

Forest Grazing Policy Outlined

A statement on grazing policy on the Modoc national forest has been issued by Supervisor Charles M. Reclor in connection with criticisms leveled at the forest service by Modoc cattlemen and others in the past few weeks. Reclor in his statement discussed opening dates, stock counts, transfer adjustments and other issues that have drawn fire from forest service critics.

Modoc citizens, especially the stockmen's groups, have accused the forest service of inefficiency, failure to publicize developments of importance to permittees, unfair reductions in permits, and other assertedly unsound policies and actions which the Modoc people say are damaging to the interests of the stockmen and the community.

Following is a summarized report of Reclor's statements:

Opening Dates—Dates for turning stock on range are set for time when forage is sufficiently developed to permit grazing without permanent damage to the soil and vegetation. Forage conditions vary on different parts of the allotment, and varying dates when grazing may be permitted result. The supervisor has authority to permit stock on the range 15 days ahead of the regular grazing period, and in 1947, 146 permittees were given permission to turn out from 3 to 15 days early. Seven were requested to hold stock off until beginning of permitted season.

Stock counts—Long-established policy of forest service is to determine by actual count the number of stock using a forest service grazing allotment. This is no reflection on the integrity of stockman, and is comparable to scaling logs on a forest service timber sale. It is good business procedure.

Non-use permits—Non-use for one year may be granted for the personal convenience of the permittee. A permittee wishing to take non-use to build up range may do so for five years under conditions assuring actual range improvement.

Transfer adjustments—It is accepted practice to reduce permits at time of permit transfers, provided range needs such adjustment to give it relief from overgrazing. Present Modoc policy is to reduce permit if needed for range protection.

Forest advisory board—Members are elected by permittees. Board meets twice a year. Advisory board

members have agreed to ride range with forest officers this year to work out problems on the ground.

Range improvements—Water development, drift and boundary fences, erosion control works, artificial re-seeding and other range improvements are undertaken when funds are available. It will take many years to do all of the needed range improvement under the present financing system. Twenty per cent of total grazing fees are available for this work, and none of the money received for range improvement is used to pay overhead for clerical personnel.

Administration—Forest service policy is to make periodic transfers and promotions in personnel. The type of personnel planning on the Modoc is the result of 50 years of experience and is believed by the department of agriculture to be most efficient for operating this kind of organization.

Competition with deer—The interstate deer herd consumes considerable forage each year. Ways to control its size have been discussed for years. A cooperative study, involving the game commissions of Oregon and California, sportsmen's and livestock associations and forest service, is now being made.

General policy—Permittees will be encouraged to ride the range with forest officials to work out the best

solutions to problems. Because of change of supervisors last summer, the present supervisor did not realize inadequate publicity was given to a change in ranger district boundaries.

Truman Signs Bill For Agency Funds

WASHINGTON, July 8 (AP)—President Truman today signed a \$1,674,156,831 appropriation bill financing the labor department, the federal security agency, the national relations board, the national mediation board and the railroad retirement board for the fiscal year 1948.

In addition to the cash, which is \$89,253,669 below budget estimates, the bill carries contract authorization for \$75,000,000 for aid to states for hospital construction. The federal security agency's share of the bill is \$901,670,630; the labor department's, \$75,850,901; the NLRB's, \$4,974,700; the national mediation board's, \$869,400, and the railroad retirement board's, \$690,793,000.

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Bend Woman Dies In Auto Wreck

WACO, Tex., July 8 (AP)—Mrs. Mary Katherine Brown of Bend, Ore., injured Saturday night when the automobile in which she was

riding plunged into a 15-foot ditch from a road near McGregor, Tex., died Monday in a Waco hospital. Mrs. Brown had been visiting her mother, Mrs. M. M. Hunt of McGregor. Her husband, H. S. Brown, is en route here from Oregon.

Youth Killed In Bicycle Accident

EUGENE, July 8 (AP)—James Haley, 8, Eugene, was killed last

night when his bicycle collided with an automobile which state police reported was driven by Eldred Christian, Eugene. Police said the driver rushed the boy, a son of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Haley, to the hospital but he was dead on arrival.

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