

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST

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Tahoe, Reports,
Annual Grazing.

To Forest Officers:

At the end of the grazing season it will be necessary to make a report on each range in your district, either on the blank which was used last season, or a similar one. This report should cover a description of the range; its acreage of private and Government land; the acreage of meadow, grass-land, brush-land, barren-lands, timbered-lands, and burned-over areas; the condition of the reproduction, and the effect grazing is having upon reproduction and erosion; the carrying capacity of private and Government lands in the range, irregardless of the number which has previously been allotted; recommendations as to any changes in range boundaries; whether any increase or decrease in the number of stock should be made on the range; any improvements recommended, such as fencing poison areas, drift fences, etc.

The fact that this report is necessary for each range should be remembered, and close inspection should be made throughout the summer, and notes made, so that you will be prepared to make an intelligent and correct report on each range.

RANGE MAPS.

The maps furnished to grazers with their permits this season were made from the best data that could be obtained at the time, but there is no doubt but that some of them will be found to be very poor representations of the range. During the coming field season I want especial attention given to each natural range on this Forest, and when the maps are not true representations of them, they should be corrected and the corrected copy sent in with the range report at the end of the season.

In correcting maps or making new ones, the following points should be taken into consideration:

(1) That the boundary of the range takes in the land which is used by the grazers' stock, or which they are entitled to run on. Where possible this boundary should follow natural features, but can follow section lines, in which case the section lines should conform to the natural range boundary as near as possible.

(2) That the topography shown on the map is correct, in relation to the section lines in a surveyed township.

(3) That the boundary lines of two ranges do not overlap. It is understood that loose stock cannot be confined to an imaginary line, and that stock will stray to some extent from one range to another. The boundary line between two ranges should be drawn as near the natural division of the two ranges as is possible, considering this fact.

(4) One or more permittees can use the same range in common and often do, and this fact should be taken into consideration in dividing each district into its proper and natural ranges. Also, it is a fact that one permittee may use two ranges and will require two maps to cover his permit.

(5) Almost every natural range has a name given it by the stockmen using it, and I should like to have each range given its proper name when such is the case. In numbering the ranges, commence at the north-east corner of the district and number the ranges from east to west, and back again, as is done in numbering the sections.

INVENTORY OF RANGE CAPACITY BY SECTIONS.

Commencing with this field season and continuing the work as fast as is possible, I want an inventory made of the carrying capacity of every section within the boundaries of this Forest, both of the Government and private land. Every District Ranger, and other officers where they are in position to do the work, will be furnished with a notebook, and as fast as each section is estimated, it should be noted in this book, and at the end of the season these books should be turned in and the contents will be entered on a map in this office and kept as a permanent record.

The following facts should be entered for each section: A sketch map on a two-inch scale, showing the topography and features such as ridges, streams, meadows, open grass-land, timbered or brush-land, sagebrush-land, and barren or worthless land. The atlas crayons and legend should be used in making

the maps. If the section is an external one to the range of which it forms a part, the range boundary should be shown. On the map should be shown the land that is patented, or any unperfected claims which may exist. In the notes should be recorded the following: The name of the grazer and the kind of stock grazed on the section; the area of the Government land and the area of the patented land; the capacity of the Government land and the capacity of the private land. In remarks should be stated the condition of the feed on the section and any explanations which may be necessary as to whom the land should be allotted or what kind of stock should graze the land, or if it should be closed against any kind of stock.

Since this is to be a permanent record, it must be carefully done, and only accurate work entered. Only after careful inspection and survey of the section should it be entered in the notebook. It should not be a case of how many sections you can do, but how carefully and accurately you can do what you record. In other words, be sure of your work before entering it. I want as much of this work done as possible this year, but it should not interfere with your regular duties, and should be done whenever the occasion offers.

Yours very truly,

Richard L. P. Sigel
Forest Supervisor.