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August 9, 1990

Andrew A. Leven, Assistant Regional Forester
Range and Watershed Management
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
630 Sansome Street
San Francisco, CA 94111

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Dear Andy,

I went to Susanville, Monday, July 9, 1990, to start working on my studies. Tuesday I went to the field with George Marsters, Lassen, to size up conditions on the study areas. We looked at the Poison Lake allotment, the bitterbrush plots and a portion of the Harvey Valley allotment. We did not have time to look at the logging study areas on the Burgess Spring Experimental Range.

Wednesday forenoon, I met with Dave Jones, Daryl Smith?, Bob Andrews and George Marsters of the Lassen and Peter Clark and Jim Stout in the forest office. We discussed my studies briefly dwelling mainly on the Harvey Valley project.

In the afternoon the group together with Jay Dow Harvey Valley permittee, two officers from the Tahoe and one from the Modoc made a short trip to the field. We looked at the bitterbrush plots and a portion of pasture 1 on Harvey Valley. Here I showed them vegetation responses with rest-rotation grazing and with no grazing inside an exclosure (#2). On the way off the allotment we looked at watershed work by the Lassen in Big Harvey Valley. Peter can fill you in on what transpired this day.

The following day, Thursday, I went to Harvey Valley with two college students, Joe and Bruce, provided by the Lassen and started working on taking photographs of my transect plots. I found some of the steel transect marker posts down or gone. Some of the steel rebar quadrat stakes were heaved out of the ground, others were buried out of sight. Most leaned at an angle and were not at proper height. It was necessary to reset practically all stakes before I could take photographs.

Consequently, I took few photographs this trip. The transect posts, about 200, and quadrat stakes over 2000 will have to be reset before I can go on with photography and measurements. I worked through Sunday with the boys on photographs and other matters.

I tried to check the status of fences around my 7 livestock exclosures. I could not reach three of them #3, 4 & 7 because of road conditions. I examined the other four #1, 2, 5 & 6. The fences around 1 and 2 were up, but they are old and insecure. They should be replaced. The fences around 5 and 6 were taken down and not rebuilt. Here the transect posts and quadrat stakes inside the exclosures were pulled out and taken away. I can't understand this. Perhaps George Marsters can explain. These priceless plots should be reestablished if at all possible.

I could not get around Harvey Valley easily or at all in some situations because of torn up roads. I can't see what good has come from obliterating them. Harvey Valley is a demonstration area. It appears the Forest Service is suggesting this be done on other areas.

I know this road work is part of a watershed improvement project. I don't see what was accomplished here however. The watershed work does not seem to be well thought out and planned.

When the group was on Harvey Valley Wednesday, Jay Dow expressed concern that he may not be allowed to graze in the rested pasture should water or forage run out in the other pastures before the end of the season. George Marsters painted a bleak picture of the water supply. He told the group he estimated there was only about a 45 day supply of water in the pasture to be grazed the second half of the season. He said that White Horse Reservoir in the pasture and the spring below it were dry. I found a substantial amount of water in the reservoir and the spring flowing at a good rate. He told us there was little water in the rested pasture, that Burgess Spring the main source was dry. I found water flowing strongly more than 100 yards below the spring. I don't understand George.

Jay should be allowed to graze in all pastures this year one after another as water or forage runs out. This flexibility in management is a key feature of rest-rotation grazing. It is brought into play with subnormal conditions.

My studies are going to take much more of my time than I thought. I can't take time away from my business to carry them on now. One project I am working on currently is the Brewer Ranch Properties mentioned in *Trail Boss* attached. I am preparing the grazing plan for this ranch for the Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks. The Department is sold on rest-rotation grazing for the benefits to wildlife.

With this letter I am resigning as a volunteer but will get back to my studies from time to time as I can. It is regrettable I was not provided an assistant during my research career.

Sincerely,



August L. Hormay
ALH/pw
Enclosure



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Lassen
National
Forest

Eagle Lake Ranger District
55 So. Sacramento Street
Susanville, California 96130
(916) 257-2151

Reply to: 2230

Date: August 31, 1990

Don Dow
711-775 Sears Road
Janesville, CA 96114

Dear Don:

We recently inspected the Harvey Valley Allotment and found the utilization levels in key areas in the two units that currently being grazed such as Burgess, Whitehorse, and Logan Springs, exceeding recommended levels for maintaining long term plant vigor and acceptable riparian conditions. We would like for you to move all of your livestock into the third field as soon as possible and close the gates into the first two units to prevent livestock movement back into grazed portions of the allotment. Moving your livestock into the third unit in this drought situation is consistent with Gus Hormay's recommendations.

As you know, our goals are to monitor your allotment, along with the others within the Pine Creek watershed and the rest of the district for utilization, condition, and trend over the forthcoming years to accurately determine proper stocking levels. In this fourth year of drought, we are finding in your allotment and most others, that the areas close to water sources have far exceeded proper use levels. We hope to talk with you this winter about how we can achieve better distribution especially if these dry conditions continue.

We hope that these drought conditions will not persist into the next season and appreciate your cooperation with this request.

Sincerely,

ROBERT W. ANDREWS
District Ranger



Jay S. Dow, Jr.
726-200 Mapes Rd.
Wendel, CA 96136

September 7, 1990

Mr. Bob Andrews, District Ranger
Eagle Lake District, Lassen National Forest
55 South Sacramento Street
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Bob,

With regards to your letter of August 31st (2230), I feel there are several points I must respond to. First and foremost is the issue of utilization levels in key areas. As was explained by Gus Hormay, earlier this summer on our visit to Harvey Valley, proper use criteria are not used as an indicator of when livestock should be moved or removed from the range. Under the proper Rest Rotation formula "seed ripe time" and adequate forage for the livestock are the primary considerations. Furthermore, your letter indicated utilization levels in the Burgess area exceeds recommended levels. This area is in the ungrazed unit, therefore I don't understand your rationale for proper utilization.

Second, your statement that you wish all of the cattle moved from the first two grazing units into the third and the gates closed is inconsistent with the Rest rotation formula. I agree that, due to low available forage and poor distribution of livestock water, it is necessary to allow the cattle into the ungrazed pasture. This is certainly consistent with the Rest Rotation concept. However, the gates should not be closed behind the livestock when moved into subsequent fields.


Also, as the permittees, we should have been involved in your decision making process which led to your letter. I have been in Harvey Valley several times recently on horseback. Based on my observations on September 1st, I feel it is time to allow the cattle into the 3rd pasture. Due to limited stock water in the 3rd field it is necessary to distribute some of the cattle at the water sites. However, all of the gates between pastures should remain open.

Don and I both feel that due to its long history, the Harvey Valley Rest Rotation Demonstration Range is a valuable resource and should be preserved.

We think it is important to strictly follow the system as set forth by Gus Hormay. We don't think it appropriate that district personnel should recommend changing the Rest Rotation System in

Harvey Valley based on personal prejudices and opinions formed from brief exposure to the system. It was my understanding, from our trip to Harvey Valley this summer, the Lassen National Forest as well as the Regional Office were committed to maintaining the Rest Rotation System in Harvey Valley as a demonstration unit indefinitely. We certainly hope this position hasn't changed.

Sincerely,



Jay S. Dow, Jr.

cc: Gus Hormay
Peter Clark
Dave Jones