

**REPORT ON
CHESNIMNUS FOREST RESERVE OREGON**

by M.L. Erickson
Assistant Forest Inspector

January 1907

Chesnimnus Forest Reserve,
Chapman, January 11, 1907.

Boise, Idaho,
Jan. 11, 1907.

Mr. Thomas H. Sherrard,
Forest Service,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sherrard:

I enclose report on the Chesnimnus Forest Reserve. I should like a carbon of this and the report on the Wallowa Reserve, when typewritten.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) CHAS. S. CHAPMAN

February 18, 1907.

Inspection – Erickson 1/7/07.

Mr. H.K. O'Brien,
Wallowa, Oregon.

Dear Sir:-

In his report upon the Chesnimnus Forest Reserve, Inspector Erickson calls attention to a place known as the "Notch" on the trail from the Imnaha River where stock must string out in passing and can be counted very easily. It is recommended that you make use of this in counting stock which enter the reserve at the beginning of the coming grazing season.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Overton W. Price,
Associate Forester.

**PROTECTION, EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL
CHESNIMNUS RESERVE,**

Erickson, Jany. 7, 1907.

PROTECTION.

Forest Fires.

Fires are not serious at the present stage of the forest growth. At one time probably 50 to 100 years ago some immense forest fires passed over most of the reserve, leaving fire scars on the old trees. Scattered yellow pine trees show signs of being badly burned at one time. At present it is no difficult matter to protect the forest from fire by merely efficient patrolling. There need be no provisions made to guard against forest fires in this region. There are enough open areas on the tops of the main summit so that a guard patrolling any part of the reserve can see long distances and discover indications of a forest fire. Therefore the establishment of no permanent lookout stations is recommended. The rangers' headquarters site at Cold Springs is located on what is almost the highest part of the reserve. From this point he can see over the greatest portion of the Chesnimnus Reserve. There are many other high points from which a patrol officer could discover the smoke of a forest fire.

Trails.

Existing trails in the reserve are numerous and most of them are easy to travel. In many parts of the reserve no trails are necessary since the country is open and devoid of underbrush or fallen timber. These main routes of travel, however, exist principally along the high ridges and summits where travel is most easy. Without knowing the country it would be quite difficult to cross the canyons in going where one would desire, without following a trail around. I therefore recommend that several short trails be constructed across some of the canyon country, in order to save time in going directly from one point to another. A most important trail would be from Chico west to Sled Springs, crossing Swamp and Davis Creeks. This trail will cross two canyons in which there will be considerable grade work required. In addition to the ranger labor there will probably be necessary for use in blasting, \$25 worth of powder. Another trail which would be a great convenience should extend in an easterly and westerly direction from Hidaway Springs on Table Mountain to Cold Springs, following quite closely the head of Cottonwood Creek after crossing the canyon of Joseph Creek. There would probably be required a sum of \$70 in the necessary rock and grade work to construct this trail.

There are several good trails which, exist passing through the reserve in a northerly and southerly direction.

Roads.

A few good roads exist in the Chesnimnus Reserve. One important one passes through the reserve by the way of Sled Springs, and another, although it is not so well traveled, extends from Kernan's ranch through the reserve past Cold Springs to Aplington's ranch. Other roads are the Eureka wagon road, the Crow Creek and Chesnimnus wagon road, and several short ones in the vicinity of Chico and Elk Mountain.

Cabins.

There is contemplated by Supervisor O'Brien the construction of two rangers' cabins this winter on the Chesnimnus Reserve. One located at the Fisk headquarter site near Chico, and the other located at Sled Springs. The cabin at the former place was being constructed when I visited the reserve. It will be a large, commodious log building 24 x 14 feet in the clear. It is located at a very good place in central portion of the reserve and close to a post office. The site is a very good one. There is considerable agricultural land on this rangers' headquarters, and much excellent bunch grass on the hillside bordering on Chesnimnus Creek can be fenced to furnish pasture land for the forest officers' horses. The cabin is in a convenient place, in a good community and located for comfort as well as utility. A small garden and a good nursery site are to be obtained immediately about the cabin.

A very substantial cabin is being built. It is intended for the home of ranger Fay and his family. The cabin is carefully constructed and well planned. The roof will be covered with tamarack shakes laid in shingle fashion. The satisfactory feature about the construction is that the windows, doors, ceiling, casings and all necessary lumber will be obtained from the abandoned buildings on the Foreman, Entry and Mitchell claims which are located about three miles from this place. Guard Fay is furnishing a team and wagon for freighting this material to the cabin. The cost, therefore, for materials will be merely for the necessary interior furnishings such as stove, etc., and will not exceed perhaps \$50. This is a very commendable piece of work.

Another cabin is planned at Sled Springs to be used by a ranger for the headquarter site of the eastern portion of the Chesnimnus Reserve. It is contemplated also to secure much of the finish material from the abandoned buildings on the Foreman and Mitchell claims.

Game.

There is quite an abundance of deer and considerable elk to be found on the Chesnimnus Reserve. Since the Indians have been kept out the past season, the settlers are very pleased to state to forest officers that in their opinion game are on the increase. This is undoubtedly partially true.

There were a band of about 30 Nez Perce Indians from Idaho who had crossed the Snake River with the intention of hunting big game in the Chesnimnus Reserve. They brought their horses, about 100 head, their squaws and personal belongings with the intention of remaining all fall until they had their larders filled with deer meat. These

Indians were stopped by Forest Guard McClain in September and held off the reserve until they were able to show a hunting license and also hold a permit for grazing their horses on the reserve. Since the Indians, being citizens of Idaho, they could not obtain a permit for hunting for less than ten dollars, which was beyond their means. They attempted to go on the reserve in spite of the forest officer, but the bluff that McClain put up succeeded in checking their advance. There was no telephone communication, and it would have been impossible for him to reach the other forest officers on the reserve, so his stand alone, which succeeded so well deserves commendation. I think there will be little trouble in barring the Indians from the reserve next season. It is very true that great slaughter of game has been perpetrated by the Indians in previous years.

There are a bunch or two of elk on the reserve which should be protected in every way possible. Grouse and feathered game are abundant.

Telephones.

Mr. O'Brien tells me that he may possibly arrange with the Verger Telephone Company for the construction of a telephone line through a portion of the reserve which will extend along the county road from Wallowa to Sled Springs, and a short line from Sled Springs across the country to the Chico camp, or else a line from Enterprise to Chico. In the event that connections are made between Chico and Sled Springs he states that arrangements can be made to lease instruments at a dollar per month. It would be a very good thing if all these telephone lines are constructed, and it appears to be a certain fact that this company will build to, and beyond Sled Springs. I believe it would not be advisable to wait for the company to extend from Enterprise to Chico, but would recommend the Forest Service construct a line across the reserve from Sled Springs to the Chico rangers' cabin, which will be a distance of approximately ten miles. This then will give the forest officers the use of the telephone without extra cost, since the Verger line will pass through a part of the reserve in some of their extensions for which a permit will be required, and free use of their service by forest officers thereby secured. The amount of \$1.00 per month for the use of instruments is not large, but in the long run will amount to a great deal. I recommend in all cases where possible the forest service own its own lines, when its use will be mainly reserve business. The construction of this line would not involve any great expense. In my mind it is not advisable to set posts in the ground, since the cost is great and the permanency of these posts is not entirely satisfactory. It seems to me that in the yellow pine forest the stringing of the wires from tree to tree will serve an excellent purpose and require very little repair. Many such lines exist throughout the country and are proving quite satisfactory.

Another telephone line should be constructed from Kernan's ranch to the Southern edge of the reserve to the Cold Springs Rangers' site. This is a distance of about fourteen miles. There is now no connection between the northern portion of the reserve and the Supervisor's office. Cold Springs is a very important ranger's station, and also an excellent lookout point. It should have communication with the Chico camp, and also with the Supervisor's office at Wallowa. The construction of this line will cost merely the

amount of the wire and instruments, since the wire can be strung from tree to tree and the work done by forest officers. At Kernan's ranch connections can be made on a private line without cost. Mr. Kernan and the parties interested with him would be very glad to have this line constructed and will perhaps co-operate with the forest service, since it will afford them communication with their sheep camps throughout the reserve. They also might construct a short line connecting the Hays Kernan ranch on Basin Creek with Cold Springs, a distance of four or five miles, which would give them convenient communication.

EQUIPMENT.

The office at Wallowa is well supplied with the necessary furniture and other office equipment. There are two Oliver typewriters in his office which is accounted for by the fact that the clerk who assisted him in the office last summer is no longer in the service, and the new typewriter and stand secured for him still remains in the office. This will be needed, however, because a regular office assistant will be necessary. He thinks press of work at times will require both machines.

With several axes, mattocks, marking hatchets and such equipment the office is well supplied. A number of necessary tools such as hammers, chisels, planes, screw drivers, wrenches, hand saws, frow, etc., used in cabin construction are on hand at the Chico headquarter station.

With ordinary equipment such as is furnished by the Washington office as non-expendable articles, Supervisor O'Brien is well supplied.

He has now a very suitable sign in front of the office. The office is quite well equipped and very suitable for this work.

There is some trouble in the condition of non-expendable material such as envelopes, writing paper, card and other forms, which often arrives much jammed up, due to the long stage trip. These articles are only encased in paper boxes and the vigorous jolting that they receive over rough wagon roads, causes them to arrive in a bad condition. Many of the envelopes, for instance, are so crumpled when they are unpacked that they are unfit to be used for ordinary work.

I recommend that material to be shipped part way by stage should be cased in wooded boxes to avoid jamming. I have found this condition to be the same at the Prineville office with Supervisor A.S. Ireland.

GRAZING, CHESNIMNUS RESERVE,

Erickson, Jany. 7, 1907.

GRAZING.

The condition of the range is in very good shape as far as I could determine. It will be impossible for me to report in general on the range conditions since snow covered the ground when I made my inspection. From the condition in which the stock left the reserve and also from information received from the forest officers and from settlers, I am certain the range is in excellent condition, and do not believe the reserve is at all overstocked. The area comprised within the Snake River breaks affording winter grazing consists of tall and abundant bunch grass. It affords very good winter feed, and this country has not been overgrazed.

The matter of grazing as a whole on the Chesnimnus Reserve has been gone over quite thoroughly by Mr. Potter with Mr. O'Brien at the Wallowa stock meeting. At the time the questions of the number of stock allowed, the division of the ranges, the proper allotment to each applicant, the percentage of cut, the grazing fees and general policy were definitely settled, so that I need not discuss them here. Mr. O'Brien's grazing report contains very definite recommendations and in general is a good one which can be approved in full.

The care of stock on the reserve has been very good. No stock man had any particular contention to make in respect to the way in which the forest officers handled their stock. The sheep and also the cattle were all counted in on the reserve. There is one very good place to count cattle as they enter the reserve. It is along the county trail from Imnaha River, and all the cattle from that part of the country which use of the Chesnimnus Reserve must pass along this trail and through the "Notch" where they cannot pass in bunches of more than two or three at a time and can be easily counted. This has been and should be made use of in counting stock on the reserve at the opening of the grazing season. The regulations of salting and keeping within allotments has been carefully carried out. Very little trouble existed in the management of the grazing on the Chesnimnus Reserve although it was quite possible for much difficulty to arise through poor management because of the varied and many grazing seasons, and also on account of the division between the cattle and sheep ranges.

Grazing Trespass.

F.D. McCully
October 6th, 1906.

Joseph, Oregon,
Chesnimnus.

The circumstances concerning this trespass were stated in full in Ranger Chidsey's report. Briefly they are as follows: Sam Baker who had 1500 ewes and increase in the Wallowa Reserve last season under permit No. 266, left the reserve somewhat sooner than the season ended on account of short feed. The Supervisor was not informed by Mr. Baker as to the condition of this range, and Ranger Stewart, who was advised of it, failed to provide any additional range (as he was instructed to do later when Mr. O'Brien learned of the facts) by giving Baker some of the McFetridge allotment. This was not done and Baker took his sheep out of the reserve and immediately placed them on the Chesnimnus Reserve September 6th. At about this time there were negotiations for transfer of ownership to F.D. McCully, but as to the definite date at which this took place

is the essential point in determining upon whom to place the responsibility for this trespass. McCully made application for transferring this permit for a permit to graze in the Chesnimnus Reserve, covering the same sheep, which he had contracted to purchase from Sam Baker. The period of the grazing season on the Chesnimnus Reserve was from September 15th to November 30th. This application was made out on September 4th and received at the Supervisor's office on September 6th. In this application McCully states that it is made out for himself and covers his own sheep which he has purchased from Sam Baker.

When the sheep were located on the Chesnimnus Reserve Sam Baker who was handling them was notified of this trespass and told to move out. He refused to do so until ordered by McCully whom he claimed owned the sheep, having bought them of himself on September 1, 1906, when the sheep were delivered to McCully. This matter was fixed as to responsibility on McCully by Supervisor O'Brien and so reported to the forester. The forester's letter of October 16th approved the charge of \$50 as a fine. In submitting this matter to Mr. McCully, Supervisor O'Brien informed McCully as to the probability of unjust charges and fixing of responsibility. This left an opening immediately for Mr. McCully, and he replied in letter November 3rd stating that the contract for the purchase of Baker's sheep was made September 1st, but that the actual transfer and payment of the money for the sheep was not made until October 3rd. This is a mere statement by McCully and he has not yet backed these statements up with affidavits as he was requested to. Mr. Sam Baker when asked to furnish an affidavit replied that he would although he was reluctant to do so.

In conversation with Mr. O'Brien, McCully confesses that he paid Sam Baker wages for handling his sheep on the Chesnimnus Reserve during the days of the trespass. This then signifies quite clearly that Baker was not at that time the owner of the sheep. This deduction would be the only possible one. The sheep then could belong to no other person than F.D. McCully since he had already contracted for them which both parties agree as to the authenticity of.

The sheep were on the reserve about twenty-five days, and since this is a malicious trespass and seemingly an attempt at collusion between Mr. Baker and Mr. McCully so as to avoid fixing responsibility, I would recommend the fine be increased to \$100, and both parties be required to pay one half.

In summing up, evidences of collusion are quite apparent since both parties claim to disown the sheep during the month of September when the trespass occurred. Since Baker had sold the sheep or at least contracted for the sale of them on September 1st, there was no necessity for him to commit a trespass after this date. On the other hand, he was not afraid to trespass because he was going out of the sheep business. Mr. McCully might have thought he has sufficient evidence to show that he was not the owner of the sheep prior to October 1, 1906. Mr. Baker deserves some penalty because he refused to obey the orders of the forest officers to remove the sheep when so ordered, even if it is afterwards proved that he was not the owner of the sheep, and for this reason I recommend he stand one-half the fine. Another factor which would go

to place additional responsibility upon Mr. McCully is the fact that assuming responsibilities for sheep as soon as contracted for as were evidenced by paying Baker wages for handling them should warrant fixing responsibility for half the fine on McCully.

I therefore recommend a joint fine be imposed on F.D. McCully and Sam Baker, amounting to \$50 each.

(Signed) M.L. ERICKSON,
Asst. Forest Insp.

His Recommendations are:

1. Approve O'Brien's grazing report and recommendations.
2. In the F.D. McCully grazing trespass, require settlement of \$50 from both McCully and Baker.

BOUNDARIES, CHESNIMNUS RESERVE,

Erickson, Jany. 7, 1907.

BOUNDARIES.

The proposed addition to the Chesnimnus Reserve as shown by the accompanying map comprises the area north of the Chesnimnus Reserve extending to Washington state line and the Snake River breaks included between the eastern boundary of the reserve and Snake River down to the township line between 3 and 4.

The topography of the country may be very tersely and concisely described by the local phrase a sheep herded has used; he described the Snake River breaks as a "straight up and down country". It is indeed a "break" country; in other words a high plateau dropping off suddenly, forming numerous canyons and sharp ridges to the canyons of the Snake River. Deep gorges with almost precipitous sides, sharp, razor like ridges ending abruptly, characteristically mark the nature of this country. It is exceedingly rough; the rock is a lava overflow on top and Plutonic granite underneath. The latter becomes readily conspicuous as one reaches the bottoms of the gorges and looks up at the outcropping rock on the canyon walls. The tops of ridges extend to an altitude of 6,000 feet which in winter time are covered with much snow; by traveling a horizontal distance of three miles one drops to an elevation of 1,000 feet on Snake River where no snow exists and the flowers are still in bloom.

There is not much timber on this area. Its only appearance is along the creek bottoms and at the heads of canyons. It follows the creek canyons and dwindles down to broad-leaf species of forest in the lower portions of the streams. Scattered yellow pine occurs on north hillsides and in sags toward the upper portions of streams and at the heads of gulches. Some isolated bunches of timber in these localities occur where better soil moisture and less exposure prevail. The principal species are yellow pine and red fir.

Along the edges of these bunches of trees considerable reproduction is seen; most of the territory can very easily grow timber. Merely for the timber alone I would not recommend this area to be included within a forest reserve. There is not enough timber on it to warrant the cost of administration, but it is typically and essentially a grazing country and not agricultural.

As a grazing territory it is unexcelled for both summer and winter grazing. Excellent bunch grass grows on all slopes, especially on north and east slopes where more moisture prevails. The country has never been over grazed, primarily for the reason its exceeding roughness and lack of water in summer. It affords very excellent summer range for cattle, but they are required to keep along the water courses, consequently in the summer the upper country towards the heads of gulches and on the ridges is not grazed at all. Therefore, in the winter time and also in early spring and late fall sheep use this area for grazing at those seasons of the year. It is very excellent range for sheep during spring, fall and winter. They feed on the high hills at the tops of the ridges and on the very steep slopes where cattle would not dare to venture in the winter time on account of the slippery places and small ice patches. The sheep get along very well on this high country in the winter time and find sufficient water. At any rate not much water is required for sheep during the winter season. This area affords good winter range for cattle also, but they are required to keep along the lower slopes and graze practically the same ground that they had fed on during the summer.

There is some difficulty among the settlers and outside stock men. Washington owners have customary driven their stock across the state line and crowded seriously the resident settlers. These settlers now desire the area created a forest reserve so as to afford them better protection. The country will also support a large number of Washington stock.

The extent of agricultural land within this area is so little that no difficulty will result in adjusting the status of claims, nor will there be but a very few applications for agricultural lands under the act of June 11, 1905. The agricultural land fit for cultivation is limited to a few of the more level spots along the creeks and bottoms of gulches. The best agricultural claim within this territory is the Aplington fruit ranch located on Horse Creek, and situated at an altitude of 1300 feet. Other ranches of suitable character are the Kernan, Blanc, and Dobbins squatters' claims which grow good alfalfa hay. Within this are is an abandoned ranch bearing 100 fruit trees which Supervisor O'Brien desires to select as a ranger's site. It would make a good one and also furnish enough product from the agricultural land to materially aid in reducing the cost of living.

The boundary line of this area recommended for addition to the Chesnimnus Reserve, should begin at the edge of the survey on the west breaks of Joseph Creek as shown on the map to include all the county north of the present boundary of the reserve and south of the state line, and east of the reserve boundary to Snake River, and bounded on the south by the town line between townships 3 and 4 north, and extending thence north along the range line between ranges 48 and 49 to Snake River.

The edge of the survey on the west break of Joseph Creek will make a very good boundary line, since this survey follows the edge of the rims formed by the country breaking off into Joseph Creek canyon. West of this line is surveyed country and included large settlements and very much agricultural land all of which is comprised within the Lovely, the Paradise, the Promised Land and Garden of Eden country, which would never do to include within a forest reserve. The boundary on the south of this proposed addition also borders close on settlement and considerable agricultural land included within the breaks and benches of the Imnaha River on which there are producing ranches. It is not advisable to include the lower Imnaha country bordering on the Imnaha River since this is largely agricultural land and many ranchers are located here. They raise excellent fruit and all have some stock. It is almost entirely alienated.

Another area which has been petitioned for inclusion within the Chesnimnus Reserve, lies south of the present boundary in Townships 2 and 3 north, range 46 and Township 2 North Range 47 East. This is the least suitable of the whole country for adding to the reserve. About 50 per cent, of it is deeded land. The object in creating this area in a forest reserve would be merely to regulate the grazing and relieve the settlers of much difficulty in keeping sheep from eating out their adjacent range. Much agricultural land exists within it; however, most of this is now taken up and the remaining area which is vacant land consists primarily of undesirable scab rock country. There is no timber whatever within this area except small bunches of reproduction in the western portions of it. I have added about twenty sections on the west and south which will include considerable timber land in the vicinity of Elk Mountain; about fifty per cent of this is alienated.

The unsurveyed township, Township 3 North, Range 43 East, shown on the accompanying map, is included in Mr. O'Brien's recommendation for withdrawal. I have not been over the ground and cannot definitely recommend the creation of this township in the proposed addition. From a distance there appears to be considerable good timber on it. It is rough, furnishing much good grazing and the ridges are apparently open. The timber seems to occur on the slopes and in the canyons. The whole township is unfit for agriculture. There are only three quarters residing in it, and I feel certain there is very little agricultural land in the township. I would feel safe in recommending its inclusion in the proposed addition, but I cannot definitely do so because I have not been over the ground.

I respectfully recommend that all that portion shown on the map and bounded by the red line be created as an addition to the Chesnimnus Forest Reserve.

(Signed) M.L. ERICKSON
Assistant Forest Inspector.

O-B

January 31, 1907.

Mr. H.K. O'Brien,
Wallowa, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith a carbon copy of a report by Assistant Forest Inspector M.L. Erickson, dated January 7, 1907. In this report Mr. Erickson recommends certain changes in the boundaries of the Chesnimnus Forest Reserve. The report is accompanied by a map which I also enclose for your inspection. Will you please consider this matter very carefully and send me a statement as to whether or not you agree with the recommendations of Mr. Erickson? If you desire any other changes made, please make a statement to that effect at the same time. The enclosed map and report should be returned with your recommendation.

Very truly yours,
{Signed} R.E. BENEDICT
In Charge.

2 Inclosures.

TIMBER SALES, CHESNIMNUS RESERVE

Erickson, January 7, 1907.

Chesnimnus Forest Reserve,
Chapman, January 11, 1907

Timber Sales

In General

Although the Chesnimnus Reserve lies near the Wallowa and like it, is on the watershed of the Snake River, these reserves differ greatly in topography. The Chesnimnus has none of the high peaks and sharp ridges found on the Wallowa, but is more like a high table-land deeply cut by numerous small streams.

This reserve is uniformly better timbered than the Wallowa, and with transportation facilities, some fine logging chances will be afforded. In fact, some of the areas now bearing heavy stands of pine are so level and free from rocks, that if the timber were off they would be claimed for agricultural purposes.

Unfortunately this reserve is not even as well supplied with waterways as the Wallowa, and the new railroads which are coming into the country will not help matters as much here as on the other reserve.

This reserve is not in a mining section, ranching and stock raising being the chief industries.

It is safe to say that sales on this reserve will not be extensive in the next few years, and that its revenue will be largely from grazing.

Stumpage Prices

Prices have, in the past, been about the same as on the Wallowa Reserve, namely, saw-timber, \$1 per 1,000 bd. ft., cordwood, 50 to 75 cents per cord; posts, 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 cents per post.

In two small sales of recent date, \$1.50 and \$2 per 1,000 bd. ft. was charged, and 22-foot poles were sold at 20 cents each. This shows a big advance over old prices.

A minimum set of prices to be charged for small amounts of timber and "free use" has been adopted on this reserve as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Yellow pine saw-timber | \$1.50 per M. |
| Tamarack saw-timber | \$1.50 per M. |
| Red fir saw-timber | \$1.50 per M. |
| Lodgepole pine saw-timber | \$1.50 per M. |
| White fir saw-timber | \$1.00 per M. |
| Tamarack tie timber | \$2.00 per M. |
| Red fir tie timber | \$2.00 per M. |
| Lodgepole pine tie timber | \$2.00 per M. |
| Red fir mining timber 7 to 10 inches | .40 per C.lin.ft. |
| Tamarack mining timber 7 to 10 inches | .40 per C.lin.ft. |
| Lodgepole pine mining timber 7 to 10 inches | .40 per C.lin.ft. |
| White fir mining timber 7 to 10 inches | .25 per C.lin.ft. |
| Red fir mining timber 11 to 14 inches | .50 per C.lin.ft. |
| Tamarack mining timber 11 to 14 inches | .50 per C.lin.ft. |
| Lodgepole pine mining timber 11 to 14 inches | .50 per C.lin.ft. |
| White fir mining timber 11 to 14 inches | \$.35 per 100 lin.ft. |
| Pine shake trees | 2.50 per M. bd.ft. |
| Tamarack shake trees | 2.50 per M. bd.ft. |
| Dead timber (cordwood) | .75 per M. bd.ft. |

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Live timber (cordwood) | .75 per cord |
| Dead timber (cordwood) | .50 per cord |
| Live timber (cordwood) defective and crooked | 1.00 per M. bd.ft. |
| Dead poles 3 inches in diameter | 1.25 per 100 poles |
| Dead poles 4 inches in diameter | 1.75 per 100 poles |
| Dead poles 5 inches in diameter | 2.50 per 100 poles |

These prices are to apply equally to the Wallowa and Chesnimnus reserves. The prices of mining timbers and perhaps saw-timber, should be raised.

Stumpage conditions off the reserves are the same as described in the report on the Wallowa Reserve.

Transportation Facilities

The only stream coming out of this reserve which could possibly be driven is Joseph Creek. If properly "blown out" and with splash dams, logs might be taken down this stream in the spring.

The proposed railroad from Huntington to Lewiston, grading for which is now under way, may make some of the Chesnimnus timber accessible.

For some time to come, however, probably the bulk of the timber will go out of this reserve in wagons and sleds. This means small mills in the timber, and small sales. Lumber in this section is hauled quite cheaply. Freighters have in the past, hauled 16 to 18 miles for \$3 per 1,000 bd. ft. Such prices can not, of course, be counted upon in every case, but a price of \$1.25 for each five miles hauled, can be safely figured upon, provided the haul is down grade.

Timber Sales

There have been four small sales on this reserve:

C.L. Hartshorn. – June 11, 1906. One thousand five hundred bd.ft of live tamarack, at \$1 per M. The contract called for the use of all material to 8 inches in the tops, and the stumps were to be cut not higher than 30 inches. One year was given to remove, and the case has not been closed.

Mrs. Callie Green. – Oct. 16, 1906. Five Hundred green and dead lodgepole pine poles at 50 cents per 100 poles. Material to be three inches at butt and over. Mrs. Green lived just across the State line in Washington, and but for the law prohibiting the giving of timber to residents of another State, would have been entitled to free use. The low price was charged on this account.

David Micchellod and Robin. – Nov. 30, 1906. Sixteen thousand bd.ft. of dead and green standing tamarack at \$1.50 per M. Lumber to be used to 4 inches in tops and no stumps to be cut higher than 30 inches.

J.H. Dobbin. – Dec. 13, 1906. Eight thousand, three hundred and twenty-seven bd. ft. live tamarack at \$2 per M.; 125 red fir telephone poles 22 feet long, and 5 inches at the small end, at 20 cents each. Six months' time is given to remove.

It will be noticed that all of the sales are for post timber or poles, and all are to stock men or ranchers for fencing purposes. A 30-inch stump is allowed to above the butt swell which some tamaracks have.

It is quite possible that small mill men may buy timber on this reserve, which they will market in Joseph and Enterprise, but there is yet timber comparatively near these towns and it is fair to suppose that this will be cut out first. Cordwood in the small towns is higher than ever before. Six dollars is the prevailing price, and at this rate such material can be hauled quite a distance at a profit.

Trespass

This reserve is very free from trespass cases. Only one case has come up, and that has been satisfactorily settled. There will probably be few if any more trespass cases on this reserve.

Hyatt trespass case. – This case involved three parties:

Geo. W. Mitchell, who owned and operated a portable sawmill, and had filed on a homestead near where the trespass took place.

W.D. Foreman, who filed on a homestead and then sold the timber to Mitchell at 37½ cents per 1,000 B.F., to be sawed at his mill and who was under agreement with Mitchell to log for the mill. After considerable timber had been cut from the quarter section, Foreman abandoned it, nor did he ever make any attempt to improve it aside from fencing. It was evident, therefore, that the claim had been taken for the timber, and the case being brought to the attention of the local land office was investigated. It was found, however, that the homestead was within the reserve, so the matter was referred to the Forest Service.

Geo. W. Hyatt, President of the E.M. and M. Co., of Enterprise, who bought the lumber from Mitchell, and who held a mortgage on the mill for its full value.

It was at first supposed that Hyatt, who was the only responsible party involved, was entirely to blame, for the trespass, and that he had used Mitchell as a go-between to stand the blame if any trouble arose. Further investigation proved that, while Hyatt was Mitchell's backer, he had no more control over him than his mortgage gave; that Mitchell

did not deliver all of his timber to Hyatt, and that Hyatt personally knew very little about what was taking place.

It was therefore decided that the only fair way was to hold three of the parties responsible.

Mitchell's books showed that he had taken from the Foreman homestead 613,385 bd.ft. of logs. Hyatt's books showed that he had actually received from Mitchell and given him credit for 492,426 bd. ft. of lumber. It was, therefore, assumed that the difference, or 120,959 bd.ft., was the amount sold or otherwise used by Mitchell.

A careful scale of all merchantable lumber left on the Foreman homestead showed 108,040 bd.ft. This was in tops and logs never skidded.

Settlement was, therefore, demanded on the following basis:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| George W. Hyatt | 492,426 bd.ft. at \$1 per M. | \$429.43 |
| Hyatt has also to clear up the area. | | |
| George W. Mitchell | 120,959 bd.ft. at \$1 per M. | 120.95 |
| W.D. Foreman | 108,040 bd.ft. left on ground, (double stumpage price for this reason) at \$2 | 216.08 |

While cutting the foreman timber, the mill stood on a vacant "forty", which Mitchell supposed to be included in his own homestead. From this "forty" Mitchell cut as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Sawed at mill | 65,515 bd.ft., value | \$65.51 |
| In mill construction (logs) | 3,700 bd.ft., value | 3.70 |
| Left on ground | 16,610 value | 33.22 |
| Total | | 102.43 |

This added to the above makes Mitchell's indebtedness \$233.38, and the total value of the timber taken, \$931.88.

Mitchell is now a day laborer, has a large family, and was entirely unable to raise any money. On his homestead, however on which he had cut no timber, and on which a relinquishment had been filed, were buildings and improvements valued at \$250. Since material in these could be used to advantage in Rangers' headquarters, it was considered advisable to take these in payment, and make Mitchell clean up the debris on the vacant "forty".

Foreman is also a day laborer, and it was not supposed that he could raise the money for settlement; he has, however, done so.

Hyatt in addition to paying for all material handled by him, is to clear up the Foreman homestead in the spring, as soon as the snow is off.

In view of the circumstances surrounding this case, I consider the settlement a very good one. The case has had wide publicity on both reserves, and the effect will be excellent.

In connection with this trespass, the affidavits of all parties concerned were taken, and were very instrumental in the settlement. In securing the affidavit of W.D. Foreman, Assistant Ranger Black, Wallowa Reserve, spent \$3 for notary fees and mileage.

I am informed by Supervisor O'Brien that payment of this has been refused by the disbursing office. This expenditure was necessary and the charges reasonable. Ranger Black had no experience in taking of affidavits, and naturally did not care to risk the delay and expense that would have followed had the work required doing over again. He, consequently, took Foreman before a notary who took his statement. I consider the hiring of the services of a notary warranted, and if there is any possible way of securing reimbursement for these expenses, I recommend that steps be taken to that end.

Free Use

The number of "free use" permits issued since this reserve has been organized is 23. Of these, 20 are for dead and 3 for green timber. Of these, for live timber, two were to the county for road construction, and one for fencing a ranch. This is an excellent showing, and the reserve officers are to be commended for so uniformly requiring the use of dead timber. On this reserve, as on the Wallowa, it is the intention to set aside communal cutting areas in dead timber, and to have certain days for the issuance of "free use".

Summary

There is very little timber being hauled on this reserve, nor are there indications that they will be in the near future. Sales and free use are being carried on very satisfactorily and there are practically no recommendations to be made.

A Technical Assistant is not needed here. In case of increased sales, however, one should be detailed to act on the two reserves under Supervisor O'Brien.

Along the banks of the Snake River, the climate is very mild even in winter. It was suggested by Assistant Ranger Fay, that this would be an excellent place to experiment with the planting of hardwoods. All hardwoods are now shipped into this country from the East at great expense. If there are places where hardwood can be grown

successfully on the reserves, these places should be located. Hardwoods should be the first species that can be planted with commercial success in this country.

TIMBER SALES.

Forest Conditions.

The forest is mostly an open, yellow pine stand which occurs on the high plateaus and ridges in bunches on the more suitable locations, north slopes and heads of gulches and scatteringly on the flat table land and on south slopes. Yellow pine does not reach its best development in any part of the Chesnimnus Reserve; it is comparatively short and small, the trees average about three logs each, and stand does not run high as a rule. Many of the trees, because growing in an open locality are quite limby, and do not furnish a great amount of clear lumber. The yellow pine here does not compare favorably with the yellow pine in the Blue Mountains. The characteristic forest is an open stand with considerable reproduction growing among the lava scab rock on the plateaus. The Chesnimnus country is dry and the soil porous and not very fertile. It is not well adapted for the best growth of timber. A peculiar condition in respect to the Chesnimnus country is that the main heads of the important streams do not rise in the timber but have their origin from springs in the bare hills beyond the timber belt. These streams then flow to the timbered country which is included within the reserve until they reach the breaks of the Grande Ronde and Snake Rivers, when again they pass through an open country. The timber belt seems to be midway between the source and the mouth of the principal streams. I cannot account for this condition except perhaps the moisture conditions resulting from the warm climate of the Snake River and the Chinook rains which would strike this central country before it would strike the more flat area at the heads of the streams.

Yellow pine is the prevailing species throughout the whole reserve. It occurs in mixture with red fir most frequently, but is often found in pure stands. Red fir is the next most important commercial species, and it reaches very suitable dimensions. It is always in mixture with yellow pine and tamarack. In size, it often exceeds yellow pine.

Tamarack is found in mixture with lodge pole pine and lower down with red fir and yellow pine. It is quite abundant and reaches large size.

Lodge pole pine occurs abundantly all over the reserve. There is a large patch of it extending along the Chesnimnus summit, principally at the heads of Cottonwood and Chesnimnus Creeks. There are probably 20,000 acres of this pure lodge pole timber in this part of the reserve.

Reproduction

There is a large amount of yellow pine reproduction all over the reserve. It seems to occur in groups, more particularly along the edge of the timbered belt, and in the vicinity of small groups of mature trees. It seems that yellow pine is extending the area of its

occurrence very rapidly over the reserve. There are many examples, especially in the southeastern portion of the reserve, showing how abundant the yellow pine reproduction occurs. Among these groups are often found red fir and tamarack; red fir principally on the high-exposed ridges, while yellow pine in the more protected situations such as the bottoms of gulches. Lodge pole pine reproduction is also quite abundant throughout the reserve, but this has been brought about more particularly through the agency of forest fires.

Natural reproduction is excellent all over the reserve. In handling timber sales there need be but little precaution required in marking to secure an excellent stand of seedlings. The only essential thing is effective patrol to keep out forest fires. Grazing as restricted at present does not injure reproduction in the least.

Estimated Stand of Timber.

I am making an attempt at approximating the stand of timber on each of the reserves I have visited. I believe that some conservative figures on stand, even though time does not suffice to arrive at anything more than an approximate estimate, can be used in the future handling of timber sales as a basis on which to arrive approximately at the extent of cutting that can be accomplished without injuring the productive capacity of the forest. A figure for the stand of timber will also serve as a basis in calculating the revenue capacity of the reserve.

The Chesnimnus Reserve may be classified for the purpose of arriving at the amount of merchantable timber on it as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 15% open grazing lands | |
| 15% lodge pole pine land yielding 1500 ft. per acre | 49,570,000 |
| 70% yellow pine and red fir land yielding 4000 ft. per acre | 749,000,000 |
| Total | 798,570,000 |

SALES.

There are but two small timber sales on the Chesnimnus Forest Reserve. The C.L. Hartshorn sale of June 11th, 1906, was of 15,000 feet of live standing tamarack at a price of \$1.00 per thousand. The provisions in the contract limit the cutting diameter to 20 inches three feet from the ground, and the stump height is 30 inches. I did not examine this sale since it is a small one and only three or four trees are involved, which does not make it much more than a free use case. From the contract I would say that 30 inches stump height is too high, although it is a fact that tamarack has very much of a butt swelling and the forest officers thinking that 30 inches would be above the butt swelling allowed the stumps to be cut at 30 inches. Since yellow pine is cut in most sales to a stump height of 18 inches, I think tamarack should be cut to at least 24 inches.

Callie Green, August 16, 1906. This is merely a free use case ordinarily, but since the applicant resides in the state of Washington, she can secure timber only by purchase. The minimum stumpage price was allowed the applicant. The timber consists of green and dead lodge pole pine which is valued at 50 cents per M., and 500 poles, three inches at the butt end, at 2-1/2 cents each. This is simply a free use case converted into a sale because of residence requirements.

Timber Trespass.

There is only one timber trespass case on the Chesnimnus Reserve. This is the George W. Hyatt of May 2nd, 1906. It is strictly a wilful trespass and has been settled. Inspector C.S. Chapman with Mr. O'Brien took up this case and reported on and settled the whole matter. I need not here review the case.

Free Use.

The number of permits issued after December 3, 1906, as shown by the card record amounts to but twenty-five. The free use business on the Chesnimnus Reserve is not extensive. In all cases so far handled, the work has been done very satisfactorily, and the provision of free use agreements carried out by the applicants thoroughly. Among the free use privileges there are two which were necessary to be granted by the supervisor. These are for a wagon road for Wallowa County. The first one was granted to M.P. Miller on the county right of way for 44,331 feet if timber for construction purposes valued at \$1.00 per M. This agreement was granted June 20th, 1906. A supplementary agreement for \$27.40 amounting to 27,480 feet was also granted to Wallowa County for a wagon road on another portion of right of way.

(Signed) M.L. ERICKSON,
Assistant Forest Inspector.

CLAIMS, CHESNIMNUS RESERVE

Erickson, Jany. 7, 1907.

CLAIMS.

T.N.Fleener
July 9, 1906.

Agricultural.

This claim is located in the E.1/2 S.E.1/4 N.W. 1/4 S.E.1/4 Sec. 33; S.W.1/4 S.W.1/4 Sec. 34, Tp. 3 N.R. 47 E.W.M.

The summary of the report on this claim is as follows:

1. The claimant resides in Joseph, Oregon.
2. Homestead Entry 10414.

3. Log house 12x24, two rooms, lumber roof. Shed kitchen 12x24 of lumber, three windows, two doors, board floor.
4. Milk house 8x12.
5. 80 acres suited to tilling; no land plowed, fenced or under ditch.

6. Raises nothing on land.

7. 40 acres timber land.
 - (a) Estimated 790,150.
 - (b) Some old cutting.
 - (c) No definite knowledge of this.
 - (d) No timber negotiated for sale.
8. 12 head cattle, 3 head horses grazed at Joseph. No permit on Reserve.
9. Filed on land July 5, 1901, no known date of settlement. Source of information: From Kernan Bros. Claimant lived only part of two summers on claim, not been there since Sept. 1905.
10. No fraud instanced.

It is recommended that the homestead be cancelled.

This report was made by Walter F. Fay, Forest Guard, and approved by Howard K. O'Brien.

From the report and from the looks of the ground, I am certain that this is an invalid claim, and recommend that no patent issue. The residence requirement has not been lived up to at all. There is a very large, nice meadow on this claim and also a very good cabin. The claim is situated in a part of the reserve that will make very excellent rangers' headquarters site, and it is desired by Supervisor O'Brien for this purpose as soon as the cancellation is effected.

James A. Fisk
June 16, 1906.

Agricultural.

Homestead entry No. 11171 is located in the S.W.1/4 N.W.1/4 Sec. 25; S.E.1/4 N.E.1/4 and E. Half of the S.E.1/4 Sec. 26, T.3 N.R.45 E.W.M.

The improvements consist of one box cabin 14x16 feet with a shingle roof and one door. The cabin is located at the lower end of the claim; there are 13 acres suitable for tilling. A drift fence about one-half mile extends across the gulch. There is 52,952 feet of timber on the claim. This claim has never been settled and no residence has ever been initiated upon it. Therefore, I recommend that the claim be cancelled. Report on this claim was made out by Forest Ranger Thomas E. Chidsey.

It will make an excellent rangers' headquarters site, and is already being used for that purpose.

Thomas K. Edgemand
April 28, 1906.

Agricultural.

H.E. No. 9932 is located in the N.E.1/4 of the N.W.1/4 and W1/2 of the N.E.1/4 and the N.W.1/4 of the S.W.1/4 of Sec. 25, Tp. 3 N. R. 45 E.W.M.

The family consists of a wife and eight children. Mr. Edgemand and family possesses no other home than the one on this claim. The improvements are two houses, one 14x18 built of hewed logs, divided into two rooms; another is a two-story house 18x24 built of hewed logs, and covered with a shake roof, consisting of five rooms. There is also a log chicken house 8x10. Land suitable for tilling comprises 45 acres, 15 acres are already under plow and the whole 160 acres is fenced. This is without question a perfectly bona fide claim. Residence requirements has been lived up to absolutely, and the improvement are more than what is necessary, and the land is strictly agricultural. I recommend that patent issue. This report was made by Forest Ranger Thomas E. Chidsey, and approved by Supervisor O'Brien.

In respect to claims of all sorts, the records in the office show that great care has been exercised in making out reports, and from the examinations of such claims as I have made in the field, I find the recommendations of the forest officers show the exercise of good judgement. The supervisor fully understands United States land laws and is careful to investigate all indications of fraud. In respect to the examination of claims, mining, agricultural or timber claims, he show fairness and excellent judgement without partiality being exhibited toward any individual.

Summary.

No. 1 Recommend that T.N. Fleener agricultural claim H.E.10414 be cancelled.

No. 2 Recommend the James A. Fisk agricultural claim H.E. No. 11171 be cancelled.

No. 3 Recommend the Thomas K. Edgemand agricultural claim H.E. No. 9932 be approved and patent issue.

(Signed) M.L. ERICKSON,
Assistant Forest Inspector.

February 6, 1907.

Mr. Howard K. O'Brien,
Wallowa, Oregon.

Dear Sir:-

You will please find enclosed memoranda giving information and directions for your guidance concerning the following land claims in the Chesnimnus Forest Reserve, mentioned in a report by Forest Inspector Erickson, dated January 7:

T.N. Fleener, H.E. No. 10414, E 1/2 SE 1/4 NW SE, Sec. 33, SW SW 1/4, Sec. 34, T. 3 N., R. 47 E., W.M.,

James A. Fisk, H.E. No. 11171, SW 1/4 NW 1/4, Sec 25, SE 1/4 NE 1/4, and E 1/2 SE 1/4, Sec. 26, T. 3 N., R. 45 E., W.M.,

Thomas R. Edgemand, H.E. No. 9932, NE 1/4 NW 1/4, W 1/2 NE 1/4, NW 1/4 SW 1/4, Sec. 25, T. 3 N., R. 45 E., W.M.,

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Overton W. Price)
Associate Forester.

3 Enclosures.

The Supervisor will please secure the names and postoffice addresses of all witnesses who may be able to prove the facts reported by Guard Fay showing claimant's noncompliance with the homestead law in the requirement of residence.

The dates and duration of claimant's absences from the land subsequent to July, 1901, should be ascertained where possible. If a home was maintained elsewhere, evidence of it should be secured.

The supervisor will hold the evidence obtained in readiness to be submitted at any hearing ordered by the General Land Office to determine the validity of the claim. In the event of a hearing, the Supervisor will please report the final result to the Forester.

MEMORANDUM

1/7, 07.

Chesnimnus – Oregon

Erickson.

Claims.

JAMES A. FISK – H.E. No. 11171, SW 1/4 NW 1/4, Sec 25, SE 1/4 NE 1/4, and E 1/2 SE 1/4, Sec. 26, T. 3 N., R. 45 E., W.M.

Report on this claim was made by Forest Ranger Thomas E. Chidsey.

Inspector Erickson reports that the land embraced in this entry will make an excellent rangers' headquarters site, and that it is already being used for that purpose.

On request of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior on December 29, 1906, withdrew the land embraced in homestead entry No. 11171, Jas. A. Fisk,

Chesnimnus Forest Reserve, for rangers station. The station is now designated as Rangers' Station No. 3. The entry is still intact on the records of the General Land Office.

The Supervisor will please be prepared to submit evidence on the illegality of this claim, in the event and in manner described in the memorandum relative to the claim of T.N. Fleener.

The Supervisor is requested to forward to the Forester a duplicate of the report of Ranger Thomas E. Chidsey.

MEMORANDUM

1/7, 07.

Chesnimnus -- Oregon

Erickson.

Claims.

T.N. FLEENER, -- H.E. No. 10414, E 1/2 SE 1/4 NW 1/4 SE 1/4, Sec. 33, SW 1/4 SW 1/4, Sec. 34, T. 3 N., R. 47 E., W.M.

Claimant resides at Joseph, Oregon. Report on this claim was made by Forest Guard Walter F. Fay, and approved by Supervisor Howard K. O'Brien.

Inspector Erickson reports, as additional facts, that the claimant has not lived up to the residence requirement; that there is a very large meadow on the claim, also a very good cabin; and that the claim is situated in a part of the reserve that will make very excellent rangers' headquarters site, and that it is desired by Supervisor O'Brien for this purpose as soon as the cancellation is effected.

The report of Forest Guard Walter F. Fay was referred by the Acting Forester on December 13, 1906, to the Commissioner of the General Land Office with the recommendation that action be taken to cancel the entry.

The Secretary of the Interior has been requested by the Acting Forester to withdraw the land embraced in the homestead entry of Mr. Fleener for site of rangers' station subject to all valid existing claims.

MEMORANDUM

1/7, 07.

Chesnimnus -- Oregon

Erickson.

Claims.

THOMAS K. EDGEMAND -- H.E. No. 9932, NE 1/4 NW 1/4, W 1/2 NE 1/4, NW 1/4 SW 1/4, Sec. 25, T. 3 N., R. 45 E., W.M.

Report on this claim was made by Forest Ranger Thomas E. Chidsey, and approved by Supervisor O'Brien.

The report of Forest Ranger Chidsey was referred to the Commissioner of the General Land Office May 4, 1906, by the Acting Forester, with the recommendation that the report be held to await final proof.

PLANTING, CHESNIMNUS RESERVE,

Erickson, Jany. 7, 1907.

PLANTING.

Much open land suitable for re-forestation exists on the Chesnimnus reserve. This land would grow yellow pine excellently as is exhibited by the numerous fine patches of yellow pine reproduction occurring in the vicinity of these open glades adjacent to seed trees.

One or two nursery sites could be established on this reserve. I recommend that one be established at the Chico headquarters. The locality is excellently located. The soil is a good porous, light fresh loam, with good drainage. Water for irrigating can be easily secured. The ranger's cabin being constructed here will be the home of a forest ranger.

Seed can be collected readily in any part of the reserve.

(Signed) M.L. ERICKSON,
Assistant Forest Inspector.

January 19, 1907.

Mr. H.K. O'Brien,
Wallowa, Oregon.

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

Assistant Forest Inspector Erickson reports much open land suitable for planting on the Chesnimnus Reserve. He mentions one favorably located nursery site at the Chico ranger headquarters. I hope you will be able to start this nursery next spring and we will send you the seed needed.

If small seedlings of yellow pine from natural reproduction are available, it would be an interesting experiment to take up a few thousand in the spring and set them in open nursery rows. The trees should be set 4 to 6 inches apart in the rows. Only small seedlings, not over three years old, should be used. After one year in the nursery they may be set in the open places in the field.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) E.A. STERLING,
Assistant Forester.

PRIVILEGES, CHESNIMNUS RESERVE,

Erickson, Jany. 7, 1907.

PRIVILEGES.

Special privileges on the Chesnimnus reserve are few and small. They consist of one cabin, one corral, and two county road applications. They are as follows: Kernan Brothers' cabin, Sept. 18, 1906; S.T. Tippet, corral, Sept. 18, 1906; Wallowa County wagon road, April 23, 1906, and Wallowa County wagon road June 7, 1906. These are all the special privileges of a minor nature on which there is no annual rental except for the cabin constructed by Kernan Brothers for purpose of storing supplies for their sheep camps, on which there is an annual charge of five dollars. I have no recommendations to make in respect to any of these privileges.

There will probably be some privilege work in connection with the construction of telephone lines, or perhaps in road building. Further than that, I can see no particular work on this reserve in the near future.

(Signed) M.L. ERICKSON,
Assistant Forest Inspector.

January 25, 1907.

Erickson's Report – January 7, 1907
Chesnimnus

Mr. H.K. O'Brien,
Wallowa, Oregon.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed are memoranda containing facts and instructions for your guidance concerning the following special privilege transactions mentioned in a report by Mr. M.L. Erickson dated January 7, upon the Chesnimnus Forest Reserve, copy of which is enclosed.

Kernan Brothers – Cabin 9/18/06.
S.T. Tippet – Corral – 9/18/06.
Wallowa County – Wagon Road – 4/23/06.
Wallowa County – Wagon Road – 6/7/06.
Telephone Lines and Wagon Roads.

Please file this letter and the memoranda concerning "Telephone Lines and Wagon Roads" with your copy of Mr. Erickson's report and file the other memoranda, when acted upon, in the respective cases to which they relate.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Overton W. Price,
Associate Forester.

Enclosures.

January 25, 1907.

ERICKSON'S REPORT - JANUARY 7, 1907.

Chesnimnus

Kernan Brothers - Cabin - 9/18/06.

The Supervisor will please observe that the designation at the head of the agreement in this case is "Kernan Brothers - Cabin - 9/23/06", and change his records accordingly. The date upon which an application is signed, and not the date of its preparation is used in designating the case.

January 25, 1907.

ERICKSON'S REPORT - JANUARY 7, 1907.

Chesnimnus

S.T. Tippet - Corral - 9/18/06 -

No instructions necessary.

January 25, 1907.

ERICKSON'S REPORT - JANUARY 7, 1907.

Chesnimnus

Wallowa County - Wagon Road - 4/23/06

This office has no record of this case. The Supervisor will please report the status of the case, and if it is a supervisor's permit please send a copy for the files of this office.

January 25, 1907.

ERICKSON'S REPORT - JANUARY 7, 1907.

Chesnimnus

Wallowa County – Wagon Road – 6/7/06

This office has no record of this case. The Supervisor will please report the status of the case, and if it is a Supervisor's permit please send a copy for the files of this office.

January 25, 1907.

ERICKSON'S REPORT - JANUARY 7, 1907.

Chesnimnus

Telephone Lines and Wagon Roads –

The construction of telephone lines and wagon roads across reserves is to be encouraged for the reason that telephone lines are of great use in case of fires and the roads serve very effectively as fire breaks. No charges are made for such privileges on account of their benefit to the reserve, but telephone permits provide for the free use of the lines by the forest officers on official business.

PRODUCTS, CHESNIMNUS RESERVE,

Erickson, Jany. 7, 1907.

PRODUCTS.

A small sawmill located on the Grande Ronde River between the Chesnimnus and the Wenaha Forest Reserve is furnishing pine needles for a Portland firm which manufactures from the needles various materials such as mattresses, pillows, medicinal articles. The company is called the Pine Needle Medical Company. As near as I could learn the process of manufacturing pine needles into material for mattresses is by chemically treating the needles to extract the resin, leaving the pure fibre which becomes pliable and can be used for all purposes where upholstering, padding, mattress fillings, etc., is required. It is said to be a very cheap article when manufactured into mattresses. Also the coarser fibre would take the place of ordinary excelsior in padding articles for shipment.

By studying the method of preparing the material there might be determined some means of developing a large by-product industry. If the process and the cost of manufacture proves feasible as it appears to, greater publicity should be given the matter.

(Signed) M.L. ERICKSON,

Assistant Forest Inspector.

Memorandum for Organization:

A copy of Mr. E.L. Erickson's note concerning the use of pine needles, from the Chesnimnus and the Wenaha forest reserves, for the manufacture of fiber and medicinal articles has been transmitted to Dr. A.L. Dean, Yale Station, New Haven, Conn., with the suggestion that this may be a profitable line of investigation at some future time.

(Signed) R.S.K.

January 18, 1907.

PERSONNEL.

I have reported briefly on the forest officers of the Chesnimnus Reserve prior to January 1st, so that promotions might take effect on that date.

Thomas E. Chidsey: Chidsey is the oldest ranger O'Brien has in his service. He entered duty December 22, 1905, and was assigned to the Chesnimnus Reserve where by his efficient work he has shown unusual qualities. He is not only industrious and intelligent but he uses excellent judgment and possesses good ability to handle new situations. In the grazing business he has proven capable to handle all emergencies which have arisen. He is clearheaded, keen-witted, intelligent, thoroughly reliable and a hard worker.

He is particularly an excellent stock man; being born and raised in the John Day country, he has all his life been in contact with stock men; also he has worked with both sheep and cattle and at one time owned stock himself. He is well educated for this sort of work. He has taught school and has gained a lot of experience, particularly in the U.S. Army service. He was a volunteer to the Philippine Islands during the Spanish-American war. Chidsey has been used by O'Brien to assist him in the office whenever pressing work demanded his assistance, and also when O'Brien has been away Chidsey was selected to take charge. He is, therefore, well acquainted with the office end of forest reserve work as well as with field work. He was the first to require the salting provision among the cattle owners which as worked out so well that now all the stockmen in the vicinity are so captivated with the idea of salting that they voluntarily do so. Mr. Chidsey has some good ideas in regard to the division of the reserve into grazing districts and also has planned for the best division of the forest officers on the reserve in relation to topography so as to get the best results in patrol and caring for grazing allotments. He possesses a natural ability to handle men and direct affairs. There is but one trait in him that I do not entirely approve of. He is inclined to tell in a very plain way the many things that he has done and the success achieved by him. He does not exhibit this trait sufficiently to warrant calling it "braggadocio" and I do not

believe he talks too much; rather, I think it reveals about the proper amount of self-confidence.

I feel absolutely safe in recommending Chidsey to take charge of one of the new reserves where grazing will be the principal business. The Heppner Forest Reserve is one that would fit in with Mr. Chidsey's qualities identically. I therefore recommend that he be placed in charge of the Heppner Forest Reserve as soon as its organization is initiated.

I have also recommended that he be promoted to Ranger in Charge at \$1200 per annum.

Forest Guard Walter F. Fay: Fay is also a Philippine warrior, and while in the Islands merited the honor of being delegated a sharpshooter, because of his ability with the rifle. He has had considerable experience in the west, particularly in handling stock. He has carried on work in the stock business in the Snake River country adjacent to the Chesnimnus Reserve and also across the river into Idaho for the past fourteen years excepting the time that he spent as a volunteer.

He owns a ranch near Wallowa, but does not live on it and does not purpose to. He is married and desires to remain in the forest service and wants to make his home at the Chico headquarters site where the commodious cabin is now being constructed. He has done very good work during the past season in handling the grazing business, particularly so since he had a very large area to patrol and protect in addition caring for stock allotments on the reserve. He handled this area very satisfactorily, but he found it necessary in order to keep his horses in any condition at all because of the extensive riding required, to employ four horses during the summer. Fay is thoroughly familiar with the stock business, is well acquainted with the country and the people, and knows how to get along with all users of the reserve in a very satisfactory way. His ability is not only limited to handling the grazing situation, but he possesses considerable knowledge of timber work; in fact, has worked in a sawmill at one time. He has some good ideas on cabin construction, and also trail building gained from experience in this sort of work. Unfortunately, he failed to pass the Civil Service examination as a ranger by 42/100 of One Percent. He has applied for re-rating on experience and training, and I think that he will receive an appointment as Assistant Forest Ranger when this re-rating is given him. He is one of the best men O'Brien has on his force, and should be retained. His salary also should be raised. I recommended he be designated scaler at a salary of \$75 per month; since then I have learned that forest Guards may be paid \$75 per month. Therefore, I recommend that he receive this salary until he becomes an eligible resulting from the Civil Service examination. Then I would recommend he be promoted to \$1100 per annum.

Policy: There were three men in the Chesnimnus Reserve last season. This was hardly adequate, and I recommend four men be allowed next season, and in case the proposed addition goes through a total of six men should be allowed. This will means two forest Rangers and four forest guards; the forest guards should be paid a salary of

\$75 per month since it will be quite impossible to secure men on the old basis of \$60 per month.

I recommend a technical assistant be assigned to the Wallowa and Chesnimnus Forest Reserves. There is no getting to be considerable work in the nature of timber sales, privileges and mapping in which O'Brien will need assistance. The large timber sale of the Iron Dyke Copper Company on the Wallowa Reserve, will need the services of a forest assistant immediately. The work in the nature of technical matters is becoming more important on these new reserves. On the Wallowa Reserve numerous mining claims and small privileges are being applied for, and other work which will be essential for a technical assistant to assist in will warrant the assignment of one on these reserves.

A clerk should be allowed Mr. O'Brien. His office work is now so extensive that it is hardly possible for him to take any trips over the reserve. In my previous report on the Wallowa I recommended a clerk to go on duty May 1st. I now think that such assistance will be required the full year, and would recommend that clerical assistance be furnished Mr. O'Brien on February 1st, at a salary of \$75 per month.

SUMMARY.

PROTECTION, EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL.

1. Recommend building a trail from the road in the vicinity of Chico camp to Sled Springs.
2. Construct another trail from Cold Springs to Hidaway Cabin on Table Mountain.
3. Recommend construction of a telephone line from Chico to Sled Springs to connect with the new Verger System.
4. Recommend another line from Kernan's ranch to Cold Springs if co-operation with residents and users of the reserve can be secured.
5. Recommend that stationery, record forms, etc. be cased in wooden boxes to eliminate the extensive damage done this material in the way of jamming and crunching due to severe jolting received by stage and freight conveyances.
6. Recommend Assistant Forest Ranger Thomas E. Chidsey be promoted to Ranger in Charge of the Heppner Reserve at \$1200 per annum.
7. Recommend Guard Walter F. Fay be promoted to \$75 per month and to \$1100 per annum as soon as eligible to the position of Forest Ranger.
8. Recommend six men be allowed on the Chesnimnus Reserve if the proposed addition is created before next summer. Otherwise, four men.

9. Recommend a technical assistant be assigned to the Wallowa and Chesnimnus Reserves.

10. Recommend one clerk be allowed at \$75 per month for the whole year.

(Signed) M.L. ERICKSON,
Assistant Forest Inspector.