ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Northeastern California
August 19 - 21, 1953

August 19 - Susanville, California
August 20 - Blacks Mountain Experimental Forest
August 21 - Burgess Spring Experimental Range and Harvey Valley Range Allotment

Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture

California Region
California Forest and Range Experiment Station
FOREST AND RANGE RESEARCH IN NORTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA

Forest and range resources are the major economic base for northeastern California. Of the 11.3 million acres lying east of the Sierra Nevada and north of Mono County, 10.5 million acres are forest and range land, a little more than 60 percent of which is federally owned. Crop agriculture is restricted to a few irrigated areas. Lumbering and livestock ranching are the principal activities in this section of the State, and much of the forest land is used for both purposes. To help develop management methods for permanent production of timber and livestock forage, the California Forest and Range Experiment Station has established two field stations in this area: Blacks Mountain Experimental Forest and Burgess Spring Experimental Range. Also, the Experiment Station has recently started research on methods of seeding browse species that provide feed and cover for wildlife on game ranges; this work, conducted in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Game, is done mostly at widely scattered field plots in northeastern California.
Blacks Mountain Experimental Forest has been operated since 1937 as a research center to test methods of managing ponderosa-Jeffrey pine forests. Experimental logging by the Station first demonstrated the practicability of sanitation-salvage cutting, a system of light partial cuts developed at Blacks Mountain by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine to reduce tree mortality from bark beetle attacks. Most of the timber has been covered by sanitation-salvage cutting. Currently the forest is being operated primarily as a pilot plant to test and demonstrate the silvicultural measures needed to complete the process of bringing the old-growth pine forest under management. This will provide for adequate stocking of desirable trees in the proper ages and quality to permit permanent, budgeted annual harvests.

Size of experimental area -- about 10,000 acres
Ownership and location -- Federal, Lassen National Forest
Studies underway -- Pilot plant test of conversion cutting.

- Timber growth after cutting
- Forest regeneration
- Artificial reforestation
- Pruning
- Thinning

Staff -- William E. Hallin, project leader; Donald T. Gordon, resident manager; Davis S. Carleton, logging superintendent; Oscar E. Stark, branch station assistant.
Burgess Spring Experimental Range has been operated since 1936 as the field center for studies seeking to develop methods of managing summer cattle ranges in the mountains. The first research concentrated on growth habits of forage plants and grazing habits of cattle in the dry grassland, sagebrush, and open timber range, in which forage plants are of the perennial bunchgrass type. Studies of artificial seeding and weed control were later added to the program. Results of past research are being applied in a pilot plant test on the Harvey Valley range allotment of the Lassen National Forest, and experimental work is being continued at Burgess Spring.

Size of experimental area -- 750 acres

Ownership and location -- Federal, Lassen National Forest

Studies underway -- Grazing habits and weight trends of cattle.

Growth and yield of forage plants

Effect of stocking rate and of season, frequency, and distribution of grazing on forage and livestock production.

Control of undesirable plants.

Range reseeding.

Staff -- A. L. Hormay, mountain range management;

D. R. Cornelius, range reseeding and weed control.