

R E P O R T

On INSPECTION of GRAZING.

PORTNEUF NATIONAL FOREST

By W. C. Clos, INSPECTOR OF GRAZING

Pocatello, Idaho,
February 26, 1908.

RM-FILE COPY

Inspection Grazing, Portneuf, 2-26-08, Clos 1.

A L L O T M E N T.

The authorization for grazing stock on this Forest during the season of 1908 is given in letter "GI" of January 3, 1908. And provides for 5000 cattle and horses and 32000 sheep. A protective limit of 70 cattle and horses or 1200 sheep is established.

The actual grazing capacity of this Forest is estimated by the supervisor at about 25000 sheep besides the cattle and horses now authorized to be grazed. It is evident therefore that farther reductions will be necessary in the future. For the present season I anticipate complaints from the larger owners since they will have to stand the major part of a total reduction of about 1-4 of the total last years allotment. I notice that the present authorization provides for 4000 sheep more than the supervisor recommended in his grazing report and under the existing conditions I believe that this raise was not only justified but eminently necessary.

Method of allotment.

The supervisor reports that it is impossible at present to assign individual allotments to each permittee, that will accommodate his sheep during the entire grazing season. On this account the herds are shifted by the rangers whenever necessary.

A D J U S T M E N T.

Use of Private Lands.

No cases of this kind are on file. I explained the conduct of this business to the supervisor.

Grazing Trespass.

The files contain no records of this kind. I called the attention of the supervisor to the latest circular on grazing trespasses.

Live Stock Associations and Advisory Boards.

No such associations have been formed here. I explained their advantages fully and as this Forest is small it seems to me that an organization of cattle-men and another of sheep men might be effected without difficulty.

Permits. P E R M I T S.

The period for receiving applications terminated February 20th. The applications are under consideration, none were rejected so far.

Identification cards.

These are used for sheep only and issued by the supervisor one for each herd.

The supervisor has not kept a record of the permits in book form but as he is familiar with the old grazing sheets formerly used, he admitted its utility when I explained the object in view and its advantages.

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D E V E L O P M E N T
F E N C E S.

Pastures.

No agreements are on file.

Drift Fences.

The files contain no records of this kind. The supervisor does not recommend any drift fences to be constructed as Forest improvements.

Corrals.

There are no cases of this kind on record.

F O R A G E

The condition of the Forage was fair when stock entered, but poor at end of season. The sheep left early on account of lack of feed Grasshoppers destroyed large patches of the range. As it is impossible to use the ordinary methods of catching these grasshoppers and as they occur in enormous numbers I respectfully recommend that the assistance of experts Entomologists from the Department of Agriculture be secured in order to assist in the destruction of these pests by means of their natural enemies (Fungus disease) The same experts should also attend to this work on the adjoining Pocatello Forest.

Poisonous Plants.

No losses of stock are reported from this source.

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W A T E R .

The watering facilities for stock on this forest are good. There is no need of artificial development of water. On account of lack of rangeas, the springs and seeps have not been well looked after in the past but they will receive the required attention in the future.

Other matters concerning grazing and live stock.

Trails and driveways

The trails in use are sufficient for present needs. Two driveways are established but may have to be changed, however the supervisor intends to investigate this personally during the coming summer.

Counting.

All kinds of stock will be counted this year.

Salting.

This is well attended to. The Forest officers notify the users of the range of the quantity necessary for their stock and also the place where it is to be put out.

Devastations of Grasshoppers.

I have made recommendations for this evil under the subject Forage.

Predatory Animals.

Coyotes are very numerous, wildcats and mountain lions also occur. Owing to the proximity of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, the coyotes drift from there on this Forest and as the Indians do not kill them, these animals are very numerous and cause great losses. Messrs Douglas & Valentine inform me

that they pay a bounty of \$1.00 out of their private means for every coyote killed ~~and~~ on this range and they requested that a hunter be employed by the Forest Service also. I therefore respectfully recommend that a Hunter be employed as Forest Guard on this Forest and the neighboring Pocatello (See my report on Pocatello) The supervisor informs me that Russian Wolf hounds are used with considerable success at Chesterfield in the vicinity of this forest for the killing of coyotes. The local breed of wolf hounds however is degenerating from close in breeding and the supervisor desires to know if the Forest service would assist the local owners in the maintenance of their breed of wolf hounds by an appropriation sufficient for the purchase of a pure bred male wolf hound for breeding purposes. This hound might be kept by the hunter in the winter and at the planting station on the Pocatello Forest in the summer, and his services for breeding purposes should be free to neighboring owners of wolf hounds. Mr Valentine of the firm of Douglas & Valentine stated to me that the grazing season on that portion of the range which they used on this Forest was short and that the grazing fee should therefore be reduced. I informed him that there would be no objection to the adoption of a special grazing season with a correspondingly reduced grazing fee, if the actual conditions would justify such action. As an inspection of that area at this season of the year was impossible I asked him for a written statement of the facts but he failed to furnish this and when I mentioned the matter to the supervisor he was not in favor of the change advocated by Mr Valentine.

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Sentiment.

The small owners are in favor of the Forest Service but the large sheep men are all opponents.

Summary of Recommendations.

1. Expert Entomologists from the Department of Agriculture should be sent here and also on the Pocatello Forest next summer for the purpose of directing operations against the grasshoppers (If possible the fungus disease should be tried)
2. A hunter should be employed as Forest guard during the winter on this forest and on the Pocatello for the purpose of exterminating coyotes.

Very respectfully submitted.

W. C. Clos

Inspector of Grazing.

Pocatello, Idaho,

February 26, 1908.

*Approved March 10-08
RFB
CT*