

AN UNFAVORABLE REPORT  
on the  
PANCAKE and HOT CREEK RANGES  
NYE COUNTY, NEVADA.

by

John C. Brown, Forest Ranger.

December 1912.

This examination was made in response to a petition addressed to the Supervisor, Ely, Nevada, and dated "Duckwater, Nev., Mar. 16, 1912.", signed by Chas. Williams and twenty-nine others.

The area to be considered is embraced by the Pancake and Hot Creek Ranges in Nye County, Nevada.

I left Ogden December 10, 1912, and arrived at Ely at 5:30 P.M. The next day at 1 P.M., in company with George P. Ostergard, I left Ely by team and drove to Barnes Ranch. Reached Curreant Ranger Station on the 12th, where met and talked with Ranger Thorne. On 13th met W. F. Mendes, one of the petitioners, at Duckwater, from whom I learned that the petition was inspired for the sole purpose of securing protection for the cattle on the ranges against the sheep. I gave him to understand that unless the land presented certain forest characteristics and afforded water shed protection, that it would not receive favorable consideration and that it could not be considered for its grazing features alone. That evening we reached Page's Station. The afternoon of the 14th we drove into Eureka. The 15th, Sunday, it was snowing, and as we had planned to drive forty miles we did not attempt it. The 16th we retraced our route to Fish Creek, having abandoned the forty mile trip on account of the snow. On the 17th we crossed the

divide from Little Smoky to Hot Creek Valley and stopped at Hick's Station. During the 18th we drove down Hot Creek Valley reaching Moore's Station at noon. Here I met and talked with Chas. Williams. He also gave me to understand that it was grazing protection they were petitioning for. At this time I had seen the major portion of the Pancake and Hot Creek Ranges so I told him plainly that I had not seen anything so far that would receive favorable consideration and that he had best not expect a solution of their grazing troubles from the Forest Service as it was a question that they could not handle under the present policy. That evening we arrived at Hot Creek Ranch. The next day, the 19th, we drove up Hot Creek Canyon and crossed the divide into Ralston Valley reaching Stone Cabin that evening.

On this route I was able to see both sides of the Pancake Range and about two-thirds of the Hot Creek. With the possible exception of three small areas, one in the Pancake Range and two in the Hot Creek Range, with a total less than fifty square miles, and this of the lowest class of forest found in District 4, there was nothing that could be favorably reported on, as these areas are so insignificant they may as well be neglected.

The sheep do not graze the ranges until forced to do so for water, obtained by eating snow, preferring to stay in the valleys and they are here only during the winter season when there is snow on the ground.

There are no running streams but several small springs some of which flow a short distance and then sink. Since the ranges have but one ridge each there are no drainage basins. With an average elevation of less than 7,000 feet and no large peaks with great heights, the amount of annual precipitation is but few inches, probably less than 10.

Considered as a whole with its cover of juniper, pinon and sagebrush, many barren ledges, no running streams, and no one dependent upon it for a livelihood other than grazers, it is not favorably recommended.

APPROVED

Date, Dec. 28, 1912

E. W. Hewman

District Forester.