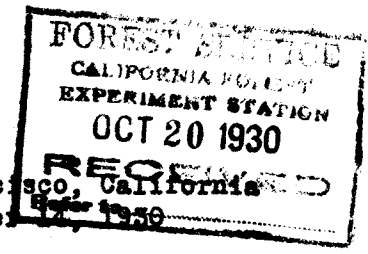


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Supervision

*Let me have your comments pls. 11/12*

Memorandum for Director, Calif. Forest Experiment Station -

Reference is made to the California section of the Branch of Research Monthly Report of Experiment Stations.

On page 12 of this report it is stated that around the Stanislaus branch there are indications that a more elastic control of grazing would mutually benefit livestock and reproduction. It is further stated in the same paragraph that "Fenced areas have become so overgrown with lower vegetation that it seems doubtful if restocking with desirable tree species will be possible with return of normal seasons and seed crops. Heavy grazing by cattle after cutting until a good seed crop occurs would, under these conditions, be beneficial provided the general range plan permitted removal of the stock to other areas for perhaps 4 or 5 years."

As you doubtless know, immediately following the foot and mouth epidemic on the Stanislaus in 1924, heavy reductions in both cattle and sheep were made to get the number of stock grazed and the established preferences down to the normal carrying capacity of the ranges based on the forage capacity of these ranges at that time. It was our desire to reduce the use of the range to the number of stock that could be grazed continuously without interference with the establishment of reproduction or causing erosion.

With this reduction in numbers of stock practically all of the ranges within this forest have increased in forage capacity. The stockmen seeing this improvement in their ranges have been almost unanimous in asking for an increase in their grazing permits. These requests in a few instances have been granted in order to determine the results but sufficient time has not elapsed as yet to determine this. If there are areas within this forest where the grazing of an increased number of stock would be an aid to the establishment of reproduction and the Experiment Station can determine in the late summer or early fall of the year preceding the date when they wish the number of stock reduced in order to aid establishment of reproduction I feel quite sure that this can be accomplished without serious loss to the grazing permittees, as we would simply allow the increased number of stock to be grazed under temporary permit during the intervening period or until a good seed year occurred and then reduce the number to the established preference which would probably not interfere with securing the establishment of reproduction or if it was found that further restrictive measures were necessary I feel sure that this could be accomplished without serious difficulty.

So far as this office is concerned I wish to assure you that we are perfectly willing to meet with representatives of the Experiment Station and the Forest Supervisor or members of his staff on the ground and work out a plan for

the management of these ranges that will secure the best results from a reproduction standpoint.

If the Experiment Station will determine how these ranges should be used to insure the establishment of reproduction I wish to assure you, you will have the earnest cooperation of both this and the Supervisor's office in carrying it out.

  
Assistant Regional Forester