

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
CALIFORNIA FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION



ADDRESS REPLY TO
DIRECTOR
AND REFER TO

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
330 GIANNINI HALL
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

R
Meetings
Blacks Mountain

September 1, 1938

To — Members of the California Forest Practice Committee
and all others attending the meeting on September 8
and 9 at the Blacks Mountain Branch Experiment
Station, Halls Flat, Lassen County.

Dear Sir:

The enclosed guide to the Blacks Mountain Experimental
Forest is being sent for your perusal prior to the meeting.

You will note that the main roads leading to the Station
are shown on the location map on the back cover. It is not
advisable to take the road from Westwood to Westwood Junction
as there are five detours and some high centers. It is better
to continue on the highway toward Susanville to the junction with
the Susanville-Pittville road, which is 5 miles west of Susan-
ville and 18 miles east of Westwood. Travel time from Redding to
the Station is about 3 hours; from Red Bluff $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours; and from
Susanville 2 hours. Road signs will be posted from Westwood,
Susanville, Pittville, and Old Station.

The program for the meeting is not yet entirely complete.
It will be distributed at the meeting. Those attending should
plan to be at the Station for lunch, as the program will start
at 1:30 p.m. September 8.

Arrangements are being made to provide meals and lodging
at the Station. A note from you indicating if you expect to
attend or not would be appreciated.

We are looking forward to a good attendance and sincerely
hope you can arrange to be with us.

Very truly yours,

E. I. KOTOK
Director

Enclosure

PROBLEMS AND PROPOSED RESEARCH IN THE EASTSIDE PINE REGION 1938
(Condensed for discussion with Chapline, September 19-30)

Three years of planned preliminary experimentation has made it possible to outline more clearly the problems of the Eastside Pine region and to plan an experimental program that promises to yield useful information. Among other things this preliminary work has reemphasized the limitations of present methods and indicated the amount of work that can satisfactorily be accomplished with these methods. It has pointed again to the necessity of clearly defining objectives and planning an amount of work that can actually be accomplished.

Research and administration are in general agreement that the problems needing most immediate attention in the Eastside Pine region are:

1. Utilization standards
2. Season of use geared to the relative value of the several types found on typical Eastside Pine allotments.
3. Effect of sheep grazing on forest regeneration.
4. Effect of logging on the grazing capacity of timber types.

Utilization standards

The practical solution of the major problem in the Eastside Pine region — that of proper utilization of the various range types — hinges around the recognition of what constitutes proper utilization.

The recognition by the range administrator of the earmarks of good or poor range condition and the significance of given degrees of utilization in terms of whether or not the range is being injured, is a fundamental step toward better range management.

It is planned to approach this problem experimentally through well designed clipping studies in which the important forage species are used and the elements of time and intensity of clipping incorporated.

Season of use

Uneven distribution of stock among meadow, timber, sage and brush types in the Eastside Pine region is resulting in the overuse of some types such as meadows and adjoining sage margins, and the underuse of others, particularly timber. Before active management measures can be taken to alleviate these conditions, such as proceeding with water development and fencing, preliminary information on the relative value of these types for grazing and the season of use for which they are best suited has to be obtained.

Research on this problem is aimed at obtaining phenological records to determine the difference in range readiness of these types. This information is to be supplemented and checked in part by livestock weights obtained in fenced pastures in the important types. Some indication of the relative grazing value of the types would also be afforded by these livestock weights. This study would be conducted with cattle.

Sheep vs. reproduction

Research efforts to date indicate that damage to established tree reproduction by either cattle or sheep is negligible and apparently is not a practical issue. Three years' observations showed that cattle did not appreciably graze or trample light scattered stands of pine seedlings. On the other hand, sheep grazed and trampled a significantly greater proportion on an adjoining allotment this year, as observed during the first half of August.

This supports the general feeling by silviculturists and the range group that research should be directed as early as possible to obtaining quantitative data on this damage, its significance to the establishment of tree reproduction, and its correlation with practical management.

Logging and grazing capacity

Whether or not grazing capacity is affected enough by logging to require an adjustment in livestock numbers is an open question. With some of the

timber lands already cut over and more cutting expected in the future, a picture of the forage succession on these lands is highly desirable. Comprehensive studies on forage succession in timber types following cutting would yield valuable management information for this type.

Ultimately, programing of work needed in the Eastside Pine region should include animal husbandry, rodents and forage, soils, reseeding, economics, etc., but until some of the more fundamental points mentioned above bearing on management are farther along, it seems premature to program additional work.

Comprehensive experimental work plans on the above problems are to be worked up this winter following a field conference of the Region and Experiment Station in the field this fall.