Dear Colino

You asked me to check with you on the estimated cost of livestock scales, corrals, and holding pasture installations for the Harvey Valley allotment. He said that you have recently submitted an estimate of $2,800 and wondered if this amount could be reduced in any way. I am not in a good position to judge whether the $2,800 estimate is high or low. Perhaps the only way that I can be of some help is to indicate the minimum requirements of the setup.

There is need for:

1. One set of livestock scales.
2. One set of corrals.
3. One squeeze chute.
4. One fenced holding pasture (containing the corrals).

A scale (Fairbanks Morse) like the one at Burges Spring is very satisfactory. The cost today is $295, FOB in San Francisco.

The corrals should have a minimum of 4 holding pens in addition to the small one in front of the scales to permit handling a minimum of 5 groups of cattle separately. The corral design at Sonora Valley is good. The proposed installation probably could be made smaller. Each pen, however, should be large enough to accommodate 25 head of cattle. Perhaps the type of construction employed in the upper corrals located in the Burges Spring timber pasture in which woven wire, rather than poles, was used for the corral walls can be used to effect some reduction in cost. The corral gates need not be more than 8 feet wide. Attached is a suggested plan for the corral layout. It may give you some ideas. The plan includes 4 holding pens and a chute. The chute is essential for working the cattle.

A holding pasture large enough to provide 75 animals (5 groups) with feed for 3 days at the beginning of the season until and unless feed for 5 days at the end of the season is stored adjoining the corrals. This will take about 30 acres of pasture and dry grassland types such as are found in the flat land areas in pasture 1.
The best location for this installation seems to be at the site of the present corrals in Harvey Valley in the lower end of pasture 1. Another good location would be at the junction of pastures 1, 2, and 3 (see attached map).

I have a feeling now that I have outlined these requirements on paper that the cost will be even less than $1,800. It may be that by taking advantage of the 3 pens in the existing corrals in pasture 1 and some of the adjoining fencing, some savings can be made.

Kindly let me know if I can help you further in any particular way.

A. L. Horman

Enclosures - 2

cc: Division of Range Management, R...

ALHorman