

(Continued from Page 2)

have too many deer in this area for the available winter range. Driving along we viewed in the distance the Ted Hyde ranch and Frank Obenchain's reservoir. The lack of moisture in this area was evident to us as we could see that this reservoir was not filled. This reservoir is used for irrigation and stock water.

The quail were darting in and out along the road, cattle grazing and a rabbit here and there helped make our tour more exciting. Frank Dunning added to the excitement by killing four porcupines with a club during the afternoon.

Incense cedar, white fir and ponderosa pine trees were seen where they were damaged by the porcupines.

In one area we saw where the forest service crews had thinned a pine and fir stand by cutting out the fir and logging it to improve the growth of the pine trees.

Deming Creek area was burned over in August of 1955. The fire was believed to be man-caused, and over 2,480 acres of timber and watershed denuded. The timber was salvaged that fall by the Bly Lumber Company. Burned timber must be harvested within a certain time limit before blue stain and bugs damage the product and brings the market grade of the lumber down.

The area was seeded to grass the following spring by aerial seeding to regain a vegetative cover to protect the watershed and soil. This project has served its purpose but has caused lots of trouble in getting the area restocked with trees. To date, 1,038 acres have been planted with a total cost of \$33,000. There are 900 acres left to be planted, as soon as plants become available. The road situation is the major problem of getting into the different areas for the early spring planting. To solve this problem, experimental direct seeding plots have been established.

Stop number two was at such a plot. The purpose of these plots is to determine the feasibility of planting seeds instead of young trees to reestablish a timber stand on burned over areas. In any direct seeding project the greatest problem to overcome is the loss of seeds to rodents (mice, gophers, squirrels and other small seed eating mammals). To overcome this problem the seeds were treated with Endrin, a poisonous coating. Three areas were planted at 10 acres each. One site (the one visited) was a north exposure, the other two were on a south exposure. The north exposure is expected to prove to be the better site for direct seeding, as the area is not subject to the effects of baking in the sun. Seedlings cannot stand too much drying or direct sunlight before they have some woody growth on the stem to insulate the plant from the heat of the sun.

The planting method used is a scalped and lightly raked-over area where 10 to 15 seeds are scattered to each plot planted. These plots showed seeds that germinated but died and also seeds taking hold. If one tree is gained from the 15 seeds planted it is a very successful venture. The pine tree sheds its seed before it drops its cone.

If this method of planting is successful we will gain much in time and money.

Boulder Spring Trail was a brief stopping point where the No. Vehicles Allowed sign was posted. This was the boundary of the Gearheart Mountain wild area. The purpose of the wild area is to preserve in a virgin state an area for recreation and enjoyment.

The many ditches that we crossed on the road seemed unnecessary at the time we bounced over them. It was explained that they are drainage ditches that turn the water off the road to keep the

road from washing and becoming impassible.

Deming Creek is a very pretty creek and the fishing was plentiful before the fire. The ashes, silt and debris resulting from the fire killed the fish. This past couple of years the fishing has been reported as good as ever. Many fishermen were seen on the day of the tour.

We made a stop where the Bly School children planted trees in 1957. There was a good survival of these trees. The forest service said that this type of conservation activities are beneficial to both the children and the forest service.

A big problem in the burned area is watershed protection. To keep the many culverts and drains open is expensive and time consuming. Expensive and extensive damage was done to the roads by large washouts in the roads before the forest service built trash catchers at strategic points in front of the culverts to catch the debris that plugs the culverts. These trash catchers were built the first year after the burn, and are cleaned in the fall and spring. The county and forest service did a considerable amount of work to repair the damage to the road. The Klamath County crew needed access over this road to their gravel pit.

Stop number three was at the porcupine poison station hut No. 8 where we saw the carcasses of several porcupines and also found a carcass that was carried away by a predator which had covered it with grass for a later meal. The huts are fixed so that cows and deer and other animals cannot get at the poison.

Thousands of dollars of timber are lost annually through the killing of trees by porcupines.

Fremont personnel killed 3,800 porcupines last year. The Bly district killed 1,895 of these. All these were direct kills. During the last year we have stepped up our control program to include poison stations. These stations have been concentrated around our plantations and pruning and thinning areas to protect the large investments there.

We have 48 poison stations situated over the forest. Seven of these are huts such as the one visited. The huts are put in the area of migration or known concentration areas. The other stations are in roost trees. The stations were put out in January of 1959 and inspected for results in May of 1959. The effectiveness of these stations was figured by counting only stations where a carcass was found. Twelve of our stations had kills which shows them to be 20 per cent effective. This is a very conservative figure because other stations showed use but no kill present. The reason that we do not find a kill at many of our stations is because they have been carried away and eaten by predators such as coyotes or bobcats. We found a total kill of 20 porcupines at all our stations. These stations cost us little in time and money and they are doing an effective job for us.

The view at the top of Deming Creek was fascinating. It made one feel high above everything, the wind was blowing so too much time wasn't spent at stop four which was the 1959 pine plantation. The 225 acres were planted with 2-year-old stock (trees). Each planting site was scalped of vegetation to give the trees a better chance of survival because of reduced competition for food, light and water. The cost of planting the 225 acres last year was about \$8,000 or \$36 per acre.

The fenced plot of one acre at the pine plantation is a cattle enclosure only, it was built to determine damage from cattle grazing.

We arrived at Mitchell Recreation Park for lunch and found

(Continued on Page 4)



A WELCOME STOP on the show-me tour of the Bly Ranger District last summer was made at the Mitchell Monument where the group paused long enough for hot coffee and a picnic lunch. — Photo by McGee



TRASH CATCHERS such as this one have been installed in the drains in the Deming Creek burn area to allow free runoff and prevent plugging during heavy runoff periods. This is one of the many items studied by last summer's show-me tour of the Deming area. — Photo by McGee



THIS DEER HURDLE PLOT was of much interest to members of the show-me tour of the Bly Ranger District last summer. Here a group of eager conservation students inspect the fence that allows close study of bitterbrush use to be made. The plot was the first stop on the tour. — Photo by McGee