

Heppner Ranger District Serves 194,000 Acres of National Forest Lands



THE OLD and the new in lookouts are pictured in this U. S. Forest Service photo of the lookout towers at Wheeler Point. Although the towers are just out of the county, the rangers view forests in Morrow county from this point. The new tower at the left is a luxurious affair in comparison with the old structure.

The Heppner ranger district of the Umatilla National Forest, U. S. Forest Service is located in north central portion of Oregon between Township 4 and 8 south and ranges 23 and 29 east, Willamette Meridian. It is the most southerly and westerly district in the Umatilla National Forest with the ranger district headquarters located at Heppner.

The Heppner district consists of 194,271 acres of National forest lands which are managed in accordance to their key values which include the production of wood, forage, wildlife, recreation and water. The district considers multiple use as its most important function and every effort is made to continue good multiple use management.

During the 1960 field season (May through October), 31 million board feet of timber was cut on various sales on the district. There were three timber sales under contract and many small sales for posts, poles on the district during the 1960 field season.

A total of 8,430 head of sheep and 975 head of cattle grazed on the district under permits during the past year. Many range improvement projects were completed, thus making the range allotments more suitable for greater production and better management of the resources.

There are two major big game species on the district, these being mule deer and Rocky Mountain elk. The 1960 reports show approximately 10,000 mule deer and 2,200 Rocky Mountain elk. The hunter success ratio for the past season on mule deer was approximately 60% and 10% on Rocky Mountain elk for the past season. There is a very limited population of black bear present on the district and they seem to allude most of the sportsmen by their ability to stay off the beaten path.

From the recreation side of district management, much progress is being made on the Bull Prairie impoundment area. Most of the brush was piled and burned during the past year and the State of Oregon has now let the contract for the construction of the dam. The Forest Service Recreation specialists and Engineers have made plans for access and camp sites around the lake and the prospects look very good for campers and fishermen in the very near future.

Fire, one of our greatest destructive forces, caused the district personnel many sleepless nights during the past year. There were 30 lightning caused and six man caused fires during the 1960 season. The largest fire was located near Tonto Springs and burned over approximately 120 acres of range and timber land. The remainder of the lightning caused fires were held to spot fire size by the great assistance of our timber operators and cooperators. Lightning fires are impossible to prevent. However, there were six man caused fires that could have been prevented. The largest percentage

of these man-caused fires were hunter warming fires or unattended camp fires which could have been avoided. The 1961 fire season at this time has all the appearance of having the hazardous potential of last year and

the U. S. Forest Service asks again for the wonderful cooperation during this fire season that they had during the last fire season.

The past season saw approximately 10 miles of timber access

roads constructed and a new erection of a Lookout at Wheeler Point which is located approximately 5 miles South and East of Camp 5. There are three lookouts on the district. Their locations are: Madison Butte, Tamarack Mountain and Wheeler Point. These lookouts serve as the eyes and ears for the district during the fire season.

The Heppner district of the Umatilla National Forest is yours to enjoy. Use it wisely and it will be your heritage forever.

Personnel of the Heppner ranger staff is listed below. Anyone should feel free to contact them for help and information on matters concerning national forests.

District Ranger: Warren S. Miller, in charge of all resource man-

agement and information and education program.

Assistant District Ranger: Raymond Williamson, assists District Ranger in resource management and information and education.

Fire Control Officer: Charles R. McLean, assists District Ranger in fire dispatching, communications, maintenance of improvements, safety program, equipment management and property management.

Timber Management Assistant: Sam E. Nagel, assists District Ranger in Timber Sale Administration and pre-sale work.

Range Management Assistant: Emory L. Clapp, assists District Ranger in Range Management Administration.

Timber Sale Officer: Robert W. Booth, assists Timber Management Assistant in Sale Administration. Acts as co-ordinator for Sale Area Betterment, (pruning and thinning), erosion control, (re-seeding and water bars), and slash disposal, (piling and burning).

District Clerk: Mrs. Betty Hamilton, assists District Staff in clerical and stenographic services.

Scalers: Mattion A. Hicks and John P. Rogers, assist Timber Management assistant in scaling timber on Forest Service Timber sales.

Protection force, name and station: Tupper Fireman, Morgan Medlock, Tupper Guard Station; Bull Prairie Guard, Kenneth Keeling, Bull Prairie Guard Station;

Ditch Creek Guard, Jerry Reeves, Ditch Creek Guard Station; Madison Butte Lookout, Ben Harris, Madison Butte Lookout; Tamarack Lookout, David Fortstrom, Tamarack Lookout; Wheeler Pt. Lookout, Otis McDowell, Wheeler Point Lookout; Black Mountain Patrolman, Collin Erickson, Ditch Creek Guard Station; Wall Creek Patrolman, Robert Davidson, Bull Prairie Guard Station.



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