



G
Allowances-Selway
Permits for 1925.

March 9, 1925.

Forest Supervisor,
Kooskia, Idaho.

Dear Sir:

Author-
ization

The Secretary of Agriculture has authorized during the next ten-year period beginning with the season of 1925, the grazing of 1,850 cattle and horses and 23,500 sheep and goats on the Selway National Forest.

Under the above authorization, and in accordance with the estimated carrying capacity by animal months, as shown by your Form 438 for 1924, permits may be issued for, not to exceed, 9,300 cattle-and-horse months and 78,000 sheep-and-goat months without first taking the matter up with this office.

Periods
and
Fees.

In accordance with your recommendations, the following periods and fees will be in effect during the season of 1925.

<u>Periods</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Horses</u>
Yearlong, beginning May 1	\$.80	\$1.00
May 1 to October 31	.48	.60
May 16 to September 15	.32	.40
June 16 to October 15	.32	.40

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Sheep and Goats

Yearlong beginning May 1	\$.20
June 1 to September 30	.08
July 1 to September 30	.06 $\frac{1}{2}$

Special fees to conform to outstanding instructions concerning reductions in fees where such reductions seem justified by range appraisal are provided for:

Iron Mountain - Indian Peaks Division	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Horses</u>
<u>Period</u>		
June 16 to October 15	\$.15	\$.19
Coolwater Division		
<u>Period</u>		
June 16 to October 15	.24	.30
Castle Butte Division		
<u>Period</u>		<u>Sheep and Goats</u>
June 16 to September 30 1.75 ^a		\$.06
Deadman Hill Section		
<u>Period</u>		<u>Sheep and Goats</u>
June 1 to September 30 1.75 ^a		\$.07

Split fee payments do not apply to temporary permits.

Fees must be paid in full on the first payment as provided in the regulations.

The division of the Forest into six grazing districts, as shown by your grazing map, and the distribution of stock recommended is approved.

Middle Fork, District #1,	C&H 100	S&G 6,000
Lochsa, District #2,	None	5,500
Moose Creek, District #3,	500	None
Bear Creek, District #4,	200	None
Meadow Creek, District #5,	750	None
Selway, District #6,	300	12,000
Total	1,850	23,500

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Your recommendations for protective and maximum limits are approved. These are as follows:

<u>Protective</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
<u>Cattle and Horses</u>	
100	500
<u>Sheep and Goats</u>	
1,500	6,000

The interforest maximum will remain at 15,000 head of sheep.

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mits

In view of the widely announced policy of the Forest Service to issue term permits beginning with the season 1925, it seems necessary to go just as far as good range management will permit. You are authorized, therefore, to issue term permits for 8,370 cattle-and-horse months and 70,200 sheep-and-goat months.

In issuing term permits you should be guided by the instructions contained in the Forester's "G-Supervision-Term Permits" letter of January 26, 1925, and subsequent instructions. You understand, of course, reductions for protection may be made at the close of the grazing season in term permits. (See instructions on page 37 of the Grazing Manual).

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The driveways shown on your annual grazing map are approved. On account of the possible great value of driveways in fire protection, the development of your driveway system should be pushed as rapidly as time and funds will permit. Your comments concerning the driveway by the way of Selway River - Moose Creek and Lost Horse Creek were read with considerable interest. It is felt that this proposed driveway offers decided

possibilities. It is known that several areas of small size and bearing an excellent quality of forage are to be found along Lost Horse Creek. It seems probable that the use of this driveway would occur towards the close of the season when these areas would not be in great demand for caring for stock other than the ones using the route. It is believed that it would be worth while to make a preliminary reconnaissance of this driveway throughout its length, and, if conditions warrant, submit recommendations concerning cost and time when construction should begin.

Grazing
Map and
Report

The segregation of range into temporary and permanent classes is believed to be a step of real importance. Every effort should be made to continue this work and supplement it from time to time by additional information concerning temporary and permanent forage areas.

Boundary
Posting.

As use of the range increases, special attention should be given to boundary posting where used grazing allotments and game refuges are in contact. It may be possible for you to work out a scheme whereby some of this posting can be done by guards on contributed time.

Handling
Stock
on the
Range.

Your report on the condition of the Davin and Faure range has been read with considerable interest. The plan which you have worked out on this range is believed to be applicable to a number of ranges on western forests. In the past there has been too little inclination to use contributed time of temporary

guards for control of grazing areas. Where suitable men can be obtained, this scheme should be extended.

Fish
and
Game.

As the grazing use of the Forest increases it will be necessary for you to keep in close touch with conflicts which may arise between game and livestock interests. Frequently friction arises with the local public through failure to inform them properly of precautionary measures which are taken to provide reserve areas for game animals. From time to time questions will be asked by local residents and members of rod and gun clubs concerning the effect which sheep use will have on the supply of game. A healthy sentiment can be developed by explaining fully to local sportsmen the measures and policy developed for game protection.

Adver-
tisement

As a means of advertising the grazing on your Forest, live news items of interest are suggested as a medium through which the seasons, fees and final date for receiving applications may be brought to the attention of those interested, supplemented by the usual circular letters, postcards, and placards displayed in postoffices and other public places.

Very truly yours,

FRED MORRELL, District Forester,

By

M. H. WOLFF

MANAGEMENT

ANNUAL GRAZING REPORT
SELWAY NATIONAL FOREST - 1924

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The Forest is divided into two huge watersheds
of the Lochsa and Selway Rivers. Each of these watersheds
is made up of innumerable short steep ravines breaking into
a few large feeder streams such as Mosier Creek, Moose Creek,

Range Classification: Many years ago the Geological Survey

Field work done in connection with Range Appraisal
and Fire Survey has afforded a fair basis for classifying
the Selway Forest ranges into four general types, Grassland,
Browse, Conifer, Waste. extremely steep, cliffy slopes

As a result of this classification it has been
determined that out of a gross acreage of approximately
1,215,060 acres, 249,500 acres can be classed as usable
range, 45% of which falls in the "browse" type, 45% in
"conifer", and 10% in "grassland". On all of the most
accessible ranges the browse and conifer types predominate,
grassland being confined to very small, isolated patches.
About two thirds of the total grassland type is found in
those portions of the Bear Creek and Moose Creek districts
which are classified as accessible to local stock, meaning
that this range is accessible only to stock owned by Forest
ranchers within these districts. The basis for this class-
ification is evident when it is realized that to reach these
districts it is necessary to follow narrow, graded pack
trails for over 50 miles. The expense of trail maintenance
alone would effectively prevent the use of these ranges
by other stock.

The Forest is divided into two huge watersheds in abundance and the most abundant source of water of the Lochsa and Selway Rivers. Each of these watersheds find his desires satisfied by the Lochsa and Selway. is made up of innumerable short sharp ravines breaking into a few large feeder streams such as Meadow Creek, Moose Creek, Fish Creek, etc. Many years ago the Geological Survey estimated the water courses of the Selway, exclusive of minor feeder gulches, at a total of more than 5,000 miles.

Topography is quite uniform over the entire Forest.

Characteristic features are, extremely steep, cliffy slopes extending from two to three miles back from stream beds, these gradually ease off into gentler slopes, the sharp V shaped gullies disappear, and broad, smooth ridges develop. It is on these ridge tops and for short distances below them that the major grazing grounds of the Selway are found. The grassland type mentioned earlier is found on the abrupt lower slopes of the Selway River. These slopes are covered with a light stand of bunch grass. The soil consists of a loose decomposed granite and shifts easily. It is impossible to use this type of range without damaging it to a certain extent through trampling.

Regular milking grounds are established and kept

220,000 acres of the Forest ^{are} ~~is~~ classified as inaccessible, this acreage includes no waste lands. Difficult trailing conditions and a short grazing season combined will preclude the future profitable use of these ranges with domestic stock. It is this portion of the Forest which previous reports have advocated setting aside as a sort of hunters and campers Paradise. Fish and big game are present

S. N. F.

in abundance and the most ardent seeker of solitude must find his desires satisfied if he reaches this region. Three semi-civilized Forest Rangers, a few Forest Guards, and a strand of No. 9 wire constitute the extent of it's contamination by civilization. It is, however, one of the most beautiful portions of Idaho and will eventually be discovered as such by the wilderness loving fraternity. 194,000 acres are included within the Selway Game Preserve. The established policy of the Forest is to permit no grazing within this area. It has developed into a real big game range and refuge. Game is increasing rapidly within it and the overflow will be sufficient to provide excellent hunting permanently on the balance of the Forest. The Preserve is lacking in winter range but this lack is offset by the winter range available in the adjacent inaccessible Forest ranges. The State is much interested in this Preserve, employs a man permanently for it's supervision, and is making a special effort to increase the propagation of animals within it. Regular salting grounds are established and kept stocked with salt and predatory animal hunters are employed. Many of the alpine lakes within the Preserve have recently been stocked with fish. What their future will be is still problematical. The planted fish grow rapidly and are apparently thrifty, whether or not they can successfully spawn is yet to be proven.

16,100 acres along the Selway River are reserved for administrative use. About 50 head of pack stock are used on the Selway River trail constantly and it is necessary to provide ample forage for them. The steep slopes will not stand close grazing and even with the most careful handling some damage is done. The necessity for preserving a large acreage is apparent. Road construction on the Selway River is reducing the strain on the portion of this range previously subject to the heaviest use, the lower Selway. With the completion of this road to Selway Falls it will be possible to release this portion for permitted use.

II. Carrying Capacity:

The Forest has an estimated present carrying capacity of 1950 cattle and 23,500 sheep, exclusive of the potential carrying capacity of the inaccessible ranges and the Selway Game Preserve. It is thought that this represents about the permanent carrying capacity of the Forest. Some of the range now in use is gradually closing up with reproduction, to offset this, various new areas are being opened up within the accessible limits. With careful planning and development, it is believed that a balance between new range and closed up range can be maintained which would continue the above carrying capacity indefinitely. Following this there may be a possibility of

developing another through driveway to Dunsmuir via the Lookout Selway divide to the head of Three Fork Creek and thence to Montana via the Three Forks Ranger Station and Lost Horse Pass. Driveway construction is feasible through the Forest along

Most of the available sheep range is concentrated in two sections of the Forest: The Fish Creek - Obia Creek - Deadman Creek area in the north-western corner of the Forest and the western end of the Lochsa-Selway Divide. The former can be effectively reached by the Lolo trail driveway from Orofino or the Woodrat - Cedars Driveway from Kamiah. The latter can best be reached by trailing the Kooskia-Lowell section of the Lewis & Clark Highway from Kooskia. With the completion of this Highway, heavy traffic demands may make it necessary to route this stock via the Woodrat-Cedars driveway. At present no difficulty is experienced in trailing the road. A maintenance charge sufficient to repair damage is collected from each owner and through careful handling very little interference is caused other traffic.

The Forest at present has a demand far smaller than can be satisfied by available range. There is no local demand except for a small number of cattle. Outside demands on the Selway sheep ranges will not increase materially until the more accessible ranges on the Nezperce and Clearwater Forests are fully stocked. When this is done, the excess can then be expected to look to the Selway for range. This is the logical development and is one which can be anticipated within the next ten years. Following this there may be a possibility of developing another through driveway to Montana via the Lochsa-Selway divide to the head of Three Link Creek and thence to Montana via the Three Forks Ranger Station and Lost Horse Pass. Driveway construction is feasible through the Forest along

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this route. Whether the Lost Horse Creek trail on the or the Bitterroot would prove a satisfactory route is not known.

If this possibility should materialize, it would bring about the utilization of range for about 3,000 head of sheep which is now classed as inaccessible.

With the completion of the Selway River Road to Selway Falls, it may be possible to interest someone in the use of the cattle range in the Meadow Creek District or, with an increased sheep demand, it may be found advisable, later, to plan on stocking this range with sheep also. Of the unstocked ranges on the Forest this will no doubt prove to be the last one stocked, due to its location and the cost of reaching it.

Present carrying capacity by Ranger Districts is as follows:

		C. & H.	S. & G.	Season
Meadow Cr.	750			6-16 to 10-15
Moose Cr.	500			5-1 to 10-31
Bear Cr.	100			5-1 to 4-30
"	100			5-1 to 10-31
Middle Fork	50			5-1 to 4-30
"	50			5-1 to 10-31
"	5000			6-1 to 9-30
"	1000			6-16 to 9-30
Lochan	5500			6-16 to 9-30
Selway	300			6-16 to 10-15
"	3500			6-16 to 9-30
"	8500			7-1 to 9-30
	<u>1,850</u>			<u>23,500</u>

III. Private Grazing All of the foregoing seasons are now established on the Forest except 6-16 to 9-30 for sheep, the approval of this season is desired, also the continuance of the winter season, 11-1 to 4-30, recently established.

In accordance with the Forest Service program as to fees the following schedule is submitted:

RANGE	SEASON	Appraised Rate			Present Rate		
		C	H	S	C	H	S
* Iron Mountain	6-16 to 10-15	.15	.19	-	.32	.40	-
* Indian Peaks	6-16 to 10-15	.15	.19	-	.32	.40	-
* Coolwater	6-16 to 10-15	.24	.30	-	.32	.40	-
Upper Selway	11-1 to 4-30	.54	.67	-	.48	.60	-
"	5-1 to 4-30	1.08	1.35	-	.80	1.00	-
"	5-1 to 10-31	.54	.67	-	.48	.60	-
Coolwater	6-16 to 9-30	-	-	.12	-	-	.07
"	7-1 to 9-30	-	-	.10	-	-	.06
"	6-1 to 9-30	-	-	.14	-	-	.08
* Castle Butte	6-16 to 9-30	-	-	.06	-	-	.07
* Deadmen Hill	6-1 to 9-30	-	-	.07	-	-	.08
Fish Creek	6-1 to 9-30	-	-	.18	-	-	.08
Fire Creek	6-16 to 9-30	-	-	.10	-	-	.07
Tahoe	6-1 to 6-16	-	-	.18	-	-	.08

* Ranges to which appraisal rates should apply January 1, 1925.

All others to continue on present schedule. Iron Mt. and Indian Peaks are minus value ranges to which the Forester's minimum will apply.

VII. Private Grazing The new grazing season (6-16 to 9-30) recommended, will make a better correlation possible between permit opening dates and vegetative readiness of the range.

VIII. General Grazing The winter period recommended is necessary to care for a few horses wintered in the Upper Selway, and to cover winter increases on the part of yearlong permittees.

March and April being about one-fourth of normal.

III. Private Lands:

There are also almost a complete absence of the usual heavy hay and June rains. As a result, forage growth is poor. There are no private grazing lands within the Forest. The hills here were as brown as early and died. The hills here were as brown as early and died.

IV. Number of Stock actually grazed:

Form 438 carries the desired tabulation of this item, including exempt stock. Rainfall for the season is estimated at 10 inches.

A reduction in number of sheep grazed was experienced this season, due to the financial adjustments of the Nespeene Sheep Co. As a part of this readjustment the sheep formerly grazed here were moved to South Idaho ranges. The cattle raising industry has practically disappeared from this region. Low prices for stock and high operating costs have put this class of rancher out of business.

V. Private Land Permits:

None. The land is in good condition due to the fact that it is not overstocked. There are no over-grazed or damaged areas. Had we been fully stocked results might have been less satisfactory.

VI. Term Permits:

None.

VII. Trespass:

None.

VIII. General Range Conditions:

The 1934 season was unusual. A real drought prevailed during the early spring months, the rainfall for March and April being about one-fourth of normal. The condition was due to holding on burned

S. N. P.

There was also almost a complete absence of the usual heavy May and June rains. As a result, forage growth started early and died. Side hills here were as brown in May as they should have been in late June. Heavy rains later in the season were of small value since plants had already dried up. Rainfall for the season is estimated at 25% less than normal. Forage growth as 20% less than normal. The most positive evidence of the forage failure was shown in connection with the Forest pack trains operating on the Selway River. Normally there is ample grazing available for a full season's work. This year we operated about 75% of the number previously used (roads are having their effect) and were forced to use extra grain rations early in August and before the close of the season had to fall back on hay.

II. ~~Range~~ Ranges were left in good condition due to the fact that we are so much understocked. There were no over-grazed or damaged areas. Had we been fully stocked results might have been less satisfactory.

IX. Condition of Stock:

All stock left the Forest in excellent condition though cattle were only fair when they entered and sheep were in really poor condition due to holding on burned out spring ranges. Devin & Faure's lambs weighed out at 80 pounds, which is the highest average ever attained by these owners. All stock began to gain immediately

upon reaching the Forest Range. Cattle gained most of their weight during July and held their own from that time on. Lambs gained consistently until the close of the season.

X. Livestock Losses:

For the first time in many years, no losses from poison or predatory animals were reported. Two head of cattle strayed into a bog. 59 head of sheep were reported lost in trailing to and from the Forest, two died from the effects of a spree on salt brine. The absence of loss from predatory animals is hard to account for since no campaign against these animals has been carried on near the sheep ranges. There was, however, a noticeable absence of bear, doubtless due to dry weather driving them to other feeding grounds prior to the coming in of the sheep.

XI. Handling Stock:

This year for the first time the Davin & Faure sheep left their ranges without a damaged spot on them. This is due entirely to the method followed by Forest Ranger Crocker in controlling their use of the range. Two of his firemen, stationed on the Davin and Faure range, were thoroughly instructed as to the range management results desired and the methods (open herding) to be followed in obtaining them. These men were then

The Forest and Game Warden, Forest Ranger, and Game Warden, made responsible for range conditions on these areas and given the authority necessary to deal effectively with the herders and camp tenders. During the first two or three weeks they were with the sheep almost as steadily as the regular herders but during this time they saw to it personally that the stock were properly handled and got the idea over to the sheepmen. After this training period was over, their work was reduced to frequent supervision and inspection trips which they kept up faithfully throughout the season. As a result both range and stock showed the benefit of this form of handling and three sheepherders know what blanket herding means. This outfit has the reputation, on other Forests, of being indifferent to range conditions, their practices here bear this out. Possibly they may desire to seek new pastures elsewhere next season rather than follow the management plan laid down for them here. A tip off to other Forests as to their character might not be amiss. I believe that if Forest range is allotted them next year it should be on the Selway.

Ninety salt logs were put in use on the Iron Mt. range this season at various pre-determined locations on the range. It was required that salt be placed only at these specified points. 95% enforcement of this salting plan is reported.

The Fish and Obia Creek sheep ranges were left in good condition. Dobbin & Huffman are thoroughly in favor of growing ranges, no local justification of these limits can be open herding and make it a regular practice. Their ranges are always in good condition. This range is now understocked, it having recovered from the 1919 fire damage and additional stock, up to it's capacity, should be placed on it as soon as possible. Otherwise there is a danger of it's brushing and logging up to a point where it's capacity might be seriously reduced.

I. Range Maintenance:

15% of the Forest sheep range is now under a rotation system of grazing, this will be extended to cover about 30% of the range in use. This system is being applied to protect those ranges which have not fully recovered from fire damage but which it is necessary to partially use or at least include within range allotments.

10% of the Forest range is still closed to grazing due to incomplete recovery from 1919 fires. Next year it is hoped that all of these areas can be opened to use. No ranges are in need of reseeding though it is planned to do a small amount of seeding at a couple of Ranger stations to meet administrative needs.

XIII. Limits:

A protection limit of 100 head of cattle or 1500 sheep is recommended. Exemption limits the same. Maximum limits 300 cattle or 6,000 sheep. Inter-Forest sheep limit

15,000. In view of the fact that this is not a livestock growing region, no local justification of these limits can be had. They are based on what have proved reasonable limits under other similar conditions.

IV. Rodents:

Not present in injurious numbers.

V. Stock Associations:

None.

VI. Herbarium:

13 specimens collected this season, 95 specimens in office herbarium.

A considerable number of specimens were collected this year by the Fire Survey crew but during their absence on fire were badly damaged. Forest Ranger Cossitt succeeding in preserving 13 specimens. Plant collection is difficult here due to the fact that so much of the Forest travel is on foot with a back pack. Plant collection equipment is difficult to find a place for under these circumstances, without it specimens cannot be successfully preserved.

XVII. Poisonous Plants:

Nothing has been attempted or is necessary in the way of poison eradication.

XVIII. Range Improvement:

During the past season five miles of the Canteen Meadows Stock driveway were constructed. Work was retarded extensively because of numerous fires that required the services of the crew. Snow drove them out before the job was finished. The section which was finished will be of real value in stock distribution next spring and it is planned to complete the job next season. \$1,000 it is thought will complete this project.

Next season it is planned to extend the Woodrat-Cedars driveway from Cedars to Middle Butte, via Canyon Cr. Ranger Station. This will provide access to the Deadman Creek ranges and to the range on Lower Fish Creek, which is now inaccessible. It will provide access to range for 5,000 head of sheep. All that is involved is widening the present pack trail to driveway proportions. Cost is estimated at \$1600 for 8 miles. The completion of these driveways will complete the present program of the Forest, and should care for demands during the next ten years.

Nothing is required here in the way of water development at the present time.

XIX. Range Reconnaissance:

No intensive range reconnaissance has been undertaken on the Forest and it will be many years before demand reaches a point where it may be required.

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Through range appraisal work, fire survey crews, and the efforts of Forest Ranger Crocker, about 570,000 acres have been extensively covered. The work now covers all of the ranges which are classed as accessible. Some of this work is sketchy as to possibilities of utilization and needs a further field examination by some one competent to judge this. The plan of the Forest is to use our present data as a base and build up and add to it currently as the material for correction becomes available. In this way, I believe our information regarding ranges can be kept well ahead of our range demands.

X. Inspection:

19 days were spent on range inspection by the Supervisor's office force. 32 days by Rangers. Pressing fire demands interfered to some extent with inspection plans, particularly in the case of Forest Ranger Parsell. The inspections that we were able to make, it is believed, were sufficient to provide the necessary check up on permittee's methods and utilization of range.

XI. Fish & Game:

This report is prepared as a supplement to Form 438. Fish and Game will be covered in the regular game report.

November 20 1924.

Walter R. Jefferson
Forest Supervisor.