

Snoqualmie National Forest
905 2nd Ave. Bldg.
Seattle, Wash. 98104
Telephone: Area code 206, 583-5400

February 7, 1967

Greater Need for Range and Pasture Seen by Forest Service:

SEATTLE, WASH., Feb. 14--About fifty percent of the Nation's land area will be needed as range and pasture by 1980, said Chief of the Forest Service Edward P. Cliff here today before the annual meeting of the American Society of Range Management.

"Population pressures from 242 million people," he predicted, "will require livestock production on 950 million acres--or roughly half of our total land area, in just 13 years."

At present, somewhat more than half of the 186 million acres in the National Forest System is being used for grazing livestock, Chief Cliff stated. He added that an overall reappraisal of range conditions on all public grazing lands including National Forests, will be needed to meet the future demands for forage, water, wildlife habitats, recreation, and timber.

"Research must lead the way from its present sound level of knowledge toward finding how to properly develop and manage the Nation's many range sites," added Cliff. "The Forest Service, other Federal and State agencies engaged in wildland research all need to work together on increasing range productivity."

Cliff assured grazers that no basic changes are planned in the 60-year old policy of issuing grazing permits to ranchers who depend on public lands for livestock grazing. He predicted that there will be an increased demand for permits covering use of horses and mules as transportation livestock in recreational and wilderness management.

(more)

He pointed out that 20,000 farm and ranch families located in more than 600 rural communities have permits for grazing 11,670 allotments on National Forests and National Grasslands. "Most of these ranchers are small operators who depend heavily upon the National Forests for livestock forage," said Cliff. "Many could not meet their year-round livestock needs without grazing from these public lands."

Cliff said that since 1960 considerable progress has been made toward meeting demands for forage through intensive management and development of grazing lands administered by the Forest Service.

"The cooperation received from permittees has helped us," continued Cliff. "Furthermore the maintenance of fencing and other improvements by range users has enabled us to use limited Federal funds more effectively."

The Forest Service Chief also stressed that grazing is permitted in National Forest Wilderness Areas since the Wilderness Act specifies that livestock grazing shall continue where established in a Wilderness under conditions assuring preservation of the Wilderness resources. At present, about 130,000 sheep and 65,000 cattle are authorized to graze in National Forest Wilderness Areas and 113,000 sheep and 29,000 cattle in Primitive Areas. This livestock use comprises 13 percent of all western sheep permits and 7 percent of cattle permits.

"We have provided for continued use, maintenance, reconstruction or relocation of livestock improvements and structures which existed within a Wilderness when it became a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System," Cliff assured the grazers, "and we will continue to administer grazing in Wilderness under the same general regulations applicable throughout the National Forest System."

NEWS RELEASE

SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST

U. S. FOREST SERVICE • 905 SECOND AVENUE BUILDING • SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104 • TELEPHONE 583-5400

IMMEDIATE

October 18, 1967

One of the more costly and damaging fires of the 1967 Washington fire season occurred on Evergreen Mountain, Snoqualmie National Forest, about 10 air-miles northeast of the town of Skykomish, near Stevens Pass. "The fire occurred about noon on August 25, 1967 in rugged, mountain terrain and burned hot and fast up the precipitous slopes," said L. O. Barrett, Snoqualmie Forest Supervisor. "Control was extremely difficult due to many snags and spot fires," he added.

"At the height of the battle," Barrett said, "1,500 men, 15 tankers, 14 tractors, 7 copters, 4 air tankers, and numerous other aircraft and equipment were utilized."

On September 2, eight days later, the fire was finally controlled, but only after it had burned 3,830 acres of National Forest land and 470 acres of private lands. Barrett said, "Resources valued at \$1,140,000 were damaged or destroyed. This includes an estimated 40,000,000 board feet of Douglas-fir, Pacific silver fir, and western hemlock timber; 1,600 acres of young trees; and other resources (e.g. watershed, wildlife, recreation). Approximately 50 per cent of the burned timber will be salvaged, reducing the resource damage accordingly.

(MORE)

EVERGREEN MTN. FIRE - 2

Barrett said a conservative estimate for the total suppression cost on the Evergreen Mountain fire would be about \$650,000.

Rehabilitation work on the Evergreen burn has already begun. It will include aerial seeding of the entire 4,300 acres to grass and trees, plus cleanout of debris in 7 miles of streams, and rodent control. This initial rehabilitation project will cost approximately \$60,000.

"We are moving ahead with these big and important jobs: stabilization of the soil, salvage of fire-damaged timber, and renewal of the forest," said Barrett. "We hope to have all these jobs well underway before snow covers the fire-scarred flanks of Evergreen Mountain."

JLT
10/18/67