

*Noted
Aug 8/10*

Cache - Inspection,
Fenn, H. E.,
July 16 - 29.

July 30, 1910.

District Forester,
Ogden, Utah.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with your instructions, I made an inspection of the Cache National Forest during the period specified. My work involved a complete inspection of the office records, which required a period of three days. From July 19 to July 28, inclusive, as thorough a field inspection was made as the time would permit. Supervisor Smith accompanied me throughout my trip over the Forest, and we visited each Ranger District.

I am very glad indeed to report that I found the business on the Cache Forest in splendid shape. The office records are the best maintained that it has been my pleasure to inspect since being connected with the District Office. I found that the Special Use records were a little out of date, but all matters were properly adjusted by Supervisor Smith before leaving the office for the field inspection.

M. M.

B. F. -- Ogden.

The range throughout the Forest was in better condition than I had anticipated. It is only natural to expect this season, owing to the long period of drought, that ranges which in ordinary years would be properly stocked, to show some evidence of hard use this year. With the exception of District No. 8, however, the range allotted to both cattle and sheep will support the number of stock permitted. In fact, both sheep and cattle will be able to remain on the Forest this year throughout the regular grazing period. While the stock will not leave the Forest in as good flesh as usual, owing to the dry weather, which has somewhat affected the feed, they should be in marketable condition.

I found the system of individual range allotments working splendidly. Individual allotment boundaries are well posted with boundary notices, and the stockmen generally show a commendable tendency toward respecting the allotment lines. This is largely due to the activity of the Ranger force. They have mingled freely with the stockmen and impressed upon them not only the necessity of observing the Regulations, but also of carefully husbanding the forage crop this year, in order that the stock will not have to leave the Forest before the close of the grazing period. The cattle range shows the effect of heavy stocking perhaps more than the sheep range, but there is no danger of injury resulting from the presence of the number of cattle and horses permitted this year.

While the areas allotted to sheep grazing will support the number of stock now allotted this season, it is *not*

D. F. -- Ogden.

my opinion that this is the permanent grazing capacity of the Forest. Probably the greater proportion of sheep range is burned over timber lands, which are restocking with a heavy stand of lodgepole pine. It will only be a very few years until the dense stand of young timber will gradually crowd out the grasses and forage plants, and a reduction in the number of sheep will have to be made proportionate to the timber increment. When the burned over areas which are now being used for grazing purposes restock with timber, in my judgment the open grazing lands which remain will not support in excess of 50,000 head of sheep. The number of cattle will also have to be reduced for the same reason.

The grazing of both sheep and cattle apparently is not retarding the reproduction of lodgepole pine, although it may affect the reproduction of other species. The Cache Forest has great potential timber possibilities, and they should be given first consideration in the management of the Forest, and ^I if it is found as time progresses that the grazing of livestock interferes with the extension of the growth of trees, grazing should give way to the production of timber, since I believe that without doubt the greatest use to which the lands within the Cache National Forest can be put is to growing trees. This does not mean the total exclusion of livestock, but it does mean that silvical conditions and requirements should be given first consideration on this Forest, and grazing considered as a temporary use.

restricted accordingly

D. F. -- Ogden.

District No. 8, which includes Sherman Mountain, Soda Mountain, and the Eight Mile country, shows plainly the effect of past misuse. Valuable forage plants have been replaced to a great extent by noxious weeds, and although this portion of the Forest has been under administration for four years, valuable grasses and other forage plants are gaining headway very slowly. In my opinion, a gradual reduction should be made in District No. 8 until a sufficient reduction is made to permit of a rotation system of handling the range. This will mean an allotment for each outfit large enough to allow alternate use of the range from year to year. This is the only means by which the range can be brought back to what it should be.

I have talked the situation over fully with Supervisor Smith, and he concurs in my opinion and will work to that end. He believes that desired results can be accomplished by crediting all reductions on account of transfers, as well as forfeited permits by reason of non-use or otherwise, to District No. 8. In this way a sliding scale reduction on the total number of sheep grazed on the Forest may be avoided.

The presence of large areas of State lands within that portion of the Forest located in the State of Utah has caused more or less embarrassment to the Forest administration since its creation. There is one block of State land on the head of Logan River of approximately 20,000 acres. In addition, there are already four Sections of school lands in each

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Township. During the existence of the cooperative agreement between the Forest Service and the Utah State Land Board the State lands were handled by the Forest Service, and a sufficient number of regular Forest Service permittees were assigned to the State to take up its quota. Upon the cancellation of the agreement these permittees were of necessity reinstated and given permit allotments on National Forest lands. This necessitated a reduction this year of 8,000 head of sheep.

During the season of 1910 the State Land Board disposed of the grazing privilege on the State land under an acreage competitive system. The stockmen took advantage of the State and only leased small scattered tracts and took in large number of stock to graze upon them. As a consequence the State lands, and especially the 20,000 acre unit, have been severely overgrazed this year, to an extent that has led the people who are dependent upon the use of Logan River for irrigation purposes to believe that the overgrazing of this area is largely responsible for the diminution of the stream flow this year. Many water users have complained to the local officers regarding the use of the State lands, but of course no relief can be granted by the Forest Service. The people have now under consideration the preparation of a request in the form of a petition to the State Legislature, asking that the Forest Service be allowed to regulate grazing on this area. Since the matter is a live issue among the people living in the vicinity of the Cache Forest, it will no doubt be brought to the attention of both this office and the State Land Board

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at a later date.

I took occasion to invite Mr. William Thain of Logan, a member of the Utah State Land Board, to accompany me during a brief inspection of existing conditions on the State lands. The invitation was gladly accepted, and on July 23 we looked over the proposition carefully. Mr. Thain made no comment on the condition in which he found the State lands, but I am convinced that he will agree with me should the grazing of the number of stock now on the State lands be continued, very serious injury will result to the Logan River watershed.

Mr. Thain is of the opinion that the State is not in a position to properly regulate the grazing, and will favor either a new cooperative agreement with the Forest Service or else Federal legislation, which will permit the State to make selections of public land in lieu of the State lands within the exterior boundaries of the National Forests in Utah. He rather favors the latter. The proper control of grazing on the particular area of State land in question is very important as a measure of watershed protection. The Logan River flows the largest volume of water of any stream in the State of Utah, and there are none more valuable for irrigation. In response to a popular demand by the people of Cache County, the Forest Service has given a great deal of attention to the Logan River watershed. Stock have been excluded, an efficient fire patrol maintained on the headwaters of this stream, and everything that is possible has been done by the Service to maintain a normal flow.

D. F. -- Ogden.

It is to be regretted that misuse of the State lands will be allowed to offset the good work the Service has done, and I most urgently recommend that, if agreeable to the State Land Board, some agreement be entered into looking to a more efficient control of this area. I do not wish to be understood as recommending a cooperative agreement between the State of Utah and the Forest Service for the control of all State lands within the National Forest, but only to cover this particular case.

Generally speaking, I have no recommendations to offer for the improvement of the methods of managing the grazing business on the Cache Forest. I found the Regulations being enforced satisfactorily in every way. The Rangers take the keenest interest in their work, and the well balanced personnel has resulted in a uniformly high standard of efficiency throughout. Supervisor Smith is to be commended for the splendid work he has done since assuming charge of the Cache National Forest.

Very truly yours,

