

Forestry Scientists Expand Search for Future Benefits

James E. Sowder, author of the following article, heads activities of the Deschutes Research Center. He came to Bend eight years ago from California, where he also served with the U.S. Forest Service. In this article, Sowder summarizes research work now under way at the station that has its headquarters at Pringle Falls and its office in Bend.

By JAMES E. SOWDER
Deschutes Research Center Leader

Projects underway at the Deschutes Research Center are expected to play a major role in shaping the longrange economy of this region.

Ponderosa pine management research continues as a major subject of study at the center, but new projects are now receiving attention.

These new studies include lodgepole pine management, important because of the new role this tree, once considered a weed species, is expected to play in the years just ahead.

Range management and big game habitat research were started at the Center this past year. Important minor studies are underway.

Forest Service research in timber management for all of eastern Oregon and most of eastern Washington is at present handled through the Deschutes Center, on a temporary basis.

More new work has been started at the Center this season than at any time since World War II. This has been made possible through additions to the staff.

Experiment Experts Named

Yet, the Center staff is not large. Ponderosa pine research is being handled by Edwin L. Mowat, project leader, and James W. Barrett, research forester. Gregory N. Brown from the Iowa State College forestry school is serving this year in pine research as summer assistant.

Walter G. Dahms heads lodgepole pine research studies as project leader. James P. King, a graduate from Michigan State College School of Forestry is summer assistant in lodgepole research work.

Richard S. Driscoll is project leader for the new studies in range management and big game habitat research. His summer assistant is

J. Edward Dealy, OSC graduate in wildlife management.

The Deschutes Research Center is a part of the U. S. Forest Service's branch of research. It is one of six centers in Oregon and Washington, which, with the headquarters station at Portland, comprises the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station.

The Deschutes Center was established in 1946 to serve the needs for better management of nearly 15,000,000 acres of forest and range lands in Wasco, Jefferson, Crook, Deschutes, Lake and Klamath counties.

Headquarters for the Center are in the former Benson Building, 893 Wall Street, Bend.

Helen Rastovich serves as secretary of the Center's year around office in Bend.

Upriver at Pringle Falls is a 11,000 acre experimental forest.

Lodgepole Pine
Each of the project heads has his own particular assignment. Dahms, who heads the new program in lodgepole pine management research, has been a member of the Center's staff here for the past nine years. He was formerly assigned to ponderosa pine and brush control research.

Dahms' first major study under his new assignment will determine the potential growth of lodgepole pine under management, on Central Oregon lands.

Lodgepole pine occupies more than a million acres in the six counties which comprise the Research Center province. This tree, which in past years has been considered of little value, will increase in value as a sawlog and pulpwood species in the years ahead, and will contribute its full share to the local economy.

Current and planned research work is aimed at supplying information which will aid forest managers obtain maximum sustained yields of both sawlogs and pulpwood.

Ponderosa Pine
Edwin L. Mowat, a long time member of the Center staff, is heading up the continuing program of ponderosa pine management research. Mowat is assisted by James W. Barrett, a new member of the research staff.

Ponderosa pine has long been the backbone of the lumber industry in Central Oregon and it still is. And ponderosa pine management has been the major subject



CONSERVATION STAFF — These men were on a staff of specialists who taught conservation to 72 teachers this summer. They are Gail Thomas, left, forester for Western Pine association; Ted Thorson, Maurice Benson and George Smith, Mid-State Soil Conservation district technicians. They were snapped by the farm stock pond at the Lazy-Z ranch near Sisters. (Bulletin Photo)

of research for many years. Results of research conducted at Pringle Falls Experimental Forest, near LaPine, and elsewhere in eastern Oregon and Washington have contributed materially toward better management of our millions of acres of ponderosa pine forests. Continuing research is aimed at further improvement, such as maximum continuous production of high quality sawlogs and pulpwood.

Range-Management and Big-Game
Richard S. Driscoll, a new member of the Center's staff, is in charge of range management and big-game habitat studies, which were started this year. His first studies will help determine the forage producing capacity and present condition of the range on central Oregon soils.

Grazing of livestock and big-game animals on forest and range lands has long been an important factor in central Oregon's economy. These native range lands supply a large share of the yearly forage requirements for livestock and almost all that used by big-game, principally deer. There is nearly 6,682,000 acres of these range lands in the six central Oregon counties. Learning more about these lands and how to improve forage production is the goal of the new research program.

Other Research
Other research conducted by the Research Center and staff of the Pacific Northwest Forest and

Range Experiment station is concerned with protection of the forests from insects, disease and fire, with control of vegetation and methods harvesting for maximum high quality yields, with protecting and improving recreational values. In short research is concerned with all phases of multiple use land

management for maximum values for the land owner and the public.

Many are Cooperating
Researchers and forest and range land managers, government and private agencies and individuals, are all working toward wiser use of all land resources. Cooperation in this field of endeavor is

Bend Country Is Buck Land

Central Oregon's most sought after big game animal is the mule deer. When the season opens about a month from now, several thousand hunters will enter the jack-pine thickets and ponderosa stands, all seeking the biggest buck that ever jumped.

Distinguishing features of the mule deer are his long ears and white rump. He's larger than his cousin in western Oregon, the black-tail deer. Heavy, widespread antlers make the mule deer a trophy animal, too.

Though found through all of Central and eastern Oregon, the mule deer is probably hunted most heavily south of Bend. Open areas interspersed with dense thickets make this country ideal for both deer and hunter, providing both visibility and cover.

Last year, according to game commission figures, hunters took 15,346 deer in the Central Oregon area. Results are expected to be as good or better this year.

outstanding. This combined effort will make possible an increasing supply of wood, forage, water, recreation and beauty for generations to come. The Deschutes Research Center staff is contributing toward this goal.

Paulina, East Lake Are Nicknamed Fish Factories

"Fish factories," East and Paulina lakes, are the most popular of all Central Oregon's trout waters. Prodigious numbers of trout are taken from the lakes each year, thus the title of "fish factories." In 1956, the game commission recorded the lakes as producing a multitude of trout, and only the catches were reported.

Nestled high in Newberry Crater about 40 miles south of Bend, the lakes are served by a first class surfaced highway. Undoubtedly, this contributes to their popularity.

Each lake is served by a modern resort, with boats and tackle, cabins, groceries, and meals available.

Often, the lakes are partly ice-covered on opening day. And more often, the early season fishing is so good that a 2-hour limit is not exceptional. Late season snowstorms are also an expected part of opening day activities at these lakes.

Browns, rainbow and eastern brook make for variety in the fisherman's catch.

The Little Deschutes river has yielded some of the largest Dolly Varden ever taken in Oregon.

Anglers Like Opening Day At Big Lava

Big Lava lake's fine population of eastern brook trout enables that lake to offer some of Central Oregon's finest fishing.

Located on the Century Drive some 40 miles from Bend over the north route (35 miles of paved road), Big Lava has become a favorite of vacationing and area anglers since the game commission's restocking program a few years ago.

Trout from the lake are heavy bodied, and range up to 24 inches in length. Fish ranging from 12 to 18 inches make up the bulk of the catches. Trolling is generally most effective here, though early season bait fishing is excellent.

Served by a boat rental facility, the lake is bordered by a large campground, maintained by the Forest Service.

Area fishermen have an unformal rule that anyone who hasn't tried to make Big Lava on opening day is a tenderfoot. Reason is that the last mile of road is often covered with snow then, making superior driving or good feet a necessity.

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