

[1961, JAN 9]

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING  
CONCERNING THE HARVEY VALLEY RANGE ALLOTMENT  
LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST

Events of the past few months have pointed to the need for a statement of mutual understanding concerning the handling of the Harvey Valley range allotment which can serve as a guide for all parties concerned. The following paragraphs set forth in some detail procedures and responsibilities mutually agreeable to all which will be followed through the foreseeable future except as amendments are required and concurred in by all concerned.

Historical: About 1951 it was verbally agreed by and between the Lassen Forest, the R-5 Division of Range Management and the then California Forest & Range Experiment Station that the principal of rest-rotation grazing management, developed through research at the Burgess Spring Experimental Range, be applied for test and demonstration purposes on the Harvey Valley range allotment. Accordingly numerous surveys of vegetation and soil types were made and a grazing plan developed for the allotment. The allotment was divided by fences into five units of approximately equal grazing capacity in accordance with the grazing plan. All available dollars were diverted to this allotment for fences, water developments, corrals, scales, and cultural range improvements. The grazing plan was tied to the five units and the 515 animal units permitted on the allotment. One cycle of the plan is shown in the following block. Long-term application called for repeating the grazing treatments through several cycles.

Year	Units				
	I	II	III	IV	V
1	Rest	Rest	300	200	Rest
	Rest	400	100	Rest	Rest
2	Rest	Rest	Rest	300	200
	400	Rest	Rest	100	Rest
3	Rest	200	Rest	Rest	300
	Rest	Rest	400	Rest	100
4	200	300	Rest	Rest	Rest
	Rest	100	Rest	400	Rest
5	300	Rest	200	Rest	Rest
	100	Rest	Rest	Rest	400

Further general and still verbal agreements set forth the responsibility of the Forest for administration and management of the allotment, of the Station for design and conduct of vegetation, livestock, and other studies to produce needed information, and of the R. O. to provide management and improvement funds as rapidly as possible to develop the allotment and bring full-scale application of the grazing system. It was also agreed that the R. O. and Forest would help with the study phase in the amount of \$1,000 annually or the equivalent in manpower. After a short period this became a burden on the R. O. and Forest and the Station failed to match this contribution so the arrangement was discontinued. Also, too much dependence on the

Station for decisions in management developed because of A. L. Hornay's long association with and intimate knowledge of the allotment and the grazing plan which he developed.

These factors combined with numerous other items and situations resulted in deviations from the plan. The magnitude of these deviations and their effect on the Harvey Valley test-demonstration were not fully realized until early in 1960. A meeting of Region, Forest and Station representatives was held early in 1960 to face the situation and correct the weaknesses shown by past experience. The meeting and the decisions reached are covered in E. R. Doman's memo of March 28, 1960.

General:

Primarily the Harvey Valley test-demonstration is being conducted because all concerned parties are interested in and recognize the need for the development, testing and application of improved range management practices. It is the intent to conduct said test-demonstration in as practicable a manner as possible in accordance with Forest Service regulations and in keeping with arrangements and agreements between the Forest and the permittee and so far as feasible without undue inconvenience to the permittee. It is recognized that the success of this venture requires the application of planned grazing schedules tempered as required by critical situations brought about by severe drought, fire or other uncontrollable influences. Success also depends upon careful attention to all management aspects of the allotment as well as close cooperation and thorough discharge of responsibilities by all concerned. It is recognized, too, that the permittee's part in this activity is a contribution over and above that usually made toward the administration and management of a National Forest grazing allotment.

Agreements:

I. The Forest, acting through the Bogard District Ranger will have full responsibility for administration and management of the Harvey Valley allotment. The objective of these activities will be (1) to provide grazing for the permitted livestock under approved, applicable policies, regulations and rules of the Forest Service (this includes determination of grazing season, opening and closing date annually, development of aids to livestock distribution such as salting, water, fences, etc. and all other managerial aspects of the allotment), and (2) to apply the rest-rotation grazing plan as herein outlined for an indefinite period (at least for 9 years after 1960).

II. The Station, now the Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, acting through its Division of Range Management and Wildlife Habitat Research will have full responsibility for determining the response of the range and the livestock under rest-rotation grazing management. This includes design and conduct of needed studies, compilation, analysis, and interpretation of resulting data, and the reporting of findings which indicate the value of the grazing system, degree of success of the test or other aspects which have widespread interest and value.

III. The Regional Office, R-5, working through the Division of Range and Wildlife Management, will provide over-all supervision of the test-demonstration and allot funds needed to carry out the administration and management of the allotment. The Regional Office will also cooperate in other phases whenever possible and cooperate in the extension and public relations phases of the program.

IV. The permittees (Roney Brothers of Chico) will carry out the terms of their grazing preference as agreed with the Forest and the Ranger District under appropriate, applicable policies, regulations, rules and procedures of

the Forest Service. This includes handling of the livestock upon entry, at departure, and for distribution as well as certain amounts of fence maintenance, salting, care of watering facilities, and water management and other duties recognized as a part of the allotment management. In addition, by prior agreement and under the terms of this statement the permittees will permit the weighing, for study purposes, of sample groups of their cattle and will accept assistance from other interested parties in completing these activities.

V. Mutual responsibilities. Operation of a large-scale test such as Harvey Valley inevitably involves unexpected situations and requires decision making without benefit of previous experience or prolonged study. The following items will facilitate the management of Harvey Valley, outline future procedures and ease the permittees' concern over critical situations.

1. The Harvey Valley rest-rotation grazing system has a built-in safeguard against drought. The last two years (1959-60) have brought this feature into play. Usually only three units are planned for grazing. Of the remaining two, one receives rest the first half of the following year and the other is rested in the second half of that year after moderate grazing. As a policy during extremely dry or drought years it is agreed that a fourth unit (the one to be rested the first half of the following year) will be grazed as needed, and that in extremely adverse situations all five units will be grazed. For the following 10 years, the three units planned for grazing are tabulated below with a fourth and fifth unit specified in the order in which they shall be grazed in case of drought or other critical situations.

Year	Planned units	First call extra	Second call extra
1961	1, 3, 5	2	4
1962	2, 3, 4	1	5
1963	1, 4, 5	3	2
1964	2, 3, 5	4	1
1965	1, 2, 4	5	3
1966	1, 3, 5	2	4
1967	2, 3, 4	1	5
1968	1, 4, 5	3	2
1969	2, 3, 5	4	1
1970	1, 2, 4	5	3

During critical years the date on which grazing is allowed in the extra units or other deviations from the plan are made, will be set by mutual concurrence of the District Ranger, the permittee, and a Station representative, backed by whatever useful information the Station may have on herbage production, range use, and cattle weights. It is hoped that this date will never be reached prior to mid-season but in every case it should be considered in conjunction with the mid-season roundup and shift of cattle to minimize handling and extra work for the permittee so far as practicable.

2. Location, one to the others, of the Harvey Valley range units precludes the movement of cattle at entry date, at midseason, and at season end, without traversing units already grazed or designed

for resting. It is necessary too at mid and end of the season to use one or more units for holding areas. This is due to the size of the units and difficulty of rounding up in them. Planned use of some units is thus unavoidably exceeded every year. This can be avoided by moving at mid-season sufficiently ahead of the half-way point to allow for the anticipated later use. For example, in 1961 units 1, 3, and 5 are scheduled to be grazed--unit 1 with 300 the first half, 100 the last--unit 3 with 200 the first half only--unit 5 with 400 the last half only. The 200 slated for unit 3 will go through unit 1 upon entry. If this takes a day, the 200 to go from unit 1 to unit 5 at mid-season should be moved a day early to compensate this use. If all 400 are to be dumped from unit 5 into unit 3 at season-end for a day, the first half season in unit 3 should be shortened by 2 days to compensate. If the 400 spend another day in unit 1 on the way out, first half season grazing should be further shortened in unit 1 by 2 days to compensate. Therefore, next year if units 1 and 3 are used as indicated in the movement of cattle, the first half of the season should be shortened by 3 days for unit 1 and by 2 days for unit 3 to equalize seasonlong use according to the plan. A similar adjustment should be made each year by the Ranger and Permittee on the units concerned.

3. For the reasons set forth in the previous section, the small holding area located in the southern end of unit 1 receives a good

deal of use annually and because it was originally laid out as a part of unit 1, this use has drastically distorted the picture of use in unit 1. This area should be considered as a special use holding field and its acreage and grazing capacity deducted from the totals for unit 1. This field can and should be used, with control, in connection with entry gathering, holding, and moving cattle and as a saddle horse pasture.

4. The four small holding fields located around the corral at Dixie Spring, were constructed to facilitate the holding of cattle intended for weighing following uniform treatment, at the start, mid-way through, and at the end of the grazing season. This should be their primary use. For short periods in connection with roundup and weighing activities they can also be used to hold saddle horses.

5. Some inequalities in grazing capacity have developed or at least have been recognized between the units in Harvey Valley. From experience and personal evaluation, Mr. Elwin Roney now rates them as follows: 1, 3, 2, 5, and 4 from best to poorest. Unit 4 is particularly deficient but some possibility for adjustment may exist. The Ranger and Permittee should prospect the possibility of enlarging 4 in the vicinity of Squaw Valley to correct this situation. The area added would be subtracted from unit 2.



6. Interest in rest-rotation grazing management has increased greatly and the handling of show-me trips for visiting groups has become a time-consuming chore. This chore is the joint responsibility of the Region, the Forest, and the Station. In the future, visiting groups should be handled so far as possible through regularly scheduled field days by the joint efforts of all interested parties. This type of effort can provide adequate dissemination of results, findings, and progress of the test-demonstration to local and state groups made up of ranchers, farm advisors, Federal and state agency personnel, and other interested individuals. Schedules and arrangements for such meetings should be handled as mutually agreed by all interested parties. Meetings of this sort should be scheduled not oftener than every other year. At least two other kinds of groups, however, will require different handling. One of these kinds is composed of agency people from another state or region, whose primary interest is in the management of the Harvey Valley allotment under rest-rotation grazing. All requests for schedules from such groups should be routed to the Forest for handling. The Susanville Research Center Leader will work closely with the Forest in developing and carrying out schedules requested by such groups. No effort will be made to encourage such groups to visit Harvey Valley until a favorable cycle of years has been experienced and substantial data collected. If mutually desired by the Forest and Research Center, the services of A. L. Hormay may be enlisted to assist with such groups, his schedule permitting. In every case, however, it will be the responsibility of the Forest to arrange and conduct these trips assisted as desired and possible by the Center Leader.

The other kind of group consists of individuals interested primarily in the ecological or technical basis for rest-rotation management or how it might be applied to a specific range area. Included in this category are foreign visitors and college student groups. Schedules for these groups should be arranged by the Station, since most such requests usually come to the Station, and handled by A. L. Hormay with whatever assistance he desires from the Forest and/or Research Center. This type of effort is expected to decline from the past level, however, because of Hormay's availability to travel outside the state and region.

Approved:

Date 1/3/60

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Date 12/28/60

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Date 1/9/61

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Date 12-20-60

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