

REPORT ON A PROPOSED ADDITION  
TO THE  
CACHE NATIONAL FOREST,  
SUMMARIZED FROM REPORTS

by

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and

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T 8 N, R 4 E, S. L. M., was examined first in 1908 to determine its suitability for forest purposes and its influence on the water supply of Ogden, and it was re-examined in connection with the remaining area considered in this report at the request of residents of the surrounding country. It is necessary to consider it, not only from the timber standpoint but with respect to its value to Ogden, City.

The highest point in this township is a rounded mountain known as Monte Cristo, the altitude of which is approximately 10,000 feet. The altitude of the surrounding country is nowhere less than 8,500 feet, but in spite of this fact, it is by no means a rugged country. The main divide of the Wasatch range is here a high rolling ridge with no precipitous peaks. Nearly everywhere is a plentiful covering of soil.

Heavy snows are the rule in winter with falling precipitation and drying streams later in the season. Springs are frequent. Skunk Creek flows a constant supply of water and Woodruff Creek is an excellent trout stream which supplies the town of the same name with water for irrigation and domestic use. The streams on the East of the main divide draining from the area north of this are small and frequently run dry. Rock Creek, Curtis Creek, Blacksmith's Fork and Little Bear River draining the west side of the divide are all constant streams and dependent upon the cover for the chance to remain so.

The small creeks flowing into Ogden River from the south of Township 8 N, R 4 E, under present conditions frequently

run dry but there is hardly any doubt that if the area were properly forested a constant supply of water would be available to most of these. It may be stated that under proper protection a dense forest cover could be restored to most of the area, as in spite of heavy overgrazing, the area is restocking well in spots. There is no cultivable land in any part of the area and very little open grass land.

The southern part of T 8 N, R 4 E, is essential to the proper conservation of the waters of Ogden River. It is to be much regretted that the townships south and west of this, even more important, have been so heavily alienated that there is now little chance to protect them. If this township were open to entry there is little doubt that it also would soon pass from the control of the government into private and corporate hands. Prominent citizens and officials of Ogden are strongly in favor of protection for their water supply and will welcome any action leading to that end.

Woodruff Creek also needs protection badly and the inhabitants of Woodruff are united in their advocacy of the contemplated addition. The only definite opposition springs, apparently from the Neponset Live Stock Company, large sheepmen who own scattered forties through the area and control by that means most of the grazing.

Formerly the bulk of the area must have been heavily timbered but cutting has extended over 20 years until now the stands not entirely destroyed are very heavily culled; little good timber remaining in the southern townships and that in the northern part showing the effects of indiscriminate destruction very plainly.

The species are Red Fir, Englemann Spruce, Alpine Fir and Balsam Fir. A very large extent of Aspen occurs plentifully over the entire area. Some of this is very good, straight, clean and large enough for saw logs. Along each of the stream beds are strips of Aspen, Willows, Alder and Service Berry.

Reproduction on the cut-over areas varies considerably, but wherever conditions have been in the least favorable it is excellent. Repeated fires, evidence of which remains on the stumps have, in other cases, kept reproduction down, but there is no doubt that under proper protection an extensive and dense forest of valuable species can be easily established. It would probably be advisable in view of the importance of the southern part of the township to the Ogden River water supply, to start planting operations as soon as possible on this area. The Aspen and brush offers excellent cover for seedlings and as the soil conditions are good, there should be little difficulty in establishing successful plantations. Western Yellow Pine, which does not grow on the Wasatch range, could very probably be introduced here.

Two mills are now located on T 8 N, R 4 E,; one with a capacity of about 10,000 feet and the other of about 5,000 feet. Both are now shut down by order of the Special Agent of the Land Office and an estimate of the timber removed is being made with a view to the collection of damages.

The present water supply of Ogden City is not sufficient for the needs of the town since, at times when the use is greatest only a few hours reserve remains in the reservoirs. The city officials are already awakened to the needs of the city and are

at present engaged in research and surveys to find out whether the city supply cannot be increased by going further back up the north, south and Middle forks of Ogden River. They have been too slow in looking after this matter as the greater part of the lands which might have been reserved and patrolled are already alienated. The City is in an unfortunate predicament, far worse than that in which Salt Lake found itself a few years ago.

It would seem that in accordance with its past policy the Service should do everything in its power to assist Ogden in securing its sources of water supply and any action it can take to aid the city in this matter would seem very advisable.

#### ADDITIONAL AREA EXAMINED

This additional area lies in Townships 8, 9, 10 and 11 N, Ranges 4 and 5 East, and consists of the watershed formed by the main ridge of the Wasatch Mountains as far north as the present south boundary of the Cache National Forest. It is traversed by several roads, chiefly old logging roads. Most of the area lies on the west side of the divide draining into Curtis Rock Creeks and Blacksmiths Fork. The valley below these in Range 3 East, is well settled and consists of agricultural and grazing lands. To the east, Townships 8 to 11 North, in Range 5 East, drain toward a well settled valley in which are two post settlements, Woodruff and Randolph. Both these settlements depend on this slope for their water supply.

The east slope of the Wasatch is here, as a rule, rather sparsely timbered, but a scattering cullied stand stretches along

the slope, becoming dense on the north slopes of the gulches. A good cover of quaking Aspen is found on the whole area with the exception of occasional areas of grass land. The top of the divide is entirely grass land, forming a narrow strip about 300 yards wide and 15 miles long. The species are the same as found in T 8 N, R 4 E, being Douglas fir, Balsam fir (A. lasiocarpa) Englemann Spruce, and one or two small patches of Lodgepole Pine. Reproduction of valuable species is excellent in the hollows, most of the stand being second growth with merchantable timber absent, and on more unfavorable situations, the Fir and Spruce is coming in under the Aspen, though in a rather straggling manner.

#### GRAZING AND LUMBERING

This side of the divide is heavily grazed and two livestock companies hold land here in small areas along water courses chiefly. Owing, probably to good seasons the area does not seem to have suffered much and the grass is pretty good. Two or three small sawmills formerly operated here, but as most of the good timber has been cut, they are no longer in operation.

#### WEST SLOPE OF DIVIDE

The west slope drains into a settled valley, the attitude of whose residents is not known. They will probably join in petitioning for the addition, according to residents of Woodruff.

This slope has been heavily culled and most of the merchantable timber removed. Generally the stand is like that in the other areas, but as Rock and Curtis Creeks drain a very

large basin which is lower than the surrounding country, the conditions for Forest growth are exceptionally good. The whole basin in Townships 9 and 10 N, R 4 E, is covered with quaking Aspen with pure stands of Fir and Spruce on north slopes.

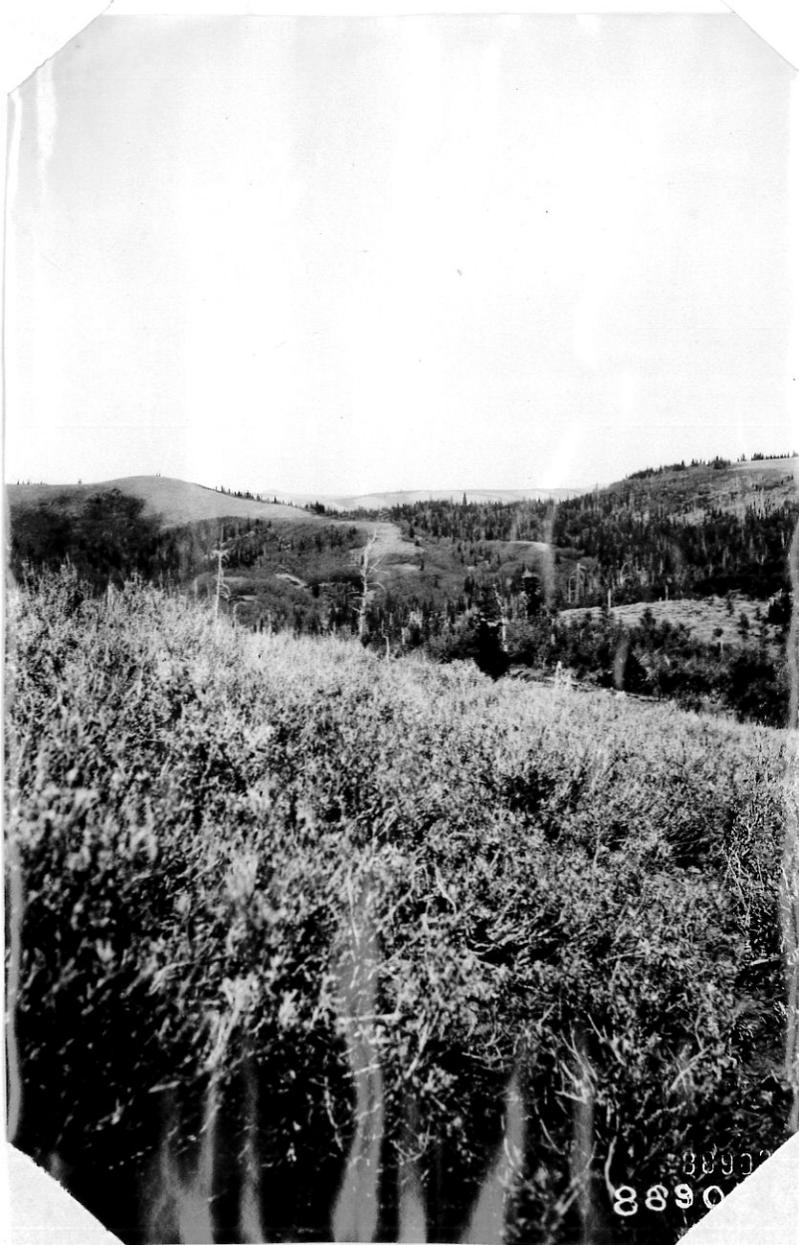
But here, even on south slopes reproduction of Fir and Spruce is coming in well under the Aspen. Fires are prevalent here as elsewhere, owing to the quantity of dead and down timber. It seems probable that with proper protection, the entire basin can be entirely reproduced to valuable species, by natural seeding. A very considerable area of timberland, young growth that will make merchantable trees exists in this basin. There is also quite a little commercial timber left on the cut-over areas. One or two small sawmills have been recently operated but are now shut down.

The grazing question on this area does not seem as important as that on the east slope. Under the Aspen cover there is plenty of grass and while some land is held by the livestock companies, they cannot control the range as completely as the less well watered east slope.

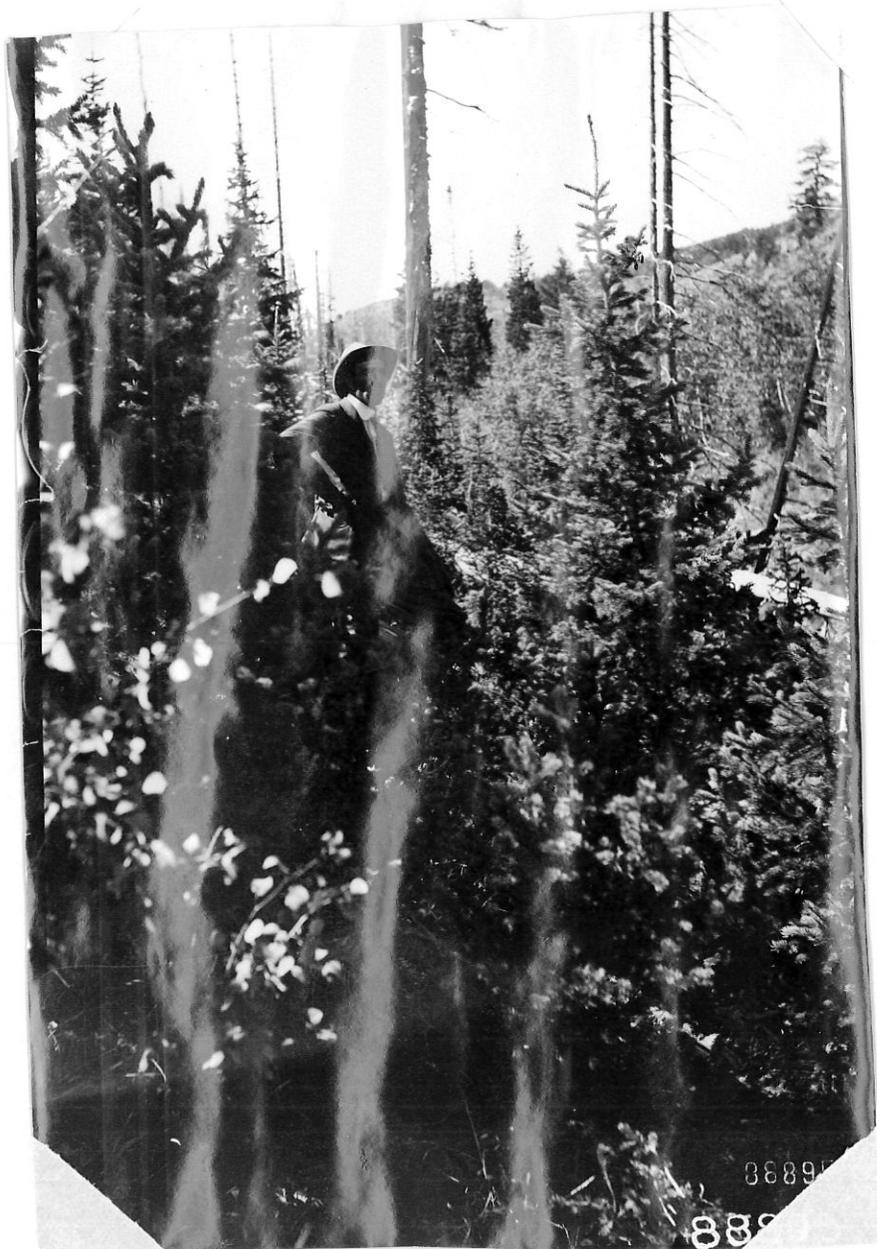
#### RECOMMENDATION

As the area is entirely potential Forest land and contains good stands of valuable young growth, forms a watershed for two settled valleys and for Ogden City, and as local public sentiment demands such action, it is recommended that the land shown inside the red lines on the accompanying map be added to the Cache National Forest.

R4-1680-2009-0042-007



TP. 10 N., R. 5 E., LOOKING EAST.



REPRODUCTION ON CUTOVER SLOPES, TP. 8 N., R. 4 E.



88897

LOGGED AND BURNED LAND .



CUTOVER LAND REPRODUCING, TP. 10 N., R. 5 E.

11-3  
94 2



588

HEAD OF CURTIS CREEK, TP. 10 N., R. 4 E.



TP. 10 N., R. 5 E., LOOKING EAST.



BASIN AT HEAD OF CURTIS CREEK, TP. 10 N., R. 4 E.