

Forest Service Helps Stock Man

"(1) The protection and conservative use of all National Forest land adapted for grazing.

"(2) The permanent good of the live-stock industry through proper care and improvement of the grazing lands.

"It is expected that the stock owners will earnestly co-operate in carrying out the regulations."

These lines, quoted from the National Forest grazing manual, give two of the leading objects of the grazing regulations, and contain both a promise and a prophecy. They indicate what the government will do for the users of the public range, and also what the users will be glad to do in return for the protection afforded them.

Consider a few specific instances of the kind of work the Forest Service is doing for the benefit of the

Watering Troughs.

Another interesting feature of the government work is the introduction of salt and watering troughs throughout the range. The known sources of water were located, and then developed by digging out the seep or wet ground around the spring and placing a trough to catch and hold the water. Salt is just as necessary to stock as water. In his scientific management of the range, the government officer utilizes this need of the stock in a very clever way. To understand how this is done, you must know that cattle are turned loose on the range in summer, that is, without a herder. Thus they wander wherever they will, and are apt to choose the better portions of the forage crop to the exclusion of others. There must be some method devised to make them wander not where they will,



Group of 15 choice Lambs, averaging 95 pounds, at the close of the season's grazing in Coyote-Proof Pasture in Wallowa National Forest.

stock industry. In Northeastern Oregon the live-stock industry is of considerable magnitude, and there is always a demand for range. The known range within the Wallowa National Forest has been constantly overstocked and overgrazed. Much of the country is unsurveyed, and while the Forest Supervisor has had a general knowledge of the forest and range conditions, his information has not been detailed or definite enough to bring into use the different types of forage at the proper time. Any allotments made to cover this unsurveyed section of the government area were more or less guess work and resulted in repeated readjustments.

Appropriation for Study.

Last season, however, an appropriation of \$10,500 was made for a reconnaissance study of the Wallowa Forest, with the idea of learning the extent of the various range types, character, density, and forage value of the plants, and the correct capacity of the range,—all this that "two animals might feed where one fed before."

To date, 670,000 acres have been covered in this study, at an average cost of approximately .8 of a cent per acre. The results of this reconnaissance survey have now been compiled in the form of a map and forage notes for each section, so that the supervisor may know, by a glance at this map or a look at his notes, just where there is grass, or meadow, or weeds or trees. He knows also what kind of grass or browse or weeds he has, or what species of trees. He knows whether the grass is under trees or in the open; he knows whether a meadow is wet or dry; he knows the whereabouts of the sagebrush areas; he knows the waste places. With this definite information at hand, he can make his allotments in a more satisfactory manner. He can pick out the grass range for the early and late feed, and he can assign the timber grass for the hot summer months. He now knows the full capacity of his grazing area, and its scientific management is possible. Next season will complete the work and cover practically the entire area of the Forest, or over a million acres.

but where the cattleman wills. So salt troughs are scattered over one section of the range, equally distant from the water troughs, until this section is used. Then the salt is placed next in troughs in another portion of the range, perhaps in higher country, and the craving for salt, characteristic of all stock, will lead them to search for it. Thus the stockman can guide his cattle all over the range and obtain an even use of the forage.

In the old days of fighting competition and no government regulation, salt was a constant bone of contention. The liberal minded man salted freely, while his neighbor, who might be one of the kind who wanted to get all he could for nothing, would depend on his liberal brother. When salt was needed, it seemed to be a case of "Let George do it." Under government regulations, however, each stock owner must provide his own salt in specified quantities. On one cattle range in Eastern Oregon, of 38,350 acres, 43 salt troughs have been placed, and all the available springs developed. As a result, where 1200 head of cattle were cared for last year, 1400 were grazed this year, and it is expected that 1600 will be handled there next season.

Northern Washington.

There is an interesting situation on the Okanogan Forest in Northern Washington, just west of the Divide. There is much good grazing land in the Okanogan watershed and along the Canadian boundary. For lack of shipping facilities for sheep fattened on the range, the use of these areas has heretofore been somewhat limited. The Great Northern Railroad built a branch line up the Okanogan River, and then the number of sheep utilizing the range increased from 20,000 to 60,000. However, much of this range is still so remote from the shipping points on the east side of the Divide, that it is impossible to drive the sheep to the range and back again in a short season. Something more is needed. An examination made this summer revealed the fact that it is possible and feasible to make a driveway for sheep across the Divide, through Hatecom Pass and thus reach shipping points on the west

side of the Cascades. During the season of 1915 much work on this driveway will be undertaken.

After the first shock, which always seems to follow a new idea, the stockmen began to see the benefit of scientific management of the range, and of all the accompanying rules and regulations. During the Kent Bill hearing this past spring, one of them testified that as a result of these new methods, the stockmen were now able to go to Chicago and win blue ribbons with their stock. But we do not have to go to Chicago—prizes have been won at Lewiston and at Portland by stock grazed on the National Forest.

Another striking benefit to those who graze their stock on range controlled and managed by the government, is the fact that the banks will loan on cattle that are grazed on the National Forest more readily than they will on stock that is grazing on unregulated and unprotected territory. Now why is this? Before the cattleman can get a permit to enter the government range, his

cattle must be counted by a Forest ranger. The owner then pays Uncle Sam 35c or 40c per head, and has his permit and his receipt to show the bank. Thus they know that he must have the number of cattle he claims, and that his business is on a stable basis because he uses protected range.



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