

The Rock Creek Station

The Forest Service Branding of Private Wagon

Correspondence

Date	From	To
April 21, 1907	Harry N. Morgan, Assistant Forest Ranger	Charles C. Hall, Acting Forest Supervisor
November 22, 1907	S. L. Walker, owner of personal property and buildings at Rock Cr. Station location.	Gifford Pinchot, Forester
December 9, 1907	Geo. H. Cecil, Acting Chief	S. L. Walker
December 20, 1907	Charles C. Hall, Acting Forest Supervisor	S. L. Walker
December 21, 1907	Harry N. Morgan, Assistant Forest Ranger	Charles C. Hall, Acting Forest Supervisor
December 21, 1907	Chas. Jarvis, Assistant Ranger	Charles C. Hall, Acting Forest Supervisor
December 24, 1907	Charles C. Hall, Forest Supervisor	The Forester, Washington, D.C.
August 11, 1908	David G. Kinney, Forest Supervisor	S. L. Walker
October 14, 1908	C. S. Chapman, Acting Forester	Charles N. Pray, (apparently a lawyer representing S. L. Walker)
February 17, 1909	David G. Kinney, Forest Supervisor	S. L. Walker
February 22, 1909	S. L. Walker	David G. Kinney, Forest Supervisor
May 7, 1909	David G. Kinney, Forest Supervisor	District Forester, Missoula

Additional correspondence is in the official files in the Supervisor's Office, Lolo National Forest

MY POST-OFFICE ADDRESS IS

MY TELEGRAPH ADDRESS IS

MY EXPRESS ADDRESS IS

APR 22 1907

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Philipsburg

4/21/07.

Mr Charles C. Hall

Anaconda Montana

Dear Sir

I was down Rock creek and the Peterson Brothers were changing the Road around their Ranch and crowding the Road close to the creek and is very rough so I stopped them and told them that they had to get application to change the Road and if they do get one I think it best for them to put up a bond and have plenty of Road way to travel it is best for the Road to be changed if they make it wright an account of the gates but they wont make a good Road unless they put up a bond

MY POST-OFFICE ADDRESS IS

MY TELEGRAPH ADDRESS IS

MY EXPRESS ADDRESS IS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

I was down Rock Creek to walkers Ranch he got the Petterson Brothers to Put in a Crop of rye on Shares. This Mr Walker has never lived on this ground nor his Family either.

This Land is sec 22, T P. 8, N of R 17 West or about that if it was surveyed, and I notice in the use book Page 22 where Homestead Claimants are required to live up on said land.

and the act of June 11/1906. and I think that Mr Walker has no legal rights other wise than the improvements if it suits you and think it advisable it would make a good Rangers Head quarters I dont see where Mr Walker has any legal right what ever

MY POST-OFFICE ADDRESS IS _____

MY TELEGRAPH ADDRESS IS _____

MY EXPRESS ADDRESS IS _____

and also

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Mr Jarvis and my self ~~so~~ was at the
Cable base cutting and Mr Jarvis did
not think that the cutting was blocked
out wright the way Mr Wyzman and myself
we took 75^{feet} strip clear and the next strip
was block out 75 feet each way and every
other block a few trees was Painted and the
rest in that block was cut out is that
wright or not Please let us no as soon as
Possible ..

Mr Mungus has not hauld any of his timber
ypt he said Mr Wyzman gave him one year
to haul it in

and Mr Hunter did not cut any Timber on
his Sale. and Mr Engle about 7 cords in timber
ypt Roads to Bad in the timber to haul

I will see the american Gun People next
week yours Truly

Harry N. Morgan
asst Forest Ranger

Phillipsburg - Montana

COPY

Philipsburg, Mont., November 22, 1907.

Mr. Gifford Pinchot, Forester,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

On or about May 1st of this year acting Supervisor C. C. Hall confiscated my ranch situated presumably on T. 8N. R. 17 W on Rock Ck. in Granite Co. and I am told by Ranger Morgan that the improvements are also seized, and that you intend to make it what is known as a forest station.

You probably have not been informed that this ranch was settled upon at least ten years before the Forest Reserve was formed, and that it was cultivated each and every year after being settled upon, and that it has been producing about 100 tons of hay yearly.

This year it did not produce this amount as I was prohibited from irrigating the crop, or from doing anything else after I completed sowing the rye until about August 1st, which made it too late to get good results from the rye, and too late to do any irrigating.

Then too when I bought the land from the former owner, which was about three years before the reserve was formed, it only produced about 20 tons of hay. Since buying it I kept from 2 to 5 men constantly employed there all the time except a short time during the winter of 1906 & 1907, besides I visited the ranch at least six times each year which was often enough

to hold the property by law.

Some time ago I told Acting Supervisor C. C. Hall that rather than raise a controversy over the place I would give it up by the Forest Reserve allowing me to remove or sell my improvements, and at that time he said he thought I would be allowed to do, but Harry Morgan, Ranger, told me a few days ago that I would not be allowed to either remove or sell them. This I consider a double injustice, as I had spent between 3500.00 and 5000.00 on the place, and my improvements consist of a two roomed house, four out buildings and two barns. Besides about two miles of fencing, my irrigating ditch & ect.

All of these improvements will be enjoyed by the Reserve, and I can see no good reason why I should be forced to lose them.

While a lot of your men were out there surveying during the summer one of them stamped U. S. in three places on my wagon. Of this I spoke to Ranger Jarvis who said he saw "one of the boys brand it", but that the Reserve would not hold it from me. I also spoke to Ranger Morgan about it who said "he did not claim it or any of the rest of my farming utensils, but that he claimed the ranch improvements". Now if the Reserve does not claim my wagon I think I should have some acknowledgement to that effect in writing, that I may have some thing to show my ownership to some other Reserve man who should come along. Trusting to hear from you soon, and that you may be able to adjust things satisfactorily, I am,

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) S. L. WALKER

00

December 9, 1907.

Mr. S. L. Walker,
Philipsburg, Mont.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of November 22 is received. A copy of your letter and of my reply have been referred to Supervisor Hall for investigation and report.

It is not the policy of the Forest Service to appropriate personal property or improvements on Government land. If you are unable to make satisfactory arrangements with Supervisor Hall for the purchase of your improvements you will be allowed a reasonable length of time for their removal.

The Forest Service, of course, makes no claim to your personal property and will allow you to remove it from the land. I am very sorry if Forest officers have marked your wagon. It must have been an act of thoughtlessness and was not intended to imply that your wagon was claimed as the property of the United States.

Very truly yours,

Geo. H. Cecil.

Acting Chief.

m.B.P.
A.E.C.

L. W. S.
L. W. S.

Anaconda, Mont., Dec. 20, 1907.

S.L. Walker,
Philipburg, Mont.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 18th is received:

The matter of the seizure of the ranch and the improvements thereon was referred to me by the Forester for investigation. I am investigating the case, and assure you that we will not try to hold any of your improvements, nor has it been my intention to do so. You understand of course that you have never had any right to the ground, and you stated to me in Philipburg, I believe it was also in the presence of U.S. Commissioner, Moore, that you saw you had no right to the ground, and you stated you would not perjure yourself to hold the ranch. You stated you had not made it your home to the exclusion of your home elsewhere, and I thought this matter had been thoroughly thrashed out, as to your rights to the place. I do not want a stick of your improvements, and am quite willing to turn them over to you. However, in case you would care to make a reasonable price on some of the buildings which might do for a barn, arrangements might be made to purchase, but as the buildings are not what we want for headquarters camp,

S.L.W., page #2.

as we wish to put up a four or five room house, and build it very substantially. The price paid for the building of a barn would not amount to a great deal. Of course, Mr. Walker, if you ~~feel~~ that you have a right to hold this ground, I would advise you to go ahead and assert your rights, as the matter can soon be decided definitely.

I have received no report from the Forest officers concerning the improvements and other matters, but as soon as I do I will write you further and more fully. As far as I am concerned you have a perfect right to take this matter up with the Forester. I do not resent in any way your taking the matter up. Our actions are always subject to investigation, and I would advise any one to investigate them fully whenever they are in doubt as to receiving a square deal.

Yours very truly,

E. C. Hall,

Forest Supervisor.

Copy.

Philipsburg, Mont., Dec. 21,,1907.

Mr. C. C. Hall,
Forest Supervisor,
Anacord a, Mont.

Dear Sir:

Yours to hand of Dec. 31, 1907 in regards to the holdings of S. L. Walker Buildings on lower Rock Creek. Will say before I seized the place last spring I met Mr. Walker on the street of Philipsburg and asked him how yhe was holding his so called ranch and he told me that he was holding it under the Homestead law and I asked him if he was holding it under Act of June 11, 1906 and he said yes. Well I rode to Rock Creek the next day and seized the place and I rode back to Philipsburg and I told Mr. Walker what I had done and to not bother the place or the improvements until he was instructed to do so. Well Mr. Walker never spoke to me any more about the place only that he had let the crop out on shares and he would like to see the parties get the crop of the place which he has under the Special Privilege. Well Mr. Walker says he is out from \$3500.00 to 5000.00 out on the place. He is a little high on that for he paid \$800 to Mr. A. Hudinpiler in the first place and it was fenced then only some goat pastures that he has built since but all told there is not more than two miles of fence and it is no good to keep stock out, and as far it cutting 100 tons of hay it never did in 1906 he cut 72 tons of hay and that was the most he ever cut, and he would have cut about 65 tons this year if he had cut it sooner, but it was never cut until the last of August, ad the rye and grass

#2.

was all burnt up, then it ought to have been cut about the first of August. If Mr. Walker is out any money to the amount he said he was it is in the goat industry. He had about 600 goats and lost half of them in one winter. As to holding this land by law under the Homestead, Mr. Walker is a man with a family and they never lived on the place nor did Mr. Walker. He had his family there once camped out for an outing, but they never were in the house and in the fall of 1906 and spring of 1907 he had nobody there. Mr. Greenheck bought the hay and fed it out to his cattle, and Mr. Walker spoke to me about the wagon being stamped and talked pretty important about it and would not reason about any thing, so I told him it was not done intentionally and that he had sold the wagon and the parties that had it was not saying anything about it and did not care that the wagon was not worth over six bits. Well I was walking past the wagon one day and hit the hind bolster with hatchet and I think that there was another Ranger done the same thing, if it had been a good wagon and was worth something it would not have happened.

Yours truly,

Harry N. Morgan,

Asst. Ranger.

P.S. Mr. Walker stated that if he had to move the buildings they would not be worth anything to him, but he has sold the ~~sheep~~ sheep about 3 months ago as I know of. I tell you if I had to buy the buildings I would not give much for them, there is one spring house 12 x 14 and one out house 12 x 12, one hen

#3.

house 14 x 18 and one out house 16 x 20, one big hay shed about 40 x 40 feet square with barn included one house 12 x 35 all logs. The fence is not worth anything, the whole thing is not worth over \$500 or \$600 all told, but it is not worth anything to the Government.

Yours truly,

Harry N. Morgan,

Asst. Ranger.

I gave Mr. Walker 90 days to move his improvements in.

Copy.

Philipsburg, Mont., Dec. 21, 1907.

C. C. Hall,
Forest Supervisor,
Anaconda, Mont.

Dear Sir:

In answer to yours of the Dec. 13, 1907 in regard to the S.L. Walker report to the Forester, Washington, D. C. of Nov. 22, 1907. I had a talk with Mr. Walker in regard to the matter and got some statements from him as follows. That this land was settled on by A. H. Hutsinfiller in 1894 and that he bought of A. Hutsinfiller this land in Oct. 1902 and squatted on same not holding it under any land Act. 2nd. That he was prohibited from irrigating this land by the Forest Service in one way by telling him not to go on land and not do any work and by delaying the Special Privilege so that it was to ~~late~~. 3d. That he paid \$800 for the ranch. Cleared approximately 35 acres, made 1/2 mile pole fence and 1/2 mile of ditch that carries approximately, or would carry, 100 inches of water. These improvements costing the difference between the cost price (\$800.00) of the ranch and the amount stated in his letter to the Forester of Nov. 22, 1907, being between \$3000.00 and \$4,000.00 which in my opinion appears to be excessive.

4th. That he had intended to make application and in fact had the papers made out for said land under the Act of June 11, 1906, but was prevented from doing so by a letter dated

Mr. C. C. H. -2-

Anaconda Montana April 30, 1907 from C. C. Hall Acting Forest Supervisor. The letter he says stated that if he did he would be considered by the Forest Service as a trespasser.. I asked him to let me see the letter which he did and I failed to find any such statement in the letter. Mr. Moore Land Commissioner at Phillipsburg said that the letter contained such statements. 5th. That he does not think that the Forest Officer placed the U.S. stamp on his wagon through any seizure proceeding, but did it thoughtlessly. That he merely mentioned this to the Forester so as to get an Official statement from him so as to release the said wagon in case some new man happened to see said wagon with the U.S. Stamp on it.

I remember the time of the stamping of the wagon it was when Mr. Morgan Asst. Ranger, Mr. Schick Forest Guard, and myself were there examining the above mentioned ranch as applied for by Mr. M. L. Bashor under the Act of June 11, 1906, but do not remember whether Mr. Morgan stamped the wagon or Mr. Schick or both. I don't think that the stamping was done with any animosity toward Mr. Walker but just through thoughtlessness. I might as well write Mr. Schick in regard to the matter and get a statement from him.

This being all the information I could get in the matter, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Chas. H. Jarvis,

Assistant Ranger.

Hell Gate (E) Montana.

Anaconda, Mont., Dec. 24, 1907.

The Forester,
Forest Service,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter (OO) of Dec. 9, I herewith submit the correspondence in this case.

I refer you to letter (OH) of May 13, regarding this matter, in reply to the action I had taken. See my letter of April 30, 1907. Letter (OH) of May 13 apprizes me I have acted within my authority when I directed the Ranger to stop all work on the tract and seize the improvements. My letter of May 21, in answer to (OH) of May 13, is an explanation of this matter, also I forward herewith report of Assistant Ranger Jarvis and Assistant Ranger Morgan, also copies of letters under date of Dec. 18 from Mr. Walker and my reply dated Dec. 20.

When I was at Philipsburg during the summer, this matter was talked over by the United States Commissioner, Mr. Walker and myself. I explained the matter fully to him, and he advised me that he saw he could not hold the ground, and also stated to me that he would not perjure himself to try to do so. All he seemed to ask then was to be allowed a Special Privilege to get the hay. This

The Forester, page #2.

Special Privilege was issued to him as promptly as it was possible to do so, as soon as I could get the report on it. You will notice in the statement made to Mr. Jarvis that he squatted on the land, and was not settling it under any land Law. The fact of the matter was he never squatted on the land, but purchased the improvements from Hutsinfiller and proceeded to fence it and farm it. Mr. Walker, in his letter to the Forester, acknowledges that he never lived on this place, but that he had visited the ranch at least six times each year, which he states was often enough to hold the property by law. He also, according to Mr. Jarvis, makes the statement that he intended to make application, in fact had the papers made out, under the Act of June 11, but was prevented from doing so by a letter dated at Anaconda April 30, 1907 from myself, which letter he says stated that if he did so, he would be considered by the Forest Service as a trespasser. I enclose also a copy of this letter, and I do not believe any such statement can be found in it. The matter of the Forest Officers placing the U.S. Stamp on the wagon was done thoughtlessly, and not with the intent of seizing it and holding it, and I think no more attention should be paid to this. Mr. Walker advises Mr. Jarvis that he does not think the Forest Officers placed the U. S. Stamp on his wagon through any seizure proceedings, but did it thoughtlessly. Mr. Walker evidently did not consider that the wagon was seized, as Ranger Morgan advises that he sold the wagon, and the people who own it have no objection to

The Forester, page #3.

make. In Mr. Walker's letter to the Forester, dated Nov. 22, he complains that this year the ranch did not produce the amount of hay it should on account of being prevented from irrigating the crop. Every effort was made to help the matter out, and to hurry the Privilege along as fast as possible. He also says in his letter that he told me that rather than raise a controversy over the place he would give it up to the Forest Reserve if we would allow him to secure his improvements. I did not say I thought he would be allowed to do so, but told him he would be allowed to do so, and I am perfectly willing that he should, also willing to give him plenty of time to remove his improvements. Understand he sold part of them already. (See Morgan's statement). In a letter from Mr. Walker, dated Dec. 18, to me, he advises me that Forest Ranger Morgan met him on the street and told him he was going to give him 90 days in which to remove his improvements. If Ranger Morgan stated this to Mr. Walker, it was without my authority. I am very sorry if Mr. Morgan showed that he resented Mr. Walker's writing to Washington about this matter, as this was certainly not Mr. Morgan's place to show if he had resented it. I do not intend to leave this matter in Mr. Morgan's hands for adjustment, but expect to have the matter reported on by a disinterested person if I am unable to attend to the matter myself. If the improvements are worth anything to the Forest Service, will recommend that such as are needed be purchased.

The Forester, page #4.

The people around Philipsburg understand the manner Mr. Walker has been holding this ranch, and I am quite sure that the public generally approves our action in this matter. To sum it all up, Mr. Walker had no right whatever to this ranch, as he cannot show that he lived on it, or held it under any land law. Holding this ranch, fenced as it was, without any right whatever, looks to me like a case of illegal fencing.

As a natural consequence of a Ranger or Supervisor doing his duty in this part of the country, he is bound to stir up feeling against him by Mr. Walker and his business associates, which are the American Gem Mining Syndicate. For years his company has had its own way, taking up land, usually under the Mining Laws, and having them passed to patent, and the fact that the Forest Service are making examination of their claims, according to instructions is quite enough to make this Company, which includes Mr. Walker, look upon the Forest Officers as undesirable citizens, and to make an attempt to have them removed. I believe it is truly impossible for any Ranger or Supervisor to do his duty in handling this territory, and not going up against the American Gem People. It is simply a matter of either doing your duty and being popular with the people in this part of the country, and falling into disfavor with the American Gem People, and making

The Forester, page #5.

Gem people, or belonging to the American Gem, body and soul. In which case duty would be a secondary consideration.

I enclose letter to Mr. Walker of this date, and would like to be advised if the stand I have taken in this matter is approved.

Yours very truly,

C. G. Hall,

Forest Supervisor.

Enc.

DEPARTMENTS:
DRESS GOODS.
DOMESTICS.
NOTIONS.
CLOTHING.
GENT'S FURNISHINGS.
BOOTS & SHOES.
TRUNKS & VALISES.
CARPETS.
GROCERIES.
HARDWARE.
FURNITURE.
DRUGS.



Philipsburg,
GRANITE, MONTANA, August 11 1908

Mr. David G. Kirney,
Forest Supervisor,
Missoula, Mont.

Dear Sir:-

I am disappointed in your not having come to examine the improvements on the Rock Creek ranch at the time you set for doing it, but presume this was not intentional on your account, and hope you can set a date in the near future that you can do it. If you can it will be greatly appreciated by me as I am arranging for a trip east in the near future, and would like very much to get this attended to before going.

Kindly advise if this can be arranged at an early date, and oblige,

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. R. Walker', is written over the printed name.

*Told Walker personally
that improvements were
fine and to service on
Aug 15-08
D. S. K.*

LB

October 14, 1908.

Rock Creek Ranger Station,
Missoula.

Hon. Charles N. Pray,
Fort Benton, Mont.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of August 27, enclosing a letter from Mr. S. L. Walker, is received in Mr. Pinchot's absence from the Office. I regret exceedingly that the investigation of Mr. Walker's case has consumed so much time. However, I am glad to report that I have decided to reopen the case. Mr. Walker was given an opportunity to make application for listing the land under the Act of June 11, 1906, and also to take out a special-use permit for the hay upon the land. There is on record a letter from the Supervisor requesting Mr. Walker to name the price for his improvements. My action, therefore, in reopening the case is not based upon his treatment by the Forest Officers.

I have found no disposition on the part of the Supervisor or of the Rangers to treat him unfairly or with

H. S.

S. G. S.

E. B. D.

W. F. S.

Hon. C. N. P. -2-

other than the same spirit that is shown to all squatters on lands within the National Forests, upon which they have erected improvements. On page 52 of the Use Book, Forest Supervisors are instructed to show every consideration to persons making homes upon National Forests, and not to recommend for withdrawal for administrative purposes even lands covered by invalid claims, unless there are no other available sites, and then only if the squatter is willing to sell out to the Government.

Even though a squatter has erected improvements upon public land afterwards embraced within the National Forests, without making any pretence to comply with the land laws, it has always been the policy of the Forest Service to treat the claimant, as far as possible, with the utmost consideration, and to allow him either to continue under special-use permit his use of such improvements and land, or, according to his desire, to remove his improvements. If they are of use to the Government, it may purchase them from him on the land at a fair valuation. It is quite evident that Mr. Walker had no intention of making the land in question his home. He intimates this in his letter to you, and in his various letters to the Supervisor and to the Forester. He also told the Supervisor, in the presence of a witness, that he would not per-

Hon. C. N. P. -3-

jure himself to get the land.

The case will be reopened and Mr. Walker given an opportunity, first, to make application to have the land listed under the Act of June 11, 1906, if he has prepared to live upon the land and cultivate it as a homesteader; second, to take out in the future, as he has in the past, special-use permits for the hay or other use of the land, in conformity with the regulations, as he may desire; third, if he does not desire to continue the occupancy of the land or use of the improvements, to sell the improvements, including reasonable allowance for such clearing as he may have done, to the Forest Service.

Very truly yours,

C. S. Chapman.

Acting Forester.

Missoula Forest

Missoula, Montana, February 17, 1909.

Mr. S. L. Walker,
Philipsburg, Montana.

Dear Sir:

The improvements found upon the land formerly owned by you as a ranch, on Rock Creek, when last seen by me, on November 9, 1908. were as follows:

One corral 8 poles, or 6 1/2 feet high, and about 150 feet in circumference.

One log barn 31'x 37' constructed of logs, 6 1/2' high, with hay loft above, covered with shakes, ends open.

One outbuilding constructed of logs, 13'x 13' , 5 1/2' high; one good window.

Outbuilding, 23'x 12', constructed of logs, 7' high, shake roof, 2 windows.

Wagon shed consisting of a sloping shed roof supported by 4 poles, about 8' high, 10'x 14'.

Outbuilding constructed of logs, 10'x 14', 7' high, shake roof.

Main dwelling cabin, constructed of logs, with shake roof, 9' high, 4 small windows, 2 rooms, and containing 1 wooden bedstead.

S.L.W.-2.

Dwelling, 13'x 30'.

One root house, 6'x 8'.

In addition to these improvements, some land has been cleared, a considerable amount of fencing done, and some ditching for irrigation purposes.

Those improvements which are of any material use to the Forest Service are noted on the enclosed Form A voucher, amounting in all to \$133.00. On receipt of Form A voucher, properly signed, also the enclosed sworn statement and relinquishment papers, the Forest Service will be glad to make final settlement, and it is regretted it has been delayed for so long a time.

Very truly yours,

J. G. K.

Forest Supervisor.

Called on Walker
in Philipsburg March 3
and maintained some
position as in my letter of
2/17/09.

about

Philipsburg, Montana, Feby 22 1909
Mr. David G. Kinney, *He said that he would
appeal to Forester.*
D.G.K.

190

Forest Supervisor,

Missoula, Mont.

Dear Sir:-

Will you kindly refer back to your letter of the 17th inst
in reference to the land formally owned by me on Rock Creek, in which
you allow me \$133,00 for my improvements.

Now Mr. Kinney, I do not feel that I am unreasonable in asking you to
reconsider this valuation, as you certainly must know the amount you
offer is not one twentieth of the amount this property cost me. The
house that you have not considered at all, cost me more than you offer
for the whole lot of improvements. Then too you do not consider the
fencing, nor the ditches, which are both in fair repair, or was at the
time I was forced to vacate.

You will please note too, that you allow me a total of \$50,00 for clearing
land. Now really you must know that the land cleared and seeded down
could not be cleared and put in the condition it is in, for less than
\$1000,00, as there must be at least 20 acres in timothy and clover, and
some four or five acres in alfalfa, and I would say at an estimate, some
25 acres that have been sown in rye. This would make a total of about
50 acres all told, that have been cleared. And for all of this you offer
me \$50,00.

I do not want to be unreasonable, or contentious. And neither do I expect
to get a full valuation of the property, and never have, but I do
think you should treat me more fairly in this settlement.

Again I ask you to reconsider your valuation, and oblige,

Yours very truly,

J. D. Walker

Missoula Forest

Missoula, Montana, May 7, 1909.

Improvement - Missoula -
Rock Creek Ranger Station -
Purchase of Improvements.

The District Forester,
Forest Service,
Missoula, Montana.

Dear Sir:

A letter of authorization has been received for the purchase of improvements amounting to \$133.00.

Mr. S. L. Walker to whom the improvements belong refuses to accept an offer from the Forest Service for the purchase of the improvements for \$133.00, but has accepted our offer for \$200.00. Please increase the letter of authorization on this Forest for that purpose by \$67.00.

Very truly yours,

D. E. K.

Forest Supervisor.