in the Tule Lake Integrated Plan:

1. Managing private lands in concert with the Federal lands.
2. Development and use of a Riparian Steering Committee made up of user group and environmental representatives.
3. Integrated Resource Activity Planning Process.

Rex Cleary, Susanville District Manager, has mentioned that you have developed a monitoring method that you are still developing in Harvey Valley. Under the concepts of the Pilot Productivity Project, we would like to test your monitoring method in the Tule Lake Allotment.

We are providing the allotment history, grazing season information, information on our planning process, a memo regarding a visit you made to the allotment in 1969 and a quick evaluation of our present monitoring system for you to look at to see if your monitoring method might be suitable for testing in this effort. If you feel this monitoring method is applicable to this area we would like to field discuss its applicability and whether you are interested in helping us.

We are very interested in your monitoring system and look forward to hearing from you. If you need any additional information from us, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

Richard J. Drehobl
Richard J. Drehobl
Area Manager

Attachments

Carolyn Fraser conducted an interview with you and prepared this copy for our firm. On behalf of our client, The Dow Chemical Company, we want to thank you for your time and cooperation in this effort.

Please call us COLLECT at (303) 229-0352 if you have any corrections to the copy. Please sign the release form and return it in the enclosed envelope. It is not necessary to return the document to us. Thank you again.

1 From.....->

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AG WEST JOURNALISM
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4 Date.....->
5 Computer Code.....->

July, 1988
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6 Company.....->
7 District.....->
8 Crop/Livestock Emphasis....->
9 Area Covered in Article....->
10 Target Publication(s).....->

The Dow Chemical Company
Billings
Noxious Weeds
Montana
MONTANA STOCKGROWER

Please CALL COLLECT to (303) 229-0352 with your corrections IMMEDIATELY and then RETURN the SIGNED release form in the enclosed, stamped envelope provided. It is not necessary to return the proof copy to us. Thank you.

11 Al L. "Gus" Hormay
12 Range Management Consultant,
13 BLM and Forest Service
14 San Francisco, California

15 Using nature to control weeds and increase grass production
16 is Al "Gus" Hormay's specialty in range management.

17 Hormay, San Francisco, CA, is a range consultant for the
18 Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service. Speaking at
19 the recent Montana Stockgrowers annual convention, Great Falls,
20 MT, his grazing scheme was received with enthusiasm by state cat-
21 tlemen.

22 "Why do all of you want more grass?" he asked the crowd.
23 "Because more grass means more livestock, more wildlife, more
24 fish...everyone is interested in more vegetation."

25 Hormay says a conversion from grass to brush, mostly in the
26 form of sagebrush, is evident throughout the northwest, and this
27 is due to livestock grazing. "There has been a hoof track on
over 800 million acres of land, and all of that land has been

1 grazed," he says. And, as a result of grazing, the condition of
2 soil is depleted. "As the soil depletes further, brush, then
3 trees, tend to move in. Trees can grow where the grass can't, in
4 shallow soil, soil that is lost when the grass is depleted."

5 "The average soil depth in the western part of the United
6 States is 1 1/2 feet and once that soil is lost, it will take 17
7 to 20,000 years before it rebuilds. We are still losing soil and
8 I'm telling you, if you want to stay in business, we have to put
9 a stop to the loss. The worst enemy a nation can have is the
10 loss of soil," Hormay explained.

11 Conventional thinking today is that overgrazing is caused by
12 too many livestock on the range, Hormay says, but he disagrees.
13 "Overgrazing is caused by grazing too many times."

14 Grass has the ability to store enough food for several
15 years, and one year of overgrazing will not kill grass. But, if
16 the top is removed regularly, ultimately that plant will die. If
17 a pasture is grazed continuously without relief, the vegetation
18 cover is gradually thinned out," Hormay said.

19 The range specialist's solution to protecting rangeland is
20 to give pasture a chance to recover, to restore nutrients needed
21 for sustenance. "You can graze a pasture down to the ground if
22 you give it a chance to restore. If that vegetation is to in-
23 crease, you have to wait until the plants produce seeds before
24 you graze it. Resting the pasture maintains existing vegetation
25 and also builds the vegetative cover."

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1 Hormay suggests rotation through three pastures. The first
2 pasture is used for early grazing, the first half of the season.
3 The second pasture is grazed, after the grass has gone to seed,
4 through the last half of the season; and the third pasture rests
5 for two successive years.

6 This method of rotation grazing succeeds, Hormay says. He
7 explains that grass in the first pasture, grazed early, is
8 prevented from producing nutrients and must be rested two years
9 in succession. The second pasture, grazed late in the season, is
10 not deprived of producing food. The vegetation remains undamaged
11 and livestock will trample the seed into the ground which is very
12 beneficial in aiding vegetation increase. The third pasture
13 rests to restore vigor and establish seedlings, which requires
14 one year of protection.

15 "Rotation of this kind maintains vigor in the vegetation,
16 provides for seed, and protects the seedling," he says.

17 Additionally, Hormay stresses the importance of using live-
18 stock to help rebuild vegetative cover. "I have seen a pasture
19 that has been rested since 1934 and there has been no increase in
20 the density of vegetation. The trampling of seed is very impor-
21 tant and plants that are grazed are more vigorous. Grazing is
22 also beneficial in removing old growth that stifles plants. Un-
23 der rest/rotation grazing, only one year's growth is allowed to
24 accumulate."

25 Hormay also says the response a pasture has to rest/rotation
26 grazing depends on the condition of the soil. "Where the soil is

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1 not deteriorated, the vegetation will recover rapidly," he says,
2 "but where the soil is deteriorated, it may take a long time."

3 Cattlemen may also speed the process of restoring vegetation
4 by reducing competition and increasing plant numbers by seeding,
5 but the results are temporary. "I have used chemicals to reduce
6 the amount of weeds and the results were good, but temporary,"
7 Hormay says. "I sprayed sagebrush and the grass grew more
8 vigorously as a result of reduced competition. In fact, the
9 grass grew with increased vigor and volume, at a high level, for
10 about six to eight years, but the sage gradually came back and
11 reduced the grass back to the level before spraying."

12 "The soil dictates what will grow in the end," Hormay con-
13 cludes. "It is very important not to allow soil to continue to
14 deteriorate; cover it with any kind of vegetation or it will be
15 lost."

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7/6/88

Gus:

Sorry about being so late!!

But you know how it is.

I've missed you the last couple
times you been to MONTANA -

Maybe you will get out here
again this year to look at

the MATADOR Area, Hope this
finds you in good health

JACK Schield

P.S. The country looks good here in SW
MONTANA, but our Springs are
getting weak!



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Southwest
Region

Regional Office
630 Sansome Street
San Francisco, CA 94111

Reply To: 2200

Date: July 12, 1988

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

Dear Gus:

In January, 1988, a task group was assembled to develop improved targets and output measurements for the Range Management Program. This task was in response to one of the findings of the Forest Service's National Range Workshop Report, "Changing times, Changing Values...New Directions."

The Task Group's objectives were to define the range resource management job and associated outputs to more accurately portray, both to administrators and to the public, the scope of range vegetation management; and to recommend specific measurements for incorporation into a variety of formats for planning, budgeting, and progress reporting purposes.

Basically, the Task Group recommends that the tasks and outputs of range managers be summarized in five broad areas: Range vegetation management, riparian vegetation management, grazing administration, noxious farm weed management, and wild horse and burro management. Riparian vegetation is separated for emphasis only. Three measures are proposed to describe the condition of range vegetation: (1) acres meeting Forest Plan objectives, (2) acres moving toward Forest Plan objectives, and (3) acres not meeting Forest Plan objectives. All are developed with a broader view of range management in mind, one that goes beyond traditional forage and livestock benefits to include a full range of vegetation values.

I have enclosed a copy of the draft report for your review. Also enclosed are two additional papers that relate the proposed measures to the current budget structure. We would appreciate any pertinent comments you may wish to make on the proposal. These comments should be sent to me by August 12, 1988, and we will forward them to Washington.

Questions concerning any of enclosed material should be directed to Terrence Cox. (415) 556-9313.

Sincerely,

ANDREW A. LEVEN
Assistant Regional Forester for
Range and Watershed Management

Enclosures



7/14/88

Dear Gus,

I have been hesitant to approach you for a favor knowing how busy you are for one thing, and recalling how Dean Swickard was so brutal to you years ago for another. I've always felt guilty about that. But if you saw it useful to you (to get the best consideration of your monitoring technique, we have an outstanding situation to push it -

I have resisted asking you for anything until I was absolutely certain I had a crew that absolutely wanted you. I have that now. The Alburys Resource Area crew in its entirety want you. I queried each one individually to make sure.

Rich Drachold mentions the Productivity Pilot Project which you don't know about. It's simply that Susannah District is one of 4 BLM Districts that have been named bureauwide to ~~to~~ experiment with creative

ways to increase productivity. So we have considerable latitude to deviate from the norm, and we have national attention on the results of what we try.

Then, everyone recognizes that range monitoring is one of our nightmares. Everything we try inevitably gets so complicated it collapses of its own weight, and we still don't get the right info.

And finally we have this Title 38 allotment that you worked on a little years ago. And we have a 13 member Steering Committee (list enclosed) of high calibre people helping us.

I sincerely feel it is an uncommonly rare set of circumstances that make it an unusually good opportunity. An opportunity to apply the monitoring technique

(3)

you've told me about
a few times that
you're still developing.

As you've described it,
I think it could solve the
Bureau's problems in large
measure - and here
is the place to give it
the exposure & test.

Well all like to do it
Gus. What do you think?

And again, I hesitate
to ask knowing how
overcommitted you are -
but if you had a little
time, everyone would like
your counsel on the
grading system for Tule
Lake allotment too.

Let me know what
you think - And let me
know if I can furnish you
some help w/ your Harvey
Valley ~~land~~ plots.

And let me know when
you reschedule the Adin
presentation for the F.S.

I'm sorry to hear about the
death in your family. Best, Rex