

SS
D-6, Studies,
Insect Infestation.

February 1, 1911.

District Forester,

Portland, Oregon

Dear Sir:

Mr. Cecil's letter of January 27 is received. I am very glad indeed to have on file the map which was enclosed, although at present it is some what doubtful if cooperative work of this kind will be resumed during the coming season.

Very truly yours,

F. E. Ames

Acting Assistant Forester.

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"DISTRICT FORESTER"

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
DISTRICT 6

SS
District, Studies
Insect Infestation.

BECK BUILDING
PORTLAND, OREGON

The Forester,

January 27, 1911

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

In anticipation of possible further insect control operations in cooperation with private owners of timberland on and adjacent to the Whitman, Wallowa and Malheur National Forests, I have obtained data showing the ownership of the land in 80 townships in the neighborhood of these National Forests. This information is shown on township plats, and should be of decided assistance to us in communicating with the owners of forest land, should further cooperative insect control operations be undertaken.

These plats, in addition to showing the names of the owners, show in a rough way the character of the cover, whether pure yellow pine, mixed conifers, cut-over land, open grazing land, or cultivated.

I am enclosing for your information a key map which shows for what townships this data has been obtained. In addition to this data, which is mostly outside the National Forests in the Supervisors' offices is much data regarding the ownership of land within the Forests.

[Editor's Note: the key map was large format, and so it had to be copied in four pieces because the National Archives did not have on-site equipment for large-format color copying.]

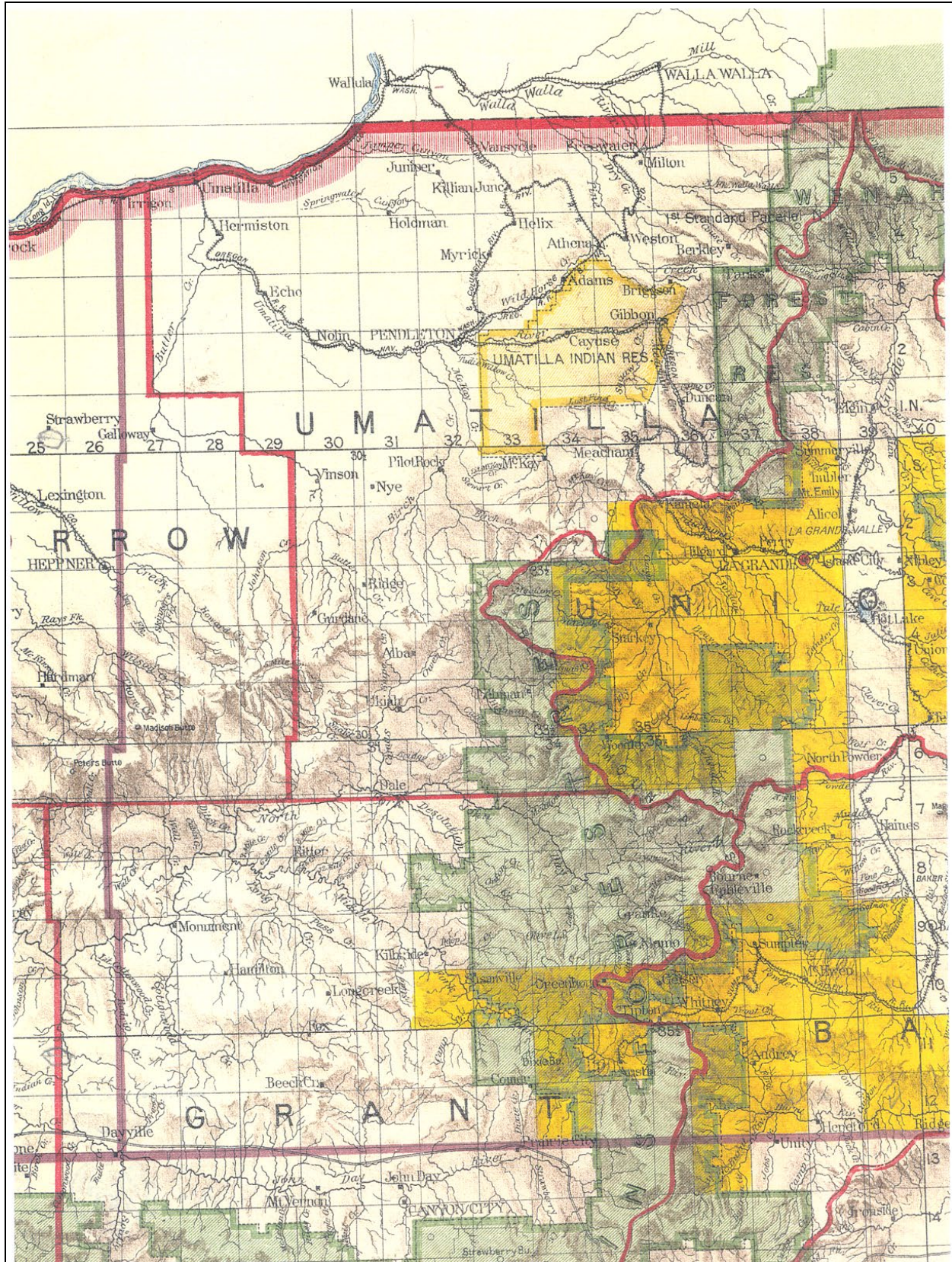
From the reconnaissance which was done last summer, we already know fairly well where the areas of most serious infestation are, particularly on the National Forests.

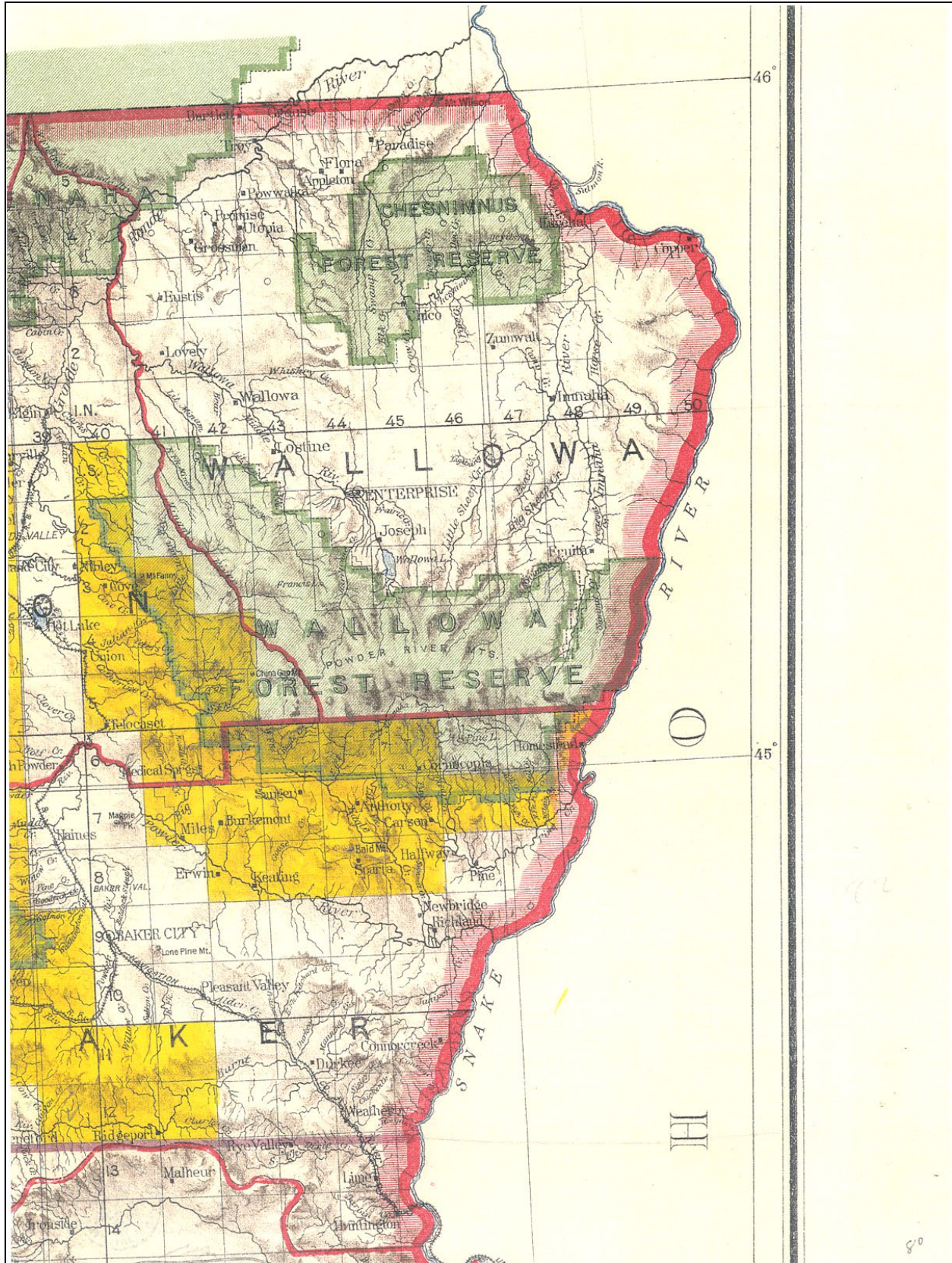
Very truly yours,

Geo. H. Cecil

Acting District Forester

Enc.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

S
Insect Control, D-6,
Whitman.

January 21, 1911.

Dear Professor Graves:

I have yours of the 19th, and am interested in what you write. I called at the Secretary's office yesterday and left word that it was time for him to write to Senator Chamberlain about a Senate amendment, calling his attention to the fact that the amount needed for the Whitman reserve was not placed in the House bill. I will find out today whether he has sent the letter.

Sincerely yours,

L. O. Howard

Chief of Bureau.

Prof. H. S. Graves,

Forester, Forest Service.

P.S. He has sent it.

ht

SS
D-6, Studies,
Insects.

January 19, 1911

Dr. L. O. Howard,

Chief, Bureau of Entomology.

Dear Doctor Howard:

Referring to my letter of December 13:

I have received a report from the District Forester at Portland, Oregon, in regard to the possibility of disposing of the insect-infested timber upon the Whitman and Wallowa National Forest. This report makes it clear that there is no possibility of interesting any lumberman in a sale of this infested timber, even if we should be willing to reduce the price as an inducement. It seems certain that if any further work is done in cutting infested timber it must be by a special appropriation.

Very sincerely yours.

Henry S. Graves

Forester.

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"DISTRICT FORESTER"

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
DISTRICT 6

SS
District, Studies
Insect Infestation

BECK BUILDING
PORTLAND, OREGON

January 3, 1911.

The Forester,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to my letter SS of December 20:

Since writing this letter I have taken the matter up with the Supervisors of the Whitman and Wallowa Forests, sending them copies of your letter of December 13 and of mine of December 20. I enclose for your information copies of their replies which have recently been received.

I can unreservedly endorse the opinion of Supervisor Henry Ireland as to the obstacles to selling the bodies of infested timber on the Whitman National Forest. Most of the yellow pine on this Forest has some insect infestation, but in only a few places is the infestation at the present time in the yellow pine timber alarming serious. Logging at the present time can be done in no place on the Whitman Forest except at a small margin of profit, and then only with a low stumpage price in a few specially favored localities, which are accessible to transportation, where the timber is good, where a large amount can be taken out in one operation, and where the logging is easy. These favored places do not coincide with the regions where the insect infestation is really serious.

In the sales that are being made a special effort will of course, be made to get rid of the infested trees, but I see no probability of our being able to make large

sales in the region at present seriously infested, even at a greatly reduced stumpage price.

It is furthermore impossible to dispose of by sale at any price the trees which have this fall been felled and barked, since it is altogether too costly to get them out.

The seriously infested areas of lodgepole pine are more remote from transportation facilities than the yellow pine areas. There is practically no demand for small timber in this locality, but it at first seemed possible that some parties could be interested in this lodgepole pine, for there is an enormous amount of it and it would be a great advantage to the Forest to have it removed at any price, particularly as it is such a fire menace. Several members of this office, including Mr. Ames, Lumberman Andrews and myself, have looked over this area with this in view, but all concluded that for the present the disposal of it by sale at any price was out of the question.

Conditions on the Wallowa Forest are even more disadvantageous for sales than on the Whitman Forest. All the bodies of yellow pine timber on this Forest are remote from transportation and market, and the little mills now operating about the Forest all have abundant timber close at hand. Supervisor Harris, in the letter which I enclose, suggests the possibility of being able to make a sale in the next few years of some yellow pine on the south side of his Forest. My impression is that the infestation, however, is here not particularly serious, only an occasional tree being infested, about as it is in all yellow pine forest in Oregon. I should not be in favor of making a sale in timber of this character at a sacrifice price, simply because there is a little insect infestation.

The infested lodgepole pine areas on the Wallowa National Forest are in a very rough, inaccessible country and I see no probability that it will be possible to dispose of this lodgepole pine at any price for some years yet, except occasionally a few trees for some local use.

In short, my opinion is that on neither of these Forests, in seriously infested areas in either the yellow pine or the lodgepole pine zones, could sales be made for the present at any price. I do not favor the sale at greatly reduced stumpage prices of areas when the infestation is not serious and where there is no certainty that it

is going to become serious. I therefore feel strongly that whatever insect control operations are conducted in the seriously infested parts of these Forests will have to be conducted with no thought of selling the timber cut, and without receiving any returns for the cost of the insect control operations.

We are watching this insect infestation carefully, however, and if ever we do get a chance to dispose of any timber, yellow pine or lodgepole pine, where to so would tend to check the infestation, we will do so.

Very truly yours,

C.S. Chapman

District Forester.

Enc.

Wallowa National Forest.

SS
Wallowa, Studies
Insect Infestation.

Wallowa, Oregon.
December, 26, 1910.

District Forester,

Portland, Ore.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of December 21 is received.

It would be absolutely impossible to interest any lumberman in the proposition of purchasing only such timber as is infested and would be marked for cutting.

Your letter to the Forester indicates that you are considering two widely different propositions. The selling of trees marked for removal would probably mean a purely improvement cutting, and would contemplate the cutting of only timber as was actually infested. This proposition is absolutely out of the question on this Forest at this time. The only sales that we could hope to make would be those in which at least 50 to 75% of the total stand would be cut. It might be possible to interest some timbermen in a big deal of this kind, especially on the south side of the Forest. If I had time to look around among the different mill men even in this section, I might be able to show them the good points in a proposition of this kind.

On December 11, 1910, I looked over a logging proposition on the part of the Forest adjoining the holdings of the Bear Creek Lumber Co. Mr. Bert Plass, one of the members of this Company, accompanied me, and we roughly estimated that 2,000,000 ft. could be handled in connection with their timber.....infested probably about ??%, and I noticed, too, that there were a number of large trees dead. It is my observation that beetles spread more easily from infested trees. This Company has about 2900 acres of deeded land, and with a mill having a capacity of 35000 ft. daily, it will be several years before they will have cut out their own timber. We might induce them to use our timber along with theirs, say in a couple of years, but they could use their own to much greater advantage first, as they would have to build at least 2½ miles

of chute or road to reach ours. With the long haul, and the present cost of manufacturing the lumber and the uncertain demand for it, they could not attempt the proposition unless at least 75% of the merchantable timber was marked for cutting.

We made one little sale of lodgepole pine, and the purchaser advises us that he would be glad to leave the balance of the timber as the cost of getting it out is more than it is worth on the market.

You probably know that the Forest timber is not readily accessible, and the surrounding country is not developed so as to need the timber locally, and no one has attempted to manufacture lumber for the outside market until just lately. Then, too, private timber is cheap and more accessible. Briefly, then, we may be able to make sales under the second proposition solely by making a ? canvass of the millmen in the east when the timber supply is exhausted.

On the northern side of the old Wallowa, the infestation is heavier, and I am sorry to say is increasing rapidly. A thing that I am interested in is whether or not there is any relation between the date of cutting yellow pine, in this region, and the ravages of insects. I have noticed a number of times that timber cut in the spring and summer months in this country made a veritable breeding place for beetles. They would collect in very large numbers on timber felled at this time. Timber cut in the winter when the sap is down does not seem to attract the bugs. If it is true that the cutting of timber in the winter season renders the propagation of these bugs less easy, the thing might be of sufficient importance to justify a careful study. From every standpoint I know of, winter is the proper time to fell timber.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) H. W. Harris

Forest Supervisor

Whitman National Forest.

Sumpter, Oregon

December 23, 1910.

SS
Whitman – Studies
Insect Infestation.

District Forester,

Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of December 21:

The matter of disposing of insect-infested timber on this Forest has been given very careful consideration and I regret very much to say that we have had no success in the way of disposing of it, although the stumpage price might be materially reduced. In fact an effort has been made to give away the infested timber in some of the most accessible areas. However, this has also proven a failure, very largely on account of the fact that a very large majority of the infested timber is isolated from transportation and market.

In my opinion there is very little chance of even giving away this infested timber. However, I feel sure that it would be advisable to do so in many cases. The matter of reducing stumpage to induce lumbermen to purchase tracts of timber in which the infestation is quite heavy is not practical on account of the lack of transportation, as above stated, and the fact that all of our worst infestation is in lodgepole pine type, which has very little commercial value, except in very minor quantities for local consumption; in fact the work of control of the insect depredations on the National Forest and on private holdings in and adjacent thereto in my opinion can be successfully handled only through cooperation with the private timber owners along the line done last fall.

To undertake to reduce stumpage and remove other timber in connection with the infested timber would be a process entirely too slow to be of any material value in insect control. In fact, I doubt very much if we have any area that is badly infested where such a condition could be brought about, even though the stumpage was placed

at a very minimal figure or even given away. We have been watching the situation very carefully and if an opportunity presents itself whereby we can through sales in any reasonable manner assist in the control of the insect depredations you will be promptly notified.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) HENRY IRELAND

Forest Supervisor.

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"DISTRICT FORESTER"

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
DISTRICT 6

BECK BUILDING
PORTLAND, OREGON

SS
District, Studies
Insect Infestation.

December 20, 1910.

The Forester,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter SS, D-6, Studies, Insects of December 13 is received. When your letter of October 17 was answered by Mr. Flory on October 25 in accordance with my views, I felt too certain of the impossibility of disposing of the timber (having just returned from the Whitman) to consider it necessary to take the matter up with the Supervisor.

Your letter stated:

"The idea has occurred to me that it might be possible to get some enterprising lumberman to cut the infested trees which our men or Doctor Hopkin's men might mark, if he could have them for some very small sum. We might even consider giving away the trees on condition that they cut and peeled within a given time. Please let me know your opinion on this whole question, with particular reference to whether my proposition is feasible."

I think it was natural that I should suppose you meant getting rid of the 10 to 50 infested trees per quarter section, marked for removal. Having talked with lumbermen in the section, and knowing they intended to make no effort to get out the trees on their own holdings, I told the Supervisor to burn any small enough to be handled in that manner.

Your letter of December 13 may mean to bring up an entirely new idea, the sale at reduced rates of large bodies of timber in which there is infestation. One sale of about 20 million feet B.M. has recently been made in this section, and an

application for another sale of about 70 million feet will probably soon come in, but it never occurred to us that it was advisable to cut stumpage prices because some of the trees were infested. On this present sale there are approximately .8 dead trees per acre which have probably been killed by insects and it is estimated that there is less than one newly infested tree for each ten dead trees. On the area which was treated this fall on the Whitman where the infestation was severe there are on the average about 3.3 infested trees per acre, most of which trees have an average D.B H. of only about 8 inches. Private owners do not consider a cut in stumpage price to take out this small amount of infested timber, necessary, and in fact would, I feel certain, (I have not talked with them about it) consider it as opposed to their interests for the Government to start anything of this kind. But what they think is not, of course, the point. The point is, would it be policy for the Service to undertake the sale of a large body of timber in which there is some infestation, reducing the stumpage price to bring this about. It should be remembered that probably all of the yellow pine is attacked to some extent, at least all on the east side of Whitman Forest.

The matter will be taken up with the Supervisors of both the Whitman and Wallowa Forests at once, to determine the possibility (a) of selling trees marked for removal; (b) of making regular sales in infested areas at reduced prices. I hope you will not consider it advisable to advertise under general notice areas of this character.

Very sincerely yours.

C.S. Chapman

District Forester.

S
Insect Control, D-6.

December 20, 1910.

Memorandum for the Secretary.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

During the past few months some very effective work has been done in cooperation with the Bureau of Entomology in checking the spread of insect infestations on timberlands within and adjacent to the Whitman National Forest, Oregon. A very large proportion of these lands are in private ownership, and before beginning the work we required the private owners to organize and cooperate with us in carrying it out, for the reason that to effectively protect the forests the spread of the bark beetles must be checked on both Government and private lands. That portion of the work done by the Forest Service was covered by an allotment from the funds which provide for fighting forest fires and for other unforeseen emergencies. This fund, as you know, has been more than exhausted, so that if the work is continued in the spring, as it should be, it will be necessary to secure an emergency appropriation. Reports from the experts of the Bureau of Entomology and the Forest Service who have been assigned to this work indicate that there has been a very rapid spread of the beetles during the past year, and that if their ravages are to be checked before the forest in this locality is entirely destroyed, vigorous action must be taken at the earliest possible date. It is estimated that it will require about \$40,000 to properly carry on this work during the remainder of the present fiscal year. The private owners have expressed themselves as anxious and willing to do their part, so that we can count on hearty cooperation from them. In view of these facts, I would recommend that an urgent request be made for an emergency appropriation to provide for a continuance of this work.

Very sincerely yours,

A. F. Potter

Associate Forester.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

December 14, 1910.

Dear Professor Graves:

I have your letter of the 13th instant, calling attention to a letter to you of October 10th, from Doctor Hopkins, suggesting an emergency appropriation for insect control work on the Whitman National Forest, also to the conference with the Secretary in which it was decided to ascertain whether or not the insect-infested timber could be disposed of by free use before taking further steps towards securing an emergency appropriation.

It would seem to me, after consulting with Doctor Hopkins, that if the timber can not be given away, and you have not money in addition to the \$5,000 allotted, that, unless an appropriation of at least \$40,000 is secured for control work next spring, the project will have to be abandoned and the beetles allowed to proceed with their destructive work, which is reported by agents of the bureau and by private owners to be 300 per cent greater this year than last in certain yellow pine areas. This Bureau has already expended for salaries and field expenses over \$3,000 in investigations of the character and extent of the depredation in northeastern Oregon; also in rendering assistance to the Forest Service officials and private owners in the location of infested timber and the more important areas of infestation and in giving instructions on the essential features of the recommendation and methods of procedure in the control work.

The private owners of timber lands south of the Whitman Forest organized and made a pro rata assessment of money for control work, and have already spent \$1,044 and cut 853 infested trees.

A report on the work done by the Forest Service under the special allotment of funds has not been received, but we are informed that at least 1,000 trees have been cut.

It is our opinion that an emergency appropriation of not less than \$40,000 should be requested for control work, to be carried on between the first of April and the

first of July, 1911, and that, in order to protect the timber of the National Forest, this amount, if secured, should not only be expended to dispose of infestation on the Government lands, but that part of it should be spent to assist private owners in disposing of the principal centers of infestation on their lands adjacent to or within the National Forest.

Very truly yours,

L. O. Howard

Chief of Bureau.

Prof. H. S. Graves

Forest Service,

Washington, D. C.

SS
D-6, Studies,
Insects

December 13, 1910.

Dr. L. O. Howard,

Chief, Bureau of Entomology.

Dear Doctor Howard:

On October 10 Dr. Hopkins wrote to me in regard to the insect control work on the Whitman National Forest, stating that in order to accomplish anything in the way of effective control of the invasion on this Forest and adjacent areas, from 30 to 50 thousand dollars would be necessary in addition to the work required of private owners. Dr. Hopkins and I had a conference with the Secretary regarding this matter. Before taking any further steps it was decided that it would be necessary to determine whether it would not be possible to get some lumberman to go into the Forest and take out the infested trees which we would mark, if necessary giving them the timber. I have received a letter from the District stating that on account of the scattered character of the trees and the lack of means of transportation it is impossible even to give the trees away for the cutting. We have no available money in this year's appropriation which could be devoted to the work. The \$5,000 which we have already allotted to the control experiments was taken from the fire-fighting fund. We have exceeded this fund by \$915,000, which we are asking Congress to replace in the urgent deficiency appropriation. The only way to meet the situation would appear to be a special appropriation. I have received a letter from the District to the effect that the private owners have sent word that they are not in a position to begin their part of the work at once. We would be in favor of a special appropriation of \$40,000 for this particular work provided there is a definite assurance that the private owners will come in and do their part. I am still not fully satisfied that it would not be possible to develop a sale in that Forest which would take care of the cutting of infested trees without having to expend from an appropriation for this purpose. I am writing again to the District office to follow up my suggestion further.

Very sincerely yours,

Henry S. Graves

Forester.

SS.
D-6, Studies,
Insects

December 13, 1910.

District Forester,
Portland, Oreg.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of November [October] 25:

You state that you do not think that it would be possible to give away the timber. Have you taken this matter up with the Supervisor, and are you certain that it would not be possible to work up a sale which would take care of this matter? It seems to me as if it might be possible to make a sale in that district which would include the cutting of the infested trees and give such a reasonable rate that a lumberman could be induced to undertake it. I do not wish to let the matter drop merely because you have the impression that it can not be done. If you have not already done so, I will ask you to take this matter up on the ground through your Supervisor or some one else to make absolutely certain that this plan is impracticable. Until I am sure of this I can not go to Congress and ask for a special appropriation.

Very truly yours,

Henry S. Graves

Forester.