

THE OCHOCO NATIONAL FOREST

A HISTORY

By Allen H. Hodgson
Deputy Forest Supervisor
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OCHOCO NATIONAL FOREST

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A History of the Ochoco National Forest

The purpose of this work is to compile in a concrete and readable form the mass of material now available bearing on the history of the Ochoco National Forest, from the beginning of the original Reserve through the various changes of boundary to the National Forest as it now is. It is hoped that such a compilation will be of value should there be written in the future a history of the United States' National Forests, as well as of general and local interest to Forest officers.

The greater portion of the Blue Mountain Range in North-eastern and Central Oregon, lying partly in Umatilla, Union, Baker, Grant, Malheur, Harney, Wheeler and Crook Counties, comprises the territory first dealt with in this history. The region begins about forty-five miles south of the north boundary of the State and follows the Main range of the Blue Mountains along a southerly course for approximately one hundred miles, at which point the range divides into two principal spurs turning off at right angles to it. The spur leading eastward almost to the Snake River on the Idaho line is known as the Burnt River Mountains, while the spur pointing to the west makes up the Strawberry Mountains. The latter range comprises the divide between the rugged canyons of the middle and south Fork of the John Day River on the north, and the upper watersheds of the Deschutes River on the south. It extends west almost to the Lower Deschutes River.

After the period of exploration, in which the Lewis and Clark expedition, the Whitman tragedy, and explorations of other men of lesser note were chapters, there followed the period of early settlement in Oregon. The discovery of gold in the west and the glowing accounts of the agricultural possibilities of the land brought many people from the east to this land of promise. Great numbers of these immigrants followed the old routes formerly chosen by the early explorers which lead through the Blue Mountain region. As these people journeyed through the inland territory, the possibility of permanent homes began to make its appeal, and some of them ceased traveling and selected lands to meet their needs as homes. Then in the late fifties[1850's] gold was discovered at different points in the Blue Mountains which created a rush, not only from the East, but from the Willamette Valley and California as well. Many of these people finally settled and became permanently established.

During the fifties and sixties the uprisings of the Indians made conditions so unsafe for the residents, as well as the immigrants passing through the land, that the Government established forts at intervals along the main routes of immigration, where soldiers were stationed. Under the protection of the troops the people mined, farmed and raised stock. The latter proved to be very profitable, and as the country was soon well adapted to the occupation, it quickly became the most important. The flocks and herds were wintered in the lower valleys and plains, and as soon as spring opened, they were driven to the ideal range of the Blue Mountains.

With the increase of stock, the ranges began to be crowded and in order to control the feed and water the stockmen began to accumulate land under the Government land laws, by purchase, and by other means. This was practiced to such a degree that the Blue Mountains range became virtually controlled by a comparatively few men and companies. For instance, the Pacific Livestock Company (the Oregon Branch of the Miller and Lux concern of California) acquired title to very large holdings which gave them a great advantage over the smaller local stockmen.

Shortly prior to this period, in 1865, the Willamette Valley and Cascade Mountain Wagon Road Company was organized. This company received from the Government as a grant, every odd section of land for a distance of six miles on each side of a road all the way across the State. The land thus received by this company within the Blue Mountains alone involved approximately 10,800 acres. At about the same time The Dalles Military Wagon Road Company was organized to build a road from The Dalles to Canyon City, which lies in Grant County. This company received as a grant from the

United States about 61,160 acres within the Blue Mountain country. In addition to this, every Section 16 and 36 had been given to the State of Oregon and the greater part of this land had passed into private ownership. Many acres of land were also alienated within the Blue Mountain region as State Lieu Selections.

Without doubt a great deal of fraud was practiced in securing title to the land. Final certificates were received for homesteads on lands situated high up in the mountains where it is impossible to make a home or to comply with the homestead laws. It has been stated that the Pacific Livestock Company secured title to many claims by directing their cowboys and other employees to locate homesteads on tracts of desirable grazing lands or springs, and paying them \$50.00 and their expenses for their trouble and ranch [sic].¹

Many state school sections were also declared mineral in character and relinquished by the State when the tracts bore no trace of mineral. It is believed that this relinquishment was made as a scheme to secure base for lieu selections.

Timber companies were also busy securing vast holdings in the most valuable timber belts. Small land owners were either bought up or frightened out of the country, and it is whispered that in a few cases small land owners or homesteaders mysteriously disappeared.

In these ways thousands of acres of timber and grazing lands passed from the hands of the Government and the territory became a land of scattered but large holdings with stock raising as the chief industry.

The Blue Mountains were the spring and summer range for the stock of all Northeastern Oregon, and the tall thick bunchgrass and heavy stands of weeds made them one of the best stock regions of the West. In the old days range stock were never wintered on hay but ranged out the year round, finding forage enough to carry them through the entire period. But with the development of the stock business and the great increase of cattle, sheep and horses conditions began to change. Thousands of cattle and hundreds of thousands of sheep were rushed to the mountain ranges as early in the spring as the grass began to grow, not only from the counties touched by the Blue Mountains but from counties far to the west as well. It was but a short time until the winter and summer ranges were crowded and the size of a man's herd or band became measured in proportion to the size of his winter haystacks. The mountain ranges were crowded to the limit and the struggle for range began. The cattle men would crowd the sheep men and the sheep men of Wasco, Crook, Sherman, Gilliam, Umatilla and Morrow Counties drove their bands to the mountains early in the season, ranging up to the very doors of the settlers and cattle owners and setting fire to the range in the fall when they left.

With this struggle trouble began to brew and an organization of cattle men calling themselves "The Crook County Sheep-Shooting Association of Eastern Oregon" was formed. On June 13, 1904 a most desperate engagement began in Crook County. The following letters are apropos to the subject:

¹ Handwritten margin note: Pat Cecil says it was practice to give the man a good saddle horse in lieu of \$50.

Prineville, Oregon
June 17, 1904

The Dalles Times Mountaineer,
The Dalles, Oregon

Conflicting range territory in Crook County led to the first open slaughter of sheep last Monday (June 13) where masked men shot and killed sixty-five head belonging to Allie Jones, a sheep owner residing about fifteen miles east of this city. The killing occurred on Mill Creek in the vicinity of the 'dead lines,' the men threatening a greater slaughter if the herds were not removed instantly from the district. e e e e e e² The first outbreak in the sheep industry in this country recalls vividly the wanton slaughter which has recently occurred in Lake County, and marks the first steps in the range difficulties which are likely to be encountered here during the coming season. The scene of the killing is in the territory where an effort was made a short time ago to establish lines for the sheep and cattle. Three weeks ago the district was visited by a party of sheep owners from Antelope and a meeting arranged between them and the cattle men in the southeastern part of the county. The matter of ranging stock in the Blue Mountains was gone over thoroughly, but a decision relative to the establishment of limits failed to be reached. The sheep men went home and the slaughter this week is the result of their futile efforts to come to an understanding.

While it is not believed that open hostilities will break out between the sheep men and cattle owners in this territory during the summer ranging months, it is asserted that an encroachment upon this disputed region by nomadic sheep will be the signal for forcible resistance. The 'dead lines' of last year will be strictly enforced which means that stockmen will not be occupying a peaceable neighborhood.

Sheep-Shooters' Headquarters,

² This series of symbols appears at various locations in the original Forest Service manuscript. They may have been inserted in the quotations to indicate the elimination of material at that point. Current printing practices would have inserted the "ellipse" symbol: ...

Crook County, Oregon,
December 29, 1904

Morning Oregonian
Portland, Oregon.

Mr. Editor:

Seeing that you are giving quite a bit of publicity to the Sheep Shooters of Crook County, I thought I would lend you some assistance by giving you a short synopsis of the proceedings of the organization during the past year. e e e e e e Therefore, if space will permit, please publish the following report:

'Sheep Shooters' Headquarters, Crook County, Oregon, December 29, 1904 - Editor Oregonian: I am authorized by the association (The Inland Sheep Shooters) to notify the Oregonian to desist from publishing matter derogatory to the reputation of sheep-shooters in Eastern Oregon. We claim to have the banner County of Oregon on the progressive lines of sheep-shooting, and it is my pleasure to inform you that we have a little government of our own in Crook County, and we would thank the Oregonian and the Governor to attend strictly to their business and not meddle with the settlement of the range question in our province.

We are the direct and effective means of controlling the range in our jurisdiction. If we want more range we simply fence it in and live up to the maxim of the golden rule that possession represents nine points of the law. If fencing is too expensive for the protection of the range, dead lines are most effective substitutes and readily manufactured. When sheep-men fail to observe these peaceable obstructions we delegate a committee to notify offenders, sometimes by putting notices on tent or cabin and sometimes by publication in one of the leading newspapers of the county as follows:

'You are hereby notified to move this camp within twenty-four hours or take the consequences. Signed: Committee.'

These mild and peaceful means are usually effective, but in cases where they are not, our executive committee takes the matter in hand, and being men of high ideals as well as good shots by

moonlight, they promptly enforce the edicts of the association. e e e e e e Our annual report shows that we have slaughtered between 8,000 and 10,000 head during the last shooting season and we expect to increase this respectable showing during the next season providing the sheep hold out and the Governor and Oregonian observe the customary laws of neutrality. e e e e e e In some instances the woolgrowers of Eastern Oregon have been so unwise as to offer rewards for the arrest and conviction of sheep-shooters and for assaults of herders. We have heretofore warned them by publication of the danger of such action, as it might have to result in our organization having to proceed on the lines of that 'Dead men tell no tales.' This is not to be considered a threat to commit murder, as we do not justify such a thing except where flock owners resort to unjustifiable means in protecting their property.

Signed: Corresponding Secretary,
Crook County's Sheep-Shooting
Association of Eastern Oregon

After several bands of sheep had been shot into, the range disputes culminated in the summer of 1904 when 1,000 head of sheep belonging to Morrow and Keenan were slaughtered. The Oregon Wool Grower's Association at a meeting held in Antelope on June 21, 1904 offered \$500 reward, in addition to the \$1,000 reward offered by the state association, "For information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person or persons guilty of shooting, killing or maiming any member of the above association, or any employee of such member while engaged in his duties." On January 1, 1905 500 sheep belonging to Fred Smith of Paulina were slaughtered almost at his door and about 500 more were scattered over the range so that they became the food of coyotes and other wild animals.

As a result of the over-grazing the ranges became poor, and as the mountains produced less feed the competition for range became keener. It was finally conceded by all stockmen that there was more stock than the ranges could support. There was strong feeling among the stockmen of the mountainous counties against those from the western plains since the mountain people considered the range theirs by right, and it was being destroyed by the migratory herds. All indications pointed to a bitter and lasting range war near at hand, which would surpass in bloodshed and loss of property anything of the kind that had ever occurred before.

At this time, (July 28, 1902), public attention was directed toward another question. The greater portion of the Blue Mountains region was withdrawn from all kinds of entry under the Public Land Laws, for Forest Reserve purposes. The area was divided into two divisions. That portion lying in the mountains back of Baker City was withdrawn for the purposes of protecting the water supply of that city, and became known as "the proposed Elk Creek Forest Reserve." The remaining portion was

known as “the proposed Blue Mountains Forest Reserve.” The total area of both withdrawals was approximately 3,053,178 acres, included within 152 whole or fractional townships.

Regarding the permanent establishment of the Blue Mountains and Maury Mountain (Maury Mountain Forest Reserves spoken of later) Forest Reserves, the Forester received through the Secretary of the Interior, a petition signed by M.R. Biggs, President and E.T. Slayton, Secretary, for the Crook County Cattlemen’s Association. In this petition the cattlemen state that they are anxious to see the permanent establishment of the Reserve boundaries perfected, setting forth their reasons, but earnestly request that a strip of land six miles wide along the south and west boundary of the Blue Mountains Reserve in Crook County and all of the Maury Mountain Reserve be held for cattle and horses only. It is apparent that cattle men were endeavoring to protect themselves from the large bands of sheep from other counties and they feared that the Government would consider the rights of these sheepmen at the expense of the local stock owners. After carefully considering the petition the Forester on March 28, 1904 wrote Mr. Biggs saying:

Mr. Langille states that in his opinion the only way in which the matter can be satisfactorily settled is for the representative of the Government to make a detailed investigation of the ground itself, taking into consideration the character of the range in each particular locality and hearing at length the claims of both cattle and sheep men. I can assure you, however, that the recommendations of this Bureau will be based upon the following general principles:

1. Local questions will be settled on local grounds.
2. Sudden changes in industrial conditions will be avoided by gradual adjustment, after due notice.
3. Prior users, small users, and actual home makers and home owning residents will have a preference in the allotment of range.
4. Range questions will be decided as far as possible in cooperation with the grazing interests and especially in cooperation with live-stock associations.

I shall be exceedingly glad to arrange for a field examination of the range problem on the proposed Blue Mountains Forest Reserve in the early summer.

The “proposed Elk Creek” and “Blue Mountains Forest Reserves” were examined and reported upon on April 30, 1906 by Forest Inspector H.D. Langille. During Mr. Langille’s inspection he found that the proposed Elk Creek Forest Reserve was all within the exterior boundaries of the proposed Blue Mountains Reserve, and formed a part of the latter’s eastern boundary.

With reference to recommendations concerning the permanent boundary of the reserve, Mr. Langille says:

In drawing the lines I have recommended for the permanent boundaries of the Reserve, I have endeavored to eliminate as far as possible all lands which might be used as base for lieu selections, and have materially reduced the area of same without impairing the value of the reserve. The lines recommended differ little from those of the withdrawal except in the southern part, where a large area of bunch grass and timberless land undesirable for forest reserve purposes was included within the original lines. It has been my purpose at all times to eliminate timberless, grazing lands, particularly in the vicinity of settlements where there would necessarily be more or less difficulty in handling the neighboring stock at all seasons of the year.

A number of eliminations and additions were recommended by Mr. Langille which brought the total area of the recommended reserve down to 2,813,769 acres, lying in 154 whole or fractional townships. All of the lands originally included within Malheur County were excluded by the recommendations, leaving the reserve entirely within seven counties.

The stockmen of Crook County petitioned for the inclusion of several townships surrounding the western end of the western extension, which petition was endorsed by Congressman Williamson, with the desire to have the Government protect the local range from the migratory herds of sheep from other counties. Mr. Langille, however, did not approve the recommendations because a large amount of this territory was alienated. Due to the publicity given the matter by the Stockmen's Association many locations were made, presumably for the purpose of creating base for lieu selections.

Mr. Langille closes that portion of his report dealing with recommendations as follows:

Finally, my earnest recommendations is that the permanent boundaries of the reserve be established as I have recommended them. The timber and water supply of the Blue Mountains is invaluable, not only to the industrial interests of the immediate contiguous sections, but to the entire surrounding country. e e e e e e The entire Northeastern Oregon region is vitally interested and dependent in a greater or less measure upon the natural resources of the lands in question, and only by the forest reserve system can these resources be conserved.

If there is one section in the State of Oregon where a forest reserve should be established, it is the Blue Mountain region, and my endorsement of the measure is strong and unqualified.

At the time of the first withdrawal there was much public sentiment against the reserve with references to which Mr. Langille reports:

Public Sentiment

The protests which have been filed against the proposed Blue Mountain Forest Reserve were mostly based upon misunderstandings of the objects³ and purposes of the Department and misapprehension of the results to follow the establishment of the reserve. When the points in question were explained and the real objects and purposes

³ Writer may have meant "objectives."

of the reserve set forth, there was immediate subsidence of expressed opposition, and marked change was apparent in the sentiment of the local papers.

It is apparent that a few interested persons who have engaged in public land matters such as dealing in lieu scrip, securing fees, etc., have persistently endeavored to arouse sentiment against the reserve by dealing to the less informed ranchers and others, fanciful tales of wrongs to be inflicted upon the stock owners there is now but little opposition to the reserve, the consensus of opinion being that the range conditions can be made no worse than they are, and that they have confidence in their government to do what is best for them.

Any action which will exclude the migratory herds of sheep from the mountain range will be approved by the local cattlemen and miners. I met with the 'Honest Forest Reserve Organization' at a public meeting at Canyon City, called for the purpose of selecting delegates to bear the stockmen's protest to Washington and to raise money to defray the expense of a delegation. I addressed the meeting setting forth the purposes and intentions of the Government, and answered all questions. At the conclusion of my remarks the meeting adjourned without taking any action and many of the strongest opponents of the proposed reserve afterward came to me and said that if the facts were as I had stated them they would welcome the reserve.

The Miner's Objections

The withdrawal of the proposed Blue Mountain Reserve aroused a strong feeling of antagonism among the stockmen of Grant and Harney counties and among the miners of Baker and Grant Counties. Since the withdrawal was made there had been a storm of protest from various sources and one might have believed that the reserve had no friends in or near its limits, but such is not the case.

I called upon the leaders of the opposition at Baker City, and later upon some of the prominent mining men of the district, as well as the mine workers and prospectors. From each of these I requested a plain statement of their objections, but in no case was a logical argument presented. The substance of their objections is summed up in the statements of an attorney who represents different mining concerns: "We are getting along very well as we are and want to be let alone." This simple plain statement illustrates the position of the large mine operators. In the past they have helped themselves from the available supply of public timber without objection from any source. Timber land has been secured under the mineral land laws and stripped of its cover. Many claims are held as mineral and possible some assessment work is done on them—just enough to prevent their locations by bona fide prospectors. e e e e e e
Many of the large companies, which operate stamp mills and concentrators and require large quantities of wood acquire title to mineral claims by purchase of the locator's rights, expend some money in performing assessment work and remove the timber to another claim or their mills even though no mineral in place can be shown.

The Blue Mountain mining district is rapidly developing and promises to become a rich and permanent mining section. Development work is being pushed and locations are seen in every part of the mineral belt. These locations extend over a wide range but the mineral zones or districts are, in some instances quite widely separated.

It is desired by the protecting miners that the so-called mineral belts be not included within the reserve, and they contend that under existing regulations these lands cannot properly be included within the reserve. It is held by the miners and their agents that these lands are mineral in character and more valuable for mining purposes than for timber. It is true that at the higher elevations the timber has little commercial value as saw timber, but the tamarack, which is the most valuable component of the forest, is an excellent timber for mining purposes and all will be needed in the development of the

present and prospective mines. Under the usual methods of cutting which are practiced by the miners this timber supply will not long continue to supply the demand, but under proper restrictions and protection from fire I believe the supply can be made permanent and therefore out of consideration of what must be for the best interests of the mining industry, I recommend the retention of these lands within the permanent boundaries of the reserve.

In some localities I have found the sentiment of the miners to be quite strongly in favor of the reserve when the rules and regulations were explained to them. Several of the prospectors offer the statement that the small miner or prospector who is developing his claim is, at the present time, largely at the mercy of the large operators who have large capital and paying properties. They secure title to different properties which are located ostensibly as mineral claims but are held solely for the timber. If the prospector has no timber on his own claim or has exhausted the supply and is surrounded by "Company" claims, he is unable to procure the timber necessary in the development of his claims and may be seriously inconvenienced or obliged to sell to the timber holders.

The great destruction of timber wrought by these large plants is causing alarm even to the companies who have consumed the material. As I have said, the timber supply at the higher elevations is not unlimited and the large consumption of wood for fuel and timbers has already made noticeable inroads upon the forests in the vicinity of the mills. With an increased number of mills and proportionate demand for fuel, the forests of the mining sections will soon be a thing of the past unless some action is taken to conserve the supply by regulating cutting and requiring more careful use.

At present there are many properties in the hands of companies which are nothing more than prospects which the owners are struggling to develop, and it is alleged that since the free-use privileges are denied to companies these people would be required to purchase timber for the development of their claims which they could ill afford to do.

And again the argument is advanced that when an application is made to purchase timber from a certain described tract, some person may at once locate the ground as a mineral claim which would prevent the consummation of the sale. This is a logical argument which might be supported by such an occurrence in some instances, but it appears to me to be very far-fetched. While the mineral belt covers a wide territory the amount of land which is actually mineral in character is comparatively small.

The actual conditions do not warrant the elimination of this immense territory from the reserve. This would open it to spoliation by lumbermen and in the end result disastrously to the miners.

The argument of the mining men is simply that they do not wish to be hampered by regulations. There is enough timber on the ground for present purposes and they have no regard for the future for the reason that by the time the available supply is exhausted the present operators will have abandoned the field of speculation and they are willing that their successors should take what they leave. Looking into the future it appears imperative that, for the best interests of the districts, these lands should be reserved.

At the time of Mr. Langille's examination, the most important mining camps or towns in the Blue Mountains mining district included in the withdrawal were Granite, Bourne and Greenhorn City, of which Granite was much the larger.

Of the timber included in the withdrawal, Mr. Langille writes:

The value and importance of the Blue Mountains timber belt cannot be overestimated. It is the only timber body between the Cascade and Rocky Mountains and the demand will be heavy and constantly increasing as the mining and other resources are developed. e e e e e e Unfortunately the withdrawal of these lands from entry was too

long deferred and the sawmill companies and speculators have located the best and most accessible timber of commercial value wherever extensive bodies exist.

In some of the more remote sections, however, there are extensive tracts of merchantable pine which have been exempt from location, but the withdrawal was made just in time to prevent wholesale locations upon these tracts by parties under the guidance of professional locators who had been at work for weeks and had formulated plans to secure every section of timber in that region. There was a mad rush to file timber entries at the Burns Land Office after it was learned that the withdrawal would be made and before official notice reached the local land office, but fortunately these filings were canceled.

The demand for timber for local domestic purposes is not large, but the consumption of mining timber and cord-wood at the mills aggregate an immense amount, and with the growth and development of the mining industry the demand will increase proportionately.

During a number of years past the Grande Ronde Lumber Company has been operating along the Grande Ronde River and the destruction of the forests which has followed this cutting is deplorable indeed. A very few years of such work as is being done by this Company would denude the entire watershed of this stream.

The Oregon Lumber Company (which has recently absorbed the Grande Ronde Company) has its headquarters and mills at Baker City, and logs are brought to them over the Sumpter Valley Railway which was first built to Sumpter but has now been extended to Whitney to reach the timber belt of that section. All along the line of this road the destruction of the timber is almost complete.

During the past twenty (20) years this Company has been actively engaged in acquiring title to the timber lands, not only in this part of the state, but elsewhere. It is common knowledge that their employees have been supplied with funds with which to purchase lands under the Timber and Stone Act, and it is a matter of record that these claims have been transferred to the Company on the same day of the day following receipt of patent. In this way large areas of timber land which are not included within the temporary withdrawal of the reserve are held by this Company. If these lands are retained in the reserve the timber will be stripped off and the lands relinquished for Scrip.

There are several small sawmills in operation within the proposed reserve and it is apparent that flagrant violations of law are committed at each of them. There are three (3) mills within or adjacent to the reserve in Harney County which supply the local demand, and lumber from these mills is hauled to points 150 miles distant on wagons, there being no other timber supply available. The methods in practice at these mills is very wasteful and it is high time that something be done to conserve the timber supply upon which such an immense undeveloped region is dependant.

The amount of timber and fuel consumed at the stamp mills and mines is considerable. Such mills as those at the North Pole, Bonanza, and other mines consume 5,000 to 6,000 cords of wood per annum beside from 500,000 to 1,000,000 feet of mining timber. Besides these demands many persons are engaged in cutting timber from Government land for fuel and hauling it to the towns located away from the timber belts.

With reference to *placer mining* within the proposed reserve Mr. Langille says:

The Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon have produced a very large amount of placer gold and the end is not yet. Since the early 50's [1850's] when the famous Canyon City diggings were opened, more or less placer work has been done in this region each year and pay dirt has been struck in many different sections within the proposed reserve.

The most extensive workings are in old channel diggings along the course of an old 'wash' which, it is said, has been traced from the famous Salmon River mines of Idaho to

the Sacramento Valley in California and opened at intervals through the State of Oregon. Beside this old channel there are numerous deposits of local gold which have been worked profitably.

It was learned that there are many channels about the headwaters of the Grande Ronde, John Day and other rivers along which legitimate placer mining operations are in progress. On the head of the Grande Ronde river in the Camp Carson mining district there are properties which have been worked more or less since 1863 during which time a large amount of gold has been washed from the gravel deposits of the old channel. There are about 50 claims owned or held at present in this camp. Active work will be commenced again this season. I also visited placer workings on Bull Run, a tributary of the John Day river, and in the Greenhorn district and others, but found no evidence to show that the claims are held for purposes other than legitimate placer mining.

My investigations among the quartz-mining districts showed inclusively that many tracts of land are located as placer ground for the timber that is upon them or for purposes other than legitimate mining.

Doubtless a close investigation would show many fraudulent entries under the mineral act. These are advantageous to the companies but often work a hard-ship on the small miner and certainly will result in the destruction of the forests upon these lands.

Mr. Langille's report recommended a Forest Supervisor with headquarters at Sumpter to take charge of the reserve assisted by two Assistant Supervisors, one to take charge of the Western extension where grazing work was of most importance, the other assistant to take charge of the Northern and Eastern extension where there was a combination of timber sale, timber use and grazing work. He recommended a total force of fifteen men to manage the work of the reserve.

Shortly prior to this time, 4/25/03, 62,480 acres of land located on the Maury Mountains were withdrawn from all kinds of entry. These mountains are a small independent spur of the Blue Mountains. The boundary of this area, which was known as "the proposed Maury Mountains Forest Reserve" was 12 miles south of the western extension of the proposed Blue Mountains Forest Reserve. This withdrawal was examined by E.A. Braniff and in his report made in 1904, he recommended, for permanent reservation, 51,360 acres of the area. Regarding the proposed Maury Mountain reserve Mr. Braniff says:

Aside from one sawmill operating in the withdrawal, grazing is the only industry within the reserve.

The entire area has been over-grazed by sheep, cattle and horses and the springs seriously injured in many places. A bitter conflict exists between the sheepmen and cattlemen.

The sentiment is generally favorable to the creation of the reserve, though the cattlemen, who are now in control of the range, fear that sheep may be permitted to graze on lands which they claim for them-selves alone.

It is my recommendation that the Maury Mountain Forest Reserve be created at an early date.

Since the proposed reserve is separated from the Blue Mountains Reserve by a distance of only 12 miles, it is deemed advisable to include it under the same management and regulations.

Upon the recommendations made by the examining officers the Blue Mountains Forest Reserve (including the proposed elk Creek Forest Reserve) and the Maury Mountains Forest Reserve were withdrawn.

The Blue Mountains Reserve was then divided into two divisions, the Strawberry Mountain and all west of the Blue Mountains becoming "The Western Division of the Blue Mountains Forest Reserve", and that region within the Blue Mountains proper being called "The Eastern Division of the Blue Mountains Forest Reserve." It is with the former that we are directly interested.

On April 1, 1906 the Western Division of the Blue Mountains Reserve and The Maury Mountain Forest Reserve first came under administration when Mr. A.S. Ireland was placed in charge of the two areas as Forest Supervisor, with headquarters at Prineville, Oregon.

With this appointment a vast amount of responsibility was placed upon the shoulders of Mr. Ireland. The settlement of grazing disputes and the allotments of ranges, the appointment of a force of men to take charge of the field work, the examination of many fraudulent claims, the influencing of public sentiment, and the entire organization of both reserves rested in his hands.

On April 11, 1906 the supervisor received from the Forester at Washington the following letter:

Mr. A.S. Ireland
Prineville, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

Provision has been made for the grazing of all cattle, horses, and sheep which in the past have regularly used, or which last year were grazed on land now included in the Blue Mountains Forest Reserve, provided the owners apply for permits and pay the grazing fee.

This reserve has been divided for administrative purposes into two divisions; that portion south and west of the military road being designated as the western division and that portion north and east of this road as the eastern division.

The western division will be under your jurisdiction. Authority to advertise will be sent you immediately and you will take such steps as are necessary to notify the public.

The summer grazing season for cattle and horses will be from June 1 to October 31, the charge for which will be 20 cents per head. Class "A" stock may be allowed to remain in the reserve during the entire year, and will be charged for at the rate of 35 cents per head. Year-long permits will begin on June 1, 1906 and end May 31, 1907. The half rate limit is 70 head and applies to cattle only, not to horses. This means that on all permits for more than this number half rate will be charged on the first 70 and full rate on the balance.

The grazing season for sheep will be from June 15 to October 15, the charge for which will be 5 cents per head, each two lambs under six months old to be

counted and charged for as equal to one grown sheep. Bands of ewes may be allowed to enter the reserve for the purposes of lambing at such time previous to June 15 as you may designate, upon payment of an extra fee of 2 cents per head on the ewes. The percentage basis to be used in the approval of applications in advance of the birth of lambs, as provided for in Forest Reserve Order No. 19, will be 85 per cent.

For the purpose of distributing the stock upon the reserve, you should divide the grazing area into several general districts, giving each a separate number; and in the issuance of permits designate the district to which the stock is assigned.

Very truly yours,
/s/ A.F. Potter
A.F. POTTER,
For the Forester.

By this letter Supervisor Ireland was able to throw the Reserve open to all stock which had previously grazed upon it so long as the owners made application for grazing lands and paid the grazing fees. The letter was of much significance because it assured the stock owners that grazing would be permitted on the Reserve and it gave the Forest officers time to get out into the field where they could study the complicated problems of the range before regular allotments and readjustment of numbers permitted were attempted.

The same provisions as those brought out in the above letter applied to the grazing management of the Maury Mountain Reserve.

On June 21, 1906 Mr. Ireland estimated that 340,000 sheep and 30,000 cattle and horses would graze upon the Blue Mountains (West) Reserve during the grazing season then beginning.

After the limited study of but three months Mr. Ireland recommended that the Blue Mountains (W) Reserve be divided into ten grazing districts, and this recommendation was approved by the Forester. The ten districts were described as follows:

District No. 1. All that part of the Western Division of the Blue Mountains Forest Reserve lying east of Silvies River and Engle Creek, and north of Bear Creek.

District No. 2. All that part of said reserve lying south of Bear Creek and east of the Canyon City, Burns wagon road.

District No. 3. All that part of said reserve lying west of the Canyon City, Burns wagon road, and south of Camp Creek and the headwaters of the South Fork of the John Day River, and east of Sawtooth Creek.

District No. 4. All that part of said reserve lying between the South Fork of the John Day River, and Silvies River, and north of Camp Creek.

District No. 5. All that part of said reserve lying west of Sawtooth Creek, and the South Fork of the John Day River, and south of the wagon road leading from Izee, to Suplee.

District No. 6. All that part of said reserve in Grant County lying west of the South Fork of the John Day River.

District No. 7. All that part of said reserve lying west of the Grant County line and south of the summit and east of the North Fork of Crooked River.

District No. 8. All that part of said reserve lying west of the Grand County line, north of the summit and east of Badger and Allen Creeks.

District No. 9. All that part of said reserve lying west of Badger and Allen Creeks and south of the summit.

District No. 10. All that part of said reserve lying west of Badger and Allen Creeks and north of the summit.⁴

Regarding the early organization of the Reserves, the following letters are of interest. The first signed by Mr. Ireland brings out a few of the problems which confronted the Supervisor, while the second (The first letter of authorization issued to the two Reserves) clearly indicates the limited amount of money with which the Reserves were furnished.

Prineville, Oregon,
June 19, 1906.

The Forester,
Forest Service
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to Forest Service Order No. E dated March 24, 1906, I have the honor to herewith submit my

⁴ Hand written margin notes indicate "names" for the described districts as follows {these appear to be the district names used even in 1995):

#6	Rager
#7	Rager
#8	Big Summit
#9	Big Summit-Prineville
#10	Big Summit-Prineville]

On May 14, 15 and 16, 1906 the first Ranger examination was given by the U.S. Civil Service Commission at Prineville, and but one applicant took it. [Handwritten margin note indicates that a Frank Johnson was the lone applicant.

report and estimate of the cost of administration of the Western Division Blue Mountains Forest Reserve, for the Fiscal year 1906 and 1907.

1. Salaries. 1 Forest Ranger to serve the entire year, at \$1,200 per annum. 2 Deputy Forest Rangers to serve the entire year, at \$1,100 per annum. Assistant Forest Rangers to serve the entire year, at \$900 per annum. 8 Forest Guards to serve 7 months, May 1 to November 30, at \$720 per annum.

2. Expenses:

A. Travel	\$450.00
B. Equipment	200.00
C. Communications	100.00
D. Shelter	300.00
E. Protection	100.00
F. Emergencies	<u>250.00</u>
Total	\$1,400.00

The necessity for the employment of seven men of the three first grades mentioned arises from the fact that this reserve has many settlers residing in and near it, especially along the north and south boundaries, and it is of special importance that the exterior boundaries be surveyed and thoroughly marked, which can best be done during the fall and winter months, as it will require the entire time of these men to discover and prevent trespass by drifting stock during the spring months after the feeding season is over and before the grazing season on the reserve opens.

The services of the additional eight men to serve as Forest Guards from May 1 to November 30 will be necessary in the construction of cabins, trails and fences for pastures as this class of work can, on account of the weather conditions, be done more expeditiously during the spring, summer and fall months than at any other time, and during the grazing season their services will be required in properly distributing the stock upon the range.

Owing to the fact that I am not thoroughly familiar with the territory under my supervision, I am at this time unable to give the exact location of cabins and pastures to be used for headquarters of the Forest Officers as I deem it of special

importance that headquarters should be so located that they would be permanent and avoid the waste of both time and money, which is sure to be the case where the locations are hastily chosen and due consideration is not given to the surrounding conditions relative to the present and future work of the reserve, which cannot be done without being thoroughly familiar with all the conditions both in and out of the reserve in the immediate vicinity of each locality.

Very truly yours,
/s/ A.S. Ireland
A.S. IRELAND
Forest Supervisor.

Washington, D.C.
June 21, 1906.

Mr. A.S. Ireland,
Prineville, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

The estimates for the fiscal year 1906-7 have been approved by the Forester. The total allotment for the Blue Mountains Reserve (West) is \$7,121 and for the Maury Mountains Reserve, \$1,050, the details of which are given in the statement which follows. The Forester desires that this allotment be considered as absolutely final. He will hold you personally responsible for expenditures in excess of it. Should you run over this allotment, it will be treated just as severely as any other kind of carelessness or inefficiency. This is no sense means that the Forest Service is any less eager for the best interests of your reserve. But it has become absolutely necessary to apply a rigid policy toward excesses over allotments in order to avoid confusion in the money matters of the Service. You understand of course, that a fixed amount only is available for all the expenses of forest service administration, and only by a fixed allotment to each reserve can the Service insure against an excess of its total appropriation.

<u>Blue Mountains (West)</u>					
1 Supervisor	at	\$1,200	11	months	\$1,100
1 Forest Assistant	at	1,456	12	months	1,456

A HISTORY OF THE OCHOCO NATIONAL FOREST

1 Deputy Forest Ranger	at	1000	12 months	1,000
2 Asst. Forest Rangers	at	900	12 months	1,800
4 Forest Guards	at	720	6 months	1,440
				<hr/>
				\$6,796

Expenses				
Travel	Equipment	Communications	Shelter	Protection
\$150	\$50	\$50	\$75	--

This makes the full summer force 7 men, exclusive of yourself and your Technical Assistant, whose appointment is not yet definite, four of whom will serve only six months during the fiscal year. Your letter of authorization for this reserve will be for \$325 and will not be increased.

<u>Maury Mountains</u>				
1 Supervisor	at	\$1,200	1 month	\$100
1 Asst. Forest Rangers	at	900	12 months	<u>900</u>
				\$1,000

Expenses				
Travel	Equipment	Communications	Shelter	Protection
\$140	\$10	--	--	--

This makes the full summer force 1 man, exclusive of yourself. Your letter of authorization for this reserve will be for \$50 and will not be increased.

The extra emergency expenses for fighting any forest fires that may occur will be charged directly against an emergency fund held in reserve in this office. You will be held directly responsible that the total expenses of the Blue Mountains Reserve (West) do not exceed \$7,121 and of the Maury Mountains Reserve \$1,050, exclusive of any promotions effective on January 1.

Very truly yours,
/s/ Overtone W. Price
OVERTON W. PRICE
Assistant Forester

Another large and important branch of work, namely the Agricultural Settlement of Reserve lands under the Act of June 11, 1906, confronted the Supervisor when he received the following telegram:

Washington, D.C. 6/11/06

A HISTORY OF THE OCHOCO NATIONAL FOREST

Ireland - Agricultural Settlement Bill will be signed by the President June 12. Application for classification and listing may be made on Tuesday and afterwards under Forest reserve. Order 47. Copy of bill furnished you correct for your reserve.

Gifford Pinchot

After the experience gained during the grazing season of 1906 Mr. Ireland began to make plans to increase the efficiency of the Reserve and for the betterment of administration for the grazing season of 1907. During the first year the force had been kept busy settling disputes, explaining the regulations, guarding against trespass, as well as with other grazing work, along with the other duties demanded of them such as fire patrol, etc. It was, therefore, decided to hold a stockman's meeting in person as well as to consider with them the necessary reduction of stock. For the purpose of calling this meeting together the following circular letter was sent to every stockman who was interested in the Reserve range:

Prineville, Oregon,
Sept. 29, 1906

Dear Sir:

A stock meeting will be held at Canyon City, Oregon, November 15, 1906, beginning at 10 A.M., for the purpose of making grazing allotments in the Western Division of the Blue Mountains Forest Reserve for 1907.

Being interested, as you no doubt are, it is desired that you attend this meeting as it will be to your benefit to be present when the allotments are made, and if impossible for you to attend in person, you should under written authority, delegate someone to act for you in the matter as the allotments made at this meeting must be abided by during the season of 1907.

Certain driveways will be established upon which stock must be kept while crossing the reserve.

This notice informs you in time that you may make arrangements relative to breeding, or for forage, for the excess number so reduced.

Owing to the crowded condition of the range a reduction will be made in the number of sheep allowed to graze in the reserve during the season of 1907, viz:

All permits for less than 1,000 grown sheep will be allowed to increase 20 percent.

A HISTORY OF THE OCHOCO NATIONAL FOREST

All permits for 1,000 to 1,200 will be allowed to increase to 1,200.

All permits for 1,200 to 2,000 to be reduced 15 percent provided that none are reduced below 1,200.

All permits from 2,000 to 4,000 to be reduced 20 percent provided none go below 2,000.

All permits for 4,000 to 10,000 grown sheep to be reduced 25 percent as provided above.

All permits for over 10,000 to be reduced 30 percent.

The Western Division comprises that part of the reserve lying south and west of The Dalles Military Wagon Road.

Very truly yours,
/s/ A.S. Ireland
A.S. Ireland
Forest Supervisor

By two grazing letters of authorization dated December 29, 1906 the supervisor was authored to permit the grazing of 1,800 head of cattle and horses on the Maury Mountain Forest Reserve, and on the Western Division of the Blue Mountains Forest Reserve 28,000 head of cattle and horses and 240,000 head of sheep, during the season of 1907, to be distributed to the ten grazing districts.

All phases of the work of the Blue Mt. (W) and Maury Mts. Forest Reserves was reported upon by Assistant Forest Inspector M.L. Erickson on December 29, 1906. He recommended particularly the following improvements and expense money with which to work:

1. Trail along main summit from South Fork of John Day River to western boundary of Blue Mts. (W) Reserve (for powder in trail construction) \$50.00
2. Telephone line from Dayville to Howard (for telephone line materials) 275.00
3. Building cabins (for materials for cabins) 150.00
4. Selection of Ranger pastures and headquarters, (2,000 lbs. of #3 barbed wire to be provided by the Service for pasture fences). ---

For the sale of timber, stumpage prices were recommended as follows:

Yellow Pine, Western Larch, and Douglas Fir when used

for domestic purposes	\$1.75 per MBF.
When used for commercial purposes or in large sales	
A minimum price of \$2.00	2.00 per MBF.
Lodgepole Pine for domestic purposes	1.25 per MBF.
Lodgepole Pine for commercial purposes	1.75 per MBF.
Poles 20 to 30 ft. Long, 6 inches at top end	25¢ to 50¢ each.
Small poles for fences	5¢ TO 10¢ each.
Posts	2¢ to 5¢ each.
Green cordwood	1.00 per cord.
Dead cordwood50 per cord.
Stulls, lagging, shakes, etc. to be valued at cordwood prices.	

During Mr. Erickson’s inspection he noticed the work of a beetle in the cones of the Yellow Pine. He states that about 50% of the Yellow Pine seed had been destroyed by this beetle. He also mentioned the work of bark beetles in Lodgepole Pine and recommended a special investigation along this line.

The adoption of Free Use blocks where the people could go and cut the timber they needed without the forest officer going with them, was recommended in the report, but Forest Inspector E.T. Allen did not approve this scheme.

Regarding game, Mr. Erickson states that elk, antelope and deer were found on the Reserve in limited numbers. The Umatilla, Warm Spring, Klamath and Paiute Indians were found to have slaughtered game of all kinds. [Handwritten margin note: “This really likely. Could have been the cattlemen & sheepmen? Trappers?” — During the Shoshone war the U.S. Army slaughtered wild herds to deprive the Indians of their food supply. Ed.]

Mr. Erickson estimated the timber growing upon the Blue Mts. (W) Reserve to be 11,850,000 MBF.

As Prineville was not centrally located, Mr. Erickson recommended a change of head-quarters to either John Day or Canyon City upon May 1, 1907, that the administration of the Reserve might be bettered. Otherwise he advocated a division of the Blue Mts. (W) Reserve into two parts whenever there should be good supervisor material available.

Regarding a proposed change in the working policy Mr. Erickson writes:

Inspector Allen has just informed me that there is a plan on foot to make Prineville the headquarters for administration of a portion of the Blue Mountains West, the Maury Mountains, a portion of the Fremont Reserve, and that part of the Cascades east of the Cascade Mountains. This will be a very suitable arrangement and will solve the problem of an additional supervisor for the Fremont Forest reserve. In case the office remains at Prineville, the division of the Blue Mountains W. Should be the South Fork of the John Day River. Perhaps it may be advisable to allow Supervisor A.S. Ireland to remain at Prineville to administer these areas and secure a new man, located at John Day, to take charge of the eastern portion of the Blue Mountains W. This can be determined later when a more particularly definite arrangement is made as to the final disposition of the Blue Mountains E. Should a new man be secured to take charge of the eastern division, Henry Ireland would be well fitted to take charge of that portion of the Blue Mountains W., located at Canyon City or John Day.

During this period the demands upon the Forest Supervisor were very great, especially with relation to the grazing business. With the poor maps available, a limited and inexperienced field force, and unfamiliarity with conditions him-self, Mr. Ireland naturally had his hands full and as a result unavoidable mistakes were made. Through the pressing of trespass cases enemies were made who were willing to enlarge upon these errors and complaints and demands began pouring in upon every hand. Such conditions brought about the meeting of the Grazing Advisory Board of the Western Division of the Blue Mountains Reserve at the Dalles on November 14, 1907 when resolutions were passed, based on certain complaints, against the administration. This action led further to a meeting of the Users of the Blue Mountains (W) National Forest (The Term "Forest Reserve" has been changed to "National Forests.") at Prineville, Oregon, January 29, 30 and 31, 1907 for the purpose of readjusting and establishing lines of division between the cattle and sheep ranges. At this meeting Mr. L.F. Kneipp, Chief of Office of Control, was present.

The following quotations which discuss the meeting, are taken from Mr. Kneipp's report which was approved by Inspector E.T. Allen on February 20, 1908:

The purpose of the above meeting was to establish boundary lines between the different classes of stock on the areas recently added to the Forest, and to change the lines within the original limits of the Forest to suit the local needs. Full publicity had been given to the time, place, and purpose of the meeting, and between fifty and seventy-five stock owners from all parts of the Forest, representing both the sheep and cattle interests, were present. The lines within each district were established by committees of from six to eight of the users of that district, sheep and cattle being equally represented; the members of the committees being suggested for nomination by the Supervisor, and confirmed by the meeting. Mr. Ireland's management of the meeting was excellent. The stock owners were allowed every opportunity to freely express their needs; there was no attempt to coerce or dictate to the committees; the whole proposition was placed fairly before the meeting, and the stock owners were given full opportunity to work out their range problems to their satisfaction, subject of course to any changes required by the general policies, or for the protection of Forest Interests.

As the opening of the meeting I explained briefly the policies and purposes of the Forest Service, and continued this work in individual conferences throughout the entire meeting. The general policy of the Forest Service is approved by the majority of the stockmen in this Forest, and the only general objection to its local application comes from a group of sheep owners residing in the vicinity of Antelope, who comprise a part of the Antelope Wool Grower's Association. There were, of course, a number of minor objections to range allotments made last year, but all such cases brought up were singularly free from any charges of unfairness

Supervisor Ireland was a stranger in the country, his Rangers were not familiar with the work or particularly good men, and the grazing conditions were so complicated and involved that the stockmen despaired of every getting them straightened out, and in fact refused to attempt to do so at the first meetings held by the Supervisor. Mr. Ireland, inexperienced and a stranger to local conditions, had to undertake the work of sifting out the chaotic mass of claims and counter claims, and something like twenty of the stockmen present at the Prineville meeting stated that he had done better than anybody had expected him or any other man to do. Numerous mistakes were made, but not as many nor as serious ones as were expected.

One of the most fertile sources of troubles was the paper allotment system of the committees, made upon incorrect maps. In going on the range at the beginning of the

season it would develop that the range desired was one, two, or three miles from the range allotted and had been assigned to some other party. This, of course, caused considerable confusion and some hard feelings. Mr. Ireland was decidedly lax in not requesting more men for the purpose of tracing out the allotments and readjusting them before the sheep came in. It was perfectly true that with the force he had it would have been impossible to adjust each allotment, but his authorization allowed him several more men which he did not secure because, as he states, he could not get any satisfactory enough for the work. Mr. Ireland had decided to abandon the practice of allotting range by sections, and to assign by topographical divisions hereafter. He also intends to secure his full quota of men and to have a full adjustment of each individual allotment made before the permittee enters the Forest. By doing this, much of the cause for dissatisfaction last year will be removed.

The area under Mr. Ireland's supervision has been reduced to about seven hundred thousand acres, and I believe that with the experience he has acquired since assuming charge of the Forest he can give an entirely satisfactory and efficient administration, provided, that an effort is made during the coming season to adjust the conflicting claims to grazing privileges by having a complete inspection made beginning with the allotment meeting which will be held approximately May 1 to 10th, and following the permittees into the field to determine that the actual assignments of range are satisfactory. In justice to Mr. Ireland, this should be done.

To sum up the general situation, the cattlemen seem satisfied that they are being treated fairly, and the majority of the sheep owners apparently consider that Mr. Ireland is doing the best he can for them. Certainly the sentiment of the meeting at Prineville indicates that the resolutions passed by the Oregon Wool Growers' Association are not representative of the opinion of the large majority of the users of the Blue Mountains (W) National Forest. It is evidently true that Mr. Ireland is not a man of exceptional ability, but the opposition to him is from an active minority, and the larger number of the users of the Forest are satisfied with his administration. The local newspapers support him, and the local stock associations indorse him. The feeling of the local residents toward the policies of the Forest Service is one of approval and favor, which is increasing. In consideration of these facts it cannot be said that Mr. Ireland is not performing his duties satisfactorily.

Mr. Kneipp than takes up each charge made against Mr. Ireland. The first mentioned, and regarding which the following quotation is taken from the report, is entitled "Complaints of Members of the Antelope Wool Growers' Association." As this complaint is characteristic of all the others, it will be the only one discussed here.

Antelope is seventy-five miles from the portion of the Blue Mountains (W) Forest in which the Antelope people have their summer ranges. The business of the parties making the complaints is conducted largely by camp tenders and herders, the owners making only infrequent visits to their flocks. The chief claims to an equity in the range by the Antelope people lie in their prior and continuous use of it, and under ordinary circumstances they would be the last preference class of Class B. users, for while almost all of them own or lease small plants near the Forest, my understanding is that these lands are unimproved grazing lands mainly leased at nominal rates. The balance of the demand for grazing privileged comes from people living much nearer the Forest with holdings of improved land much greater in proportion to the number of stock grazed by them, than are the holdings of the Antelope sheep raisers. The Antelope sheepmen desire equal rights to the range with all other users of it. A thorough investigation of the entire question may prove that they are entitled to such rights, but so far it appears that to

concede that such is true, is in opposition to the present policy. It is considered that the range allotments are unfair because they are not laid out upon an acreage basis in the exact proportion of five sheep to one cow, regardless of the fact that the exclusive cattle and horse ranges are actually used by Class A and B owners residing in and adjacent to the Forest. Stockmen entitled to first consideration, with the possible exception of the Prineville Land and Livestock Company, the Baldwin Stock and Land Company, A.O. Williamson, and Wm. Brown, who are large owners, but whose landed holdings in and adjacent to the Forest, leased and owned, run into the thousands or tens of thousands. The Antelope people are entitled to strong consideration, but not to share equally with the nearby Class A and B owners.

I was informed by several of the prominent sheep and cattle men attending the meeting that at the time the Blue Mountain Forest was created a sheep and cattle war of more serious character than any ever occurring before was impending, and that the creation of the Forest was all that prevented it. In such a war the Antelope sheep men would have been subjected to the heaviest loss of stock, and eventually would have lost the range. By the creation of the Forest they maintain their ranges, share equally with their neighbors in the division of grazing privileges, and have not sustained any losses. As their operations were at that time semi-nomadic in character they would have lost the most heavily, and the soonest. To favor the Forest Service or some form of control was the most logical thing they could do. It therefore cannot be considered that the Service is guilty of ingratitude in insisting that they shall be classed in accordance with the general policy, and granted only such privileges as their classification entitles them to. An exact determination of their rights may be secured only by a thorough investigation in the field. My personal conclusion after listening to both sides in a joint meeting is that the Antelope sheep raisers have not been treated unfairly, or subjected to any action prejudicial to their interests, further than such instances as may have arisen through the very much mixed up grazing situation, and the lack of familiarity with range on the part of the Forest officers, but to which all users of the range were alike subjected, and which would not indicate prejudice or unfairness on the Supervisor's part.

At the conclusion of Mr. Kneipp's report he makes the following recommendations:

No. 1. That a thorough and complete inspection be made of the grazing business of the Forest beginning with the allotment meetings May 1 to 10, and extending to a field examination of the cattle and horse ranges and the individual allotments of sheep range in order that the somewhat unsettled conditions now existing be changed and the present congested and over-grazed state be remedied.

No. 2. That Supervisor A.S. Ireland be sustained and retained in his present position until a thorough inspection can develop the truth or falsity of the charges made against his administration of the grazing business.

No. 3. That allotments to range shall be described by topographical divisions, and not be legal subdivisions.

No. 4. That Supervisor Ireland be required to complete his quota of men, and during the interval between the approval of the grazing applications trace out and mark the boundary of each individual sheep allotment, so that the sheep owners will not be delayed in going to their respective allotments.

No. 5. That it be considered that the charges preferred by the Antelope Wool Growers' Association against Mr. Ireland are based almost entirely upon the statements of camp tenders and herders; that they are contradicted to a large extent by the records and by the admissions of the parties making them, and that therefore they shall not be allowed to weigh against Mr. Ireland's record as a Forest officer, unless further corroborated.

No. 6. That the Supervisor be instructed to require the closer herding of stock, cattle and horses, to prevent their intrusion upon ranges allotted to sheep, and further, that he be instructed to require a more thorough compliance with the salting regulation both as regards the amount of salt put out, and its proper distribution.

The next step of importance in the development of the region managed from the Prineville headquarters was taken when the plan for redivision of the Forest Reserves, mentioned above in [the] quotations from Mr. Erickson's report, was furthered. Regarding this step, the two letters which follow are significant:

Washington, D.C.,
January 25, 1907.

Mr. A.S. Ireland,
Prineville, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

It is proposed to divide many of the forest reserves into new administrative units. The object is to give each officer in charge the administration of only those lands which from their locality, topography, and business interests can be most effectively and cheaply managed from his headquarters. The following redistribution of forest reserve lands now included within the Blue Mountains, Maury Mountains, Fremont, and Cascade reserves is proposed. I shall be glad to have your views regarding it before February 15. Please send me any suggestions which you may wish to make as to the new lines and the location of headquarters.

From Prineville as Headquarters: All of the Fremont Reserve north of the township line between townships 30 and 31 southeast of Crater Lake National Park; the Maury Mountains Reserve and that portion of the Blue Mountains Reserve west of the South Fork of the John Day River and the main divide of the Cascade Mountains north to Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

The map enclosed under separate cover shows the new divisions. When you reply please suggest names which you think would be appropriate for these reserves.

Very truly yours,
JAMES B. ADAMS
Acting Forester

Prineville, Oregon,
March 8, 1907.

The Forester,
Forest Service
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Replying to letter "O" dated January 25, which letter, owing to delayed mails has just been received.

I have the honor to recommend that in case the Blue Mountains Forest Reserve (West) is divided, that the South Fork of the John Day River be the division line so as to include that part of the reserve lying west of said stream, and north of the township line between townships 15 and 16 in that portion with headquarters at Prineville, and would suggest the name of Blue Mountains (West) for this portion. Would further recommend that all that part of the present Blue Mountains Forest Reserve (West) lying east of the South Fork of the John Day River, and that part lying south and west of said stream and situated in Grant and Malheur Counties be included in the new division, with headquarters at either John Day, or Canyon City; preferably John Day.

My reasons for recommending this as a division are as follows:

1. The John Day River where it flows through the reserve is in a deep and rough canyon, and it is a natural division of the stock ranges.

2. Practically all the people who reside in the vicinity of that portion of the reserve lying south and west of the John Day River, and in Grant and Malheur Counties, transact nearly all their business either at Canyon City or Burns.

3. It is believed that the business of this part of the reserve can be more effectively, cheaply and satisfactorily administered from John Day than from Prineville. Since the Strawberry Mountains are the most prominent of any mountains in this part of the reserve I would suggest the name of Strawberry Reserve for this portion.

Would recommend that the headquarters for the Maury Mountains Reserve remain as now.

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As a name for that portion of the Cascade Range Reserve lying north of the township line between townships 30 and 31 east of the main divide to the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, I would suggest the name Mr. Washington Reserve.

Since I am entirely unfamiliar with the Fremont Reserve or the surrounding country I am at this time unable to make any recommendations.

Under another cover I am forwarding to you a map outlining the division recommended for the Blue Mountains (West).

Very truly yours,
Forest Supervisor.

At this point another important change took place when the Supervisor received the following letter from the Forester regarding the old Maury Mountain Reserve, which up [to] this time had been considered and treated as a district unit:

Washington, D.C.
April 13, 1907.

Mr. A.S. Ireland,
Prineville, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

On March 2 a new proclamation was issued combining the Maury Mountains with the Blue Mountains National Forest. Therefore please consolidate your records under the name of the Blue Mountains (West) and all cases relating to that region will hereafter be designated as belonging to the Blue Mountains (West) National Forest.

Very truly yours,
JAMES B. ADAMS.
Acting Forester.

During the years 1906 and 1907 the boundary of the Blue Mountains Forest Reserve was being thoroughly examined by Forest Expert, L. Wernstedt, and the results of his findings are written up on his "Report on Additions, Eliminations, and Proposed Withdrawals in the Blue Mountains National

Forest, Oregon.” In this report the following summary of recommendations regarding additions, eliminations and proposed withdrawals is made:

Total area permanent and proposed additions, including alienated land about	700,000 acres.
Pending	225,000 acres.
Eliminations	148,000 acres.
All lands now withdrawn, including all alienated lands, that are not mentioned in this report, should be released.	

With reference to the factors controlling the work and recommendations, Mr. Wernstedt says:

The territory covered by the examination includes all of the Blue Mountains boundary except that part that lies east and north of the eastern division between Township 15 south, Range 27 east, and Township 3 south, Range 33 east, W.M.⁵ It also embraces the old Maury Mountains Reserve, Wheeler County, south of the John Day River, and the country between Heppner and the Blue Mountains Forests. In this area there was left out by the original proclamation of the Blue Mountains Forest close to one million acres of strictly timbered country, all of which, with the exception of about 40,000 acres in Wheeler County, is contiguous to the Blue Mountains Forest proper. The effect has been a rapid alienation of a large portion of the vacant lands under the Act of June 3, 1878, largely by people from the outside. Little actual settlement has been made. The Wheeler Country timber is nearly all alienated.

The tilled country, excepting scattered ranches, is invariably located at some distance from the body of the Blue Mountains timber, which is all in rough country, and there is no apparent reason why any of the timber to which the Government still holds the title should not now be included, as was partly done by the proclamation of March 2, in the permanent Blue Mountains National Forest.

In regard to the open range the purpose has been not to include any except such portions where the local stockmen evidently suffer from the presence of transient or outside sheep, or where a proper regulation of the movements and the disposition of sheep is important, or where the topography of the country makes such a boundary better.

All the open winter range now included had been recommended of [sic] elimination, also the rest of the open country where no reasons beyond those existing anywhere else along the boundary call for its retention. These areas are all relatively small. The inclusion of the remaining timber now will eventually make possible further extensions of the National Forest area. Much good timber remains which would shortly pass into private hands if left out. Other portions of this timber contain material that will eventually be termed merchantable and areas that are at any rate more valuable for forestry purposes than for anything else. An

⁵ Willamette Meridian, the reference point for surveys in this part of the United States.

examination of this class in those localities where the timber is highly alienated and where the forest might be broken by a number of small open places is not satisfactory in determining the character of the unappropriated lands, and it should not be final. Areas of this kind are therefore recommended for further examination in detail. They should be withdrawn immediately where they are located outside the present boundary. Those parts that are already within the boundary should remain there until examined. The examination should be limited to a simple description of the vacant lands, and all of them that are found valuable for forestry purposes should be made part of the National Forest.

[Mr. Wernstedt here includes a long description of the "General Character" of lands along the edge of the Blue Mountains National Forest.]

General Character of Lands along Edge of Blue Mts. National Forest.

Generally speaking, the line between the timbered area and the open country is well defined, and the timber in the lower country, that is, in the region under discussion, is practically all commercial forest except locally on unfavorable sites. There are no timberlands in the region that could, properly speaking, be called noncommercial. Outside the timber, and partly overlapping it, there is generally found a woodland area consisting of juniper and, at the edge of the timber mountain mahogany.

The heaviest stands in Eastern Oregon are those adjoining the Maury Mountains [sic] and south of Prineville. In Wheeler County it becomes very scattering, and in Grant County it is almost entirely lacking. The rough country generally extends for a considerable distance outside the timber, leaving a great amount of early spring, summer and late fall range outside. The difference in elevation between the main drainage lines and the timber is sometimes 1,000 feet to 1,500 to 2,000 feet, and the valleys are in most cases merely narrow valleys or canyons. The South Fork of the John Day River, and the country between the western end of the Western Division and Mitchell, are probably rougher than any other open range country in Oregon. The valley of the main John Day River is a narrow strip of land only, opening up into a valley near Prairie City, with foothills rising abruptly from the river bottom. North of T^{wp.} 11⁶ the country assumes a more level aspect, being a plateau country with the creeks and rivers in narrow and deep canyons. The canyon of the Middle Fork of the John Day River is one of the most remarkable topographical features of Oregon. The open country in which Ukiah is situated is a high, comparatively flat country. Typical of the Blue Mountains country are the open areas within the Forest known as Bear Valley, Fox Valley, Silvies Valley, Logan Prairie, and Summit Prairie, level or slightly rolling areas with considerable amount of hay lands. Of less pronounced relief are areas along the south boundary between Range 22 and Range 26, the Silver Creek region and the addition north of Burns. The open range adjoining the timber is generally a sage and bunchgrass country. In Grant County and northward there is very little sage, mostly bunch grass and various kinds of weeds, on the low foothills sheep grass. The range in Wheeler County and along the northwest boundary of the timbered area is almost exclusively a grass country, covered with a dense carpet of sheep grass. These grass lands, however, have been highly

⁶ Township 11.

injured by sheep. The Izee country in Grant County is a rough, very fine bunch grass country and is well watered.

Settlements at the present time are confined almost entirely to the river and creek bottoms, and the bulk of the open ranges adjoining the Forest will never be used for anything but grazing, owing to the rocky nature of the soil.

Throughout the lower timbered country there are small patches of land suitable for farming purposes, part of which may eventually be developed as the country settles up and after it has obtained better transportation facilities. Parts of Harney Valley, being assured of a railroad in the near future, are now rapidly settling up and being transformed into an agricultural region for grain and fruit. Harney Valley is the only large body of level agricultural land in this adjoining country. The main product of the country is winter feed for stock.

Throughout the lower timber regions in Grant County and Umatilla County, excellent crops of oats and also wheat will be produced whenever suitable patches of soil are found. These suitable areas form only a very small fraction of the lower timber as a whole, and lack of water for domestic purposes further limits the full development of agricultural lands throughout the Blue Mountain region.

With reference to the receipts and disbursements of the Blue Mountains (W) and the Maury Mountains National Forests the following statements for the Fiscal Year 1907 are given:

BLUE MOUNTAINS (W) NATIONAL FOREST

Receipts: Timber Sales	\$ 214.10
Timber Settlements	-- --
Timber Trespass	32.00
Grazing	32,804.20
Special Uses	<u>52.00</u>
Total	\$33,102.30
Refunds	<u>335.00</u>
Net Total	\$32,767.30

Disbursements: For Salaries	4,624.83
General Expenses	214.43
Fire	<u>34.00</u>
Total	\$ 4,873.26

Distribution of disbursements:

Administration--Sal.	4,624.83
Administration--Exp.	4.83
Travel	194.56
Rent	-- --
Forest Planting	-- --
Headquarters	-- --
Telephone Lines	-- --
Drift fences & corrals	-- --

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Roads, trails & bridges	1.04
Fire Lines	---
Equipment	14.00
Fire	<u>34.00</u>
Total	-\$4,873.26

MAURY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL FOREST

Receipts: Timber Sales	\$ 351.26
Timber Settlements	---
Timber Trespass	---
Grazing	431.68
Special Uses	<u>10.00</u>
Total	\$ 774.94
Refunds ..	<u>3.00</u>
Net Total	\$ 771.94

Disbursements: For Salaries ..	1,380.00
General Expenses	4.95
Fire	---
Total ..	\$ 1,384.95

Distribution of disbursements:

Administration--Sal.	1,380.83
Administration--Exp.	---
Travel	4.95
Rent	---
Forest Planting	---
Headquarters	---
Telephone Lines	---
Drift fences & corrals	---
Roads, trails & bridges	---
Fire Lines	---
Equipment	---
Fire	---
Total	-\$1,384.95

As the organization of the Forest developed and increased in efficiency, public sentiment toward the National Forest plan became more friendly. The causes of hostility among the few not friendly, in order of importance, were given as —

1. Ignorance,
2. Opposition of grazing fees,
3. Newspaper opposition,
4. Friction over administrative methods,
5. Opposition to withdrawal from wholesale entry,
6. Antagonism of big interests,
7. Political opposition.

As the plan for redivisioning the Forest matured, it was necessary to quickly school a man to take charge of the area to be separated from the Blue Mountains (W) Forest Reserve. For this purpose Deputy Forest Supervisor, C.J. Bingham was transferred from Roseburg, the headquarters for the Southern Division of the Cascade National Forest, to Prineville on September 1, 1907, where he familiarized himself with the proposed Central Division of the Forest.

On December 13, 1907 the following letters were received by Mr. Ireland and on December 15, Mr. Bingham took charge of the Malheur National Forest:

Washington, D.C.,
December 6, 1907.

Mr. A.S. Ireland,
Blue Mountains (W) National Forest,
Prineville, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the recommendation of Chief Inspector Allen, that part of the Blue Mountains (W) National Forest indicated on the accompanying map will be designated as the Malheur administrative unit with headquarters in John Day. The transfer will be made effective December 15, upon which date Deputy Supervisor Bingham should assume charge as Acting Super-visor. If you can arrange to do so without inconvenience please detail clerk D.F. Johnson to assist Acting Supervisor Bingham for a period of 30 days. His traveling expenses will be paid and should be charged against the letter of authorization for the Malheur Unit.

With the cutting off of the Malheur National Forest, it was necessary to transfer several rangers and guards to Acting Forest Supervisor Bingham's administration. Therefore on December 20, Assistant Forest Rangers J.B. Kandel, Guy N. Hubbard and C.L. Pearson, and Forest Guard J.S. Fraser were changed from the roll of the Blue Mountains (W) Forest to those of the Malheur.

The Forest Supervisor's first annual grazing report was submitted on December 9, 1907, dealing with the year just past. It states that 122 sheep grazing permits and 335 permits for cattle and horses had been issued. The total number of permitted stock grazed upon the Forest during 1907 was

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247,004 head of sheep and 32,170 head of cattle and horses. In accordance with the recommendations advanced in this report, the Secretary of Agriculture authorized the grazing of 152,500 head of sheep and 17,900 head of cattle and horses during the year 1908. The decrease in numbers was due to the taking away of the Malheur unit from the Forest.

Up to this time the Forest Supervisor's office had been located in his residence. The business of the Forest had become so great, however, that more room was needed, so on March 18, 1908, the Supervisor leased rooms in a down-town [sic] office building and moved in his office equipment.

The field force employed on May 28, 1908 by the Blue Mountains (w) National Forest were:

A.S. Ireland	Supervisor	@	\$1,800 per annum
B.F. Johnson	Forest Ranger	@	1,200 per annum
C.S. Congleton	Deputy Ranger	@	1,100 per annum
Walter T. Morris	Deputy Ranger	@	1,000 per annum
Arthur Bennett	Deputy Ranger	@	1,000 per annum
W.A. Donnelly	Assistant Ranger	@	900 per annum
C.C. Hon	Forest Guard	@	900 per annum
J.C. Gilchrist	Forest Guard	@	900 per annum

The next important step with reference to the change of Forest Reserve boundaries, was taken when the Supervisor received the following letter:

Washington, D.C.,
May 15, 1908.

Mr. A.S. Ireland,
Blue Mountains (W) National Forest,
Prineville, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Ireland:

The plan of redistricting the National Forests will be put into effect July 1 next. The objective of this plan is to reduce the size of administrative units and to rearrange their boundaries in such a manner as best to promote an efficient administration. A blueprint will be sent you showing the boundaries of the Deschutes National Forest as finally approved. Please assume charge of this area on July 1 with headquarters in Prineville.

The district adjoining the Deschutes on the east will be known as the Malheur, in charge of Supervisor Bingham with headquarters at John Day; on the south as the Fremont, in charge of Supervisor Ingram with headquarters at Lakeview; on the west as the Cascade, in charge of Supervisor Seitz with

headquarters at Eugene, and on the southwest as the Umpqua, in charge of Supervisor Bartrum with headquarters at Roseburg.

Full information concerning your allotment for salaries and general expenses will be sent you before July 1.

Directions are enclosed for making necessary changes in your office records.

Very sincerely yours,
CLYDE LEAVITT,
Chief.

With the new proclamation dated July 1, 1908 all that area lying on and around the Paulina Mountains and within the boundaries of the Fremont National Forest, and all that territory east of the Deschutes River north of the center tier of sections in T. 25 S., R. 9 E., W.M., then included within the boundaries of the Cascade National Forest, was placed under the administration of the Prineville office. These portions of the Forests together with the area known as the Blue Mountains (W) National Forest were then renamed. The new name applied to the entire area was the "Deschutes National Forest."

This change in the Forest boundaries greatly enlarged the scope of the administrative work in the Prineville office. With the transferred territory, new rangers and guards as well as a vast amount of business came under the Prineville Supervisor's inspection. Mr. Ireland had less than three months to familiarize himself with his new territory and to perfect the organization when, in accordance with the policy of detailing field men to the Washington office for short periods, he was selected for detail to the Office of Grazing at Washington, D.C. from October 1 to December 31.

As a result of poor organization and lack of roads and good communications, the largest forest fire in the history of the National Forest in this section, occurred on August 2, 1908, when approximately 28,500 acres of timberland in the Paulina Mountain region was burned over.

Since this fire, commonly called "the Paulina Mountains Fire," was the largest fire within the National Forest to that date, and since with the present system of protection it is not expected that such a conflagration will ever occur again, a short account of it may be of interest here.

On August 3, 1908 Ranger Frank Petit, who was stationed in the Paulina Mountains, but as yet was unfamiliar with that territory, wired the Prineville Office that a large fire was burning in the Paulina Mountains. The same day Deputy Forest Supervisor B.F. Johnson with four men, started for the scene of the fire. They were met by Ranger Petit who endeavored to conduct them to the burning area, but the heavy smoke and lack of knowledge of the country made him unable to locate the fire for two or three days. When finally the burning region was found, the men were almost out of provisions. A wagon was sent out for a fresh supply and the work of trenching and back firing was begun. According to an eye witness, the fire was burning through the heavy stands of lodgepole and yellow pine timber at a terrific rate, and in many cases the flames reached a solid height of over a hundred feet. Besides this, the wind had scattered burning embers until the fire was burning from several sources with a number of distinct heads. At this point Ranger Petit felt that the fire was beyond their control and he left for more help. He wired to the Supervisor that 150 men would be needed to control the flames, and as a result

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of this message, Forest Ranger Bennett of the Deschutes and Forest Supervisor Ingram of the Fremont National Forest started for the scene with between 90 and 100 men with supplies and equipment.

In the meantime, Ranger Congleton with a small force of 6 or 8 men working on one side of the fire and Deputy Supervisor Johnson working with his small force on the other side, began to make their mark on the advancing flames. The region was dry and hot and it was necessary to carry drinking water for a distance of about 15 miles, but, after a soul-torturing battle, these two small crews finally succeeded in corralling the flames to a bed of lava where they burned slowly. When this was accomplished, the men being nearly exhausted and out of provisions, Mr. Johnson instructed them to "go easy" until he could go after and return with fresh supplies. Johnson then started out and after going about 20 miles, met Supervisor Ingram and Ranger Bennett with their outfits. Upon Johnson's report of conditions, Mr. Ingram with his crew of about 20 men turned back, but Mr. Bennett with about 75 men was determined to continue on. Mr. Johnson accompanied them, and as a means of making time by a short cut, a road was swamped out through the lodgepole timber to the scene of the fire, but when they arrived on August 23, they found that Mr. Congleton with his men had the fire entirely under control.

Ranger Petit returning with another crew of men became lost and never appeared at the fire again after he had taken Mr. Johnson's party in.

The damage to the Forest resulting from this fire was estimated as follows:

753,600 B.F. green yellow pine, valued at \$2.00 per M destroyed	\$ 1,507.20
1,675,000 B.F. dead yellow pine, @ \$1.00 per M destroyed	1,675.00
100,500,000 B.F. green yellow pine not killed but damaged, loss estimated @ \$1.00 per M	100,500.00
Young growth entirely killed	<u>33,500.00</u>
	137,182.20

The cost figures are given in the Supervisor's report as:

Temporary labor	\$ 5,121.50
Supplies, equip., trans., etc.	2,564.39
Ranger labor	<u>370.55</u>
	\$ 8,056.44

(A detailed examination of this burn, made upon instructions from the Washington office, by Forest Assistant T.T. Mungen and Assistant Forest Ranger F.P. Pettit in October, 1908, shows the area covered by this fire to be less than 8,000 acres. Upon only about 1,000 acres was the fire an all-consuming crown fire here it killed practically all the trees. On the rest of the burn, it was an ordinary very hot surface fire. Mr. Ireland's figures for the

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amount of timber "destroyed" and "damaged" are probably ten times too large. T.T.M.)

The probably cause of the fire was lightning.

Because of the poor judgment displayed by Ranger Petit in connection with this fire, in addition to other charges, he was deprived of his position and the general supervision of the Forest was criticized.

Upon the resignation of Assistant Ranger F.P. Pettit, he made charges against Supervisor Ireland, charging that he was intoxicated a portion of the time while in charge of this fire and that therefore, he made many mistakes and caused considerable unnecessary expense, resulting in a waste of money to the Government. An investigation of Supervisor Ireland's conduct resulted in a letter to him in which he was charged with being intoxicated in Bend, Oregon, while in charge of this fire at a time when his best powers of judgment should have been at the disposal of the Forest Service. The letter charged that he had issued orders while in an intoxicated condition which resulted in the useless expenditure of several thousand dollars. This charge, together with other charges of misconduct by Supervisor Ireland resulted in a request for his resignation by the above letter. He resigned from the Forest Service, effective April 30, 1911.

On November 12, 1908 a matter which promised to greatly facilitate the management of the Forest, came to the Supervisor's attention when the following letter relative to the establishment of District headquarters at certain western cities was received:

Washington, D.C.,
November 5, 1908.

Mr. A.S. Ireland,
Prineville, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Ireland:

The Forest will establish on December 1, 1908 District Offices, each in charge of a District Forester, in six western cities as follows:

<u>District</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>	<u>District Forester in Charge</u>
1	Missoula, Mont.	W.B. Greeley
2	Denver, Colo.	Smith Riley
3	Albuquerque, N.M.	A.C. Ringland
4	Ogden, Utah	Clyde Leavitt
5	San Francisco, Cal.	F.E. Olmstead
6	Portland, Oregon	E.T. Allen

The boundaries of the district will coincide with the present Inspection Districts.

Under the District organization, all business now transacted with the Washington office will be transacted with the District Office. All correspondence, reports, and

papers which the Use Book or subsequent instructions now provide that you should send to the Forester, will hereafter be sent to the District Office, from whose officers you will receive your instructions. e e e e e e

As you are probably aware, the organization of District Offices is the culmination of a plan toward which the Service has been working steadily. It will increase the usefulness of your Forest and of all others by reducing delay, and by bringing you and your immediate superior officers into closer touch. It will also relieve the Washington Office of the heavy burden of routine which it now carries, and enable each one of us here to spend more time in field work on the Forests. This creation of the District Offices means that the administrative officers from Washington will see more of the field men than they have, and not less, and it will unquestionably increase the spirit and efficiency of the whole Service.

In establishing the District Offices, to whose officers you will hereafter be directly responsible, I count for them upon the loyalty and efficiency which have been characteristic of National Forest officers under the present organization.

Very sincerely yours,
/s/ GIFFORD PINCHOT
Forester.

With the establishment of District Headquarters in Portland, conditions on the Forest began to rapidly improve because of better supervision and quicker communications. The work, however, became more intensive and it was necessary to go into important matters with greater detail than had been the case during the earlier days of the organization.

Following along this plan, a new examination of all the Forest boundaries was called for by the District Forester. Quoting from the letter of instructions it is said:

It will be necessary to follow through all boundaries and map, or verify existing maps, so as to show accurately the conditions for several miles on either side. The point is not only to prove where and why any changes are desirable, but also that the present boundary is justified where no change is recommended. In short the existing information must be checked and verified.

This careful work must also be done for all interior areas where the question of elimination has been raised, or may be with any color of reason. e e e e e e. We must be in a position to discuss these lands with accurate information, no matter what we recommend.

Ranger W.J. Nichol of the Cascade Forest was placed in charge of this examination and an extensive report was submitted by him in November 1909 in which numerous changes in the boundary were recommended. Based on Mr. Nichol's report, the boundaries of the Deschutes Forest were changed in several places by the Proclamation of May 20, 1910.

With the intensification of work, it was found that the administrative units were too large for deriving the best results. For this reason it was decided to rearrange the boundaries of many of the Forests in the District. Accordingly the Paulina Mountains and that region formerly included in the old Cascade Forest were cut off from the Deschutes. The former was called the "Paulina National Forest" while the latter territory, including another area on the East slope of the Cascades, was named the "Deschutes National Forest" and the main division of the old Deschutes, including Maury Mountains and the Snow Mountain region, was renamed the "Ochoco National Forest: under the proclamation dated June 30, 1911. Under this same proclamation an area of about 54 sections west of Lookout Mountain was eliminated because of the heavy alienation, and a change in the boundary between the Malheur and the new Ochoco National Forest, of which I will next speak, was made.

Previous to this date there had been considerable discussion relative to the boundary between the two Forests. The existing boundary followed the divide between Silver and Emigrant Creeks. The area east of this divide, then in the Malheur, was a dangerous region for fires and was difficult for the Supervisor at John Day to administer. Supervisor Bingham of the Malheur wanted to have the dividing line located along the divide of the ridge located east of Emigrant Creek, while Mr. Ireland was satisfied with the line as it then existed. Neither of the Supervisors wanted the territory included in their Forests. A compromise was finally decided upon, and Emigrant Creek was chosen as a temporary boundary line. An agreement was drawn up under which Mr. Ireland was to handle all other branches of the work. Under this arrangement everything went well until two large fires broke out. Each of the Supervisors expected the other to fight the fires and pay the expenses. As a result there ensued considerable confusion which did not bring about the best results. This fact quickly brought action and the temporary boundary was made permanent by the proclamation of June 30, 1911.

The boundaries of the new Ochoco National Forest then enclosed, as they do now, an area of 819,030 acres.

The Forest being divided into seven Ranger Districts, represented a good administrative unit. During the interval that had past since the original withdrawal was made many improvements, such as trails, telephone lines, Ranger station houses, barns and pasture fences had been constructed and the business of grazing, as well as that of all other lines, had settled down to a permanent basis.

Since the date of the proclamation mentioned above, no other changes in the boundary of the Ochoco have been made.

On April 30, 1911, Forest Supervisor A.S. Ireland resigned and the vacancy was filled by Mr. Homer Ross, the present Supervisor of the Forest.

Supervisor Ross took charge of a well organized Forest with a fairly smoothly running business. Still there were many tangles to straighten out and it was necessary to go into all features of the business in detail, making changes and perfecting it. The work of early organization was at an end and the next step was toward development. Plans for a system of permanent improvements, range development, and fire protection were carefully made and the work of materializing the plans was begun. A new examination was made of all of the Forest boundary and the boundary was marked and blazed out. Careful estimates of the grazing capacity of all stock ranges were made, new drift fences were constructed for the purpose of controlling cattle and horses, and a collection of all forage plants was begun. A campaign against the bark beetles doing so much damage to the Forest was begun, an extensive reconnaissance was made of the entire Forest, and an intensive reconnaissance was started. The proposed exchange of lands with the Rogers Lumber Company came up for attention and the new wagon road connecting Prineville with

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Mitchell was constructed under the 10% Item of the Agricultural Appropriation Bill which was passed during the winter of 1911-1912.

With the resignation of Mr. Ireland closed the first era of the Forest lands administered from the Prineville office. It was the period of organization, rapid changes and construction, when hurried judgment and quick action were necessary. With the administration of Mr. Ross has begun the second era in the history of the Forest, a period of development, intensified work, application of forestry and scientific grazing principles, sound business policy, and slow but carefully measured progress.

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Respectfully submitted,
September 27, 1913.

/s/ Allen H. Hodgson
Deputy Forest Supervisor

Approved
September 27, 1913

/s/ Homer Ross
Forest Supervisor