

Deschutes Ranger for August

The fourth number of The Deschutes Ranger, a monthly publication of the local forestry office, is devoted largely to news of the fire fighting that has occupied the time and attention of the officials recently. The cover illustration on this number is a photograph of the water hole at Sand Springs.

Extracts from the "Ranger" follow: The picture on the front page is of Sand Springs Water Hole in Section 31, Township 21 S., Range 16 East. The entire region northeast and south east of the Paulina Lakes is remarkable in being without any known streams. The soil is a loose pumice through which the water seeps without ever appearing on the surface. The only known watering places within the Forest are at Swamp Wells Section 7, Township 20 S., Range 13 East., at the Arnold Ice Cave, Section 22, Township S., Range 13 East., Antelope Springs, Section 16, Township 21 S., Range 15 East., Sand Springs, Ice Cave, Section 18, Township 23 S., Range 14 E., and at Indian Springs, Section 28, Township 23 S., Range 13 E.

At Sand Springs the coarse pumice is underlain at a depth of about four feet with a strata of clay-like soil on top of which the water accumulates. Holes dug through the pumice to this clay have a supply of fairly good water throughout the year.

Ranger Ed Mahn has completed bridges across Cold Creek by the Davis Lake Ranger Station in Township 23-7, and across one of the channels of Odell Creek on the Crescent road a couple of miles southeast. He has also straightened out a number of curves in the road so that it is now in good condition and passable without any funds.

Ranger Oney has dug a well at the Big River Ranger Station. Formerly all water was taken from the Deschutes river.

Automobiles have been found to be the most rapid and economical method of transporting fire fighting crews to fires. Although more expensive than teams for the time employed, the total cost of transportation and salaries of men going to fires is less in almost every case than if teams were used. The advantage as regards the saving of time is self-evident. Crews have frequently been sent out from Bend and have arrived at fires at points which they could not have reached in less than two days by team, within a few hours.

A special use permit for the construction of a corral has been granted to Messrs. Hartley and Edgington. The corral will be located in Section 29, Township 15 S., Range 9 East, and will be used in connection with their grazing permit.

C. J. Lloyd has been granted a special use permit for a camp ground and boat landing on Suttles Lake in Section 24, Township 13 S., Range 8 East.

Ranger Mahn is constructing a

yard fence enclosing an area about eighty feet square around Davis Lake Ranger Station.

Fire suppression has been the principal occupation of all Forest officers during the past month. Several small lightning storms started a number of fires which, taken with those caused by other reasons, have kept everybody busy. High winds during the fore part of August and strong about the fifteenth, spread a number of fires so that the situation for a time was very critical. All the fires, however, are now under control and it is hoped that the worst period of danger is past. The local force was handicapped in the handling of fires by the continued smoky weather which we have had, which frequently prevented the lookout men from seeing flames until a considerable time after they started.

Although quite a large area has been burned over, it is not believed that a great deal of damage has been done to merchantable timber, since most of the fires were in brushy areas or in places where the timber was of inferior species. The largest fire was on the north slope of Pine Mountain and was caused by a sagebrush fire starting several miles out on the desert which swept up the hillside and which could not be checked until after it had burned for some distance into the timber. Until final reports are obtained it is not

possible, however, to estimate the acreage or loss accurately. So far thirty-two fires burning over 325 acres have been reported within the National Forest boundaries and sixteen fires burning over 502 acres outside the Forest. This does not, however, include hardly any of the fires that occurred during August.

Fred F. Henshaw, District Engineer of the U. S. Geological Survey, was in Bend on September 2. He had just returned from a trip into the Crane Prairie and Big River regions, on which trip he arranged with Ranger Oney to take gauge readings at the Big River Station.

Approximately \$4200 has been expended on the Deschutes and Deschutes Division of the Paulina Forest for fighting fires up to and including September 1. It is to be regretted that so much money had to be spent for a purpose that results in so little direct benefit.

At last work has been started to complete the Tumalo telephone line. Ranger Austin left Bend with a party of five men on the morning of September 2 with material to complete the line as far west as the Tumalo Ranger Station.

Ranger Harriman has completed a wire fence telephone line between Fort Rock and his headquarters in Section 19, Township 24 S., Range 14 East. Mr. Harriman reports that the line works well. By this means the lookout man on the "Rock" is able to furnish Mr. Harriman with daily reports without taking the ride between the two points.

Ranger Oney has completed swinging gates for all the fence around the Big River Ranger Station, there being

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seven gates in all. A special use permit has been issued K. C. Miles for the construction of a telephone line over the portion of the Paulina Forest crossed between La Pine and Fort Rock. The permit carries a clause granting Forest officers the privilege of using the line free of charge for official business.

Forest Inspector E. H. Clapp from Washington and Assistant District Forester P. E. Ames spent August 29 and 31 looking over the Metolius and Sisters blocks of timber.

Forest Guard Usher has nearly completed a new trail from Crane Prairie Ranger Station to Round Mountain lookout, which will shorten the distance from the station to the lookout about one mile.

Mr. E. A. Shorman, in charge of land classification from Washington, and Assistant District Forester C. J. Buck spent August 27 looking over the Metolius land classification area. On the 28th they left for Silver Lake, from which place they planned to go to Beaver Marsh, thence to Fort Klamath.

Wind force and direction records are being kept by the men on Black Butte, Maiden Peak, Paulina Peak and Walker Mountain lookouts. It is thought that there may be some more or less constant relationship between wind velocities or directions and fire danger, and it is hoped that some practical conclusions may be worked out as a result of the observations. Their records show that the fifteenth of August was one of

the windiest days we have had. It was on or about that date when so many large fires suddenly sprung up on the Forest.

The Big River-Edison Ice Cave road was almost completed by the end of July. This road shortens the distance from the ranger station to the Ice Cave about three miles and is located so that there are no steep grades. The old road was very crooked, not well cleared out, and

had two heavy grades each way.

(Continued next week.)

The Portland Ad Club, during its stay in Bend, visited many points of interest. It became very necessary after the eruption at Lava Butte to look for the leading barber shop. They found it here. Were they right? D—right. An example worthy of imitation. The Metropolitan.—Adv.

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