

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Pacific Southwest  
Forest and Range  
Experiment Station

2400 Washington Ave  
Redding, CA 96001

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Reply To: 4100

Date: October 3, 1990

Mr. August L. Hormay  
101 Acadia St.  
San Francisco, CA 94131

Dear Mr. Hormay:

As you are doubtless aware, the Forest Service has been examining many of its management practices as a result of criticism by various activist groups. We at the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station's Silviculture Laboratory in Redding have begun re-examining the efficacy of uneven-aged management, after nearly 30 years of research devoted primarily to even-aged systems. Our major source of immediate information is the methods-of-cutting experiment at the Blacks Mountain Experimental Forest. Because you worked on this study, we thought that you would be interested in knowing of our renewed interest in it.

You will recall that a block of four to six 20-acre plots were installed each year from 1938 through 1947. Various cutting methods removed different amounts of the merchantable sawtimber. A clearcut and a control treatment were often included, as well. Enclosed is a copy of a study plan that Leroy Dolph of our staff compiled from various file sources which gives a detailed description of the installations. If you find errors, omissions, or can contribute any additional information, we would appreciate learning of them.

The plots were 100 percent inventoried before and immediately after treatment and 5 years later. Because of the prodigious amounts of labor and money required, subsequent inventories at 10 and 20 years were restricted to the sawtimber component only. In the 1960's, we attempted to analyze results after the 20-year inventory but were unable to draw any useful conclusions because we had information on only a portion of the stand. This year, about 50 years after the study began, we are again inventorying the plots---both the sawtimber and the pole components. Our six-person crew has completed five blocks. Next summer we plan to complete the task.

We expect the 50-year record of growth and yield to significantly advance our understanding of the efficacy of uneven-aged management in the eastside pine type. But the study will yield much more. We are gathering data on rates of snag recruitment, their use by cavity nesting birds, and snag longevity. Also, we are estimating rates of decay of the down logs, their contribution to soil fertility, and we are attempting to show that this increased fertility is manifested in greater tree growth. After the remeasurements are completed, we expect to apply new treatments. We have not yet decided upon specific

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treatments but they will include several that are designed for purposes other than maximizing wood production. Some of the possibilities are listed below.

Uneven-Aged Management

Classic Uneven-aged Management

Individual Tree Selection - treating all size classes, "Q" Factor etc.

Group Selection (Unit Area Control?)

Economic Selection (loggers's selection, "pick and pluck", etc.)

Managing for Various Other Ecological Values

Enhancing habitats for wildlife (single species or group of species)

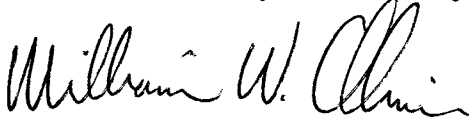
Old-Growth Stand Structure and Forest Floor

Even-Aged Management

Present Practices (overstory removal, improvement cut in commercial-sized young growth, and thinning with feller/buncher)

Clear-Cut and Plant - with and without coarse woody debris

I am sending this letter to Austin Hasel, Marius DeMeyer, Bill Hallin, Al Simontacchi, Dave Tackle, and Don Gordon also. If you know any others who were involved with the study in the early days, I would appreciate knowing of them. We hope to have this years remeasurements analyzed this winter and I would be pleased to send you a summary of the results if you wish.



William W. Oliver  
Project Leader

cc: A. A. Hasel  
D. Gordon  
M. DeMeyer  
W.E. Hallin  
D. Tackle  
A. Simontacchi

enclosure

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GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59404



Mr. Gus HORMAY  
101 ACADIA ST.  
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DEAR GUS

THE RANGE will be in bookstores in the U.S. and  
Canada in November. I'll be sending you an early  
complimentary copy in appreciation of your part in it.

With Thanks  
*Sherm Ewing*

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