C O P Y

A. J. Norton's Report

EXHIBIT C

Lewis and Clark (S.) National Forest.

Big Blackfoot Milling Co.

Sale May 24, 1907.

The Forester,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report progress on the above sale since my arrival, Aug. 31, 1907.

The control of the sale being transferred to me, I immediately outlined a plan of timber-marking which included the exemption of trees somewhat above diameter limit specified in contract, together with a strip of one hundred and fifty feet or more along either side of the main traveled road; and a similar belt along the shores of lakes.

The reasons for this are fourfold. A denser stand of timber is less liable to overthrow by wind than a lighter one. It supplies more seed. It forms a better basis for a future harvest; and serves the important purpose of regulating the flow of streams by maintaining a suitable forest cover while the growth of a future crop is in progress.

There is yet another reason which seems important to me. The strips of timber left along the highways and lakes not only serve as seed-belts and wind-breaks, but the latter preserves the natural features of these lakes; which, unmarred in the wildness and beauty of their

mountain settings, will become a manifold richer legacy to the pleasure-seeker, the ill and the weary of coming generations, than can be measured by mere commercial values of the timber retained.

While yielding the purchaser more than the estimated quantity of timber, a forest cover will remain of sufficient density to insure another profitable harvest within fifty years.

The independent, not to say insolent, attitude of labor in a state generally antagonistic to governmental control of resources, precludes the possibility of an exact compliance with all provisions of this contract. Some damage has resulted to yough growth, felled timber has been broken, and, occasionally, stumps were cut too high; but the average of all work may be considered within the limits of practicability.

With the exception of a small quantity piled in the autumn before fires could be safely started, brush has been disposed of by burning. When deep snow rendered this, in a measure, impracticable, it was discontinued for a time; but piling was resumed in April; and is now drawing toward a close. While the provisions of the contract will be fulfilled by piling, it is much more desirable when conditions will permit to dispose of brush by burning. It eliminates the cost of burning by Rangers; and, that factor of greater importance, the risk to the forest of leaving brush-piles through the dry seasen. One fire consumes the brush that would require many places, and much carrying at times to pile at required distances from green trees. Therefore, burning is alike beneficial to the Department and the purchaser.

The usual controversy over the scale having arisen, I may say that the scalers and scaling have been subjected

to a supervision which should insure a fair, although close accounting.

The gain from low stumps, small tops, defective logs, green, dead, standing and down timber, economically lumbered and scaled, doubtless exceeds that obtained by other and less careful methods.

Of all men, the manufacturers of lumber would be expected to most cordially support a policy for the preservation of the National Forests; for it means the perpetuation of an industry indispensable to themselves and posterity. Unfortunately, in many cases, outward manifestations of this spirit are conspicuously absent.

In this case, economy and the provisions of the contract alike require that much material should be taken which has been cast aside as profitless.

In the haste of great operations, doubtless, a few cull logs were given a little scale. But these are comparatively few in number, and small in amount; and any errors of this nature can be practically eliminated upon final inspection.

There are, however, many other logs, containing from 30 to 80 per cent merchantable lumber which seems to be a source of irreconcilable difference of opinion; and, if finally left, will, upon inspection, be included in the scale. A marked difference in scales is no reasonable cause for surprise. Tens of thousands of logs, containing hundreds of thousands of board feet were rolled into the lake last autumn, which, so far as my personal knowledge or information extended, remained unscaled by any representative of the purchaser. To this may be added much material used in buildings, roads, and bridges; together with the inevitable discrepancy between a scale that magnifies, and one that carefully calculates real or apparent

defects. Had all logs been scaled by the purchaser, I should have expected a substantial difference between the respective amounts.

Another feature demands consideration. Contending that larch butts will not float, and are practically valueless, the purchaser has caused to be cut from most trees three to twelve foot lengths. These butts contain much pitch, and are more or less shaky. Yet I believe some of this timber could be utilized for mining props, fence posts, and even R. R. ties and lumber. It is especially valuable as fuel, also.

Ties are now protected by plates under the rails; but with this timber, the plate might be extended into a bank, with draw-bolts and spike-holes, to encompass each end of the tie, thus serving the double purpose of plate and band. These butts, saturated as they are with pitch, naturally hard and enduring, should last longer by 100 per cent than much material now used, and amply repay the extra expense of banding.

There is a great quantity of timber in the butts left on this sale area, and economy suggests that a way of utilization be sought. Were these butts sawn or split into halves and quarters they might readily season, and float to the mills.

A fair average of lumbering has been maintained, but indications are not wanting that this is due to a somewhat thorough governmental supervision; a continuation of which throughout the sale might not prove unprofitable. Although every governmental employee permanently associated with me came practically unacquainted with this work, both marking and scaling, very creditable services have been rendered.

The accompanying check-scales show the gradually decreasing differences between the scalers and myself, by reason of comprehension, through practice, on their part.

As this report is substantially a history of this season's operations, I wish to now say that to the cordial and businesslike support of Mr. Bunker, and I may add those associated with me in the field, is due, in great measure, any success attending my efforts. Whispering its story to the winds of the Rockies, "as it solemnly awaits the coming of other generations, the stately forest itself must, after all remain the best witness of its treatment, not alone for the present, but for the ages stretching far beyond the ken of human vision."

Very respectfully,

Lumberman.

BIG BLACKFOOT MILLING CO.

Sale May 24, 1907.

1907			
Oct. 1 100 pieces	A. J. Norton, J. M. Taylor,	18210 18680	Gain .025+%
Oct. 5 100 pieces	A. J. Norton, J. M. Taylor,	21920 22370	Gain .02 +%
Oct. 19 100 pieces	A. J. Norton, J. M. Taylor,	13330 13660	Gain .02 +%
Oct. 25 100 pieces	A. J. Norton, J. M. Taylor,	26460 26850	Gain .014+%
Nov. 5 100 pieces	A. J. Norton, J. W. Rice,	9040 9110	Gain .007 %
Nov. 16 100 pieces	A. J. Norton, J. W. Rice,	21970 22040	Gain .003+%
Nov. 19 100 pieces	A. J. Norton, J. M. Taylor,	19720 19890	Gain .008+%
Nov. 26 100 pieces	A. J. Norton, Wm. Monahan,	16100 15810	Loss .018 %
Dec. 7 100 pieces	A. J. Norton, W. D. Clark,	21970 21070	Loss .04 +%
Dec. 11 57 pieces	A. J. Norton, J. W. Girard,	13520 13020	Loss .035+%
Dec. 16 100 pieces	A. J. Norton, J. M. Taylor,	40760 40830	Gain .0015+%
1908			
Jan. 3 100 pieces	A. J. Norton, J. W. Girard,	16800 15590	Loss .07 %
Jan. 3 100 pieces	A. J. Norton, W. D. Clark,	25490 24820	Loss .02 +%
Jan. 4 100 pieces	A. J. Norton, W. D. Clark,	36090 36960	Gain .02 +%
Jan. 6 100 pieces	A. J. Norton, J. W. Girard,	19660 19870	Gain .01 %
Jan. 6 100 pieces	A. J. Norton, Wm. Monahan,	29890 29350	Loss .015+%

BIG BLACKFOOT CONTROVERSY

Exhibit A.

The following figures show the full scale (bigness measure) and the actual scale which was recorded for the same logs in the official "scale book", and allows a comparison of the deductions made by the Forest Service "scalers" for defective timber. These logs were <u>thrown off</u> from the skidways and left in the woods by the employees of the Big Blackfoot Company by order of Mr. Ross, General Superintendent for the Company, who gave instructions <u>not to haul</u> any timber of this class.

At the time of my visit these logs were lying along the log roads in the forest.

E. S. B.

Scale Book		Serial No. of logs.	Length	Full Scale Bigness Measure	Scale given by Service Scaler.
Letter	B	4072	14	8	3
"	B	1129	14	21	20
"	B	7881	12	28	18
"	B	7882	12	38	2**
"	B	7693	12	12	12
"	B	7815	16	11	10
"	B	8495	16	16	12
"	B	8923	14	10	9
"	B	8922	16	14	12
"	B	7289	20	19	22*
"	B	4291	16	16	15
"	B	6116	16	16	8
"	B	3558	12	20	18
"	B	3449	12	6	5
"	B	3453	12	4	5*
"	B	9966	20	32	2**
"	B	2758	14	40	42*
"	B	2761	12	40	38
"	B	2796	16	28	22
"	B	7939	16	8	3
"	B	4641	16	14	11
"	B	262	20	19	11
"	B	2287	16	4	3
"	B	4851	12	16	17*
"	B	4968	12	12	11
"	B	5219	14	28	29*
"	B	5655	12	21	16
"	B	5656	12.2"	23	19
"	B	3506	16.3"	7	7
"	B	3505	18	7	7
"	B	3520	16.8"	17	14
"	B	3529	16.3"	10	10
"	B	3530	16	7	5
"	B	2698	16.4"	24	24
"	B	964	12	8	9*
"	B	1062	16.7"	30	26
			Forward...	634	497

	Scale Book	Serial No. of logs.	Length	Full Scale Bigness Measure	Scale given by Service Scaler.
Letter	B	2558	16	10	9
"	B	5564	16	40	31
"	B	5560	16	32	28
"	B	890	12	34	30
"	B	7021	14	18	17
"	B	8299	16	7	9**
"	B	7010	16	32	30
"	B	7827	16	46	46
"	B	7012	16	26	28**
"	B	8266	14	19	5
"	B	8864	16	10	3
"	B	1096	16.9"	28	28
"	B	1085	14.9"	19	18
"	B	1117	17	12	4
"	B	4295	10	12	8
"	B	16	10.5"	21	35**
"	B	1954	16.7"	10	17**
"	B	6870	12	30	30
"	B	6871	16	4	46**
"	B	6932	16	26	15
"	B	9572	16	8	10*
"	B	9954	16	10	10
"	B	9644	16	8	8
"	B	9578	16	5	3
"	B	1796	12.3"	6	4
"	B	6448	16.2"	8	7
"	B	8215	16.4"	14	14
"	D	3961	16.4"	43	38
"	D	3958	16.3"	16	16
"	D	2626	16.1"	4	4
"	D	3038	16	25	14
"	D	2744	16.1"	7	4
"	D	2733	18.3"	8	7
"	D	2627	16.3"	8	7
"	D	2732	12.3"	3	3
"	D	2740	11.3"	4	7**
"	D	8275	16	11	8
"	D	7356	16	4	4
"	D	6643	14	42	16
"	D	9278	17	24	14
"	D	9268	12	9	4
"	D	9687	16	35	20
"	D	9908	16	8	7
"	D	9916	16	4	2
"	D	9975	16	18	17
"	D	8855	16	20	20
"	D	8798	16	7	6
"	D	8768	16	18	10
"	D	2936	14.2"	7	6
"	D	2937	16.2"	22	7
"	D	3039	16.4"	13	12
"	D	2624	16.2"	15	13
"	D	3272	16.5"	3	3
"	D	2220	16.2"	6	3
"	D	2201	16.1"	7	4
"	D	2420	16.1"	2	2
"	D	2184	12.6"	16	14
				904	785
			Brought Fwd....	634	497
				1538	1282

	Scale Book	Serial No. of logs.	Length	Full Scale Bigness Measure.	Scale given by Service Scaler.
Letter	D	2427	12.3"	8	7
"	D	2539	12	11	11
"	D	3535	12.3"	16	38**
"	D	3960	16.4"	23	22
"	D	8033	16.4"	3	10**
"	D	2976	12.3"	16	14
"	D	1771	16.4"	7	5
"	D	9596	16	33	9
"	D	9305	12	28	20
"	D	9665	16	16	15
"	D	9149	16	15	11
"	D	8666	16	4	10
"	D	8189	16	8	6
"	D	8107	16	14	14
"	D	8576	16	8	6
"	D	8175	14	12	9
"	D	7631	16	25	16
"	D	7750	16	6	5
"	D	7689	16	8	5
"	D	6177	16	14	11
"	D	8620	16	6	3
"	D	8623	14	10	7
"	D	7426	14	13	10
"	D	7431	16	10	8
"	D	5841	16	21	17
"	D	7427	16	4	3
"	D	5955	16	14	15*
"	D	7285	16	11	7
"	D	7424	16	7	23**
"	D	5923	16	39	6
"	D	1602	16	8	8
"	D	2499	16	5	7*
"	D	1778	12	23	10
"	D	1786	12	9	4
"	D	1540	16	30	14
"	D	2077	14.3"	17	8
"	D	1983	12.2"	2	2
"	D	1749	16.5"	7	8*
"	D	4255	14.2"	7	7
"	D	1643	12.4"	3	6*
"	D	1551	16	18	11
"	D	1555	12	11	10
"	D	2054	12.4"	22	4
"	D	9626	12	16	12
"	D	9529	16	30	25
"	D	9502	12	49	47
"	D	7618	12	47	40
"	D	3019	16	21	18
"	D	9190	12	30	18
"	D	1413	16	17	3
"	F	7929	12.7"	9	6
"	F	4351	16.3"	11	8
"	G	1421	12	11	10
"	G	1437	18	8	6
"	G	851	14	40	33
"	G	1218	16	18	7
				879	675
			Brought Fwd.....	1538	1282
			Grand total.....	2417	1957
				1957	
			Difference.....	460	