

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Tacoma, Wn., September 3, 1906.

The Forester,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Herewith is a report on the Wenaha Forest Reserve, made in accordance with your instructions to investigate the complaint of Mr. Bryson, of the Wenaha Woolgrower's Association, against the administration of Ranger in Charge J. M. Schmitz.

In view of your suggestion that the examination be a hurried one, of the fact that I had not yet seen Mr. Erickson, of Mr. ?msted's wish to see me upon his return from Alaska, and of the importance of seeing other grazing regions before snowfall, I did not feel justified in giving the Wenaha more than 30? days at this time; consequently I failed to see much of free use or privileges. With these two exceptions, my investigation was thorough, and I have no doubt that the information given me concerning them was accurate. I saw, and spent considerable time with, all the officers. The grazing situation was given special attention and I made a point of seeing the range myself and talking with the men actually handling the sheep — herders and camptenders — rather than their employers in the cities.

The investigation had rather unexpected results. It showed the complaints against Schmitz which led to it to be without foundation, but that his management has been poor in other and unsuspected ways. To put it briefly, he has an excellent grasp of all large points of policy and fact, but is slack in detail. In reading this report you will find much to criticize and some things which would be inexcusable on an old established reserve or if done by experienced officers. Often these can be explained, if not extenuated, by Schmitz's rather unusual attitude. A woodsman by training, with somewhat deficient education and practically no experience in administrative work or sheep grazing, he was, through no representation of his own, placed in a position where his timber knowledge had little application but which demanded capacity for dealing with complicated grazing problems in a locality unknown to him. Being a just man, without the conceit which sometimes goes with accession to official authority, he distrusted his ability to handle these problems without working hardship upon the public, so set himself to study the grazing business and the reserve, in the meantime deliberately avoiding responsibility when possible beginning by assuming he could not gain the requisite knowledge, especially of topography for allotment purposes, before the end of the present season, and that it is imperative to secure it in this period for use with next year's grazing permits, he has devoted his time assiduously to such work and, sincerely, I believe, felt justified in sacrificing almost everything else to it. This point of view seems to have been "This year we have neither men nor information to do things right, therefore we won't waste time trying, but next year we must know how to be firm, and be so, to the limit." This peculiar logic is good to a degree, but he has carried it

rather too far, at least for good discipline. Little, if any, actual harm has resulted from the small, although numerous, slips of carelessness and disregard of regulations.

Attached is a rough diagram showing the time and course of my inspection. This being my first complete report since the present inspection outline has been in force, I do not know just where to strike the balance between brevity and complete exposition of conditions. It would please me to be informed whether it is satisfactory in this respect.

Very respectfully,

s/ E. T. Allen
Forest Inspector.

Enclosures.

Wenaha Forest Reserve,
Allen, September 3, 1906

TIMBER SALES.

General Forest Conditions And Market.

A brief inspection can add little to the reports on this subject by the original examiner and the forest assistant.

The principal species are yellow pine, tamarack and red fir; the first at the lowest altitudes, the second on high ground, and fir occurring mixed with both but of rather poor quality. Lodgepole and white fir are abundant, but of practically no present value except for free use. Reproduction of all species is excellent, although yellow pine, with less frequent seed years, has difficulty in competing with the others where they are favored by conditions. The timbered area is gaining, rather than decreasing, and apparently only the simplest precautions are needed to provide for restocking cut over tracts, such as proper disposal of refuse, protection of small yellow pine, and, when possible, taking the latter species chiefly from north and east slopes or flats. Generally it will not be necessary to watch cutting methods very closely to insure perpetuation of the forest, for it will be attained with ordinary care.

In the inaccessible interior is a great deal of tamarack, fir and lodgepole tie timber, but I see no hope for its early exploitation. Along the edges of the reserve are limited bodies of overmature yellow pine which should be cut, but the quantity in a place does not warrant building roads or installing mills to do an export business in competition with other regions in the northwest. Probably there will be occasional small sales to little mills cutting for local trade, like the Odell sale discussed hereafter, but even these are uncertain, for unless the purchasers are more enterprising than Odell they cannot compete with imported lumber. There are no mines nor other timber-using industries in or very near the reserve. In short, it seems safe to say that the Wenaha will not produce any considerable timber revenue until general scarcity of material warrants opening up tie timber at great expense. A possible exception to this prophecy is the flat region along the east boundary, near Troy and Bartlett, which may be made accessible by the rumored improvement of the Grande Ronde river for the purpose of driving out private timber in this locality. If this is done, it will make a market for considerable reserve yellow pine.

Sales already made by the ranger in charge have been for \$1 a thousand. I believe \$1.50 should be the minimum, and this only when necessary to dispose of over-ripe or inaccessible stuff. Such a decision will probably stop sales entirely until all private tracts are exhausted, but I believe the local demand, small though it is, will eventually bring \$2 for about all the merchantable yellow pine, and that, with the exceptions mentioned, it will pay to wait for it.

Individual Sales.

Chris Martin, April 6, 1906. This recorded as a supervisor's sale, on the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 13, T. 9? N, R 42 E; of 2100 posts, @ 50 cents a hundred, and 2 cords of wood, @ 50 cents a cord, all dead tamarack; to be removed in 3 months (by July 6); with a limited stump height of 2 feet and top diameter of 6 inches. Payment of \$11.50, Cert. 16852, was made May 16, 1906. The record went no farther; lacking map, description, estimate, cutting reports and evidence of closing the case; although my examination was a month after the sale contract expired. Inquiry of Schmitz disclosed this peculiar situation:

The cutting was a trespass, discovered by Asst. Forest Ranger Green last winter. It was wilful to the extent that Martin knew he was on the reserve, but innocent in that he supposed he could cut for his own use as has always been done in the west, especially in such remote settlements. Not knowing, however, that the office frequently settles such minor trespasses during the early life of a reserve as unintentional, on a stumpage basis, Schmitz supposed the circumstances would compel demanding manufactured value. Knowing the extenuation, and fearful that an attempt to collect punitive damage would injure the new reserve in the public eye, he took it upon himself to bring about the equivalent to an unintentional trespass settlement by means of a sale.

Although he should have laid the matter before the office, still I do not censure him greatly for the course taken. He had no desire to favor the trespasser unduly, but did what he thought best for reserve interests and justice. But at this point he also became inexcusably careless. Giving orders that the material should not be removed until the brush was piled, and that when these two things were done a cutting report should be sent in to complete the record, he let the whole matter slide. Not until I called his attention to it did he realize that the time limit had expired and that Martin had forfeited his material. On July 1, when Forest Guard McKenzie visited the cutting last, the stuff was still there and the brush unpiled, so presumably this was the case five days later when the three months ran out.

Although an insignificant supervisor's sale, Reg. 15? seems to prohibit extension by anyone but the Forester, even if he can do so unless unavoidable delay is shown. Apparently the matter is now before you for action. This would seem to be a choice of closing the case by forfeiture of the material, which may be sold again or given in free use, or of extension to permit Martin to clean up and take the stuff, if this is regular under Reg. 15?. All things considered, I recommend the latter, for it is a small matter due to carelessness all round rather than to any wrong intent. And I think Schmitz is sufficiently disturbed over it now to prevent future repetition.

T. F. Wilson, Dec. 16, 1906. This case is almost identical with the Chris Martin sale previously described. The supervisor's records show a sale of 1200 green tamarack posts, at a cent apiece; on Lots 3 and 4, Sec. 4, T. 5? N, R 42 E; diameter limit 10 inches, stumps 18 inches, tops 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; time limit 6 months, or until June 16, 1906. The price, \$12, was paid Dec. 27?, 1905, by Cert. 1520?. There are no preliminary

maps or reports, cutting reports, nor evidence of final action, although the contract has expired.

The circumstances are exactly as in the Martin case. It was a trespass, discovered by Green in December. Probably Wilson knew no better, while the reserve force was too small to attend to such business promptly had he applied as he should. Schmitz thought the only alternatives were sale and willful trespass, with the former most just. Like many men newly in authority, he disliked to ask for instructions thinking the office prefers to have small matters settled without troubling it. But, as in the Martin case, he did not foresee the complication which would arise from dilatoriness on Wilson's part or carelessness on his own, and let the contract expire without removal or cleaning up. As in the other instance, I advise extension by the Forester to permitting closing the matter up; but if it is impossible under Reg. 16?, or if thought best to be more rigid, there is no technical reason why Wilson has not forfeited his posts. Doubtless the real reason why he and Martin let the matter rest was because it is customary in this region to do such work after the wheat harvest.

A. E. Odell, March 5, 1906. May 4, 1906. June 14, 1906. These three sales are so intermixed that it is impracticable to discuss them separately. In effect they amount to three payments on one sale.

The supervisor's records show the first as follows: of all marked dead and green yellow pine and red fir, estimated at 100,000 feet, at \$1 per M; on the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, of Sec. 21?, T ? N, R 41 E; diameter limit 12 inches, stumps 18? inches, tops 8 inches or as far as merchantable; one year's time; payment duly made. The files contain no map, description, or other preliminaries to the contract. They do contain a letter from Forest Guard McKenzie, dated May 18, reporting carefully by logs but not upon the proper form, that 109,513 feet had been cut; the excess being due to marking in advance more trees than proved necessary to furnish the contracted 100,000 feet. The surplus was not discovered, of course, until the logs were scaled. This same report stated that the brush was not piled. The card record showed the case closed June 21?, 1906, but the cutting had not been transferred to the card. Nothing in the files showed whether the brush was piled, indeed no correspondence on this subject followed McKenzie's letter of May 18. What I have given above constitutes the office record of the sale.

The contract in the second sale (of May 4) was identical in terms of amount, location, price and conditions, and was also unprecedented by maps, description or estimate records. The file shows that on May 22 Schmitz wrote McKenzie to report when the total amount was cut and, if there should be an accidental surplus, to omit it from the cutting report but forbid removal until the third sale was made. On June 15 McKenzie reported 26,920? feet, and brush piling badly behind. On June 18 he reported the total, with some surplus and piling still undone. The files show nothing more, except that the case was closed June 21.

The third sale (June 14) was again identical in terms, except as to location which was on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, of Sec. 21, an adjoining forty. The files show no preliminary or cutting reports, nor other correspondence of any importance.

So much for the recorded history of these sales; certainly inadequate and puzzling. The actual history is much more satisfactory; also irregular, but not bad in result.

C.M. Grupe, of Dayton, Wn., was the proprietor of a small water power sawmill on Government land in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, of Sec. 29?, T 9? N, R 41 E, and secured his logs from homesteaders along the Tucannon River in that vicinity. This source, at least the patented supply which he could buy legally, ran short just about the time the reserve was created, so he turned to Government timber to run the mill. He made an arrangement with A.E. Odell, of Pomeroy, Wn., by which Odell was to buy timber, log it, and deliver it at the mill on his own capital and responsibility, while Grupe was to saw and market it. This division of expense was supposed to be equal, and they were to share alike in the proceeds. Perhaps it is not fair, however, to represent Grupe as the prime mover in the plan, for he already had a permit for his mill and was running on private timber; certainly he had no responsibility for the Odell logs more than to furnish a market for them.

Odell applied for timber. It was an experiment, and he was afraid of the regulations, so he did not dare risk a large purchase. For this reason (and in the absence of any other possible purchaser there was no object in competitive bids) it seemed best to make it a supervisor's sale, so the application was for 100 M at \$1.

It was Schmitz's first sale. Although a timber man, his reserve experience had never included any work with the sale regulations. He made the examination himself, so, overlooking their desirability as records, saw no necessity for making out formal estimates, maps or descriptions. His theory was that these were required if a ranger reported to a supervisor, or a supervisor to the Forester, but would be superfluous if the selling officer also made the examination. Here was his first error, which accounts for the absence of preliminaries from the files.

On the other hand, he foresaw a difficulty not clearly provided against by the Use Book — the complication which results when a supervisor's sale accidentally overruns the \$100 worth to which his authority is limited (he is given no right to correct it by securing an excess payment, as the office does in large sales, for this would make it more than a hundred dollar transaction) — so thought it safer to regulate the amount cut entirely by marking in advance of the cutting, rather than to add a further possibility of overrunning by blazing an area. Since the cutting would be very small in such heavy timber, marking seemed the best way to control it. Hence there was no definite cutting area, which would have done no harm had all gone well, but after the brush piling got behind made it impossible to separate the cleaning work belonging to each sale.

McKenzie, who had charge of the cutting, did excellent work as far as he could. He insisted on low stumps, marked for cutting intelligently, and was strict in scaling all

salable material which the purchaser tried to leave in the woods. Trouble arose first with the brush piling. In the beginning, Odell's cutters wanted to pile the brush for 20 cents additional to the rate they received per thousand, which of course was the very best way he could have arranged. He refused however, either expecting to get it done cheaper by the day or hoping to dodge it altogether. The result was that it was put off day after day, while he made continual promises and excuses. McKenzie complained, but as long as the payment and the lumber in the yard existed as security, the officers did not like to stop the work because it would punish Grupe as much or more than Odell.

This situation when the second 100 M was wanted but, on the ? strength of Odell's promises Schmitz went ahead with the sale, applying on it the unavoidably marked and cut excess over the 100 M first paid for, which, however, he did not allow removed until the second \$100 was put up. This point worried him a little, but he saw no alternative, for to have covered it by the first sale would have required an extra payment making a sale greater than he was authorized for.

The second sale proceeded about like the first, the piling being neglected with many promises, until a third was applied for. Here Schmitz took a stand, and demanded immediate completion of the piling before he would close the first two or consider the third. Odell put a force of men on, under Schmitz' directions, brought the work pretty well up, and promised to complete it at once. So Schmitz closed the first two sales and approved the third, deciding, however, that this must be the last without competitive bids. But no sooner had he left the tract, than Odell stopped piling again. After a few weeks' argument, McKenzie stopped the sawing, although he permitted the cutting of logs because he believed them better security than anything else. This annoyed Grupe, of course. He quarreled with Odell and threatened to do the piling himself and hold the cost out of Odell's share of the sales.

This was the situation when I visited the tract on August 6. Perhaps 12 or 15 acres were cut over. Half of this was rather poorly piled; the rest untouched. Odell was away, but his men were cutting and hauling. The mill was shut down, by McKenzie's orders, so the logs were being dumped on the ground nearby where it would be expensive for Grupe to handle them. Grupe was exasperated, pleading to be allowed to saw and hold the lumber as security. Partly at my suggestion, Schmitz stopped all work instead, and held the lumber too, until the piling should be brought up. This produced consternation all round and a messenger was dispatched to learn Odell's whereabouts, Grupe promising that if Odell did not take hold the next day properly, he would do so himself and get it back some way. Schmitz and I left, without waiting to see Odell, but put McKenzie on the tract to see that the piling was done right until Forest Assistant Foster could relieve him for return to patrol.

Proceeding on over the reserve, I heard nothing more of the situation until August 17, when I returned to Walla Walla and saw Foster. He reported staying until the piling was nearly done, a small strip being left until the logs could be removed, and although he had released the lumber, McKenzie would see that everything was in good shape

before allowing removal of all the security. Grupe had quit the whole thing in disgust, leaving Odell in charge of mill and all till the trouble should be over. Odell wanted to quit too and be reimbursed for the timber still uncut.

This should not be allowed. If he will continue properly from now on, he should be allowed to finish the few thousand feet paid for; if not, he should be put off without ceremony. I did not see Odell at all, myself, but do not think the account given is unfair to him because it was corroborated not only by the forest officers and Grupe, but by Odell's foreman and other employees.

With the exception of the piling troubles and slight irregularities in preliminary procedure, these sales were well made. The timber could be spared without damage, and was well selected with a view to reproduction. The cutting is in the valley of the Tucannon, running NE-SW, near the lower limit of forest growth, but the stand is heavy, the trees old, and seedlings dense. The tract will restock heavily, unless where prevented by roads, mill yard, etc. Scaling was carefully done, in the woods and on the rollway. Scale and cutting reports were good, although not made regularly. The price was a little low, but I doubt whether more could have been obtained. With stumpage at \$1, cutting \$.65, logging \$1, and piling not over \$.25, which were the actual expenses; Odell's cost was about \$2.90 per M. Grupe's work was supposed to be equal, making the lumber cost \$5.80, and they averaged about \$10 for what they sold. This would seem exceedingly profitable, and would be on a large scale, but it is doubtful whether they really made anything, because of the small business. Grupe probably lost, for he was shut down much of the time for lack of logs and water. Good market, attention to business, and avoidance of trouble by keeping the brush piled, would make such a business pay well, but these men were too careless in all their methods.

To sum up, the early irregularities were due to Schmitz's ignorance of procedure and no worse than usual with first sales but although the neglect in piling was due chiefly to Odell's wilfully taking advantage of Grupe's peculiar position, it should have been met by more firmness on Schmitz's part. He should not have closed the first two sales on promises, even to protect Grupe. Moreover, after this was done, original failure to define cutting areas made it impossible to separate the cleaning up work. While it seems to be coming out all right in the end, the first two were put in proper condition only because of security held in the third. I recommend that Schmitz be instructed to require the strictest observance of all rules before the June 14 sale is closed, that no refund be allowed, whether the timber is taken or not, and that no more timber be sold Grupe without bond. It is unlikely, however, that he will apply again.

Free Use.

For reasons given in the letter of transmittal, I did not feel warranted in taking the several days necessary to visit the free use region, which is in the north east edge of the reserve. The following description is based upon the records and information from the officers, which I believe to be thoroughly reliable.

Free use business is confined wholly to the two northern districts under Forest Guard McKenzie and Asst. Ranger Blankenship. On these it is very heavy, but confined to certain short seasons when the wheat farmers have leisure. These two rangers are also greatly overworked, hence obliged to do the business somewhat irregularly. The practice is to lay off blazed cutting areas, chiefly of dead timber, and send maps and descriptions to the supervisor. Meeting days are set to receive applications and the officer issues 50 to 60 permits at a time, assigning applicants to the described and blazed tracts without further designation of the exact timber to be taken. The permittees work at their convenience, within the permit limits, leaving the brush cleaned and the wood piled and marked with their names. When convenient, the officer visits the tracts, scales the material, and stamps that which passes inspection. Occasionally, when unable to inspect for a long time because of sheep or fire work, he allows material to be allowed without measurement when he knows that the permittee is reliable and will return true report of quantity. Since applicants practically never use their full annual allowance, there is little or no danger of their taking more than they should. The brush piling is said to give no trouble, although I should like to have seen this.

Being lighter to haul, dead material is preferred except for building. The supply is said to be ample for all time, for reproduction is remarkable. Tamarack and lodgepole, valued at 50 cents a cord dead and \$1 green, are the species mostly used. Wood is usually taken out in logs, to be cut up at home, so a third is added to the cord measurement of log piles to equal the looseness of split cord wood. Three cords of logs are reckoned as four of wood.

Duplicate permits sent the supervisor refer to the areas of which he has maps and descriptions, and are sent in bunches accompanied by lists tabulating the names, amounts, etc. I found but two irregularities in these records — omission of place of use, and failure to use the printed blanks in the rangers' notebooks to record the permits. Because of the large business, which would require carrying several books if the blanks were used, they condense the record on the pages without regard to the blank form. The place of use will be given hereafter. It was omitted because nearly all permittees are farmers, but there are exceptions.

I believe the free use work is handled remarkably well, the minor irregularities being necessary to meet the pressure of work. This may be realized by considering that two men, with more other work than they can possibly do well, have in the first half of this year issued 605 free use permits, covering 6,310 poles, 28,580 posts, 7 M feet of logs, and over 6,000 cords of wood.

Sawmill Privileges.

The single sawmill privilege has been partially discussed under the Odell sales. C. M. Grupe, of Dayton, Wn., was granted on March 13, 1906, a five-year permit for a small water power mill on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 21, T 9 N, R 41 E, under \$1000 bond. The mill was already established, having been operated for a few years on timber cut from neighboring homesteads. It still gets a little from this source, but the shortening of a

supply from patented claims and closer supervision of cutting from unperfected ones for alleged clearing purposes has limited his opportunity, therefore Grupe arranged with A. F. Odell to buy and furnish him with reserve timber. Odell's irresponsibility and conflict with the forest officers, together with water supply troubles, discouraged Grupe so that he left in disgust a few weeks ago and let Odell take the mill to get out of the scrape as best he could. This happened since I was there, so I do not know Grupe's plans for the future. Probably as soon as the Odell case is closed he will resume operations, using some private timber and possibly purchasing from the reserve himself.

If he does not buy from the reserve he should pay a small rental for the privilege, which I believe he does not now. The bond, on the other hand, seems rather large for a water power mill. I cannot see that his occupancy has merited any criticism except that, before cutting more, he should provide for safe burning of sawdust. This is now distributed over the ground by a flume, and both invites fire and retards reproduction.

Timber Trespass.

I learned of no timber trespass except the two cases erroneously covered by the Wilson and Martin sales, described elsewhere, and a few instances of doubtful removal from unpatented homesteads, also discussed under another head.

GRAZING.

This is the main business of the reserve and always will be, but presents no special difficulties except the adjustment of controversies over State rights due to the inclusion of parts of both Oregon and Washington. Although my investigation at this time was prompted by the complaint against Schmitz by the Wenaha Woolgrowers' Association, through Mr. Bryson, I found the situation unusually good for a new reserve. Overstocking and some controversy were inevitable the first year, but exist to a degree smaller than one would expect. The chief criticism deserved is of Schmitz's leniency to the very men who complained of him, and this was in small matters.

Condition of Range.

One of Mr. Bryson's complaints, when I consulted him before going over the reserve, was that Schmitz had permitted overstocking, in opposition to the recommendations of the sheepmen's committee. He said it was agreed that 200,000 sheep should be the limit this year, to be distributed by a plan of mutual consent; but owing to a lamb crop heavier than the estimated 80%, and especially to Schmitz having approved later applications, over 220,000 sheep were allowed to go on. In this, Mr. Bryson made an error, probably through overlooking what passed after the committee's work was done, for the later permits issued did not equal, much less exceed, the numbers covered by those which, although reckoned in the original allotment, were not used.

Although the committee did originally propose 200,000 as a limit, this figure did not stand long. On an 80% increase basis, applications for 161,000 were approved and this

figure, magnified by the general knowledge that the increase was actually 80% or more, was largely circulated as the number of sheep actually driven on, but really it represented nothing of the kind. Many applicants sold out, failed to pay their fee, or for some other reason did not get their permits at all. In the room thus made, Schmitz placed a few applicants hitherto unprovided for — Oregon men, hence the Wenaha Woolgrowers' disapprobation. Moreover, many actual permit holders failed to utilize their privilege, some selling and many losing heavily by a May storm (some 10% or more). Permits were actually issued for but 153,495 sheep (according to figures compiled by Forest Assistant Foster) and the reduction of this number just mentioned doubtless fully compensated for the low estimate of increase. Schmitz estimates the actual number of permit sheep on the reserve at 150,000. It has not been determined positively, for there were not men enough to count all the sheep on, or even to count the bands during the summer. On some districts they could handle it all right, but one ranger was disabled at the opening of the season and on one other district, I believe, it has been impossible to get around to all of them. About three-quarters of the total have been counted, however, and it proved that in almost every instance the number underran the permit instead of exceeding it.

I have given this preliminary statement as a guide to consideration of the condition of the range. This is overstocked, of course, but not so badly as many other regions I have seen and, as a whole, suffers quite as much by avoidable bad handling as by actual numbers. I traversed the reserve lengthwise and, although I made some side trips to avoid being misled, naturally followed main lines of travel which would look the worst. This is one of the driest years in history, but last year was nearly as bad, so conditions are unfavorable enough to make my opinions conservative. I made a point of seeing and talking with as many herders and camptenders (in many cases meeting the owners) as possible, and without a single exception they were satisfied with the management and expressed no doubts about getting through the season.

The Wenaha reserve has a topography peculiar from the grazing point of view. Apparently once a high plateau, now nearly cut to pieces by erosion, it consists of a most complicated series of more or less open and grassy ridges of comparatively uniform height, separated for the most of their length by deep steep canyons but almost always connected with each other at some point; so that by taking a sufficiently circuitous route and frequently doubling one can penetrate almost all parts of the reserve on a level of about 6000 feet altitude. The canyon sides are steep and usually either rocky or covered with growth hard to get through, although certain portions are open and bear bunch grass.

These ridge tops have been the sheep routes for 25 years. Climbing to the tops of the outlying ones as early as snow permitted, they hurried inward as fast as possible, each band trying to get over the main driveways to some interior ridge which it could hold unmolested. The result was something like an individual allotment, except that there was considerable quarreling over alleged locality rights, but the unprofitable destruction of feed on the entrance ridges, through racing for camps while the grass was tender and the ground soft, soon left these practically bare. As they became exhausted, and

increase of numbers taxed the interior ridges, the latter began to deteriorate, but the habit of remaining on them, ease of herding, familiarity with old camps, and work of making new trails, all discouraged pushing down into the canyons. The ridges got worse and worse, but their sides were fed only when absolute lack of feed above forced the sheep down, and hence were not much injured.

This is still the situation to a large extent. The tops of the ridges are worthless without a long rest and probably without reseeding. Many, on the main routes, will not even support sheep in transit, being bare as a road. The brows of the main ridges, and the spurs, are overstocked, but not seriously injured. The lower slopes are not even fully used. This description applies to the north and south ends of the reserve especially, both because the sheep enter from those points and because the ridge topography is more pronounced. The central interior portion has more level surface and more uniform timber growth, which, whether green or fallen, tends to prevent permanent injury by overstocking even if fed short.

Sheepmen agree that one of the great evils was too early entrance, in the race for range, and that regulation of all alike in this respect has showed good results this year. As a rule they also admit that much feed would be saved by running smaller bands. Schmitz desires, and in this I concur, to make a band limit of 2000 dry sheep or 1100 ewes and increase. Now bands of 2500 or 3000 are occasionally seen. Some rangers believe that, to regulate this fairly, account must be taken of the winter home of the sheep and the season, for the bands which lambled in sheltered warm regions this year had an increase of 100% or more, while those less favored came nearer the calculated 80%. They argue, therefore, that certain owners should be restricted to 1050 ewes and other allowed 1150. This seems to me rather impracticable. Apparently 80% is about the fairest figure to use in such calculations.

There is more difference of opinion over the injury done by long stays in one place, and I confess my own uncertainty on this point, within limits. Practically no attention has been given the regulations against more than six nights successive use of a bedground. Schmitz's instructions to the rangers were "not to be too particular about it. Allow the most economical use of the feed." He believes that often a good camp will stand long use with greater economy of feed than would result if the sheep were moved more frequently; in short, that there is danger of continual driving from camp to camp, each being used several times, and consequent unprofitable loss by tramping. Were there sufficient camps to permit short stays at each, the case would be different, but on the Wenaha this year there were not. In the first place, water is scarce in many regions. Then the camptenders, who are responsible for handling of the sheep in this country, could hardly be expected to revolutionize their methods completely this season. Often with many bands to tend, with long trips for supplies, in short with all their work planned according to previous years' experience, they found many excuses for not finding, and opening up new camps and bedgrounds unless forced to do so by scarcity of feed. Neither sheepmen nor officers knew enough about the country away from the old camps, nor had time to explore sufficiently, to arrange frequent moves profitably. Therefore they attempted a sort of compromise, under which the bedding regulation

was to be stretched where it seemed harmless to do so, while further safety was to be secured by frequent bedding out from the same camp. But the inadequacy of the ranger force prevented much actual supervision. No ranger could possibly visit every camp upon his district. The number of bands on the reserve use in the season, even by 10-day stays which are probably about the actual average, so many camps that every ranger would, beside his other work, have to reach about three a day, every day, to visit them all even if they did not move. Assuming that they do move every ten days, he would only get to thirty camps before falling hopelessly behind. The result was that the sheepmen did as they pleased. The worst case was that of the J.E. Smith Livestock Co., who camped 41 days on a spot inside a 120-acre patented tract which, although itself beyond official control, was not large enough to prevent injury of the surrounding reserve land passed over every day. Asst. Ranger Green finally forced them to move. I also heard that one camped three weeks on the reserve land, probably bedding out part of the time but no one knows how often.

Undoubtedly this laxity on Schmitz's part, whether unavoidable or not, resulted in injury in some cases. I am unable to judge of its aggregate effect on the range this year, but probably a stricter policy, together with close supervision and dictation of camping places, would cause less permanent damage even if it did not make the feed go farther in the current season. Schmitz's point of view seems to have been largely to get the sheep through this year as far as possible, bearing in mind that the range was overstocked, and to let other considerations go until next year when he would be better able to meet them by having fewer sheep to provide for. He argues that we have let a certain number on and taken the money for them, therefore must deliver the equivalent grass. If we want to look out for reserve interests first, do so by cutting and regulating next year and avoiding the obligation to give value returned whether it hurts us or not.

Allied to the foregoing problem closely is that of distributing the sheep to use the canyon feed. For the reasons given — long habit upon the sheepmen's part and newness in the region upon the part of a too-small ranger force — it was impossible this year to dictate the movements of each band of sheep. The herders dislike a rough or loggy country, while camptenders dislike to cut trails or climb in and out of canyons, consequently they overuse the ridges but fail to utilize the canyons. The result is obvious, but to remedy it will require much knowledge of the country by the rangers and directions to the herders accordingly. This year every ranger was a stranger to his district, being taken from civil service lists in most cases, so could not do anything of that kind. It kept him pretty busy to find enough grass for his own horses, when not at actual urgent work. In my opinion next year should see, as far as possible, selection of all sheepcamps by the forest officers and enforced use of them as directed. This will require much exploration for water and bedding grounds, as well as map work, and probably considerable trail work by camptenders under ranger supervision; all impossible with the present force, but necessary if reserve management is to be of any practical benefit.

Under the policy outlined above, the reserve would not be greatly overstocked by its present numbers, except probably in Districts Three and Five. Its present condition is

very bad in places, fairly good in others. It is a question of some reduction and a great deal of reformation in methods, the latter requiring considerable work and firmness.

So far, reference has been wholly to sheep grazing. The cattle ranges were, on the whole, well laid out last winter and have kept in good condition. Several portions have not been needed by cattle at all, so will be used from now on to help out the sheep. A few large owners will have to be cut heavily next year, but this is a matter of general justice and not of sheep-cattle competition. There is some trouble about keeping the cattle within their districts which must be obviated next year by requiring herding, but it is not because their own range is short always. The cattle situation needs practically no attention except in these few particulars, having inspired no controversies of any account. The stockmen have about all they want and are satisfied.

Allotments.

Presumably your files of the controversial correspondence over the Oregon-Washington dispute make it unnecessary to describe at length the methods of this year's allotments. The reserve being new, and Schmitz unfamiliar with conditions, it was decided fairest to place the responsibility of the applicants themselves as far as possible. Superintendent Sheller took the most active part on the Government's behalf. A committee of eleven, supposed to be representative and reliable, represented the applicants. Readily assenting to the necessity of a cut to preserve the range, it undertook to secure this by voluntary reduction and a firm but fair cut upon those who were entitled to enter the reserve but would not reduce numbers of their own accord to the degree required. The result seems to me to have been very good as far as numbers and priority rights were concerned. The contention of Oregon owners for the range in that state could hardly have been met any differently the first year, even had its abstract justice been admitted, for to have acceded would have destroyed the Washington industry. It had no where else to go. The Oregon men, on the other hand, got all they ever had, and were disturbed only by the same necessary reduction of numbers which their adversaries bore. What they wanted was to get possession, through the creation of the reserve, of range which they never had occupied.

This controversy, however, left effects which are felt in other directions. A few men, some incited to dissatisfaction which they would not have felt if left alone, murmured against the decisions for the committee and the officers. It was especially charged that the committee assumed to represent men who had not approved its decision, and appeals were made to the officers. Much seemed due to mere misunderstanding by men who did not stay throughout the meetings.

Accordingly Schmitz decided to hold a second meeting, not to reopen the subject but to secure a better understanding by the dissatisfied ones and to have the previous allotments ratified in a way which would leave no ill feeling. This plan was not wholly successful. By some of the original committee and its adherents it was taken as a reflection upon their capacity and position, and, more reprehensible still, a concession to Oregon complainants. The dissatisfied ones, whom it was hoped to pacify, could

hardly be contented with anything but assent to their demands, which was not contemplated unless new evidence should appear. This they failed to produce. In short, the actual situation was unchanged, while Schmitz suffered the suspicion of vacillation. On the whole, indeed I cannot say I found any exceptions, the applications were very justly handled. As explained previously, the sale and loss of sheep allowed larger permits which were not settled by the committee, and this, especially as Oregon men profited largely thereby, was looked upon with some disfavor. Of course such criticism was purely selfish. The most perplexing feature of the allotment was the distinction of preference classes. Schmitz construed these to be determined by prior and exclusive use for the range, rather than by residence. As I understand it, Class A can include no stock whose yearlong home is not in the reserve or practically within it, as directly on the edge or in an indenture of land excluded because patented or agricultural. By this definition, the Wenaha would have no Class A sheep. Schmitz distinguished many, chiefly because they had used the reserve in summer long, continually, and exclusively. However, this was a matter of form rather than effect, for the same conditions governed admission very justly.

But although things went very well to this stage, they did not work out so well in the field, because numerical permits by no means fixed allotments. About 150,000 sheep went on, assigned among five districts, but beyond this there was little system. At the winter meetings neither sheep owners nor officers knew the range well enough to make individual allotments, especially as the cut required more or less readjustment of old arrangements. Many owners were almost strangers to the region, having always left the handling of the sheep to their employees. There was no map worth using, and if there had been, it would not have helped to divide timber and open feed, each of which must be used by every band in this region. Sheep do well only in the timber when it is hot.

It was agreed that the owners in each district should go in with or before the sheep in the spring and settle their limits. But very few did this. The sheep went on in charge of the camptenders, who asserted their rights to each other and to the officers. The latter demanded instructions from Schmitz, who could not give them. A camptender would notify his employer that someone else had his range, and the employer in turn would call upon the supervisor to eject the offender. As usually there was no settled division, the supervisor would tell the ranger to arbitrate, or, if possible, go himself. Occasionally a man would purposely loiter along on the plea that he did not know where his own range was. More commonly he would crowd out as far as he could, trying to surround his own feed for a later reserve. The injured neighbors would demand range in lieu — they had paid for it — so a general redistribution would become necessary to satisfy them.

Absolutely no one but the owners themselves was to blame for this. It made some complaint for awhile, for each man injured felt that he should receive protection for his money, but it had all settled down pretty well before I got into the reserve. Slowly the men either agree among themselves or the officers arbitrarily fixed their limits. There is still a little grumbling among absent owners, based upon conditions at the beginning of

the season or upon reports by unreliable camptenders, but I found the men actually in charge of the sheep entirely satisfied. Especially gratifying was the almost universal testimony that the officers were absolutely impartial. The only exceptions I heard were Mr. Bryson's intimation that Guard Kinnear was unfair to sheep in favor of cattle, while Schmitz was not firm enough to stop him, and Mr. Michellod's complaint that he had not feed enough and that Schmitz would not give him more. The first proved due to Bryson's desire to have sheep placed on range allotted to cattle. Michellod's herder and camptender are satisfied, while he, who is a Walla Walla saloon man, has a reputation for kicking and being none too scrupulous in range matters. I heard all his objections and they could be summed up about as follows: he had paid for grass for so many sheep and was entitled to it, even if everybody else had to be put off the reserve. The Government had no right to sell to others after selling to him. Fortunately, and most creditable to Schmitz, these minor troubles are about all which have occurred. I have never seen a heavily sheeped reserve, even much older, where things were more harmonious.

Next year, however, the system should be wholly different. The supervisor should handle all applications himself, without the interference of a committee, and make fixed individual allotments. Forest Assistant Foster should spend the rest of the field season making a map to assist in this.

It is still too early to decide positively, from the condition of the range and the number known to be on it, how many it should carry next year, but a cut will be necessary. The southern district, No. 5 I believe, already shows overstocking and must bear a heavier reduction than the others. Under the new system of counting only grown sheep, I am certain that the permit limit must not exceed 100,000, and if on fuller and later examination Schmitz recommends a greater reduction I shall approve it without question. The sheepmen themselves expect a cut of from 25 to 50 per cent and, I think, will bear it without much complaint if given ample warning. This, however, is an exceedingly important point; they want the earliest possible notice and say if the cut is perceptible they must know it by Oct. 1 or thereabouts. They do not expect to find other range, so must meet the reduction by selling out for mutton, and to do this must not be caught with bred ewes. Since they breed in October, postponement of decision as to next year's Secretary's order will risk them great loss. If they breed the ewes but cannot take them on, they will have them on hand unsalable in the spring. If they leave a large proportion dry and the cut is less than expected, they must sell in a glutted mutton market, or hold over without increase, in either case sacrificing their right to the range. Schmitz is spending practically all his time now examining the range, and expects to make his recommendation for next years reduction very soon. For the reason given, I urge immediate action upon it.

In my opinion, the large proportion of small owners, and the reasonable views of the sheepmen in general, make it desirable to arrange the coming cut mainly by reducing the maximum number allowed any one owner, and suggest three bands. If every band of 1100 ewes with lambs, or equivalent dry sheep, were allowed without cut, and no one

man allowed more than 3300? ewes with increase, or equivalent, I believe there would be no trouble with the intermediate class, even if it has to bear a slight percentage cut.

I heard little criticism of cattle allotments, although a few big owners will have to be cut down heavily. These men buy and sell, or lease, cattle which really do not belong properly to the region, hence should make room for the home stock of settlers.

Fencing.

J. D. McKennon, of La Grande, has a drift fence which controls about half a section inside the south edge of the reserve and an equal area outside. It is used as a horse pasture, for permit stock, and affects no one but himself. Grandie and Russell, butchers of La Grande, have a similar fence nearby. The officers think these a good thing, for they prevent outside stock from drifting on and give the proprietors no unfair advantage. I believe, however, that Schmitz should be called on for a full report of circumstances, so that the matter may be arranged regularly and to the satisfaction of the office.

Trespass & Miscellaneous.

I have discussed the universal disregard of the six-day bedding rule. The same is true of the 300-yard limit from spring and running streams, and the same general reasons apply. Habit is strong, the old established bedgrounds were for convenience, smoothness and safety, and there is a disinclination to hunt new ones. The ranger force is too small to keep track of violations until long after many occurred, and seems to have sunk into the attitude of "we can't do these things this year, so what's the use of trying?" Of the large number of camps I visited, I doubt whether one purposely bedded farther from water than was convenient without reference to the regulation. Many were distant, perhaps a quarter of a mile or more, but only because there was no suitable bedground nearer, so it would be an error to give them credit for it. For this reason it seems hopeless to try to discipline any permit-holder for violating the rule this year. One could not discriminate among them. I saw one of Bryson & Adams' bedgrounds, recently moved from, between two small streams just above their junction and practically touching each, so every bit of drainage went into them. This case is unusual only in degree, for plenty more were nearly as bad. I believe this form of violation has much less excuse than that of remaining more than six nights, even if its actual evil is more theoretical, and consider it the weakest feature of Schmitz's grazing administration.

Up to the time of my visit there had been no discovered trespass upon the reserve by sheep without permit, nor, that I could learn of, any trespass by sheep upon cattle range except the alleged loitering by Richard Patterson's band for 10 days upon cattle range near Bartlett while driving in. This was in Blankenship's district, but his hands were too full counting on at that time to enable him to follow up the bands, and no complaint was made by the settlers affected. The short period of crowding each others allotments

when the bands first went on had been discussed already, and hardly merits attention under the circumstances.

There is reason to believe that cattlemen have been more careless. I saw several cattle belonging to one Owsley on Jackson's sheep range and Jackson claims that 100 head have been there since June 1. Owsley is supposed to have encouraged this, but proof is not available. The same tactics are charged by Asst. Ranger Green to two permit holders in the south end — Wyrick and Taylor. Wyrick, especially, who has permit for 300, is suspected of having more than this number and of handling non-permit stock for others for a fee, but so far Green has failed to get evidence of numbers and brands to prove it. The stock drift on and off the reserve, the exact boundary is doubtful, and no one knows what brands have the right to enter. Although probably it is true that in this region there is unusual confusion among brands, and a great deal of buying and selling, I think there should be more attempt to keep the matter straightened out. Green wrote the supervisor for a list of all brands which had a right on his district, but could not get it.

It is evident that steps must be taken to restrict cattle to their own range and I recommend requiring permittees to join in paying riders where necessary. Some communities have voluntarily done this with great success, others seem to salt and drive their stock purposely to encroach on sheep ground. In some parts of the reserve the dividing line is the imaginary contour halfway between canyon bottom and ridge top, the cattle being supposed to use the valleys; but while herders dare not take sheep below their limit, there is nothing to prevent the stock from working upward.

It is said to be impossible to get all cattle out of the reserve by the expiration of the season. They are much scattered and it is a hard country to gather in, the former practice having been to depend largely upon storms driving them out. There is certain to be violation of this requirement; unavoidable, according to the officers. Sheep, however, will be ready enough to leave. Schmitz is very anxious to change the seasons to June 10 until October 10 for sheep, and May 1 until November 1 for cattle. I concur in this. The range was used too early this year.

Reduction of numbers and counting only grown stock will necessitate readjustment of fees. Since, after the few big men are cut down, the cattle business will be represented most by settlers, a small raise on cattle, or none, will be all right, but I believe sheep should pay more. The general attitude of the owners seems to be that they are willing to pay a big price for value received.

Were this year's fee of 5 cents and 80% increase figure used as a basis 7 cents a ewe, without counting lambs, would be an exact equivalent. But with the truer average of 90% increase, this same fee would be transformed into 7 ¼ cents for ewe alone. This should certainly be raised to 8 or 9 cents. I find it very difficult to arrive at an equivalent for dry sheep, which evidently should not pay as much as ewes with lambs and probably do not stand in any given relation, but suppose it would not be far from 5 ½ cents if bred ewes pay 8, or 6 ¼ if they pay 9. Probably this ratio has been fixed by the office.

Summary.

To sum up the grazing situation generally, I should call it extremely good for a new reserve. The stockmen believe in the policy, are unusually well satisfied with the local administration as a rule, and will take all necessary reduction in good part if advised early and dealt with fairly. This year's management has been slack in many details, but Schmitz has succeeded during the season in getting an exceedingly intelligent grasp of the whole situation, which promises more satisfactorily for next year than would a course of more rigid adherence to rule but less original investigation. I have not spared his errors in the preceding pages. Against them must be set the satisfactory sentiment he has created among the users of the range, a task which has taken many men several years to accomplish.

Recommendations.

1. Limit size of bands to 1100 ewes with lambs or 2000 dry sheep.
2. Limit number of grown sheep on reserve to 100,000, or less if Schmitz advises on later information.
3. Make summer grazing season June 10–October 10 for sheep, and May 1–November 1 for cattle.
4. Fix a maximum number of sheep permitted any one owner, probably at about three bands of the size fixed by Recommendation 1, although this will depend some what upon the total allowance made under Rec. 2.
5. Let supervisor handle applications alone, without committee interference, and make individual allotments.
6. Oblige movement of sheep on each allotment, including camping, bedding, and utilization of feed, to be as directed by the officers when this control is believed advisable.
7. Have cattle permits contain agreement to herd where required.
8. Make every shepherd carry shovel.
9. Get Schmitz straightened out on significance of preference classes. I don't know it well enough to tell him, but believe he is mixed.
10. Give every encouragement to making of a map for the purpose of fixing allotments, according to any reasonable request Schmitz may find it necessary to make to insure its early completion.
11. Raise grazing fees on all but actual settlers.
12. **Have Secretary approve Schmitz recommendation for number of sheep next year immediately it is received and wire him of action, so that owners may know whether to breed ewes in October.**

PLANTING.

No planting has been done; none seems advisable. All species reproduce well and the forest area is increasing naturally. There are few recent burns, but many old ones restocking well and rapidly with lodgepole, tamarack and red fir.

It is a poor reserve to collect seed for use elsewhere from, for there is almost no cutting to bring the cones in reach; moreover, the small ranger force is unable, in the short field season, to keep up with its urgent administration business.

PRODUCTS.

Nothing on the Wenaha seems to demand the attention of Products.

DENDROLOGY.

Probably I can contribute little not reported already by the original examiner and the forest assistant. The excellence of reproduction of all species, in spite of the dry climate, is striking; indeed the forest area is increasing naturally. I observed with some interest that tamarack, usually of inferior value because of its comparatively slow growth, here assumes considerable importance because of equal or greater adaptability to the locality than is possessed by its associates. It seems to promise better than red fir in the high altitudes where both are most characteristic.

Yellow pine, the best timber tree of the reserve, is restricted commercially to the lower portions, where, however, it reproduces well. All openings in higher regions are reseeded at once by lodgepole, red fir and tamarack, so the perpetuity of the forest is assured.

I saw two species not included in any list for the reserve which I have read — the common western juniper, rare but large; and a birch, which I presume is *occidentalis*, reaching 6 or 8 inches in diameter. Both western larches are supposed to occur here but I forgot to look for the *lyellii* and may easily have overlooked it. I did look, closely and incredulously, for the Colorado Blue Spruce, which Forest Asst. Foster is certain he found, but saw nothing I could differentiate from Engelmann's.

Yellow pine is more or less infested by *Dendroctonus*, but not alarmingly so. Lodgepole shows much more injury from this beetle or a *Tomicus* — I am not sure which — and several areas of a few acres each were seen which will be dead next year. As usual in the Pacific northwest, spruce tips are badly stung by an insect which deposits eggs and produces cone-like galls. *Arceuthobium* is abundant, especially on red fir and yellow pine.

CLAIMS & PRIVILEGES.

There are no mining locations on the reserve. The situation with regard to alleged agricultural claims is unsatisfactory. They are pretty fully reported by the rangers, but no action results. A number of reports recommending cancellation of filing or rejection of entry were sent to the Forester nearly a year ago, but no answer was made. Naturally, the officers do not know the attitude of the office, nor what recommendation to make in future. They have about decided that nothing can be done until final proof is

attempted, and that meanwhile they must tolerate fraudulent occupation. I found the files full of reports to the supervisor, which, however, he was holding in the hope that he may get further information, or which he had sent in to the office long ago, in either case without any result. Such lack of encouragement is demoralizing.

I had no time to make field examinations, but went over all the reports on file. They are pretty good except for a tendency to approve claims if residence has been satisfactory, without sufficient regard for other evidences of good faith. Out of a large number, I noted the following as being about the only ones which merit no recognition as valid. These should be acted upon at once and ejection ordered where decision is unfavorable.

Bertle Hixon, settlement. Grub Canyon, approximately in Sec. 22, T 9 N, R 41 E. No residence; no farming; fenced by drift only. A pasture proposition, reported as such by Asst. Ranger Green March 30, 1906.

Wm. Bowen; HE 13370; W $\frac{1}{2}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, & a lot, Sec. 7, T 9? N, R 41 E. Chief value for timber; little improvement; irregular residence.

L.B. Wilson; HE 11062; Lot 1, Sec. 22, Lots 2, 3, & 4, Sec. 23, T 9? N, R 43 E. No improvements, but unfloored house; no residence; fenced by Mackey Bros. for pasture. Reported for rejection Feb 28.

W.W. Boyd; HE 9944; description lacking. No improvement but roofless house. No residence. Reported for cancellation Feb. 26.

Mrs. Lou Smith; settlement; approx. Sec. 1, T 8 N, R 43 E. No residence. Reported for rejection March 1, 1906.

Gus Smith; settlement; SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 1, T 6 N, R 42 E. Improvement house only. A timber claim. Reported for rejection March 1, 1906.

Della Pate; HE 13380; SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 7, T 9 N, R 41 E. Little improvement; no residence; reported to Forester Oct. 15, 1905, no answer.

Abraham McLaughlin; HE 11064; N $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 22 & NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 23, T 9 N, R 43 E. No improvements but house and fence around whole for pasture purposes. Rented to Mackey Bros. of Cloverland, for this use. Reported for cancellation Feb. 28, 1906.

Agnes Baker; HE 14326; SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 3 & Lots 1 & 2, T 9 N, R 42 E. No improvements but house. No residence. Reported adversely Feb. 28, 1906.

Wm. T. Bolick; HE 11406; W $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 28, T 7 N, R 43 E. No improvements but floorless broken down house. No residence. Supposed to have left State. A timber claim solely. Recommended cancelled March 1, 1906.

Eva Baker; HE 14318; Lots 3 & 4, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 3, T 8? N, R 42 E. No improvements but 10' x 10' house. No residence. Has sold wood. 143 acres fenced but not used. Recommended cancelled Jan. 16, 1906.

W. E. Baker; HE 14319?; SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 3, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 4, T 8? N, R 42 E. No improvements but 9' x 10' house, no tillable land, no residence. Merchantable timber sold for wood and posts. Recommended cancelled Jan. 12, 1906.

The last two cases mentioned involve timber trespass, although it probably would be difficult to get evidence in proper shape. The others seem to me sufficiently clear to warrant cancellation and ejection. A less positive one is that of **I. H. Literal**; settlement; unsurveyed NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 33, T 8? N, R 40 E. He bought out someone else after the reserve was created, hence has no legal right, but as this is about the only complaint against him may be able to take advantage of the Act of June 11.

Privileges.

Privileges on the Wenaha are few and unimportant. Under my instructions to make haste, none seemed to warrant extra trips to examine and they all lay off the route best for a grazing investigation. From the records and officers' statements I made the following notes:

Umatilla Electric Company, of Weston, Ore.: powerhouse, shop, lodge, and right of way for flume, pipeline and tailrace; one acre and 10-ft. right of way in Sections 14, 22, and 21, T 3N, R 37E. Granted Nov. 18, 1905, for discretionary period. \$50 annual rental. \$2000 bond. Special conditions were to dispose of refuse and build good trail and road crossings. Also to same company in same place permit for working camp in connection with above, granted Feb. 23, 1906, for \$7.50 a year. Only necessary timber to be taken, this paid for at \$2 per M.

Nothing is being done with this project, for the main promoter died shortly after it was initiated and the company has not reorganized for business. It is impossible to say whether the privilege will be utilized.

Marmaduke N. Jeffries, of Peola, Wn., applied informally for permit to cultivate 40 acres of agricultural land on Lot 3, Sec. 1, T 9? N, R 43 E, and was sent blanks to make proper application. He let the matter drop, apparently, at least made no reply for a long time, so the tract was reserved for ranger headquarters.

H. E. Hamm, et al, of Dayton, Wn., were granted June 12, 1906 a resort privilege for a family camp on approximately the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 26, T 9 N, R 40 E, for a consideration of \$30 annually.

So far they have refused to sign the papers or make payment, because of the exorbitant charge. They only wanted to camp on the land in tents during the summer, which,

under the law and regulations, they could do without permit, and to fence 20 acres for the purpose of holding their horses which, also, they could bring in without permit. As an ordinary camping expedition, they could do all they asked permission to do except have some way of keeping their driving horses within reach. As they go in and out from Dayton frequently, this was an object. It would have been a benefit to the reserve, for while now their horses can run at large, using the general range free as campers' stock, they would have been confined where they could not use feed desired by paying permittees. The applicants wanted to seed down the 20-acre patch, thus giving it, at their own expense, whatever value it would be to them. The charge imposed upon them amounted to \$1.50 an acre for very poor pasture, for a short season. Therefore, they probably will not complete the transaction. When I was on the reserve, two of the six families involved were camped on the tract, but had sent their horses out again. If they still want it, I recommend allowing the privilege at the small fee recommended by the ranger in charge, or, since it is really a pasture privilege, under Regulation 67. The people of Dayton, Walla Walla, and neighboring towns, have no refuge but the Wenaha reserve from the excessive and prostrating summer heat, and it is the practice to send women and children to the mountains for a camping trip every season. I think this should be considered one of the most useful functions of the reserve and not made unavailable to the poor. Where it is desired to build cottages, resorts, or similar pretentious improvements, a minimum charge of \$5 each is all right, but there should be a cheaper way for tent campers to protect their camps from wandering stock and to take care of their saddle and driving horses.

Columbia County, Wn., has applied for right of way for a county road commencing at the 12-mile stake in Sec. 11, T 8? N, R 42? E, thence running on the "Patrick Trail" to Little Tucannon River, thence along said stream to its confluence with the Big Tucannon, thence along said stream to the mouth of the Panjab Creek. The application will be reported and acted on at once. I went over the route August 5 & 7 and found everything all right. Very little timber will be cut. The proposed road is known as the Tucannon Cutoff and will be a good thing for all.

ADDITIONS & ELIMINATIONS.

The wedge-shaped area between this reserve and the Umatilla Indian Reservation, in Townships 1S to 3N, R 36E, Oregon, contains timber and range which should be included if it is not too much alienated. I have asked Mr. Erickson to look into this when he visits the La Grande land office to get similar information regarding land adjoining the Blue Mts. reserve. The present line passes over high mountains which are well timbered on the west side, and is continually besieged by the stock which greatly overcrowd the strip in question. If the latter cannot be added, an early and accurate survey is imperatively needed.

Although it would hardly pay to make the change alone, any new proclamation of this reserve should include Sec. 7, T 9 N, R 43 E. As is often the case, our boundary examinations assumed this section to be alienated because land office plats showed

many homestead entries. In reality all of these but 80 acres have long been abandoned.

PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT & PROTECTION.

Personnel.

Since this is the first inspection of Schmitz's administration, as well as because of the complaint which prompted it, I feel that his efficiency should be discussed at some length. It is rather hard to arrive at positive conclusions, at best, not because Schmitz is a hard man to understand, for he is unusually frank and transparent, but because of his contrasting good and bad qualities.

Most prominent among the former are uncompromising honesty, vigorous untrained intelligence, fairness of judgment, and untiring industry. These are strong recommendations, and he commands respect for them from the most unwilling. As a ranger he was conspicuous for success in removing hostile sentiment in troublesome communities, and for influence over his official associates; both mainly due to this respect for his personal and official conduct. No matter how much jealousy and wrangling might exist in the ranger force, every man could get along with Schmitz; not because he was a popular companion, but because of thorough confidence in him. In addition to having these qualities, he is a woodsman of lifelong training, competent to do any sort of timber, fire, trail, or building work likely to come up on a reserve.

On the other hand, his strong individuality is quite as marked by less desirable features. Although very warm-hearted at bottom, as evidenced by many acts of kindness to his neighbors, his personality is the reverse of magnetic. People respect, or admire, but seldom like him. His manner is never attractive; sometimes repellent. Taciturn by nature, when he does speak he is often severe and sometimes offensively intolerant, although this attitude rarely provokes quarrels because his positiveness usually reduces his adversary to submission. He knows his own good and bad qualities fairly well, and is no dissembler, with the result that when he is on his own ground he is brutally direct and uncompromising, but when out of his depth correspondingly distrustful of his own and respectful of others' opinions. This faculty for self-analysis leads to some amusing inconsistencies. Realizing his natural weakness in tact, and the necessity for that quality in his office, he has trained himself industriously so that by making an effort he can be most suave and patient. On occasions of importance, therefore, his manner is excellent. But in everyday contact with those he knows and does not care particularly to impress, this acquired tolerance is often forgotten. I was in his office during a very disagreeable interview with an obnoxious and unreasonable French sheepman, who was much excited and inclined to call Schmitz and everyone else connected with the Government thieves and liars. Schmitz met him with the utmost tact and good-nature, and patiently explained the situation until there was no chance for any further argument. But on plenty of occasions his manner to me was anything but respectful, and he rebuked me as severely for my opinions as though I was an insubordinate guard.

His appearance, like his manner, betrays lack of familiarity with polite conventions, although by no means careless or discreditable. In short, he is a man who appears to least advantage in a city or among those of different training, but appears well among those with whom his work mostly lies. His education is deficient to the extent that his spelling and expression are not always good and that he may be confused by involved or technical communications, which makes him lack self-confidence in such matters, but his actual disqualification in this respect is far less than that of many supervisors who do not suffer the disadvantage of self-distrust. I do not think he will have any difficulty in conducting the business of his reserve.

The suspicion that Schmitz lacks firmness, confirmed although it may seem to be by his having called the second grazing meeting, allowed disregard of the bedding regulations, and let Odell delay his brush piling, is, in my opinion, quite mistaken. It does not agree at all with his past record. I confess to having been greatly surprised by these proceedings, for I had anticipated the other extreme, but believe I have found the explanation. Coming to a position of authority for the first time, and to a line of work unfamiliar to him — sheep grazing; with his nerve somewhat shaken, as I found out later, by gloomy predictions by his old associates that he could never succeed because of insufficient education and experience; he felt the responsibility more keenly than a man accustomed to it and realized, even magnified, his ignorance of the unfamiliar features. This was by no means inconsistent with his sometimes exasperating self-confidence in matters with which he is familiar. It merely argues an analytical mind. Having also a fair mind, he felt the necessity of learning his new business before being arbitrary in his rulings, especially as the reserve was new to the people, and judged this would not be possible in time to permit much disturbance of this season's conditions. He turned the office largely over to Foster and set himself to learn sheep and his reserve with feverish energy, always with the view that he must do this before fall to prevent mistakes next year, and that everything else was of minor importance. He never lacked confidence in his ability to learn, but was bewildered by the multiplicity of detail in the beginning. In larger matters like the Oregon–Washington controversy and abstract questions of right and priority, he was clear and inflexible; in minor details he feared his own positiveness and went to the other extreme, or else dodged as many as possible altogether while trying to find his feet. Unaccustomed to office work and correspondence, with very poor facilities for several months, it came near being too much for him, during the period before he got into the field, and he became nervous and worried. The result was that he neglected details where he should not, and even gave the impression that he was purposely lax. But this period was only temporary. The field season just closing has given him the information he felt so much in need of and has restored his confidence. Even if his mistakes go uncensured, I think he will take hold at the end of this experimental year and put his conclusions into practice with a suddenness and firmness which will surprise everyone who has gained a contrary impression. He has almost every detail well worked out and, as far as I could learn, most fairly and practicably. And when he thinks he is right, nothing can stop him.

This characteristic is so strong, however, that it requires some guarding against. I think Schmitz is quite capable of dodging instructions which, from better knowledge of

conditions, he believes are mistaken. The Wilson and Martin trespasses are cases in point. He knew they were trespasses but, believing treatment as such inexpedient, made sales of them without authority. Disregard of the six night bedding limit, because he felt obliged to furnish the feed, was a similar evidence, as is also his attitude toward Forest Assistant Foster. Although aware of the office's intent to make Foster an influence in timber sales, he also saw clearly that Foster's inexperience made him of little present value for such work but that Foster was more competent than himself in the office. Accordingly, for the best interest of the reserve, he does the outside work himself and keeps Foster in the office, regardless of its being a disregard of implied instructions. He is not the type of officer who follows instructions, right or wrong, to avoid responsibility, when he feels himself competent to assume the responsibility, consequently is apt to commit breaches of discipline. On the other hand, they will generally be matters of discipline only, for his judgment and grasp of the things which really represent reserve objects are good and his administration is pretty certain to be sound and popular.

To finish up the complaint voiced by Mr. Bryson: Apparently this represented no dissatisfaction with present conditions, but rather a feeling of uncertainty for the future based on Schmitz's disinclination to state details of policy until he knows what he is about, also, to a considerable extent, the usual criticism of regulation details which are personified in the public mind by the supervisor. Mr. Bryson could say nothing definite, indeed hastened to urge against any change because, as he said, a new man would be less familiar with conditions than Schmitz and certainly no more conscientious. If any thing positive could be gathered from his remarks, it was that the sheepmen regard the reserve designed solely to regulate their business, hence that a professional sheepman should have charge and be governed by the Wenaha Woolgrowers' Association. His main point, and in this I think he represents the association, is that Schmitz should make a pretty heavy cut, notify them of it before October 1, then stick to it in spite of everything. His fear is that the cut will be made, but that concessions will also be given later which will nullify it and be unfair to those who accept in the first place. This is why he wants to be assured Schmitz will remain firm.

Schmitz's assignment to the Wenaha, at \$1200, was a demotion of about \$200 a year from his previous income on the Mt. Rainier, and he has served about long enough to lose this amount. \$1400 would put him about equivalent to his old place. In view of his mistakes of the past year, and the fact that my prophecy of his improvement remains to be fulfilled, I do not recommend much actual promotion, nor, on the other hand, is it fair to move him to a place which he did not ask for at an actual loss of salary. Certainly he has done the best he could. I therefore recommend his promotion to Deputy Supervisor, at \$1500, which will be about \$100 more than he got on the Mt. Rainier, but will not reimburse him for less than two years for the loss he has sustained.

Forest Assistant H. D. Foster presents somewhat of a problem although it is a favorable variation from the one usually presented by the existence of this position on a reserve. Often the man assigned to it is too ignorant of the conditions he finds, even if not too immature in mind and general experience, to be of any practical use in the field

for a year or more. For this period his maintenance, charged against the reserve, is far less profitable than a like expenditure for ranger or clerk service, and it is inevitable that the local officers should feel that, while the investment may eventually pay, it is hardly warranted while the urgency of current business demands so much more than it receives. This is not true on the Wenaha, for instead of following the usual practice of letting the forest assistant amuse himself with woods work of no advantage except to afford him training, Schmitz has utilized Foster most profitably in the office, where his intelligence and capacity for such work have made him invaluable.

Unquestionably this arrangement was best for the reserve, for there was small opportunity for technical work but a large volume of office work for which someone was needed. Moreover it was agreeable to both sides, for Schmitz likes field work best and Foster likes to be at home. But it does not seem to be quite the theory of the forest assistant plan. Foster is a high priced man for an office assistant and is gaining little in field usefulness except insofar as familiarity with the office end of it may be useful. At the time of my visit he had been out only about one month in twelve, so of course had not acquired the knowledge of timber and outdoor work in the west to permit giving him much responsibility in such work — in a timber sale, for example. Meanwhile, Schmitz has taken an equally inexperienced guard, McKenzie, to break in as his timber man, thinking he has greater possibilities in this line than Foster, and he has gotten all the timber experience to be gained on the reserve. Foster has had none of it.

My first inclination was to criticize this course severely, as a disregard of the office's evident desire, and I took this attitude with Schmitz. Later I came to believe, although I was chary of letting Schmitz see it, that it was the very best thing which could have been done. After all, a forest assistant is but an assistant, while the supervisor bears the responsibility for his whole reserve. The Wenaha was new, with an exacting grazing situation. Obviously it was Schmitz's duty to get things to running well as soon as possible. No course could have been more effective in this than placing the most competent office man on the force in the office, and the most competent field man in the field and, as both had their hands full, any interchange for the purpose of education would have been at the sacrifice of reserve interests and those of its customers. Nor did Foster make any complaint. I think he rather preferred it.

I believe, however, that this has gone far enough and that it is time to have Foster get out more. Especially just now it is most important that he should drop the silvicultural studies being made under office orders, and spend the rest of the open season, until snow drives him in, getting material for the grazing map which the reserve needs more than anything else. Let him work this map up in the winter, helping also with the grazing correspondence, which is greater for awhile than any supervisor could do alone. Next spring let him continue with timber, survey, and map work in the field, McKenzie being called in if Schmitz needs a substitute in the office. If there is an opportunity this fall or early in the spring, Foster should also help run some boundary lines. About a year of this preliminary semi-technical work will show both Foster's capacity and the need of a technical assistant permanently on this reserve, while Schmitz and McKenzie will have

worked up an office system which will permit Foster's being assigned elsewhere if desirable.

Under the circumstances, Foster has not done enough outside work to allow forming any opinion of his competency. I tried to arrange for a few days' trip with him in the Odell sale region, but he failed to meet me on the day set and I did not connect with him. He gives the impression of taking small interest in field work, although thoroughly willing to if asked, but this may easily be due entirely to his having had no opportunity to get interested. He is exceedingly popular with the rangers, having adopted a tactful friendly manner which is in pleasing contrast to the frequent patronizing conceit exhibited by newly assigned technical assistants, and they all say that although inexperienced in woods work he accepts everything most cheerfully. I am inclined to think he will be thoroughly good at it if given a fair chance. His work as office assistant and acting supervisor is remarkably good, although he has not felt warranted in taking much responsibility upon himself.

Asst. Forest Ranger S. A. Blankenship is an excellent representative of the hardy woodsman type which has always furnished the best men for the main work of the reserves. A little over 30, he has always lived in the mountains, is good at all kinds of woods work, honest, industrious and popular. He is reliable under instructions and at work with which he is familiar, but not likely to show much initiative or to rise far in the Service. He could easily earn more than his present salary in lumbering or similar occupations, but wants to stay in the work and be promoted. On the salary basis which we expect to establish he will be worth \$90 or \$100 a month; but with the crying need of this reserve for a much larger force, and my understanding that money is short, I do not feel warranted in recommending his promotion at this time. It should be understood, however, that this not a reflection of Blankenship's competency.

Assistant Forest Ranger O. T. Green is of about the same worth as an officer, although different in personality and training. He is illiterate, indeed reports worst of any man on the reserve, and has had some experience in timber cruising and was brought up with stock. Service in the Spanish war (or Philippine) has added a strict idea of discipline and regulations to a natural sufficiency of self-importance, which made him so autocratic and unpopular in his first district that Schmitz had to transfer him to another with admonitions to be more tactful. Now he seems to have struck just about the proper gait. With the most crowded sheep district on the reserve, I believe he has secured the best enforcement of regulations yet is respected rather than disliked for the firmness of his authority. Still, he requires some watching to prevent overzealousness. He is very careless about his reports. I consider him a valuable man of his kind, destined to reach the top of the Deputy grade at least, but for the same economical reasons quoted in Blankenship's case do not recommend him for promotion this fall unless it can be done without shortening the other increase asked for this reserve.

Forest Guard T. McKenzie is undoubtedly the most interesting and promising man on the Wenaha. A New Zealander of Scotch descent, he is an educated man whose adventurous spirit prevented him from making the most of his advantages in youth.

Originally a book-keeper, he has drifted around the world in many occupations, as far apart as sailing before the mast and herding sheep. While a sheepherder he studied law and is said to have fully qualified for practice but could not bring himself to an indoor life. Now, at a little over 30, he sees in the Service just the combination he has been looking for and seems to have all the qualities for success. Intelligent, educated, quick to learn and pleasing, he combines the training of a well bred man with a wide range of outdoor experience, and is withal thoroughly reliable. Still new at the work, he has absorbed more from the Use Book than most officers of long experience. I am inclined to think outdoor work appeals too strongly to make him ambitious for a supervisor's position, and it is just possible that the roving habit may again assert itself, but if not he should rise rapidly to be the supervisor's right hand man in field and office. I strongly urge his immediate appointment at \$900, as Asst. Forest Ranger, if he passed the examination, and his retention on duty this winter.

Forest Guard Moses Kinnear is a cow puncher of the picturesque story book type. Shrewd, self-reliant, cheerful, hard-riding; he just misses being a most valuable permanent man for this reserve. He is, however, limited by lack of adaptiveness and education to a subordinate position, while too well able to make more money out of cattle to be satisfied with such long. His opinions and prejudices are strong, giving the impression that although he would not fail to obey orders he might resign if anything should not suit him. He does not feel that he is settled in the work. If he passed the examination and desires employment at \$75 next spring, I should consider him a very valuable man for summer grazing and fire work, but do not think he is yet a safe investment as a permanent all round officer.

Forest Guard Albert Baker, owing to his youth and inexperience in a position of authority, is at present probably the least useful man on the reserve. I think, however, that he will develop into a good officer of the Deputy grade at least. He has a comparatively good education (wrote an alleged poem in Latin once), together with the general experience of ranch life and some trapping in a remote part of Oregon. He is greatly interested in the work, being the kind of man who delights in studying all kinds of details, whether useful or not. For example, he is something of a trapper, having spent three winters at it, but instead of having the woodsman's usual contempt for things bookish and theoretical, takes magazines devoted to such subjects and studies their suggestions assiduously. Although probably about 26 or 27, he is somewhat immature in conversation and apparently in mind, and I doubt whether he will ever prove very strong or original; but it is safe to say he will make the most of opportunities to become familiar with every line of work and become a very industrious useful man under proper supervision. He should go on next spring at \$75.

This completes the personnel list. It is an exceptionally good one; especially in that, while containing no remarkably efficient men, neither has it any poor ones. All are new to the work, hence untrained in reserve procedure. Schmitz is too much in the same category to be a good instructor. As a force, they lack organization and familiarity with their duties. But from Schmitz down, they are good material and have accomplished a great deal. I doubt whether the same expenditure in salaries has ever kept so new and

difficult a reserve in better condition as a whole. It is worthy of notice that all are exceedingly well equipped in outfit. Every man has two good horses, some three or four, although they are very high now in the Pacific northwest.

Equipment.

The stock of instruments, tools and supplies is rather poor, but the authorization will not stand more. I cannot mention any particular thing that is urgently needed, except fencing material, but the general impression received is of great economy.

The office is attractive and neatly kept, with a good but simple sign.

Files and records are about the best I have seen, except for some temporary expedients necessary while waiting for another section ordered. Subjects are generally easy to investigate and complete in record. Sales are a little slack in form, as I have explained elsewhere, and there has been a little too much verbal instruction to rangers when letters, for the purpose of record, would have been better. Financial and authorization matters are kept track of all right, although I suggested more convenient methods of doing so. Card records are fully utilized and neatly kept, except that occasionally one which is not quite up to date can be found. I cannot speak positively of the personnel cards, however, for I do not understand myself just what should go on them, nor the significance of the abbreviations.

The weakest feature of the office system is lack of reliable maps, hence the impossibility of keeping up graphic records by this means, as required. The present map is without detail and incorrect, although it has been much improved since issued by the office. A good topographic map is the greatest need of the reserve, and I have recommended elsewhere Foster's devotion to this work. Without it satisfactory grazing allotment is impossible, of the multiplicity and complication of topographic detail make descriptions with ordinary facilities impracticable, while they are necessary in an individual allotment system such as must be used here.

The ambiguity of the Use book on this subject seems almost certain to be injurious on all reserves which have not good maps already. The old Land Office manual and last year's Use Book stated definitely that two kinds of maps (describing them) should be kept up, but the new edition leaves this question unintelligible. Apparently the Washington office is to furnish a large scale map for record use, and this must be awaited, but it is not clear what initiative, if any, must be taken by the supervisor. The result will be neglect of map work and records.

Protection.

Fires are not particularly hard to handle on the Wenaha when once reached, but the country is so broken and hard to traverse that it is difficult to reach them at an early stage, while there are no settlements to furnish help with a fire which has become large enough to need it. For this reason, and because of the great frequency of lightning

without rain, a small ranger force cannot hope to escape a good many fairly bad fires every year. A man may easily see one not more than a mile or two away, yet be nearly a day reaching it, for the whole reserve is a network of deep and difficult canyons. When I was out I found the three northern rangers all at work on lightning fires, with more burning which they had not had time to visit at all. In such a country, five men make a discouragingly small force, even if they had no other work to do. The area of the Wenaha reserve is misleadingly expressed by acres computed from horizontal land surveys, for it is multiplied in actual surface by the exceeding roughness, which also greatly increases the difficulty of communication. The climate is dry and lightning common. Sheep and stock men, as a rule, are both careful with fire and ready to help, but they seldom have proper tools or can be found in any numbers. Herders, of course, cannot often leave the sheep, while camptenders are hard to find.

I learned of nothing to criticize in the handling of fires which have occurred. The men are all experienced in such work. I worked on a fire for part of three days with Schmitz and Blankenship, assisted by two camptenders, and found them exceedingly competent.

A better supply of tools is desirable, also a much better distribution of fire warnings. Since travel in the interior is chiefly by sheep and stock men who are familiar with the laws and regulations, the officers have neglected this precaution too much. On my whole trip through the reserve lengthwise, taking 12? days, I saw only 18 warnings. I spoke of this to all the men.

Roads are few and always will be, owing to the roughness of the country and absence of towns, mines, farming communities or lumbering. Two or three lead in a few miles to headquarter sheep camps, while one crosses the middle from east to west, passable in summer, but they add little to the convenience of patrol or transporting men or supplies in reserve business. There is talk of a high mountain road along what is known as the Dayton trail, to afford communication between Dayton, Wn., and the Grouse Flat country near Bartlett, Oregon, and there are inquiries as to what the reserve force will do toward it. The project is unformed yet, so it is impossible to take any action, and I doubt whether it will come to anything. The road would be a good thing, but expensive.

Trails. Few reserves in mountainous regions can be so thoroughly traversed with horses, still few if any are traversed with such difficulty. The absence of heavy timber, dense chaparral or uncrossable streams, makes it possible to go almost anywhere if one picks a circuitous way along open ridgetops or takes time to climb up and down precipitous slopes or through windfalls of small trees. As a result, there are few trails worthy of the name, but many established routes of travel, chosen as being the least impracticable. The trails which exist are worn by following these routes, but represent almost no work. They may wind for miles where a few days work would cut off half or more, and frequently keep grades of 30 to 40 percent for long distances where switchbacks are perfectly feasible. An average of two miles an hour is considered fair traveling with a good horse.

Obviously an immense amount of time is wasted in patrolling, packing supplies, and reaching fires. The compensating advantage is that nearly all routes lead over the tops of ridges and mountains, because they are more open, so the traveler has a much better outlook than if they were laid out with a view to getting somewhere easily. Considering patrol only, I believe the conditions are ideal; the difficulty comes where the traveler has an objective point, and since they exist nearly everywhere, it is hard to say where work is most necessary.

The officers, especially Kinnear, have started some planning and work of this kind, and may accomplish a little this winter, perhaps, but not much can be done until there is more money. For the present, cabin, pasture, and survey work is of infinitely greater importance except, possibly, in a few minor instances of shortening or repair.

Cabins and Pastures. These, especially pastures, are needed badly. Horsefeed may be said to govern reserve work at present. Whether fire, trespass, or other work, calls urgently to any spot, the question is always "Where is the nearest horsefeed?" Even on my trip, when the day's travel could be arranged with this in view, we failed several times to find feed nearer than a mile or more from the only possible camping place, so had to lose an hour or two night and morning taking horses out and finding them again. At best, it was difficult to keep them in working condition.

This is in a grass country, where only protection is needed to make good pasture almost anywhere. Rangers' pastures and headquarters have been selected for reservations, and fencing will solve the problem. Yet the force is so small, and its duties so many, that nothing has been accomplished. The men are most anxious to do this work, also to build cabins, but do not see how they can get any time for it before snow makes the interior, where it is most needed, inaccessible. The reserve authorization allows but \$250 for shelter, of which \$180? must go for office rent, leaving but \$70 for all cabin and fence work. Only \$25 is allowed for equipment, from which tools must be bought. Unless the authorization is increased materially, the reserve cannot gain in permanent improvements, even if more men to do the work are allowed. I consider this work not only of the highest importance from a protective point of view, but a most paying investment, for it will double the efficiency of the force in every way.

Boundary Line marking is also desirable, for many portions are unknown, hence trespass cannot be guarded against or successfully prosecuted. It can be done in winter, in many places, but two men cannot do other work and this too, nor have they proper instruments. More men and money again! Work of this kind is needed especially around the southern end of the reserve, where the stock pressure is heaviest.

Game is not an important feature, chiefly because of sheeping for so long. There are somewhere from 25 to 50 elk on the reserve, also scattered deer in small numbers, but it can never be a hunting country again. Mountain sheep are nearly or quite extinct. The greatest disturbing influence now is summer bands of Umatilla Indians, who have no regard for game laws. They come during the busy fire and sheep season, when the

rangers have no time to watch them. I do not believe it would pay to bother with the game question.

Bear and coyotes are numerous enough to bother sheep considerably.

MISCELLANEOUS & CONCLUDING REMARKS.

This being my first report under the prescribed outline, I have not learned just where, in the subject arrangement, to include general financial recommendations. It seems to me a grave mistake was made in fixing the Wenaha authorization for the current year. Largely because it has practically no waste land, it is, and will be, one of the most profitable Reserve of its size. This makes its proper care a matter for selfish consideration by the Service, as well as proving the dependence of important public interests upon the same care. The acceptance of this income entails responsibility. Yet but a small proportion is devoted to the purpose of protecting either those who bear the burden or its future earning capacity. I realize fully that the paying reserves must contribute to the support of the others, but I do not believe it any more expedient than just for them to do so to an extent which fails to safeguard their stock in trade and the business of their customers. This consideration is even more important on a new reserve, which has neither improvements nor machinery for the proper conduct of its business, than on an old one well started and equipped. A certain investment is warranted for the sake of increased future returns.

With its present machinery, the Wenaha is not only in danger of diminution of its earning capacity, but the machinery itself is not economical for its size. The reserve is without cabins, pastures, trails, or boundaries. Lacking these, the men work at disadvantage at every turn; wasting time and money and, through no fault of their own, giving neither public nor government the service which their salaries should bring. As it affects fire and similar work, this situation is bad enough; but grazing suffers worst. It is peculiarly true of this reserve that the maintenance of the greatest safe number of stock, and consequent income, is a matter of properly controlling the handling of the stock. Doubtless the range can be protected by heavy reduction of numbers, but I wish to emphasize that the same result is possible without heavy reduction provided wasteful methods are abolished, therefore without great loss of revenue by either the industry or the Service. But to successfully carry out this plan there must be a ranger force large enough not only to enforce the regulations, impossible now, but to actually guide and control the movement of the stock. Fullest utilization of the range is the end to be sought, and from a study of the exceedingly wasteful past and present practice, which has become an ingrained habit, I am confident it can be secured only by going even farther than individual allotment and exercising close supervision over the movement of nearly every band. And another important point; the sheepmen expect this help. They are paying, not only for the opportunity to get their sheep through the present season, but for protection against encroachments by their rivals and, above all, against destruction of their industry. It is not wholly logical to say that they, themselves, should bring about the needed reforms in handling, for the man who owns the sheep and pays the fees cannot do this. The herders and tenders who handle the sheep, on monthly

wage and without interest, are beyond his control in the matters which really need reform. I believe it is our function to assume this control, for the owners interest in return for the fees they pay, as well as for our own. And I believe thoroughly that a greater expenditure for this purpose will bring returns far greater than the outlay, in short that it is business as well as duty to return to the customers of the Wenaha reserve, in the form of the protection they desire, a greater proportion of the revenue they contribute.

The present allotment is as follows:

1 Ranger in charge @	\$1800?	12 months,	\$1800?
1 Forest Assistant	\$1556?	12 months,	\$1556?
2 Asst. For. Rangers	\$900?	12 months,	\$1800?
3 Forest Guards	?	6 months,	_____?

I recommend instead:

1 Deputy Supervisor	\$1500	12 months,	1500
1 Forest Assistant	1556	12 months,	1556
3 Asst. For. Rangers	990?	12 months,	27??
2 Asst. For. Rangers	?	7 months,	1?5?
3 Forest Guards	720	5 months,	<u>900</u>
			77?6

Which is not far from half the income of the reserve. Four men could be employed through the coming winter profitably, but I have given three as absolutely necessary. These should be Green, Blankenship and McKenzie. Two more should be put on April 1, when interior work can be taken up, and three guards June 1, when the sheep enter. The five summer men will not be needed after October 31, unless used for improvement work.

I carelessly forgot to figure closely on the increase of authorization necessary to furnish wire and other material for pastures and cabins, but obviously the \$250? allowed for this purpose will not go far after providing office rent. Schmitz should be asked for an estimate based upon the amount of such work the force, as enlarged, can accomplish.

The authorization also limits travel to the State of Washington. Since the reserve is over half in Oregon and it is — or at least has been — necessary to perform rail travel in that State, both should be included.

Very respectfully,

Forest Inspector.