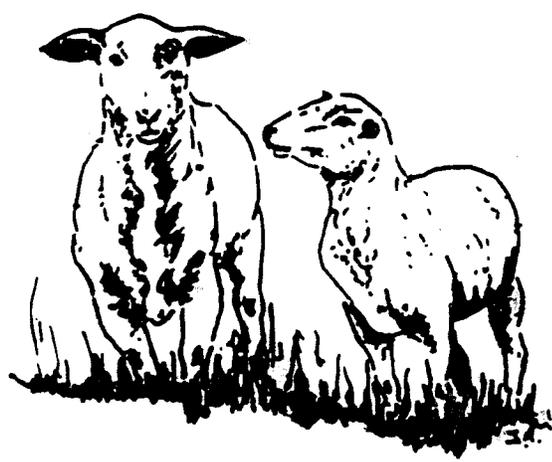


Early Livestock Grazing
on the
Payette National Forest



by
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Indian Ponies and Emigrants' Cows

The first livestockmen in Idaho were Native Americans. The Nez Perce and Shoshone-Bannocks were the major groups residing in the area of the Payette National Forest. The Nez Perce territory spanned the Clearwater and northern portion of the Salmon River drainages. The Shoshone-Bannocks inhabited southern and eastern Idaho along the Snake River plains and its tributaries in the mountain valleys (Walker 21). The Sheepeater Indians were a subgroup of the Shoshones. They derived their name from the fact that they subsisted largely on mountain sheep.

The first horses were brought to the southwestern United States by the Spaniards in 1541. Indian tribes of the southwest were the first to obtain horses. The trading of horses progressed north from the Navajos to the Utes, and then to the Shoshones. The Shoshone-Bannocks were the first primary traders of horses to the other northwest tribes, including the Nez Perce. By the early 1700's, horses were widespread among the major Indian tribes of the western United States. This led to a great cultural revolution among the Plains, Great Basin, and Northwest Indians (Walker 89; Yensen 7).

The Nez Perce Indians were famed for their prized horses and horsemanship. It is estimated that there were five to seven horses for each man, woman and child. Entire families rode horseback on annual migrations to gather roots and berries, to hunt big game, and to harvest fish. Some families owned several hundred horses. The Nez Perce practiced selective breeding of their horses for strength and endurance (Walker 71-72).

The possession of horses made the Shoshone-Bannocks wealthy by Great Basin standards. They could travel eastward to buffalo country and return with meat and hides. Horses were used for war parties and defense of home territory. When the white men first arrived, the Shoshone-Bannocks had from one to two horses per individual. Like the Nez Perce, it was possible for families to own several to several hundred horses (Walker 89; Yensen 7).

Early explorers, including Lewis and Clark and Townsend, reported great numbers of horses in the possession of the Indians (Yensen 7). Trappers for the Northwest and American Fur Companies recalled seeing thousands of horses grazing in Council Valley. Council was named because it was an established meeting place for many different tribes, including the Nez Perce and Shoshone-Bannocks. They gathered to make treaties, council against common enemies, and race horses (Swarts 1). The Wilson Price Hunt party, camping on the Weiser River in 1811, killed several Indian horses for food (Harris 32). Grace Eckles, daughter of a pioneer family in Salubria Valley, recalled seeing "the valley up and down the Little Weiser to Indian Valley lined with wickiups and horses" (Marti 3).

Cattle first appeared in Idaho at Fort Boise and Fort Hall, which were founded in 1834. Nathanie J. Wyeth, who founded Fort Hall, left three head of cattle at the post in 1834. In 1836, the missionary party of the Whitmans and Spauldings was the first to bring a wagon and a small herd of cattle across Idaho along the Oregon Trail. Worn down by the trek, five head of cattle were left at Fort Boise. In 1838, missionaries sent to reinforce the Whitmans left more cattle at these posts (Oliphant 1968: 12-13).

The Indians first possessed cattle in the 1840's. Northwest tribes first obtained their cattle from the Hudson's Bay Company, missionaries, and settlers in the Willamette Valley. However, by 1842 the principal source of cattle was from overland emigrants along the Oregon Trail (Oliphant 1968: 35). Travel along the Oregon Trail peaked in 1852, when approximately 10,000 wagons headed west. Thousands of horses and mules severely depleted the perennial grasses adjacent to the trail. With the lack of available forage, many of the emigrants abandoned or sold their livestock near Boise (Yensen 10).

Indians traded their ponies for the emigrants' cattle. In 1844, Mrs. Marcus Whitman reported that Indians were going as far east as Fort Hall to exchange their horses for cattle (Oliphant 1968: 35). In 1853, members of Governor Isaac I. Steven's party, scouting a northern railroad route, reported that the Nez Perce, Walla Walla, and Yakima Indians were fairly well supplied with cattle (36-37).

Heavy losses of Indian cattle and horses were reported during the Indian War of 1855-56. Northern Idaho Indians were reported to have suffered the loss of a thousand horses and "a large number of cattle, ... all of which were either killed or appropriated to the use of the United States," when Colonel George Wright from Fort Walla Walla led a punitive expedition against them in 1858 (Oliphant 1968: 37). In 1859, the United States Senate ratified a treaty that would confine the Indian tribes in the eastern Oregon Territory to reservations and open up vast areas to white occupation (38).

Continued western expansion by immigrants led to an increase of tensions between Indians and the white settlers. Raids on livestock occurred on both sides. The Sheepstealer War began on June 17, 1878 when a band of renegades raided ranches in Indian Valley and ran off with about 60 horses owned by William Munday, Tom Healey, and Jake Groschlose.

Glitter of Gold

The development of the livestock industry has its origins in the Idaho Gold Rush. The glitter of gold attracted large numbers of miners and settlers to the state. Gold was first discovered in Oro Fino in the fall of 1860. This led to a large influx of people into the Clearwater and Salmon River country. In 1861, prospecting parties discovered and developed claims at Elk City and Florence. In August of 1862, James Warren and others discovered gold in the area that now bears his name (History of Idaho Territory 240). In the same year, Levi Allen discovered the Seven Devils' Peacock lode (Carrey 1979: 136). Further south, gold was discovered at Bannock City (later renamed Idaho City), and silver was found at Silver City in the Owyhees.

The discovery of gold and the establishment of mining camps such as Florence, Elk City, Warren, Bannock City, and Silver City brought settlers to Idaho, and the first cattle industry to the state. High profits were to be made providing goods and supplies to the mining camps. By 1863, freight was being brought into Boise Basin from Umatilla, Oregon for 40 cents a pound. Beef was sold to the miners for 25 cents a pound (Oliphant 1968: 70).

The high price of beef encouraged ranchers from outside Idaho to drive their cattle to the mining camps. Herds from Oregon and Washington were driven to the Salmon River mines in the early 1860's. In June of 1863, W.C. Hill of Portland drove several large bands of cattle through Walla Walla "on their way to the Salmon River and South Fork mines" (Oliphant 1968: 69). In 1865, Jack Splawn and James Barner drove 100 Hereford cattle from Yakima up the Salmon and Little Salmon Rivers to Boise; the cattle were eventually driven to Warren and butchered (Carrey, Prose & Poetry: 51).

The first major sheep drive into Idaho was recorded in the journal of Gorham Gates Kimball. Major Kimball reported leaving his ranch near Red Bluff, California with 3700 sheep on June 6, 1865. After making 56 camps along the way, he arrived in the Boise area, where he wintered his sheep on the Snake and Boise Rivers (Wentworth 1954: 49-83). Sheep were also driven from Oregon to the Salmon River mines during the early 1860's, to provide mutton for the hungry miners (Wentworth 1948: 287).

The lucrative market for fresh meat at the mines provided the incentive for development of the livestock industry and related agricultural settlement in western Idaho. Boise was established by Oregon-bound pioneers who were impressed by the lush grass and livestock market providing meat to the miners. Cattle were grazing in the Weiser Valley 1864 (Oliphant 1968: 83). Hay was put up along the Weiser River and in the Boise and Payette Valleys in 1866 (Wentworth 1948: 287). The October 6, 1870 Idaho Statesman reported that a farmer in the Payette Valley had just sold 100 head of cattle for \$43.00 per head. The article

noted, "It is doubtful if the 100 head ever consumed all together, \$300.00 worth of hay or other food except what they grazed from the hills." The South Fork of the Salmon River, Council Valley, Little Salmon Meadows and Long Valley were all settled by ranchers who provided livestock to the mining camps.

Later mining discoveries and booms further opened up new territory and access to new ranches and summer range. The Big Creek mining district was started in 1885. In that same year, Albert Kleinschmidt purchased and operated mining claims in the Seven Devils District. The Thunder Mountain boom near the turn of the century opened up the South Fork of the Salmon River and Monumental Creek drainages to ranching along the river bars and summer range high in the mountains.

Cattle Kingdom

The Idaho livestock industry grew from the late 1860's through the 1870's as more cattle were being driven into the state. In 1867, Con Shea, a Silver City blacksmith, brought 1,000 Texas longhorn cattle into Idaho. The cattle were slaughtered for beef and Shea returned with another herd in 1869 (Yensen 1). The Idaho Statesman reported in 1869 that "a great interest is being taken in stock grazing in Idaho. Some are selling lands and property and purchasing cows to take up new claims in unoccupied valleys" (qtd. in Oliphant 1968: 88).

The Surveyor General of Idaho reported in 1871 that the grazing lands of nearby states were used up, and cattle were being driven to "the extensive pasture lands of Idaho." He stated that many thousands of cattle had been driven into the territory, "where both summer and winter ranges are excellent, and the raising of cattle highly profitable" (qtd. in Oliphant 1968: 90). From 1870 to 1874, Con Shea, Tom Bugbee, General Philip Kohlheyer, and David Shirk were driving large Texas herds into the region. However, by 1874 a nationwide economic depression provided plenty of cattle for purchase in Oregon and Washington. According to the Gordon Report, which accompanied the 1880 Federal Census, no cattle from Texas entered Idaho after 1874 (107).

During the next few years, a great number of cattle came into Idaho from Oregon and Washington. The Tenth Federal Census reported, "several large cattle owners moved their herds into Idaho in 1875." The Morning Oregon reported in August of 1875 that "the cattle on a thousand hills scattered all over Idaho never looked fatter or better." In 1878, the Governor of Idaho was fearful that encroachment of cattlemen might lead to trouble with the Shoshone-Bannocks. By 1879, the Surveyor General reported that 20,000 head of cattle from western Idaho had been sold to markets in the east (Oliphant 1968: 107-108).

Another important development of the livestock industry were extensive cattle drives through the state from Oregon and Washington to eastern markets. In 1869, the Union Pacific came to Cheyenne, Wyoming, which became the focal point for delivering western cattle to markets in the east (Yensen 18). In the fall of 1877 and the spring of 1878, Lang and Ryan, the largest cattle buyers at the time, bought 16,000 head and trailed them eastward through Idaho (Oliphant 1946: 26). The Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman of May 24, 1879, noting that at least 100,000 cattle would be driven eastward in 1879, commented:

There are several herds of these cattle ranging all the way from 10,000 to 1,000 head now crossing at or near the [Snake] River, any many others coming ... All these cattle are driven across Idaho at a heavy expense to the purchasers, and at a serious inconvenience and some damage to the country passed over. They crowd the

ferries and crossings, get mixed up with the cattle on the range, requiring much labor and care on the part of the resident stockmen to prevent their own cattle from being driven off. This cattle trade is constantly increasing; and it is safe to say that from this source alone the railroad, when built would derive a trade worth nearly a million dollars annually.

On October 21, 1879, the Idaho Statesman reported that profiting from the experience of the Oregon cattlemen, Solomon Jeffries of Weiser City had driven 800 of his own cattle to Cheyenne. He reported that the demand for cattle at Cheyenne and at the cattle markets of Omaha and Chicago was immense. Jeffries stated that Idaho cattlemen would save money and make better profits by trailing their own cattle to Cheyenne.

The Homestead Act of 1862 allowed settlers to claim 160 acres for homesteading. The Timber and Stone Act of 1870 enabled settlers to buy 160 acres at \$2.50 per acre. In addition, the Desert Land Act of 1877 allowed settlers to buy up to 640 acres at \$1.25 per acre for agricultural purposes. These acts allowed ranchers to take land out of public domain (Yensen 18). By 1878, ranches were established along the entire Weiser River, within Little Salmon Meadows, and along the South Fork of the Salmon River.

By 1880, Idaho ranges were well stocked with cattle and horses. Data from the U.S. Department of the Interior reports 178,319 cattle, not including dairy stock, in Idaho by 1880 (Stoddard and Smith 23). Approximately 30,000 cattle worth \$750,000 were marketed in Idaho during the summer of 1880 (History of Idaho Territory 290). On February 3, 1881, the Omaha Daily Republican provided unconfirmed reports that "Idaho...[had] 450,000 cattle, 60,000 horses, and 60,000 sheep" (qtd. in Oliphant 1968: 108). On December 31, 1881, The Governor of Idaho reported that the state sold 35,000 head of cattle annually (108).

Woolly Tide

The sheep industry in Idaho developed much more slowly than the cattle industry. In 1870 there were only 1,021 sheep in Idaho (Stoddard and Smith 29). A few ranchers tried their hands at raising both sheep and cattle. Thomas C. Galloway, a livestockman from Weiser, attempted to raise a band of sheep in the 1860's, but lost his flock in a severe winter (Trull 1986: 69). G.C. Johnson brought a breeding flock of sheep to Silver City in 1864 (Yensen 22). Robert Noble, a Boise area sheepman, acquired his first 1,400 sheep in 1874 (History of Idaho Territory 261).

Prior to a well-established sheep industry in Idaho, hundreds of thousands of sheep were trailed across the state from Oregon to the East. The sheep industry in Oregon grew from 318,123 in 1870 to 1,368,162 in 1880 (Stoddard and Smith 29). There were 724,987 sheep in the three northeastern Oregon counties of Wasco, Umatilla, and Union. The principal trail from Oregon across Idaho originated in Umatilla County and entered the state 10 miles west of Weiser at Olds Ferry (Rinehart 20; Wentworth 1948: 288).

With the advent of the railroad in Idaho, the sheep industry began to boom (Wentworth 1948: 291). The Oregon Short Line was completed to Weiser in 1882, and provided a reliable means to transport sheep and wool to market (Trull 1986: 5). In 1880, the number of sheep in Idaho reached 117,326 (Stoddard and Smith 29; Oliphant 1968: 346).

As the number of sheep on the range increased, the cattlemen felt they were being overrun by the "woolly tide." The sheep encroached on former cattle and horse range. Once sheep had grazed an area, it was deemed unfit for cattle grazing. Because of encroaching sheep, Idaho passed the famed "two mile law" in 1875. This law prohibited the grazing of sheep within two miles of an occupied dwelling (Idaho: An Illustrated History 54).

The "priority rights law," originally applied to the five southwestern Idaho counties, became a general state law in 1887. The law forbade the grazing of sheep upon "any range usually occupied by any cattle grower, either as a spring, summer, or winter range for his cattle." The law stated that the right to use any range was to be determined "by the priority in the usual and customary use of the range, either a sheep or cattle range" (qtd. in Oliphant 1968: 348).

Beginning in the early 1880's, nomadic bands of sheep from other states, such as Nevada, Oregon, and Utah were trailed into Idaho to graze. These bands contained from 2,000 to 10,000 head of sheep (Wentworth 1948: 290). Local livestockmen with established home ranches were disturbed to find these sheep on their accustomed summer ranges. Some of these "tramp bands" were purchased by people who owned no land and paid no taxes. These nomadic sheep owners simply purchased bands of

sheep, hired a herder, and benefitted from free grazing on the public domain (Rowley 18). In 1886, the Willamette Farmer reported sheep interests had increased so rapidly in Idaho that they were seriously interfering with ranges previously occupied "exclusively by horses and cattle" (Oliphant 1968: 346).

By 1890, the sheep industry was well established in Idaho. The Census of 1890 showed 357,715 sheep and wool production of 2,119,242 pounds (Wentworth 1948: 292). During this decade, the sheep industry continued to grow so rapidly that serious competition occurred on the range. Sheepmen discovered that they could greatly increase their flocks and grazing lands through seasonal migrations (Stoddard and Smith 29).

The sheep industry became more profitable than the cattle industry for several reasons. First, the sheepmen did not require the purchase of land or an established ranch. Secondly, shepherders required only a few horses and dogs to help herd their flocks. Finally, income was produced by two products, wool in the spring and lambs in the fall (Yensen 26). Many cattlemen were forced to swallow their pride as they switched from the "higher" status of cattleman to the "lower" status of sheepmen (Oliphant 1968: 342).

Forest Reserves

As Idaho moved into the 20th century, the state's rangelands had become severely overgrazed. Several decades of abusive grazing practices on the public domain had seriously depleted the native grasses and forbs (Yensen 39). By 1900 all usable ranges within the state were fully stocked. Though ranges were damaged and carrying capacities reduced, the number of sheep and cattle continued to increase (Yensen 39). The 1900 Federal Census, reported 225,207 cattle and 1,965,467 sheep on Idaho farms and rangelands (Stoddard and Smith 23, 29). While cattle numbers had remained fairly steady over the past 20 years, sheep numbers had grown exponentially.

J.B. Lafferty, first Supervisor of the Weiser National Forest, reported that from 1890 until the Forest reserves were created competition for range forage became fierce. The number of stock, especially sheep, increased rapidly, requiring grazing higher and higher in the mountains. The fight for summer range became intense, with each sheepman trying to be the first to graze the best pastures. The result was that the range was used too early in the spring and was heavily overgrazed. It became apparent that something must be done (Lafferty, History of the Weiser Forest: n.pag.).

The continued unregulated grazing practices on federal rangeland sowed the seeds of conflict. Confrontations between cattlemen and sheepmen are documented in Little Salmon River Meadows and Long Valley during the 1890's. Nomadic bands of sheep continued to be a problem. Livestockmen competing over rangeland became increasingly frustrated, and violent acts were committed against both men and their livestock.

The lands on the public domain which later became the Payette National Forest reflected the conflict and overgrazing by livestock. J.B. Lafferty reported that in the days before the Forest was established, "the stock industry was being monopolized by a few large owners who were driving the small owners out of business. The range was overstocked with sheep and the settler who tried to gradually build up a herd of cattle or horses was compelled to go out of business or put his stock into pasture" (Lafferty 1909, n.pag.).

Grazing privileges on newly established Forests gave preference to local livestockmen. A department circular issued on January 8, 1902 defined criteria for preference in the following order:

1. Stock of residents within the reserve.
2. Stock of persons who own permanent stock ranches within the reserve, but who reside outside of the reserve.

3. Stock of persons living in the immediate vicinity of the reserve, called neighboring stock.
4. Stock of outsiders who have some equitable claim. (Rowley 47)

The result of the issued criteria was that preference was given to local cattlemen over "tramp" sheepmen (Young and Evans 202).

The stockmen's attorneys advised them that regulating grazing on Forest reserves was unconstitutional. One sheepman, heeding this legal advice, refused to move his two bands of unpermitted sheep off the newly established Weiser Reserve. Superintendent Lafferty moved the sheep himself (Lafferty, History of the Weiser Forest: n.pag.). Lafferty stated that the smaller owners were protected by the Forest Service, with grazing areas near settlements being set aside exclusively for cattle and horses. The number of stock allowed on the range was restricted and overgrazed areas were restored (Lafferty 1909: n.pag.).

At the time the Forest reserves were created, local people were alarmed about timber cutting, fire, floods, soil erosion and overgrazing (Hockaday 27). Superintendent Lafferty remembered opposition to the Reserves which was generated by livestockmen, especially prominent woolgrowers. They were worried that grazing would be prohibited within the Forest boundaries. The stockmen were used to getting their range free, and using it whenever and however they wished (Lafferty, History of the Weiser Forest: n.pag.).

The Weiser National Forest was created in 1905 and the Idaho National Forest in 1908. Through proclamations and acts of Congress, several additions and subtractions of land were made. The Forests were consolidated in 1944 and renamed the Payette National Forest (Hockaday 28).

During the first season of the Weiser National Forest, about 150,000 sheep and 25,000 cattle and horses grazed on the reserve. Superintendent Lafferty noted that "to administer that large area, to look after the grazing of the permitted stock, to prevent the grazing of the unpermitted stock along some 400 miles of unfenced boundary, to supervise the crossing of several hundred thousand head of sheep along driveways over the reserve, to look after the interests of hundreds of applicants for timber, and to protect the reserve from fires, I had a field force of two assistant rangers and eight forest guards" (Lafferty, History of the Weiser Forest: n.pag.).

Because of the shortage of personnel, lack of boundary fences, and because many of the boundaries had not been surveyed or posted, all the livestock using the Forests was not put under permit until about 1915. Even then, much of the stock continued to graze in trespass. "The first permits were grants to dependent stockmen who had prior use standing; and

because most of the prior grazing on any given area was by all classes of stock, much of the Forest range was continued under common use grazing" (Hockaday 54).

During the early years, many horses and cattle owned by neighboring settlers were grazed free as exempt stock. In 1925, over 500 head of livestock was grazed on the Weiser under this exemption. However, the need to reduce livestock and protect the range was evident. After temporary increases during World War I, the amount of livestock on the range was decreased. Several large sheep outfits went out of business during the depression period after the war. The two forests were able to reduce sheep permits by 40,000 head from 1920 to 1925 (Hockaday 54). In the 1920's more effective management practices had been established and regular grazing records were kept. The history of livestock management after this period is well documented in Forest records and is beyond the scope of this paper.

The Weiser River

Livestockmen first came into the Weiser River Valley in the 1860's. Settlements were established along the Weiser River and the southern portion of the Seven Devils Mountains and ranchers provided the miners with hogs, cattle and sheep. Woodson Jeffries and T.C. Galloway started ranches in 1864. Jeffries settled a ranch just beyond Mann Creek and soon had the largest cattle herd in the area (Harris 38). T. C. Galloway acquired land on the Weiser River and raised livestock, principally horses, on the range (43). Galloway sold an immense herd of range horses to a buyer from Nebraska in the early eighties. He received \$46.00 per head (46). Other early livestockmen in the Weiser River area were L. M. Dickerson, Frank Townley, W.J. Cousens, George Hague, J.B. Hemenway, Baxter White, C.T. Williams, and I.M. Hart (Hockaday 13). The earliest decreed water right on the Weiser River is May 1, 1868, for irrigation from the Galloway Ditch (IDWR).

The first permanent settler in Middle Valley was J.H. Reed, who settled at the mouth of Keithley Creek in 1868. Levi and John Keithley raised hogs on their ranch on Keithley Creek (Yongue 4, Harris 50). Early decreed water rights on Keithley Creek include Reed in 1871, Keithley in 1877, Hopper in 1879, and Seid in 1879 (IDWR). Keithley Creek, Hopper Creek, and Seid Creek are named after these early settlers. Other settlers include John Saling and John Anderson, who had the first water right on Mann Creek (Harris 53). Over a dozen water rights on Mann Creek date back to 1874 (IDWR). Some of the first livestockmen in Middle Valley and Salubria were Thomas Buhl, Alex B. Allison, Thomas Linder, E.H. Wiggins, Frank Towell, Joe Picket, John Hopper, and Lewis Favre (Hockaday 13). In 1882, a large number of settlers moved to Middle Valley. The town of Midvale soon became a major shipping point for wheat and sheep (Harris 52).

Upper Valley on the Weiser River included Salubria, Indian Valley and Cambridge. Because of its mild climate, Indian Valley was settled early on. Some of the first settlers were Cal White, Isaac Spoor, Albert McDowell and John Anderson. Thomas Gray settled a ranch on the creek that bears his name (Harris 56). Some of the early pioneers who settled Upper Valley by the late 1860's included the Abernathy, Colson, Allison and Jewell families on the Main Weiser; the Mickey, Wilkerson brothers, and Shoffner families settled on the Little Weiser. The entire valley as well as Pine Creek and Rush Creek was settled by the 1880's (48-49). The first water rights on streams in the Upper Valley area include the Little Weiser in 1873, Rush Creek in 1878, Pine Creek in 1879, Beaver Creek in 1883, Grays Creek in 1884, and King Hill Creek in 1885 (IDWR). The settlers raised hogs, ranging them on camus and cowse in the hills, and selling them in the mines. Because of the lush forage on the surrounding hills the settlers were soon raising cattle and horses (Harris 49).

The first permanent settlers in Council Valley were George M. Moser and his family who arrived by oxen on October 27, 1876. Early settlers on Hornet Creek included Henry Childs in 1876 and Rufus C. Anderson in 1879. Palmer W. Higgins settled on Cottonwood Creek in 1884 (Swarts 2-3). Other early settlers were the Winklers, and the White, Kessler, Moser, Lovelace, Draper and Groseclose families (Swarts 3, Harris 61). Two of the early livestockmen in the Council area were W.R. Shaw, who arrived in 1866, and Jim Winkler, who settled in 1878 (Hockaday 13; Harris 71-72). The first water rights located on the various streams include Mill Creek in 1878, Hornet Creek in 1880, Cottonwood Creek in 1882, Fort Hall Creek in 1882 and Fall Creek in 1883 (IDWR).

By the 1870's the cattle industry along the Weiser River was well established (Hockaday 12). Many cattle and horses were grazed on the unfenced range. One cattle roundup in 1883 covered the range extending from Big Mountain to Fawks Store near Emmett, from the Cuddy Mountains to the Snake River, and from Indian Head to Iron Mountain (Trull 1987: 69). In 1879, Solomon Jeffries of Weiser drove 800 cattle to Cheyenne. Livestock was driven to railroad points such as Omaha; Plains, Wyoming; and Kelton, Utah before the railroad reached Weiser in 1882 (Trull 1987: 69).

Wild horses roamed the range in the Weiser and Snake River Valleys. One horse roundup in 1888 covered the range from Squaw Butte on the east to the Snake River on the west, and from the southern boundary of Washington and western Ada Counties to the foothills of the Seven Devils Mountains (Trull 1987: 61). Large herds of wild horses were sold to western ranchers or driven to markets in the east. From 1890 until the early 1900's there was a great demand for horses for the world's cavalries. England purchased many horses during the Boer War. One contract called for the delivery of 12,000 horses (65). In 1893, a Cowboy Company was organized to capture wild horses in the Weiser and Snake River Canyons (63).

The sheep industry in the Weiser Valley was first attempted by Thomas C. Galloway in the 1860's. Unfortunately, he lost his band in a severe winter. Twenty years later, E.M. Barton brought sheep into the area and encouraged others to raise them (Trull 1986: 69).

Before sheep entered the valley, the cattle grazed primarily at the lower elevations. When sheep arrived, the high ranges were stocked with sheep and the lower elevations with both cattle and sheep. This resulted in an early depletion of wheatgrass range and forced cattle higher on the mountains each year. From 1890 on, the number of sheep increased dramatically, and sheepmen competed for the best summer range in the mountains. About the year 1890 sheepmen started bringing their flocks into the Council mountain and West Mountain areas for summer range (PNF, Council RD, Range Management Plan, 1948).

By September of 1890, over 50 car loads of sheep were shipped from Weiser. Harry Loon of Cambridge and Arthur Van Sicklin shipped 24 car loads of sheep to Chicago by train (Trull 1986: 69). Aubrey G. Butterfield came to Weiser in the 1880's and became the major sheepman in the area. He organized the Butterfield Livestock Company and obtained extensive land holdings and range rights in the area and in Oregon (Harris 41). In May of 1892, Butterfield purchased 4,400 head of sheep from Alex Watson. Ewes cost \$4.25 each and lambs were \$2.25 (Trull 1986: 69). He organized the Butterfield Livestock Company in order to attract investors and extend his business. Butterfield acquired, by purchase or lease, an immense sheep ranch in Price Valley. The ranch was six miles long and four miles wide (77). The earliest Forest Service grazing records indicate that Butterfield Livestock Company held a permit on the forest for 12,000 head of sheep.

In 1892, shed lambing was started in the Weiser Valley. Lambs were born in canvas sheds in late winter and grazed on spring and early summer range at the lower elevations. Lambs were sent to market when the seasonal ranges dried out. The bands of ewes were then sent to the high elevation summer ranges (Rinehart 21-22).

In 1895, approximately one million pounds of wool were expected to be produced in the Weiser area. By 1899, sheep were the most important livestock industry in the area. Washington County had 130,634 sheep and two million tons of wool were shipped from Weiser (Trull 1986: 70-71). In 1903, the Weiser Signal reported that "the hills around Middle Valley have been churned into dust by the hooves of sheep and the folks have lost count of the number of bands which have passed through here the last few weeks. They represent the largest source of wealth in Washington County" (79).

In the 1890's, sheepmen ranged their sheep wherever there was good grass. Nomadic flocks were widespread, and county and state boundaries were ignored. Many Snake River and Weiser sheepmen grazed their sheep in both Oregon and Idaho. Oregon and Utah sheep were brought into Idaho for grazing. The Utah-based Deseret Sheep Company grazed the Council Mountain area from Cottonwood Creek and the Middle Weiser River south past the Little Weiser (PNF, Cottonwood-Middle Fork Allotment Plan, 1947). In 1903, 50,000 Utah sheep were ranged on the Middle Fork of the Weiser and Crane Creek. 28,000 Utah sheep were grazing in the Council area (Trull 1986: 77).

The Weiser drainage according to the first Forest Supervisor, J.B. Lafferty, was considerably overgrazed at the time the Forest was established in 1905. "It was a race in the early days between bands of sheep to reach the more preferred areas first, and they were continually on the move" (Lafferty 1909, n.pag.).

A review of the annual grazing reports for the Council District from 1909 to 1949 shows only a small reduction in cattle use but a great

reduction in sheep. The 1915 grazing report recommended an authorization of 10,000 sheep. All through these reports there was a strong tendency towards reducing sheep and increasing cattle. Cattle were allowed to graze the entire Weiser River slope even though the upper drainages were allotted to sheep (PNF, Council District, Range Mangement Plan, 1949).

The grazing report of 1912 indicates that there were 1364 cattle, 115 horses and 2034 sheep permitted on the Mann Creek-Sturgil allotment. In addition, there were a considerable and undetermined number of trespass cattle. Seventeen different brands were reported among the trespass stock (PNF, Mann Creek-Sturgil Allotment Plan 1950).

Records for the Hitt Mountain allotment were difficult to find. The constitution and by-laws of the Hitt Mountain Cattle and Horse Growers Association were approved in 1914. The first annual grazing report states that from 1925 to 1935 an average of 1150 cattle and 1000 sheep grazed this allotment. In addition, from 1928 to 1931, the Malheur Products Company (G.E. Stanfield) was permitted an average of 3862 and 2243 head of sheep in the spring and fall on the Cottonwood, Box Springs, and West Brownlee areas. McHenry Hand was also permitted 2290 and 2068 sheep spring and fall in the same area from 1927 to 1935 (PNF, Hitt Mt. Allotment Plan, 1950).

Other old range mangement plans report that that East Pine-Rush Creek allotment was grazed before 1910. The first records indicate that 2180 sheep and 700 head of cattle were permitted in 1926. In 1920 the Indian Mountain-Little Weiser allotment included all the range south of the Middle Fork of the Weiser River, east to the Little Weiser as as far down as the mouth of Anderson Creek. The Birch Creek Basin in the head of Cabin Creek and Boulder Creek in the upper Cottonwood drainage were part of the Deseret Sheep range prior to 1921 (PNF, Weiser and Council RDs, Old Range Statistics).

The Price Valley allotment was the heart of the old Butterfield Livestock Company operation. As mentioned earlier, Butterfield held a permit on the forest for 12,000 sheep. In 1920, 600 head of cattle were permitted on the Warm Springs allotment (PNF, New Meadows RD, Old Range Statistics).

The Snake River

The history of settlement and livestock grazing along the Snake River and its tributaries from Hitt Mountain to the Seven Devils closely follows the settlement of the Weiser River drainage. Brownlee Creek bears the name of the first settler along its course. In 1862, Tim Goodwill guided a train of 60 wagons up the Weiser through Midvale and Salubria Valleys to Brownlee's ferry. Mr. Brownlee offered to take their wagons and livestock across the Snake without charge if they would clear a road from Salubria Valley to his boat landing (Harris 70; Carrey 1979: 106).

Levi Allen discovered the Seven Devils Peacock lode in 1862. However, mining in the area didn't really get started until the arrival of Albert Kleinschmidt, who purchased an interest in the Allen-Lewis claims in 1885. Kleinschmidt also bought the Blue Jacket, Queen, and the Alaska claims on Indian Creek. In 1889 he started building a road from the Peacock mine two miles down to the Snake River. It was completed in 1891. The settlement of Helena was named for the first girl born in the mining camp located below the Peacock mine. (Carrey 1979: 136). Landore, Decorah and Cuprum were other mining communities on Indian Creek. At one point, Landore and Decorah had a population of 2,000 (Hockaday 21). Tom Heady staked the first claims at Red Ledge in 1894 (Carrey 1979: 149).

The first settler at the mouth of Pine Creek on the Oregon side of the Snake River was Andy Culver. He was there in the 1870's, raising horses and trading them to other settlers and to the Indians. A Mr. Snow also constructed a cabin near the mouth of Pine Creek as early as 1888, and ran horses as Culver had. Jake and Bert Vaughn were running cattle along the Snake River in 1897 when they discovered and named the Iron Dyke Mine. Six months later they sold their claim and Jake invested his share of profits in the 160-acre Copperfield Ranch at the Oxbow (Carrey 1979: 118).

The Snake River drainage was grazed early on by stockmen from the Weiser area. In March 1887, John Atwell, living on Brownlee Creek, halfway between Ruthburg and the Snake River, reported that horses and cattle grazing on winter range were starving due to the harsh winter and deep snow (Trull 1987: 61). In 1897, Sol Barnett was reported to be making his annual pilgrimage to graze his sheep in the area around Bear (Trull 1986: 71).

There are several water rights with early priority dates in the Brownlee drainage. The earliest, May 1, 1872, is held by the Brownlee Sheep Company on Brownlee Creek. The Denbrae Sheep Company also holds a water right on Brownlee Creek, dated May 1, 1887. Long Gulch has a water right with a priority date of May 1, 1882. Grades Creek has a water right with a priority right dated May 1, 1889 (IDWR).

Other drainages with early priority dates for water rights include Crooked River in 1888 and Bear Creek in 1895. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a water right on Towsley Spring dated June 1, 1890 (IDWR).

Steves Creek, a tributary to Wildhorse Creek, was named for a Civil War veteran who settled there in 1880. The Warners settled on Steves Creek and then on Wickiup Creek in 1890. Charlie Warner became the first major cattleman located in the area around 1900. He owned more than 500 cattle, running them up to Smith Mountain, down to Allison Creek and to Big Bar. Warner drove his cattle to Black Lake and to Landore to sell at the mines. Bisby Creek and Emory Creek were settled in 1892. The settlers wintered their cattle in Starvation Basin (Bigler).

Wildhorse drainage was named for the horses of John McCullough. They became wild and ranged throughout the drainage. The area was covered with lush bunchgrass upon which the horses grazed, both summer and winter. These animals ran wild for several years until they were killed off by prospectors who didn't want their saddle and pack animals to acquire bad habits (Harris 68). Wild horses ranged in the Snake River Canyon between Huntington and Pittsburg Landings. Roundups to capture wild horses occurred in the late 1880's until the early 1900's (Trull 1987: 63).

The mouth of Wildhorse Canyon was settled around 1900 by the Nixon family who raised both fruit and cattle (Bigler). Albert Campbell, son of Charlie Campbell, started the OX ranch in 1910 (Carrey 1979: 117). Many homesteaders came into the Wildhorse area in the 1910's. Campbell bought rangeland from these homesteaders and ran cattle from the mouth of Wildhorse to the Kleinschmidt Grade (Bigler). The OX ranch headquarters are located on Lick Creek.

Records of early grazing on Forest allotments are incomplete. Prior to 1927, the Wildhorse-Crooked River cattle allotment was used by cattle and sheep (PNF, Wildhorse-Crooked River Allotment Plan). The lower range of the Snake River-Indian Creek allotment was originally used by cattle, which were permitted year round. In 1922, the owner exchanged some of his cattle for a sheep permit of 1250 head. He built his flock up to 1500 head, then transferred the permit in 1925 (PNF, Snake River-Indian Creek Allotment Plan).

The Little Salmon River

The first cabin in the area was built in the early 1860's by "Packer John" Welsh, who packed freight from Umatilla Landing in Oregon to the Boise mines. His cabin was located on Goose Creek, with a 30-acre horse pasture nearby. He also had a camp on the North Fork of the Payette (Carrey, Prose & Poetry: 52). Packer John's trail crossed the Salmon near the mouth of the Little Salmon, then followed the river through Salmon Meadows to Goose Creek (Hockaday 6).

In 1865 Jack Splawn and James Barner drove 100 Hereford cattle through the area from Yakima, Washington to the Boise mines. The cattlemen drove the herd across the Salmon River, following the divide between the Salmon and Snake Rivers. They dropped into the Little Salmon River drainage, resting the cattle at Packer John's cabin in Salmon Meadows. The men then trailed the cattle 40 miles down the Payette River to the Boise mines. When they were unable to sell the cattle, Splawn and Barner trailed them to Warren. Some of the cattle were sold in Warren. The rest were wintered on the Salmon River (Carrey, Prose & Poetry: 51-52).

Early settlers in Salmon Meadows, now called New Meadows, were Thomas Cooper and Bill Jolly, who brought in 50-60 horses in 1877 (Hockaday 17). The Cal White family arrived in 1878 and settled on Goose Creek, obtaining the first water right and raising cattle and horses (Harris 65). By 1880, Cal White and G.W. Jennings had 75 cattle and 150 horses roaming Meadows Valley (Farrell n.pag.).

The Clay family arrived in the valley in 1880 and raised beef and dairy cattle (Harris 66). Mrs. Clay's first husband, William Osborne, had been killed on the Salmon River during the Nez Perce uprising in 1877 (Elsensohn 1947: 86). Her son, Edward Osborne, became a prominent cattleman in Meadows Valley (Harris 66).

Charlie Campbell, founder of the Circle C Ranch, arrived in the area in 1880 in an ox-drawn covered wagon (Harris 66; Elsensohn 1951: 87). Campbell founded the Circle C in 1884, which later became one of the largest cattle concerns in the territory. A newspaper report from September 1937 indicated the growth of Campbell's cattle operation. In that month, a big roundup occurred at the ranch. Forty cowboys rounded up over 2000 cattle from the Salmon River range. The cattle shipment from New Meadows was the largest single consignment the Union Pacific had handled from the area in 70 years (Elsensohn 1951: 87).

The best lands in the valley were settled in the 1880's. Cattle raising was always the main industry, and cattle ranged in the surrounding mountains summer and fall. Before the railroad, cattle were trailed to Weiser for shipment (Harris 66-67). Small bars along the Little Salmon and Main Salmon were soon taken up by cattlemen because they could more easily winter their stock on the range at these lower elevations. "Soon

cattle, horses and sheep were being raised in these river canyons in great numbers" (Hockaday 13). The Idaho Free Press, on February 3, 1888, reported that there were 67 ranches in the Little Salmon country (Elsensohn 1951: 88).

Cattle grazed on the luxuriant native grasses in the foothills during the early years. The sheepmen started coming into the valleys about 1880 and by 1886 heavy grazing had diminished the native plant cover, enabling less desirable plants to come in (Hockaday 12). In 1886, Osborne was crowded out of Big Creek, above New Meadows, by sheepmen coming in from the lower country. A few years later sheep began coming into Rock Flat (Farrell n.pag.).

Many early sheepmen ranging to New Meadows and beyond were based in the Snake River Valley and the lower Weiser River. They included Butterfield, Thompson and Doyle, Brown Brothers, Scott Brundage, McHenry Hand, Clayborn, George Nesbit, George Hartley, John Kimbrough, and John Gillenwater (Hockaday 13). Hartley Meadows, Brundage Mountain, and Sater Meadows were named after early sheepmen. Brown Creek was named after the Brown Brothers, who ran sheep in the area before it was used for cattle (Elsensohn 1951: 85).

In 1894 Scott Brundage brought 3700 sheep from Willow Creek near Payette, north through Indian Valley, up the Weiser River to Council, west and north along West Flat to Rock Flat and Bear Basin. Brundage entered the Goose Lake area with his sheep the following year by following an old Indian trail up Brundage Mountain, through Hartley Meadows and Brundage Meadows. Prior to that time no stock had been grazed in the Goose Lake area or in the region north to the Salmon River. Cattle grazed in Goose Lake around 1900 (Farrell n.pag.).

In 1890, Bill Clark settled on Rapid River, bringing in the first sheep (Carrey, Prose & Poetry: 23). The Free Press reported on March 31, 1893, "The first pack train of the season showed up on our streets last Monday, consisting of 10 animals, and came up for supplies for William Clark's sheep camp down on the Little Salmon. The boys report a good winter with light loss" (qtd. in Elsensohn 1951: 88). The Weiser Signal reported that Erastus Utley grazed his sheep on Granite Mountain in 1902 (Trull 1986: 74). A 1903 report said that Ellis Hartley camped on Mud Creek with four bands of sheep, planning to move them to Hazard Lake Basin for summer range (77).

Conflict between cattle and sheep interest increased. The settlers in Meadows Valley became alarmed over the condition of the range and in 1893 turned out to order the sheepmen to leave (Trull 1986: 69). Herders from the Weiser area Butterfield Livestock Company were harrassed when they brought their sheep into the Little Salmon and one shepherd was killed. During one incident in the late 1890's, cattlemen raided a sheep camp in the Seven Devils and slaughtered over two hundred head (Elsensohn 1951: 382). These feuds continued up to and past the establishment of the

Forest Reserves. Cattle ranchers objected to sheep grazing on and adjacent to the Forest lands and poisoned their watering holes and slaughtered sheep (381).

There were no defined allotments in the early days. More and more sheep came into the area each spring, and "every herder trampled down more feed than he used in order to keep ahead of the other fellow" (Farrell n.pag.). Many sheep from Oregon were brought into the country for summer range. Soon sheepmen were forced to hold a band of sheep in the end of one drainage during an entire season because all the other range was fully occupied (Hockaday 14).

Early Forest Service records indicate that the Clayburn Creek sheep allotment has been grazed since 1905. The area was part of the Vance Creek and Jacks Creek allotments. These three allotments were used by the Stanfield Stock Company before 1913. In 1913, G.E. and R.N. Stanfield summered 3000 ewes and their lambs on the Jacks Creek allotment. Sheepmen were allowed to increase their flocks in 1917, due to the increased demand for wool. In the early days, the Clayburn Creek allotment exceeded by three times the authorized use of 1200 sheep for 36 animal months. In 1927, 1280 sheep were permitted on the Clayburn allotment. In 1929, G.E. Stanfield grazed 1253 sheep on the Vance Creek allotment (PNF, Clayburn Creek Allotment Plans 1956 and 1963, Vance Creek Allotment Plan 1956, Jacks Creek Allotment Plan 1956).

Grazing records give no history of the Grassy Mountain allotment before 1922. Between 1922 and 1941, this allotment and the Twin Lakes, Hard Creek, and Hazard Creek allotments were used by the Lake Sheep Company. From 1922 until 1935, 6,000 sheep were allowed on the range (PNF, Grassy Mountain Allotment Plan 1963).

The Meadows Valley allotment allowed 1500 head of cattle prior to 1928. At that time, the Browns Creek area between Bally Mountain and Granite Mountain was added and an additional 200 head were permitted (PNF, Meadows Valley Allotment Plan 1956).

Part of the Boulder Creek allotment was sheep range used by the Butterfield Livestock Company during the early days of the sheep industry. Corrals at the head of Boulder Creek were used for counting and selling sheep. During World War I the "Clinton Outfit" held the allotment, which "was subject to much over use and abuse by them" (PNF, Boulder Creek Allotment Plan 1948).

The Curren Hill allotment was part of the Stover Brothers allotment. Through purchase, grant, and the acceptance of a shorter season, the Stover Brothers acquired a preference of 4100 sheep. They purchased the Horton range near Bear and a preference of 480 sheep. The Stovers were later permitted to graze all the sheep on the allotment, and the Copper Creek, Louse Creek, and Paradise Creek units were added to it (PNF, Curren Hill Allotment Plan).

The North Fork of the Payette River

Although Long Valley was known for its beauty, natural resources and agricultural potential early on, it was settled later than surrounding areas. An article in the August 17, 1869 Tri-Weekly Statesman advises, "To the agriculturist I can say there is no soil in the territory better adapted to the growth of grain. A good wagon road can be constructed without difficulty from the valley to Placerville, where the farmer can always find a market. As yet no one has pre-empted land claims in Long Valley." Ten years later, the August 9, 1879 Idaho Statesman, lamenting that the valley remained unsettled and uncultivated, promoted the construction of a wagon road. The article predicted that the valley would become "the very paradise of stockraisers as there is no limit to the amount of hay which can easily be saved at very small cost."

Miners preceded the first settlers in Long Valley. They traileed through the valley on their way to the gold mines in Warren. Later, mining was carried on in the valley itself, with diggings on Gold Fork Creek, Paddy Flat, and Boulder Creek. Some of the early settlers sold butter, cheese, meat and vegetables to the miners (Pottenger 4).

Among the first settlers in Long Valley were Lizzie and Stephen Sisk. Sisk built a squatter's cabin in the foothills above Crawford (now under Cascade Reservoir) in 1884. The only neighbors at that time were a Mr. Horner and the Hills on Clear Creek. By 1885, according to Mrs. Sisk, there were 31 members of pioneer families in the valley. The Sisks' daughter, Anna, was the first girl born in Long Valley; she was born in Crawford in 1886. When the Sisks first began their ranch, they rented cows from another settler, giving him half the butter they made, and the calves half of the milk. In time, they were able to trade their horses for cattle (Sisk n.pag.).

Many settlers came to Long Valley in the 1880's. Among the earliest were Eph Culpepper, H.Y. Boydston, W.B. Boydston, John Cox, Mark Cole and Clarence Shaw (Chitwood n.pag.). The first settlers around Roseberry came in 1886. Many more arrived in 1887 and settled the eastern slopes of the Gold Fork River. Roseberry's first store and post office were started in 1892. It was the largest town in Long Valley until the railroad bypassed it in 1914 (A Bit of History n.pag.).

The York family was the first to settle on Payette Lake. The Thomas McCall family arrived around 1890. Other early settlers in McCall included Albert Gaekel, Louis Heacock, and Arthur Rowland (Miller n.pag.). Payette Lake became an important stop for freight going to the mines in Warren.

According to an early resident of Roseberry, Cynthia Pottenger, there were 28 or 30 families in Long Valley in 1886-87 (Pottenger 4). On April 20, 1888 the Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman reported that 23 homes had been

built in Long Valley the previous fall. One hundred and sixty-three people were reported living in Long Valley at that time. A July 6, 1888 article from the Weiser Leader claimed that "In Long Valley it is estimated that 3000 people have located...All the land is taken up in this splendid valley. This we positively know. This can be said of Indian, Middle, Salubria Valleys, and Salmon Meadows." The newspaper reported on August 24 of that same year that "some make the assertion that Long Valley alone will contain 5000 permanent settlers within five years." These reports may have been exaggerated; however, they illustrate the rapid settlement and interest in the area. The first stockwater right in Long Valley has a 1890 priority date (IDWR).

T.L. Worthington was an early livestockman in the area. He brought some cattle into Long Valley in 1888. Worthington sold his first steers on the top of West Mountain for 14 dollars each. The steers were trailed over Crane Creek and delivered to Falks store near Emmett (Kerby n.pag.).

In 1888, when he was 14 years old, R.H. Rutledge left Oregon with his family and set out for Long Valley to start a ranch. The family, Rutledge recounted, had "20 or 30 cattle, about 20 horses and two wagons loaded with a hay-mower, a hay-rake, a plow and an assortment of the necessary tools: axes, saws, shovels, forks, etc., a cook stove and the barest minimum of household goods" (Rutledge 121). The family crossed the Snake River at Olds Ferry, then continued up the Weiser River to Salmon Meadows. They followed a rough wagon trail through Weiser Canyon, from Council to Salmon Meadows. The river was high due to spring runoff, and the family had to ford it at least 24 times. The family continued from Salmon Meadows, over the mountain to Payette Lakes and down Long Valley; they reached their destination of Beaver Meadows about 10 miles northwest of Cascade in July. There they found "a scene of beauty, deep loamy soil, perfectly level, grass as far as one could see" (122). The Rutledge's built a house, put up wild hay for their stock, and laid up food for the winter. They cut fence rails, posts and poles in the forest, trading 1,000 rails for one cow. In this way, they were able to increase their cattle herd (126).

The winter of 1889 was one of the hardest in Long Valley's history. It was extremely cold, with a heavy snowfall and a late spring. There was a hay shortage that winter, and many cattle died (Chitwood n.pag.). By June 2, 1892, the Weiser Signal reported that 10,000 bushels of grain had been raised and threshed in Long Valley the previous fall, and that the stock had wintered well.

In 1895, Finnish immigrants settled in Long Valley near McCall, homesteading or buying land from other settlers (Chitwood n.pag.). The Elo settlement boasted a school, community center, and a post office in the home of Reverend Eloheimo. Spinning and weaving were a necessary industry for the Finns. At first, they possessed no sheep and had no wool for spinning. However, at this time big flocks of sheep were brought into Long Valley for summer range. The Finns asked for stray or defective

sheep from the big sheep outfits. Soon every household had acquired enough sheep to keep a spinning wheel going (Luzadder 38-39).

In the early days thousands upon thousands of sheep and cattle, whose owners mostly resided in the Payette and Boise valleys, were driven into Long Valley to graze (Bergh n.pag.). The February 22, 1887 Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman reported that "Beyond doubt Long Valley is the finest high valley in Idaho. Wild grasses grow in abundant luxuriance ... A good deal of stock will be driven into the valley in the spring and a good deal of hay will be cut for winter feeding." The homesteaders objected to the grazing of outside stock on their pastures and on the range. The sheep and cattlemen objected to the settlers taking up land. A bitter cattle war ensued in the 1890's. The settlers posted armed guards at Lardo Bridge and Smiths Ferry to prevent cattle and sheep from coming into the valleys. Homesteaders took turns guarding the bridges and ferries. On several occasions 50 to 100 cattle belonging to large cattle companies were corraled and shot (Chitwood n.pag.). In the summer of 1894, settlers formed a vigilante organization. One night, they gathered cattle belonging to stockmen from the lower valleys and corraled them on Charley Barker's ranch on Boulder Creek. The vigilantes shot 30 steers and left them in the corral. When the Barker brothers awoke to the sound of shooting and bawling steers, they tried to go outside to discover the source of the commotion. A guard at the door of their cabin ordered them to stay inside (Pottenger 25). During these years of conflict several human deaths occurred. The Ward brothers were murdered by a shepherd when they protested a trespass on their land (Chitwood n.pag.).

By the turn of the century Long Valley was flourishing with small villages and towns. These communities included Roseberry, Arling, Norwood, Cabarton, Elo, and Van Wyck. When the Pacific and Idaho Northern Railroad was built in 1914, these towns were bypassed and they quickly faded. The town sites of Cabarton and Van Wyck now lie underneath Cascade Reservoir (Miller n.pag.).

In 1909, the Idaho National Forest headquarters was moved from Meadows to McCall (Hockaday 33). Prior to the establishment of the Forest the range was unregulated and large bands of sheep were brought in for summer range from Oregon and the Weiser area. The main trail into the North Fork Payette River drainage was along the Van Wyck driveway. The trail started in Indian Valley and followed the ridge between Squaw Creek and the Little Weiser drainage, over the West Mountain divide and into Long Valley near Cascade. Another branch continued along West Mountain, around No Business, down Red Ridge, and fed sheep into the Goose Lake and Payette Lakes areas (169).

The earliest livestock permits on record were issued in 1912. C.A. Oakes ran sheep on the Kennally Creek and Rapid Creek allotments from 1912 to 1914. C.G. Doodwin held a permit for 2500 head of sheep on the South Fork of Lake Fork allotment from 1912 to 1918. The Bullard and Johnson Sheep Company grazed sheep on the East Fork and North Fork Lake Fork

allotments from 1912 to 1917. They sold to the Van Dusen Brothers in 1918. C.V. Richardson grazed 7500 head of sheep on the Pearl Creek and 20-Mile allotments from 1912 to 1914 and 5000 sheep from 1915 to 1925. Richardson, along with E.H. Richardson and Walter Little, ran sheep on the Fall Creek and Brush Creek allotments prior to 1918 (PNF, McCall RD, Old Range Statistics).

The Mesa Sheep Company ran sheep on what are now the seven allotments above Big Payette Lake including Brundage, Bill Hunt, Elk Wallow-Fisher Creek, Squaw Meadows, Slab Mountain, Cougar, and Josephine allotments prior to 1918. In 1918 these allotments were used by the Crane Creek Sheep Company under an annual and on and off permit for 17,400 sheep. In 1920 the on and off permit was dropped, leaving 15,400 head of sheep on the range. This number remained constant until 1928 when the allotment was transferred to the Portland Cattle and Loan Company and the numbers were reduced to 8,500 head. In 1930 the allotment was transferred to the Soulen Sheep Company (PNF, McCall RD, Old Range Statistics).

One of the largest woolgrowers in Idaho in the early days of the Forest was Andrew J. Little. Little was born in Moffatt, Scotland in 1871 and came to Idaho in 1893. He took his first job as a shepherd with Robert Aikman. Little eventually owned and operated 30 ranches in the Emmett Valley (Wentworth 1948: 617). In 1914 he purchased 3450 sheep from C.A. Oakes. In 1919 he exchanged an allotment on the Meadows District for the D.G. Doodwin permit (PNF, McCall RD, Old Range Statistics). In 1927 Little bought the Van Dusen Bands of over forty thousand sheep. By that time he was reported to have between 80,000 and 100,000 ewes in his operations (Wentworth 1948: 617).

The Main Salmon River

The history of livestock in the Salmon River country begins with the discovery of gold by James Warren in 1862. Miners hurried in droves to the Warren mining district. By November of 1862, there were 400 miners working claims in the area. During the height of the mining boom, 6,000 men were working claims (Elsensohn 1947: 79). Extensive prospecting and placer mining occurred throughout the Salmon River Mountains.

The large mining population created a need for goods and services. Thousands of pack animals carried supplies to the mining camps and gold dust back to Lewistown (Elsensohn 1947: 256). Pack trains crossed the Salmon River at Carrey Creek, trailed up French Creek to the head of Fall Creek, down to Burgdorf and into Miller's Camp in Ruby Meadows and Warren. Another route went up Carrey Creek by way of Studebaker Saddle. Each store had a pack string of principally mules to keep them in supplies (Farrell n.pag.). By 1880, Warren had a blacksmith shop, hotel, two general stores, a saloon and a butcher shop (Elsensohn 1947: 86). Slaughter Creek was named because of the beef that were slaughtered there by merchants. Vegetables were grown on the South Fork of the Salmon and sold to Warren miners.

Livestockmen, many from the Oregon and Washington, drove large herds of cattle to market in the Salmon River mining country. Several large herds were driven through Walla Walla in June of 1862 en route to the Salmon River and South Fork mines. In April of 1863 J.M. Blossom crossed the Willamette River at Portland with a large herd of cattle destined for the Salmon River market. W.C. Hill, also of Portland, passed through Walla Walla in May of that year with another drove for the Salmon River mines (Oliphant 1968: 69).

Ranches were established along the Main Salmon River to supply miners with beef. John Berg settled at the mouth of Berg Creek on the north side of the Salmon River in 1863. Berg had a store, placer mined and started a herd of cattle (Carrey 1978: 248). After Berg died, Charlie Clay bought the ranch for sheep range. Scott Brundage was the next owner. Gus Carlson later acquired this ranch (250).

William Shorts started mining on Shorts Bar in 1879. The area was later used for grazing sheep by Guy Kimbrough and Scott Brundage. In 1925, Brundage sold to Tom Carrey. John and Pearl Carrey started the last homestead in Idaho at Shorts Bar in 1939. They ran sheep there until 1943, when they sold their land to Bruce and Helen Walters (Carrey 1978: 250-251).

Allison Creek was named after Tom Allison who settled in 1870 (Elsensohn 1951: 97). The Howard Ranch, located on Elkhorn Creek, was the location of the first ferry crossing established during the mining boom in Florence. One of the earliest priority dates for water rights found, May

15, 1863, is located at the mouth of Elkhorn Creek (IDWR). Orvil and Flora Howard acquired the property in 1889, and started a ranch there. The Howards raised stock and grew fruit and produce to sell to the mining camps (Carrey 1978: 241-242). William Mackay raised cattle on Mackay Bar around 1900 (191).

The Shepp Ranch was started in the early 1900's (Carrey 1978: 206). The Bemis Ranch, across from the Shepp Ranch on Polly Creek, was the home of Charles and Polly Bemis after their marriage in 1894 (Elsensohn 1947: 95). An early water right on Polly Creek has a priority date of January 1, 1892 (IDWR).

A Mr. Knott was the first to settle on the Scott Ranch located on Scott Creek. He sold potatoes to the miners for 75 cents a pound; the potatoes were so small they were known as "Knott's Pill's." Sylvester Scott bought the Scott Ranch in 1894. The Scotts had 21 children and raised beef and produce for the mines (Carrey 1978: 237).

Fred and Clara Riggins bought the site where Riggins Hot Springs is located in 1900 from two squatters for six \$20 gold pieces. The Riggins put in grain, a garden, and an orchard. They packed produce up the Allison Creek trail to Buffalo Hump or up French Creek to Warren. They ran cattle on the surrounding hills. In 1917, Riggins brought in 700 sheep across the mountains south of his ranch. When he sold the sheep that fall, he had to deliver them to the north side of the river. He managed this by stringing a cable across the river and sending the sheep over in a carrier, seven at a time. Riggins decided to build a bridge across the river to his ranch. In 1919, when the bridge was completed, 1500 sheep crossed immediately. In order to get a permit from the Forest Service to build the bridge, Riggins was not allowed to charge for this traffic; however, he was reimbursed by the owners for hay and pasture (Carrey 1978: 244-45).

The first livestock permit within the Main Salmon was issued to L.D. Gillenwater for 2000 head of sheep in 1917. Gillenwater used the Klip Creek allotment until 1943 when he sold his sheep to Carl Nicholson. George Stover acquired the permit in 1944 and traded this allotment to Gus Carlson in 1946 for the Vance Creek allotment to consolidate their ranges (PNF, Warren RD, Old Range Statistics).

The first livestock permits found on the Willow Creek allotment were issued to Lizzie Hoxie from 1920 to 1928. In 1920 she grazed 1000 head of sheep on the allotment. The permit for 1250 head of sheep was acquired by H. and D.R. Walters in 1929 (PNF, Warren RD, Old Range Statistics).

The Elk Lake, Shorts Bar, Hershey Ridge, Lava Lakes and Little French Creek allotments were added to the Forest on June 30, 1932 (Hockaday 34). Prior to that time, the area was grazed by various bands of outside sheep and the more accessible areas were seriously overgrazed and damaged (PNF, New Meadows RD, Old Range Statistics). Carrey reports that many Oregon

sheep were brought in for summer range before the Forest was extended to the breaks of the Little Salmon and Main Salmon Rivers. "They flooded the country, everybody trying to get ahead of the other guy" (Carrey, Prose & Poetry: 20). In 1933 2400 head of sheep were permitted on the Shorts Bar allotment. Carrey acquired the range in 1939 (PNF, New Meadows RD, Old Range Statistics).

The South Fork Salmon River

The early settlement and development of the livestock industry within the South Fork Salmon River also started with the mining boom at Warren. The first ranch on the South Fork was settled by Sylvester "Three-Fingered" Smith in the early 1860's (Elsensohn 1947: 90). Smith played a prominent role at the beginning of the Sheepeater War. He survived the ambush at Payette Falls, where William Munday, Tom Healey, and Jake Groseclose were killed. The men were pursuing renegade Indians who had raided Indian Valley on August 17, 1878 and ran off with 60 head of horses (Carney 27).

At the time of the 1879 Sheepeater War there were four ranches along the South Fork Salmon River. In addition to the ranch settled by Smith, there were the Hugh Johnson, Pony Smead, and James Raines ranches. Raines Creek, Pony Creek and Smith Creek are named after these ranchers. Both Johnson and Raines were killed by the Indians in 1879 (Elsensohn 1947: 37-88). An early water right on Pony Creek has a priority date of January 1, 1879 (IDWR).

In 1870 Fred Burgdorf staked a claim to what is now Burgdorf Hot Springs, and began running cattle in the area and selling beef to the miners (Luke 16). Burgdorf used Secesh Meadows for summer range. In the fall, he trailed his cattle from Burgdorf Hot Springs and Secesh Meadows over Burgdorf Summit to Mackay Bar where he wintered them on the ranch and across the Salmon River. Burgdorf was the first owner of the Raines Ranch after James Raines was killed (Carney 1978: 191). He later went into the cattle business with Freeman Nethken, running about 400 cattle (Bergh n.pag.). Burgdorf Hot Springs and Jeanette Creek Spring have water rights with priority dates of June 1, 1875 (IDWR).

Andy Nelson who came into the South Fork in 1890, brought the first sheep to the mouth of the South Fork River, along with Fred Badley (Farrell n.pag.; Carney, 44-45). He acquired the Raines ranch from Burgdorf in 1910-11 (Carney 44). Nelson held the first recorded livestock permit at the mouth of the South Fork on the Five-Mile allotment. In 1912, Andy Nelson, Fulton, and Pope were permitted to graze 100 head of cattle and 2300 head of sheep year round. He bought out Fulton and Pope in 1916. Common use was eliminated in 1919 and Nelson continued to graze up to 200 head of cattle (PNF, Warren RD, Old Range Statistics). In 1924, he sold the Raines ranch to Fred Badley (Carney 45). Year round grazing and seasonal grazing use was initiated in 1928 (PNF, Warren RD, Old Range Statistics).

Another historic ranch in the South Fork drainage is the Fritser ranch, which was started in 1898 (Idaho Statesman, Nov. 10, 1973). George Fritser was born on the ranch in 1902 and still makes it his home (Fritser). The South Fork Ranger Station was first taken up for a ranch by Solon Hall in 1872 (Elsensohn 1951: 75; Farrel n.pag.) Ben Day was the next owner. Jack Shafer acquired the ranch around 1900. He drowned in

1907 during the construction of the first wagon bridge across the South Fork (Fuller 221). The ranch was subsequently owned by Carl Brown and Mamie McCall. Tom Carrey homesteaded the ranch in 1911. John Carrey, author of numerous books on Idaho history, was born on the ranch in 1914. Tom Carrey patented the land in 1916. It was later acquired by the Forest Service (Carney 32).

As previously mentioned, cattle were raised to provide food to the miners within the Secesh River. However, near the beginning of the century, sheep became the dominant livestock on this area of Forest lands. Currently all allotments within the Secesh Drainage are allocated to sheep.

In 1909, William Wilburn was grazing livestock on the old Loon Creek and Willow Basket allotments. The first records in the Victor Creek allotment indicate it was used by E.H. Richardson from 1923 to 1929, who grazed 1250 head of sheep. The Loon Creek, Willow-Basket, and Victor Creek allotments now comprise the Victor Creek-Loon Creek allotment (PNF, Warren RD, Old Range Statistics). Sheep as well as cattle were grazed in the area. John Carrey writes of trailing sheep to Pony Meadows and Loon Creek to summer, then back out by Duck Lake and Lake Fork into McCall to ship the lambs (Carrey, Prose & Poetry: 49).

The Petes Creek allotment around the Burgdorf Hot Springs areas was used by L.D. Gillenwater from 1917 to 1943. In 1917, 2,000 head of sheep were permitted in a combined Pete's Creek and Klip Creek allotment. The Grouse Creek sheep allotment was grazed by 1250 head of sheep from 1920 to 1931 by J.D. Thomas of Ontario, Oregon. Old card records indicate that the North Fork of Lick Creek allotment was used by the Bullard and Johnson Sheep Company from 1912 to 1917. In 1918 they sold to the Van Dusen Brothers Company, who grazed sheep there until 1927 when Andrew Little bought the Van Dusen bands (PNF, Krassel RD, Old Range Statistics).

The Reed Ranch was first settled by John Reeves in 1896 who began placer mining on the river bar. William Caldwell began farming on the bar in 1905. Caldwell built a cabin, barn, and fences, and raised hay and oats for his livestock. He was murdered in 1908 (Ortman 2). William Reed, an ex-Texas Ranger, took out his first homestead entry in 1914 on the south end of the bar. George Krassel, who settled on the north end on the bar on the old Caldwell place, was killed by Reed in 1918. Reed shot Krassel in self-defense when Krassel became enraged after discovering that Reed's cattle had gotten into his hay (6). During the 1910's, Reed had a Forest permit for 100 head of sheep on an allotment in the Nasty Creek drainage (8).

With the advent of the railroad into Long Valley in 1914, and the deterioration of more accessible range, sheepmen began to push heavily in the South Fork. Most of the sheep were driven over the Van Wyck driveway on West Mountain, across Long Valley, over the Buckhorn and Blackmare Trails, into the South Fork. By 1920, there were 25,000 sheep on that

portion of the Krassel District. Some of the largest livestock permittees at that time were Andrew Little, L.E. Wilson, and P.J. Connolly (Ortman 8).

During the 1920's, allotments were set up for each permittee to eliminate common use in the same area. Due to the continued overgrazing and severe erosion problems, numbers were continually reduced. In 1953, the general range condition was summarized by Ranger Finlay McNaughton:

Basically, our problem is securing management in the public interest on extremely steep slopes and on the immature, easily disturbed granitic soil type. The west slopes of the South Fork of the Salmon River from North Buckhorn Creek south to and including Blackmare Creek have been grazed with sheep since about 1910. Permitted use on this range has been periodically reduced from about 5700 head and 11,400 animal months to the present obligation of 1988 head for 6627 animal months...The forage that is produced on these restricted areas is harvestable only at the price of extreme soil disturbance on all adjoining slopes. It is generally recognized within the Service that we do not have forage to sell on this range and that grazing should be eliminated. (Ortman 8-9)

By the late 1950's the grazing had been significantly reduced within the South Fork drainage and by 1970 no allotment remained on the Payette National Forest within the South Fork above the confluence with East Fork of the South Fork of the Salmon River (Ortman 9).

The Frank Church - River of No Return

U.S. army troops marched into the area now known as the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness during the Sheepeater Indian Campaign of 1879. The soldiers pursued the Indians into Big Creek and the Middle Fork of The Salmon country. They built the first trail into Chamberlain Basin from Warren for their pack horses. This trail was later used by miners during the Thunder Mountain boom (Hockaday 7).

The ranching industry in Chamberlain Basin was developed because the miners needed meat, not because of the adaptability of the area for stock raising. The miners had relied on big game for meat, but by 1885, big game was scarce, and higher prices were offered for domestic stock (Farrell n.pag.). Erv Root and his son Jess started the first ranch in lower Chamberlain Basin in 1893 (Elsensohn 1951: 74). The second Root Ranch, on Whimstick Creek, was started in 1904 (Fuller 268). William Campbell, the "likeable Scotsman" settled his ranch in 1898. In 1900, he helped to build the Three Blaze Trail to Thunder Mountain (Carrey 1978: 162). The Churchill-Dale Whitewater Ranch, located at the confluence of Little Mallard Creek and the Main Salmon, was settled in 1897. The Churchills raised cattle and pack stock and attempted to make a living selling beef and fruit and vegetables to the mining camps (157).

Other early ranchers included W.A. Stonebraker and Harry Donahue on Chamberlain Meadows; W.H. Colwell on Cold Meadows in 1908; Ralph Davis at Moose Meadows; and J.F. Fields at McCalla Creek in 1915. August Hotzel, a naturalized Swiss, started his ranch, complete with Swiss-style buildings, in 1912 (Fuller 268). The "History of the Idaho National Forest" recounts that "after being informed he could own the land by merely working it, he shed tears of joy and blessed America as God's land." Unfortunately, like many other ranchers in Chamberlain Basin dependent on the mining boom, Hotzel's enterprise failed (Farrell n.pag.).

The Big Creek mining district was started in 1883 and the Aloha district in 1885. Pringles Smith started Copper Camp below Beaver Creek in 1888. The Werdenhoff mine on Smith Creek was discovered around 1889 by Smith. James Hand first entered the Big Creek country in 1889. Four of his horses died, rolling off the steep hillsides, as Hand went down the Middle Fork and up Big Creek (Fuller 240-242). Hand located the first recorded mining claim on Beaver Creek in 1893 (Elsensohn 1951: 74). Hand also discovered the Golden Hand Mine on Corn Creek in the 1890's. By 1899, John Ramey was prospecting at Ramey Ridge (Fuller 243). Edwardsburg became the headquarters of the mining district. The town was named for William Edwards, a miner who supplemented his income by operating a store, ranching, and trailing in cattle to butcher for the miners (240).

Miners in the Big Creek area often started ranches or farms to supply the miners and mining camps. Most of the ranches were below Monumental Bar (Fuller 245). The Caswell Ranch on Cabin Creek was the location of

the first agriculture practiced in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness (247). Ben and Dan Caswell started the ranch in the 1891 (Elsensohn 1951: 74). The brothers had an orchard and garden, raised sheep and hay, and trapped, hunted and prospected. In 1896, while searching for a lost mule, the Caswells discovered gold at the base of Thunder Mountain. This event soon led to a rush of miners to the area (Fuller 229).

The Taylor Ranch on Cliff Creek was originally settled by the Bull brothers in 1896. John Conyers later moved to the ranch, raising cattle and hay. "Cougar John" Lewis, a packer during the Sheepeater War, took up the ranch in 1918 and packed to the mines, outfitted and hunted cougars. Lewis sold the ranch to Jess Taylor in 1933 (Fuller 248-249).

Another early Big Creek Ranch was started by Shorty Yardley. He settled at Acorn Creek below Monumental Bar around 1900. The Routson family bought the ranch in 1911, raised cattle and packed for the mines. The Mile Hi Ranch, between Coxe and Garden Creeks, supplied vegetables and beef to the Snowshoe Mine on Crooked Creek. The first post office in the area was located at the confluence of Garden Creek and Big Creek on the Gardens Ranch, which was patented in 1913 (Fuller 244-246).

Claude and Elsie Taylor were early settlers on Monumental Creek. They established a claim at Copper Creek in 1890. Taylor mined, hunted and farmed there for 50 years. The Monumental Creek Ranch, about five miles below Roosevelt, was started in 1913 by R.A. Wallingford. Aloha Beck McCoy lived on the ranch during her childhood. She remembered that the irrigation ditches were so full of salmon that they spilled out, covering the fields (Fuller 231-233).

The major mining activity in the area was at Thunder Mountain. The boom lasted from about 1901 to 1903. Several thousand people rushed to Thunder Mountain in 1902 (Hockaday 16). The town of Roosevelt became a busy trading center, which boasted six mercantile establishments by 1902 and six saloons by 1903 (20). When the Dewey Mine was operating during the boom, Roosevelt had a population of 200 to 500 people (16). There were lucrative profits to be made from the miners. One entrepreneur, Asa Clark, trailed in cows and supplies in the spring. In the fall he butchered his stock (Fuller 231). The end of the boom at Thunder Mountain was due to a poorer grade of ore and declining prices. In 1909, a mudslide dammed Monumental Creek, drowning the nearly abandoned town of Roosevelt.

The Thunder Mountain boom led to other mineral discoveries in the area, including Yellow Pine Basin. The area, 18 miles west of Thunder Mountain, had once been a station on the trail from Warren to Boise Basin (Fuller 225). A.H. Behne, known as the founder of Yellow Pine, came to the Basin in 1902, pushing his belongings in a one-wheeled cart. Behne started a post office in 1906, providing the first mail service (Sumner 4). Al Hennessey homesteaded 160 acres on Johnson Creek in 1903, and

started a ranch. Hennessey patented his ranch in 1919 (Sumner 21). He discovered and owned the Hermes, Meadow Creek and Yellow Pine mines. Soon most of the meadowland was homesteaded to raise beef for the miners. When mining declined, homesteads were abandoned (Fuller 225).

The boom at Thunder Mountain opened the area for extensive livestock grazing. Sheep outfits from the Boise and Payette Valleys trailed in large numbers of sheep for summer range. The Forest Service "Report on Intensive Land Classification" of 1912 notes that "large areas were overgrazed almost to the point of denudation and fires set out by prospectors and sheep herders swept unrestrained, destroying large bodies of timber and creating a constant menace to the adjacent National Forests" (Greeley n.pag.).

The 1918 "Report on Thunder Mountain Area, Idaho, and Its Relation to Surrounding National Forests" expresses concern that overgrazing was causing severe erosion on the steep slopes of the area. More and more sheep were trailed in for summer range and several sheep and cattle operations were looking for locations. Three hundred thousand sheep had been grazed that season; the estimated carrying capacity was 75,000 to 100,000 sheep. One of the settlers had expressed the opinion that there was adequate range for 20,000 cattle in the Big Creek country alone. This, the report dryly noted, "might be possible if they could prosper on alpine grass and squaw or grouse berry" (Guy 27).

On December 23, 1919 the Thunder Mountain District and a middle section of the South Fork of the Salmon River was added to the Idaho Forest (Hockaday 33). The Sugar Creek sheep allotment is the only remaining livestock allotment in this area. The original allotment was about six times its present size and included Quartz Creek, the head of Big Creek, Little Marble Creek, and the West Fork of Monumental Creek. At the time the area became National Forest it was grazed by 6,000 to 9,000 head of sheep, with no restrictions on grazing. In 1920, a temporary permit was assigned to Arregui and Arostegui for 2100 head (PNF, Big Creek RD, Old Range Statistics).

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