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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 4, 1964

From: Ats Kiuchi
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OLYMPIA --- In the picturesque Methow valley, ranchers began moving cattle onto lands managed by the State Department of Natural Resources this week to launch the 1964 grazing season.

The Methow Valley turnout, scheduled this week, is the first for the 600,000 acres of permit ranges located in four eastern Washington counties. This year, about 25,000 head of cattle and a smaller number of sheep will be grazing on state lands.

The below normal cold conditions this spring has delayed turnout time. The turnouts usually begin in mid-April. However, the unseasonal chill has caused a two-week's delay on the starting time. The turnouts will be completed in June on all state range lands.

The State's permit ranges are located in Okanogan, Stevens, Klickitat and Yakima counties.

Bert L. Cole, Commissioner of Public Lands, said the decision to delay the turnouts until the ranges were ready is typical of the cooperation between the ranchers and his department. A survey was taken and an agreement reached to delay the turnouts to prevent damage to the ranges.

"Since the reorganization of our grazing program got underway in 1957, we have been met with understanding and cooperation from our permittees and leasees," Cole explained. The management of the grazing lands is directed by Wallace R. Hoffman, supervisor of the division of lands for the Department of Natural Resources.

The range improvement program on permit ranges continues each year with the ranchers meeting in January and February with state officials to establish priority on projects. A wide variety of programs, ranging from rehabilitation of over-grazed

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areas, to control of trespass and fees is directed by the lands division.

Cooperation between the ranchers at the department was evident at the onset of the reorganization program, seven years ago. An advisory committee tackled the problems that had multiplied in prior range seasons.

The advisory committee included representatives from the Washington Cattle-men's Association, the Washington Woolgrowers Association, private forest industries, U. S. National Forest, Washington State Sportsmen's Council, Washington Education Association, Federal Bureau of Land Management and Washington State University.

Through their consolidated efforts, a comprehensive range improvement program and rules and regulations were adopted. Available for the first time this year is a concise manual on the state's grazing rules and regulations. The manuals are available at the 23 district headquarters in the state.

The grazing program is not a one-way street with the state collecting fees and returning nothing to the range. Commissioner Cole pointed out a portion of the normal grazing fee on permit ranges may go to approved range improvements. The state, working with the ranchers, establish priority and types of improvements each year.

The reduction in grazing fees are used for the purchase of materials, such as fence posts and wiring, to continue the range improvement program. The rancher, in turn, contributes labor and equipment for the projects.

Through the cooperative program, range improvements to date include: some 90 miles of new fence; 14 cattle guards; improved roads to grazing areas; erection of two corrals; improved water sheds; and 400 acres of sagebrush land sprayed in north central Okanogan county to improve range conditions.

The benefits from the range management program have been clearly defined. In most cases, cattle owners have reported their stock gaining from 15 to 30 more pounds of weight each season.

In early October, the cattle will begin the return to their fall headquarters to mark the end of the $4\frac{1}{2}$ month grazing season.

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"The continued progress in the range management program is a tribute to the cooperative spirit existing between the public and state. Other problems may come from time to time, but I'm sure this mutual understanding has created a basic foundation to benefit all," Land Commissioner Cole concluded.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 6, 1965

From: Department of Natural Resources
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OLYMPIA--Income from over three million acres of state-owned land hit record levels during the 1962-1964 biennium, State Land Commissioner Bert L. Cole announced today.

The Department of Natural Resources' Fourth Biennial Report, covering Fiscal Years 1963 and 1964, listed a record income of \$23,698,070 from its management programs.

The previous record came during the biennium covering Fiscal Years 1957 and 1958 when the income was \$17.4 million.

Commissioner Cole said the income is derived from timber and other products harvested from state-owned lands and from leases and other sales. In addition to the income, long term improvements included timber access roads built by purchasers valued at \$2.9 million. Lessees of state-owned agricultural and range lands also made improvements valued at \$185,468.

Timber sales accounted for most of the record income, Commissioner Cole explained. During the biennium, timber sales income was \$19,208,437. Upland leases and sales brought in \$3,204,304. Leases from tide and shorelands amounted to \$1,285,329.

Schools benefited from the increased income during the past biennium. The Department of Natural Resources turned over \$8,161,293 to the state's Permanent School fund. The income came from sales of forest products and leases off school grant lands, Commissioner Cole said.

Other major projects completed and accomplishments by the Department during the past biennium included:

Completion of the first forest land inventory;

Addition of 153,984 acres to state ownership with the completion of the lieu lands acquisition program;

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Reforestation of 13,563 acres on state-owned lands;

Completion of the first state-wide recreational survey;

Conservation-education programs held for some 57,168 youngsters.

In releasing the Fourth Biennial Report, Commissioner Cole said, "While we are proud of the accomplishments during the past biennium, we must continue to move forward in our management programs. We will present to the 1965 legislature a budget calling for increased emphasis on our reforestation programs to make state-owned land productive again, more sales of timber, and conversion of our range and agricultural lands to higher use."

"Our professional management programs are aimed at getting the most from each tax dollar. And each dollar used for our programs is an investment for the future betterment of the people of the State of Washington," Commissioner Cole said.

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[Enclosure, 12 May 64]



[Enclosure, 12 May 64]

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