

Reforestation Steps Forward During Year

Reforestation of the Rogue River National forest took a big step forward during 1962, according to Forest Supervisor Carroll E. Brown.

Major emphasis was the tree planting of recently tractor-cleared portions of several large, fire-caused 50-year-old brushfields.

The largest of these brushfields is the Cat Hill Burn on the Butte Falls district. Forty-eight hundred acres of the 14,000-acre burn are scheduled for brush clearing and windrowing using large logging tractors with mounted brush blades.

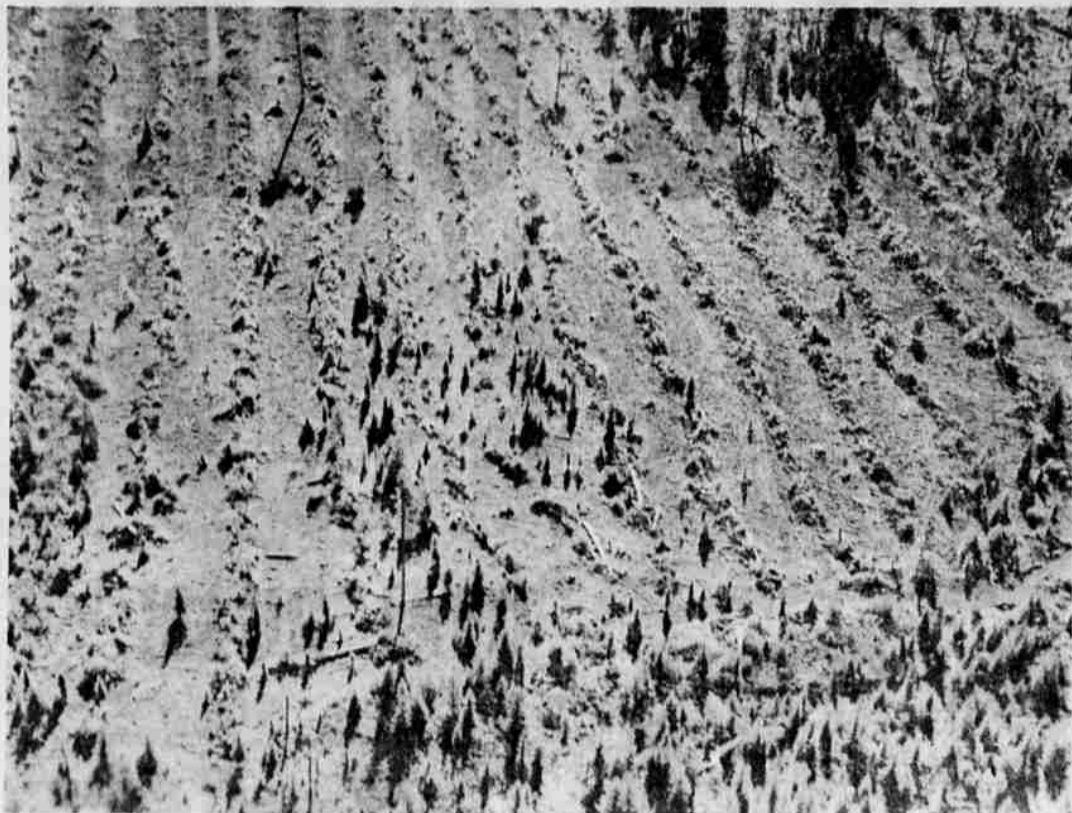
At the end of June, 720 acres had been cleared. Another 850 acres are under contract and should be completed before winter.

Planting Follows Close

Tree planting and tree seeding is following as close behind the clearing as the planting season will permit, Brown said. Douglas-fir, white fir, and Shasta red fir are the preferred tree species for planting in this area. Success has been encouraging to date, he added. Due to the threat of early brush competition, large, vigorous planting stock is being used.

Any established reproduction is saved in the clearing operation. Much of the area is a wall of various brush species 15 feet high, dwarfing a D-8 tractor, and so dense that few animals larger than a rabbit can penetrate it.

Brown said the clearing operation has uncovered rows of ponderosa pine that were planted in the middle '30's by the CCC's following a trial clearing operation. Brush competition was so severe that few of the trees have grown over 5 to 8 feet tall after 25 years.



This recent clearing shows windrows and the care taken to preserve established reproduction and pole stands in Cat Hill Burn area near Butte Falls.

Several local firms are engaged in the clearing operation. L. H. Dalkenberg of Central Point is clearing a 400-acre contract area. He is assisted by Bernie Hughes of Medford, Ragsdale and Fisher of Eagle Point are working on a 340-acre contract. F. W. Christean of Central Point, Ken Jackson of Merlin, and J. and R. Equipment Service of Ruch have completed similar contracts. It is estimated that the entire project will require 8 to 10 years to complete.

The Prospect district will complete the brush clearing of the 1,200-acre Peavine Burn this year. Half of the area is now cleared and planted. L. H. Dalkenberg, R. A. Bross, and Fred Harvey have done the clearing work.

The Union Creek district is well along with the brush clearing and planting of the Huckleberry Mountain Burn. Two hundred and sixty acres have been completed to date, and 300 acres more are scheduled this year. Three more years will be required to complete the 2,000-acre project. Dalkenberg and Harvey have done the clearing work.

Ashland District Area Cleared

A 26-acre area on the Ashland district was cleared by Brecount brothers, and 42 acres of the O'Brien Burn on the Applegate district by Fred Harvey.

When the 7,000 acres of old burns are again in trees, Brown estimated that at the timber rotation age of 100 years over 200 million board feet of timber can be produced from the areas. Based on the current market price, this represents a stimpunge of \$41 million. One-fourth of this dollar value will be returned to Jackson county in lieu of taxes. The total cost of brush clearing and tree planting is estimated at near \$700,000.

This may seem a long time to wait for a timber crop. Half of this 100-year rotation age has already been lost due to the areas supporting only brush for more than 50 years.

Other values than timber are also being restored. Cattle, deer, and other game will soon avail themselves of the new types of forage that will appear. Christmas trees and other minor forest products will soon be available.

Stream Flow Increases

In the cleared area of the Cat Hill Burn the streamflow has increased and what once were dry draws are sizable streams of clear, cool water until mid-summer. Recreation and camp sites may some day be established in some of the areas once water and tree shade are restored.

Early attempts to reforest the Cat Hill Burn began with the seeding of 1,000 acres to Scotch pine, European larch, and Norway spruce. The seeding was all done on the snow from November, 1910, to February, 1911. Workers camped in tents at Twin Ponds. Supplies were hauled by wagon as far as the roads were passable, then packed by horse. The seeding failed primarily because of rodents and rabbits.

In 1925, more than 100 acres were planted to ponderosa pine in the brush that was already well established, but rodents, rabbits, and a summer drought destroyed this effort. Between 1935 and 1939, a 35 Caterpillar and a 50 Caterpillar tractor with blades cleared parallel strips, and ponderosa pine was planted.

Clear 10 Mile Strips

In 1936, the CCC's cleared over 10 miles of strips. The cleared lanes became game trails, and deer and rabbits destroyed the planting. Experimental burning was tried



Service road breaks windrows of brush in the Cat Hill burn area where a tractor clears the land for replanting.

in the fall of 1939 and most of the top growth was killed. The brush immediately resprouted.

Using more modern means, 20 acres were aerially sprayed in June, 1955, but with only a fair top kill. A brush cutter pulled by a D-8 Caterpillar tractor was tried in 1957. This machine used so successfully in the South, and later east of the mountains, failed here. A root plow was tried in 1959, and was helpless in the tall, dense brush.

This combined experience proves the value of a large logging tractor to completely remove the brush. Competition to the newly planted seedlings is then materially reduced; crew travel in planting, seeding, and later maintenance is no problem; and the habitat of rabbits, the primary cause of seedling loss, is removed.

During the 1962 reforestation effort, 1,518.5 thousand trees and 330 pounds of tree seed were used to reforest 4,666 acres of freshly harvested areas and old burns. Thinning of overstocked stands and the release by destroying brush competition accounted for 486 acres. Pruning of selected, desirable young trees was conducted on 766 acres.

The antibiotic treatment of 1,135 acres of more than 200,000 young white and sugar pine trees was accomplished. This treatment is proving effective to kill blister rust cankers on infected trees. Immunization also is afforded for an undetermined period of time against future attacks.

A helicopter spray job of 144 acres of white and sugar pines in the Jim creek area of the Prospect district in October using the antibiotic Phytoactin is being watched with considerable interest. Although over 25,000 acres of white pines in Idaho have been effectively aerially treated using Phytoactin, this is the first attempt of this type of treatment in Oregon.

Church, State Go to Same Class in One Verboort School Building

BY ANN H. PEARSON
United Press International

Verboort, Ore. (UPI)—Church and state go to class across the hall from each other in this old farming community's little white frame schoolhouse.

A Verboort youngster thinks nothing of attending parochial grades 1-4, graduating to public grades 5-6, and moving on to parochial grades 7-8 to finish his elementary education.

The unusual and amicable arrangement between public school district 97 and the parish's visitation school has existed for years.

All Laws Being Obeyed

Those in charge insist all laws are being obeyed.

And sturdy Verboorters vigorously defend their system against larger neighboring districts that would like to divide district 97's property among their own tax rolls.

Verboort was settled around 1875, mostly by Catholic Dutch farmers from Wisconsin. The parish school started soon afterward. The public school district was set up in 1903.

Since anyone can remember, just two public elementary classes have been offered. The voters closed a public high school five years ago. The students attend neighboring high schools.

Buildings In Row

The school and parish buildings run in a row along a quiet street shaded by giant redwoods and surrounded by flat fields where cattle graze—a small white building for grades 1-3, the very Rev. William R. Killon's home, the red brick church, the nuns' quarters, the white schoolhouse for grades 4-8, and the sheet metal gym.

Inside the building for grades 4-8 are three classrooms. At one end is grade 4, taught by a Sister. At the other end are grades 7-8, taught by a Sister.

In the center classroom are public grades 5-6, taught by Mrs. Donald Gross, a protestant, who is teaching on an emergency state certificate while pursuing her own studies. It is her first year at Verboort.

Contain Religious Articles

The parochial classrooms contain religious articles, but these are absent from Mrs. Gross's classroom. Mrs. Gross says Verboort's five-member all-Catholic school board has "bent over backward" to make sure her teaching remains purely secular.

The board even stopped her from using an arithmetic book written by Catholics, even though a pupil termed the alternative state-approved text "baby work."

Downstairs from the classrooms is the library, used by all.

The property is owned by the parish. School district 97 rents its classroom, plus use of the library, gym and other facilities, from the parish for \$2,000 a year.

The district's budget this year is \$13,375, including \$3,900 for Mrs. Gross and for teaching materials.

One of its larger items is \$2,500 to pay tuition to neighboring districts for a handful of non-Catholic residents of district 97. Another big item of district 97 is \$3,700 for transportation. Under the law, the buses also carry the parochial grade pupils who live along the public students' routes.

The secret of the church-state recipe seems to be unanimity among the parents of Verboort. Until this year, the public grades were 7-8. The decision to change them to 5-6 was reached, Father Killon said, through meetings and consultations.

The arrangement has several advantages for Verboort, mainly financial. Verboorters themselves benefit from the public school taxes they pay. If the district were dissolved, most of them would send their children to the parish school anyway, while paying taxes to another district. And the parish would need new funds to handle grade 5-6.

Benefits From Transportation

Verboort also benefits from the public bus transportation.

The 41 pupils in grades 5-6 don't lack religious training. They are released for 20 minutes before lunch each

day for instruction by Sister Superior Mary Marciana.

During that period, Mrs. Gross gives Sister Marciana's class a science lesson. Mrs. Gross's one non-Catholic pupil has the choice of attending the science lesson or studying.

A spokesman for the state department of education described the situation this way: "It just happens there are no dissenters down there... everything goes along peacefully."

Threatening Co-Existence

But changing times are threatening such co-existence, which already has come to an end in other areas of Oregon.

The Rev. Martin Thielien of Portland, director of education for the Archdiocese, says although the arrangement has been cleared by the state attorney general's office, he would prefer separate schools.

And it's new times, not church-state conflict, that threaten Verboort's special arrangement. The trend in Oregon is toward larger public school districts. Just this fall, the county school board approved plans to wrap Verboort's district 97 into a larger district that will offer publication from grades 1-12, and the matter appears headed for a vote.



Pupils at Verboort's visitation school here appear playful as the Rev. William Killon talks with teacher in school's lunchroom. (UPI)



This is Verboort's visitation school, attended by secular and non-secular students alike, without friction and with the "consent of the governed" (UPI)