A Cooperative Project: California Division of Forestry Agricultural Extension Service Agricultural Experiment Station





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THE SPRING DELL RANGE STUDY

A Progress Report.

The Spring Dell Range Study is a cooperative project of the State Division of Forestry, the Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of California. It was set up to study certain phases of clearing, utilization and management of chaparral-covered range lands in the foothill area.

The present report, the first since initiation of the study in 1949, summarizes the work on the project from its beginning up to June 30, 1951.

The project was set up under combined direction of L. T. Burcham, Forest Technician, J. P. Wade, State Forest Ranger, both of the State Division of Forestry, and P. S. Pattengale, Farm Advisor, of the Agricultural Extension Service in San Benito County. Roy D. McCallum, Farm Advisor of San Benito dune, 1949, to July, 1950; Ralph Fenner, Associate State Forest Ranger, substituted for Burcham during his leave of absence from September, 1949, through huge for Burcham during his leave of absence from September, 1949, through tuted for Burcham during his leave of absence from September, 1949, through huge to July.

THE PROBLEM.

In San Benito County, as in other portions of the state, a large proportion of the wild land is used for grazing domestic livestock. Much of this range land is dominated by chamise, sagebrush, and other chaparral species which greatly reduce carrying capacities for livestock. Soils occupied by chaparral cover vary widely, but in many cases are adapted for growth of forage plants. It seems that a substantial increase in the forage resource could be effected by removing chaparral where topography and soils favor forage production, revegetating these areas with range forage plants, and giving them proper grazing management.

Much small scale experimental work has been done on this problem, but on areas which rarely exceed a few acres. There is an obvious need for further study on areas large enough to permit grazing of domestic livestock.

The original plan of the Spring Dell Study, signed by participating agencies in October, 1948, set forth two objectives:

1. To investigate the use of fire and mechanical means in the eradication or control of brush species on range lands.

2. To ascertain insofar as possible, the effect of soil series and type, topography, types of vegetation, climatic conditions, and subsequent management on the effectiveness of these eradication or control methods.

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The Spring Dell Range Study Area is located in San Benito County. 32.7 miles south of Hollister, California. It contains approximately 448 acres lying on both sides of the county road, commonly known as Gloria Road, between Bear Valley and Gonzales, California.

Elevation of the Spring Dell Area varies from 500 feet along the county road to more than 1100 feet on the ridge in the southwest corner (Fig. 1), with most of it lying between 500 and 700 feet above sea level. It is essentially a small watershed area of moderately rolling to steep topography with slope gradients from less than 5 per cent to more than 40 per cent.

The climate here is the Mediterranean type common to coastal California south of the San Francisco Bay region, marked by cool, moderately wet winters and long, hot summers during which no rainfall occurs. Temperatures are largely controlled by altitude and local topography, being moderate with relatively small daily and annual ranges; freezing weather occurs infrequently. Although lying within 35 miles of the Pacific Ocean, the area is not within the influence of within 55 miles of the Pacific Ocean, the area is not within the influence of ocean fogs. Prevailing winds are mostly from the northwest.

Precipitation, air temperatures, and relative humidity have been measured by recording instruments installed on the Area in December, 1948 (Fig. 2). Records from July 1, 1949, through June 50, 1951 are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

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Isole 1. Monthly Precipitation, Spring Dell Range Study Area: July, 1949-June, 1951

THE SPRING DELL RANGE STUDY AREA.

The Spring Dell Range Study Area is located in San Benito County, 52.7 miles south of Hollister, California. It contains approximately 448 acres lying on both sides of the county road, commonly known as Gloria Road, between Bear Valley and Conzales, California.

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Table 1. Monthly Precipitation, Spring Dell Range Study Area: July, 1949-June, 1951







Figure 2. Weather station, Spring Dell Range Study Area, San Benito County, California. Photo November, 1949.



Figure 3. The brush on Plot D was broken down, using a PL-7 bulldozer. View northwest from south of LaGloria Road. Photo November, 1949.



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July August September October Jecember January March May May June	28°9 28°9 25°5 45°5 45°5 45°5 45°5 45°1 28°2 28°2 28°2 28°2 28°2 28°2 28°2 28	5°T9 T°99 9°09 8°S7 2°27 2°27 2°57 5°49 7°49 7°49 2°84 2°14	55.5 55.4 55.4 55.4 55.4 55.4 55.4 55.4	6°23 6°89 1°79 2°09 2°99 1°89 5°99 8°29 2°99 8°29 2°19 5°67 2°57
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4+40M	meT nseM	perature	A nseM	evitale (trap red)

Table 2. Monthly mean temperature and relative humidity. Spring Dell Range Study Area, July 1949-June 1951.

Precipitation for 1949-50 was 11.70 inches; for 1950-51, it was 14.45 inches. Over 67 per cent of the total precipitation at Spring Dell occurred during the three months of November, December, and January; all precipitation was rain. The long-time average precipitation for the nearest Weather Bureau station, at Hollister, California, is 13.10 inches.

The shallow to moderately deep soils of the Spring Dell Area have developed from granitic rock and belong to the Vista series. This soil series is of relatively wide distribution in California, considerable acreages occurring in foothill areas on the east side of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys and in southern California. These soils are characterized by coarse textures, brown color, good to excessive drainage, low water-holding capacity and moderate to high erosibility. The content of organic matter usually is low. Reaction varies from about neutral at the surface to slightly acidic at bedrock. On the Spring Dell Area, soil textures are wholly sand loams.

The dominant plant cover over most of the Study Area is a variety of chaparral and woodland species (Fig. 4). For purposes of this study five vegetation-types have been recognized: Chamise, Woodland-chaparral; Chamise-Ceanothus, Woodland-grass, and Annual grass.

Chamise. --A dense stand of chamise (Adenostema fasoiculatum) dominates this type, with practically no admixture of other woody species. Beneath its canopy are a few scattered herbs, insufficient to form an understory. On the portion north of the road, subjected to wild fire within the past eight to ten portion north of the road, subjected to wild fire within the past eight to ten years, the chamise is relatively open, with individual plants ranging from about one-half foot to above six feet, and averaging perhaps 4.5 feet, in height.

69.6 65.1 67.1	73.22 78.2 84.4	44.0 57.6 52.1	44.5 49.5 51.3
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56.4	26.1	58.0	58.9
58.6	61.5	65.88	53.9
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Chamise A dense stand of chamise (Adenostema fasciculatum) dominates this type, with practically no admixture of other woody species. Beneath its cancey are a few scattered herbs, insufficient to form an understory. On the portion morth of the road, subjected to wild fire within the past eight to ten years, the chamise is relatively open, with individual plants ranging from about one-half foot to above six feet, and avoraging perhaps 4.5 feet, in height. South of this road, where fire has been excluded for many years, the chamise is



Figure 4. The dominant plant cover of most of the Spring Dell Area is a variety of chaparral and woodland species. View southwest from La Gloria Road before brush removal treatment. Photo September, 1948.



Figure 5. Same area as Figure 4, after brush removal treatment. Brush in left center was burned standing (portions of Plots B and C); Diagonal strip in middle background (Plot D) was burned after broken-down brush had dried about ten months. Photo October, 1950.



denser and taller, being in many places some ten to twelve feet tall. Counts of annual rings of specimens from this area indicated an age of 30 to 60 years. The chamise type occurs on hotter, drier portions of the area, chiefly the upper slopes and orests of ridges; it covers approximately 194 acres, or about 43.3 per cent, of the Spring Dell Range Study Area (Table 3).

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2°2	аÐI	assrg Isunna
2°71	9.23	Woodland-grass
8°9T	2.37	Chamise-Ceanothus
22.5	8.00I	Woodland-chaparral
2°27	0°76I	Chamise
Istot lo	(30103)	Vegetation Type
Per Cent	B91A	

• 89.	IA	Study	031	Rar	Dell	Juric	Is
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Woodland consparral. --Dominant vegetation of the woodland-chaparral type is an intermixture of wedgeleaf ceanothus (Ceanothus cumeatus) and chamise. The woodland aspect is given by interior live oak (Quercus wislizenii), valley white dominants, a considerable variety of other woody plants occurs as secondary species throughout the type: manzanitas (Arctostaphylos sp.), red berry (Rhammus croces), and birchleaf mountain mahogany (Gercocarpus betuloides). Herbaceous plants form a very sparse understory beneath the chaparral. Frincipal grasses are red brome (Bromus rubens), soft ohess (B. mollis), ripgut brome (B. rigidus), shereached by filarees (Frodium spp.), wild pink (Silene spp.), wild onion represented by filarees (Erodium spp.), wild pink (Silene spp.), wild onion morth app.), and a few clovers (Trifolium spp.). The type is found chiefly on represented by filarees (Frodium spp.), wild pink (Silene spp.), wild onion morth app.), and a few clovers (Trifolium spp.). The type is found chiefly on represented by filarees termos and spine (Frifolium spp.). wild onion morth app.), and e few clovers (Trifolium spp.). The type is found chiefly on north and east slopes, some of which are the steppest terrain of the area; it occupies approximately lol acres, or S2.5 per cent, of the study area.

Chamise-Geanothus. --This vegetation-type is dominated by two species typical of much of the chaparral of California--chamise and wedgeleaf ceanothus. Proportions of these two species vary throughout: on sample plots chamise comprised about 86 to 90 per cent of the woody vegetation, while the remainder was made up chiefly of wedgeleaf ceanothus; on other portions wedgeleaf ceanothus comprises nearly 50% of the vegetation. Woolly yerba santa (Eriodictyon tomentosum) and deerweed (Lotus scoparius) are representative secondary species, all of which occur very sparingly. Average height of the chaparral is 3.5 feet; the range is from one foot to more than six feet. Forbs and grasses form a disthe range is from one foot to more than six feet. Forbs and grasses form a disthe range is from one foot to more than six feet. Forbs and grasses form a disthe range is from one foot to more than six feet.

denser and taller, being in many places some ten to twelve feet tall. Counts of annual rings of specimens from this area indicated an age of 30 to 60 years. The chamise type occurs on hotter, drier portions of the area, chiefly the upper slopes and crests of ridges; it covers approximately 194 acres, or about 45.5 per cent, of the Spring Dell Range Study Area (Table 3).

Totals	449.1	100.0
Ghamise Woodlard-chaparral Chamise-Ceanothus Woodland-grass Annual grass	194.0 100.8 75.5 65.6 14.4	45.8 22.5 16.8 14.2 5.2
Vegetation Type	Area (acres)	Per Cent of totel

Table 3. Areas of Vegetation Types, Spring Dell Range Study Area.

Woodland-chaparral. --Dominant vegetation of the woodland-chaparral type is an intermixture of wedgeleaf ceanothus (Geanothus cumeatus) and chamise. The woodland aspect is given by interior live oak (Quercus wislizenii), valley white daminants, a sonsiderable variety of other woody plants occurs as secondary species throughout the type: manganitas (Arctostaphylos sp.), red berry (Ehammus order), and birchleaf mountain mahogany (Gerccearpus betuloides). Herbaceous plants form a very sparse understory beneath the chaparral. Frincipal grasses and ennual fescues (Festues megalure, F. reflexe, and F. octoflora). Forbs are (Allium spp.), and a few clovers (Trifolium spp.). The type is found chiefly on north and east slope, some of which are the steepest terrain of the area; it of occupies approximately 101 acres, or 22.5 per cent, of the study area.

Chamise-Geenothus .--This vegetation-type is dominated by two apedies typical of much of the chaparral of California--ohamise and wedgeleaf ceanothus. Proportions of these two species very throughouts on sample plots chamise comprised about 86 to 90 per cent of the woody vegetation, while the remainder was made up chiefly of wedgeleaf ceanothus; on other portions wedgeleaf ceanothus comprises nearly 50% of the vegetation. Woolly yerba santa (Friodictyon tomentosum) and deerwood (Lotus scoparius) are representative recondary species, all of which cocur very speringly. Average height of the chaparral is 3.5 feet; the range is from one foot to mere than six feet. Forbs and grasses form a discontinuous understory, everating about 3 per cent density, but in some places

reaching 8 to 10 per cent density. Principal herbaceous plants are red brome, fortail fescue (Festuca megalura) and filaree. This type occurs most frequently as a transition zone from woodland-grass or woodland-chaparral to chamise. Total area is about 75 acres, or 16.8 per cent, of the Spring Dell Area.

Woodland-grass.--The woodland aspect is due to presence of interior live oak, valley white oak, and digger pine, very much as in the case of the woodlanddominated by annual grasses, principally red brome, soft chess, ripgut brome and fortail fescue. Some broad-leaved herbs are intermixed, chiefly filaree. The woodland-grass type is found mainly on lower portions of the area where draws open out onto small flats. It occupies nearly 64 acres, or about 14 per cent, of the total.

Annual grass.--A small portion of the Study Area, lying in vicinity of the county road, is dominated by annual grasses. Principal grasses are soft chess, red brome and foxtail fescue. Broad-leaved herbs are well represented, filaree being present in considerable abundance. This type occurs on nearly level terrain on some of the deepest soils found here. It occupies a little more than 14 acres, 3.2 per cent, of the area.

FLAN OF STUDY

For purposes of this study the Spring Dell Area was divided into five plots, four of which were to be subjected to various methods of treatment, while the fifth remained undisturbed as a control area (Fig. 1). Vegetation and soils were to be mapped. A weather station, including recording rain gauge and recording hygrothermograph, was to be installed for collecting climatic data. Soil moisture determinations were to be made periodically.

The brush on Plots A, B, & C was to be burned standing; that on Plot D was to be knocked down with a bulldozer (but not piled) and permitted to dry on the ground for approximately a year before burning.

Plot A was not to be reseeded after burning, but permitted to revegetate maturally. Plots B, C, & D were to be reseeded at varying rates after burning. Seed was to be broadcast directly into the ash.

Plots A, B, C & D were to be grazed as the quantity and condition of forage indicated.

Live weights of the stock were to be used as one measure of results. Other methods of evaluating results included weight of forage produced on permanent quadrats, animal-unit months of grazing, and photographic records.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

The study was planned, methods and procedures agreed upon, and the area selected by mid-summer of 1948. The work accomplished on this project since that time is summarized in the following pages.

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Woodland-grass .-- The woodland aspect is due to presence of interior live cak, valley white cak, and digger pine, very much as in the case of the woodlandchaparral, but here these trees are more widely spaced and intervening areas dominated by annual grasses, principally red brome, soft chess, ripgut brome and fortail fescus. Some broad-leaved herbs are intermixed, chiefly filarce. The woodland-grass type is found mainly on lower portions of the area where draws open out onto small flats. It cocupies nearly 64 acres, or about 14 per cent, of the total.

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PLAN OF STUDY

For purposes of this study the Spring Bell Area was divided into five plots, four of which were to be subjected to various methods of treatment, while the fifth remained undisturbed as a control area (Fig. 1). Vegetation and soils were to be mapped. A weather station, including recording rein gauge and recording hygrothermograph, was to be installed for collecting climatic data. Soil moisture determinations were to be made periodically.

The brush on Plots A, B, & C was to be burned standing; that on Plot D was to be knocked down with a buildosar (but not piled) and permitted to dry on the ground for approximately a year before burning.

Plot A was not to be rescaled after burning, but permitted to revegetate meturally. Plots B, C, & D were to be resceded at varying rates after burning. Seed was to be broadcast directly into the ash.

Plots A, B, C & D were to be grazed as the quantity and condition of forage indicated.

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UNDIVER OF PROGRESS

The study was planned, methods and procedures agreed upon, and the area selected by mid-summer of 1948. The work accomplished on this project since that time is summarized in the following pages.

Vegetation and Soils Mapping.

Field work for the vegetation type map was completed in August, 1948. Vegetation types were delineated in the field on an aerial photograph, forming a basis for the completed type map. Five different vegetation types were recognized, mapped, and described (page 5) on the study area. Their areas were obtained from the aerial photograph by planimetering (Table 5).

Soils were mapped by Frank Harradine, Division of Soils, University of Cellifornia, Berkeley. Field work was completed in September, 1948, and a soils map subsequently compiled. The entire area consisted of a single soil type, Vista sandy loam (see page 3).

Firebreak and Plot Layout.

Upon completion of mapping the vegetation and a preliminary survey of the area, actual laying out of the plots was done in August, 1948. A bulldozer was used to clear a strip approximately 25 feet wide around the perimeter of the entire area. This formed a firebreak for use during burning. Similar cleared strips marked the boundaries between plots. Areas of the various plots are given in Table 4.

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Table 4. Areas of Trial Plots, Spring Dell Range Study Area.

Two bulldozers were used on this work: a Caterpillar D-7, and an Allis-Chalmers HD-7. Due to topography, density and height of the chaparral the Caterpillar D-7 was necessary for the greater portion of this operation. Construction of the firebreaks and plot division lines required approximately 117 tractor hours and 156 man-hours.

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Totals	0T*8*7	100.01
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The perimeter of the Study Area was fenced using five strands of barbed wire attached to steel posts. The area was divided into plots by fences of three strands of wire. It required 2,100 man-hours of labor to build these fences.

Treatment of Brush.

Original plans called for the brush on Plots A, B, and C to be burned in 1948. Serious wild fires during late August and September required use of Division of Forestry facilities. The first fall rain occurred at this time and made it advisable to postpone the controlled burn until 1949.

In October, 1948, the brush on Plot D was broken down, using a D-8 bulldozer with the blade set about one foot above the ground surface, so it would not cut into the soil. The brush was broken and partially uprooted and left lying on the soil surface (Fig. 3). Due to rough topography and size of the brush, the whole of Plot D could not be treated. An excellent job was obtained on about 62.5 acres; this required 48 hours of equipment use.

Burning of Plots A, B, C, & D was begun on August 8, 1949. The weather data given in Table 5 were recorded on the study area.

Table 5. Weather Data, Spring Dell Range Study Area, 10:00 a.m., August 8, 1949.

Northwest, 6 m.p.h.	puțM
Jues reg 45	Relative humidity
L⊄o E.	Temperature

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Table 5. Weather Data, Spring Dell Range Study Area, 10:00 a.m., August 8, 1949.

Wind	Northwest, 6 m.p.h.
Relative humidity	54 per cent
Tempers ture	74º F.

Plot D, where the brush had been broken down, was burned during the mid-afternoon. This brush was thoroughly dried and the season's growth of sprouts about one foot high. A very clean burn was obtained on the entire plot, including the sprouts (Fig. 5).

.(G . 3if) bevomer asw 0 bus . A .A stold on plots of the story of the shout 60 per cent of the brush canopy on plots tsom erew anoitibnos rento nenw boired ent gairub gaiwold baiw elttil tud asw humidities of 20 to 30 per cent, especially if a wind was blowing; generally there was most effective with temperatures between 70 and 80 degrees F., and relative when temperatures were high and relative humidity correspondingly low. Burning ..m.q 00:5 bns .m.s 00:11 neewded vino bedailgmooos ed biuoo gainrud eviteelle .vilausu .erewordt email ddiw sbnalsi esedt edingi ot gnitdmetta nadt redto ebam saw droile Isioeqs oW .e401 .81 redmedge? Itim beddinneg anothinoo gainud bas The work of buritnes are deft by the main fire was continued to arow off north of the road, due to the low, scattered brush and scanty herbaceous cover. to the relatively poor weather conditions. Results were very poor on that portion The burn which resulted was quite spotty, due throwers were used for ignition. along the ridge at the south boundary in the densest brush cover. Pressure flame The fire for burning the standing brush on Plots A, B, & C was started

Seeding the Spring Dell Area.

ing burning; Plot A was to be allowed to revegetate naturally.

The kinds of seed and rates of seeding for the various plots are given in Table 6.

S' 220.0 10°58 89.3 II.II SIBJOT Lº99 94. Jeuma II'II 241.7 20°1 94. Bur clover 097 S.06 2.22 1.13 BILBILA regumes' erc. 9.78 TG. 99. Tall fescue **GLT** 1.03 II.I OTTUS 2.805 Kyegrass, perennial 82. 20°T 11.11 22°2 82. Ryegrass, annual 9.78 IG. 99. Orchard grass Harding grass τι°⊅ ₽₽.₽ 2.27 006 Grasses: Plot B Plot C Plot D Seed (lbs.) peeg to build Pounds of Seed per Acre IstoT

Table 6. Kinds of Seed and Rates of Seeding, Spring Dell Range Study Area, October, 1949.

Flot D, where the brush had been broken down, was burned during the mid-afternoon. This brush was thoroughly dried and the season's growth of sprouts about one foot high. A very clean burn was obtained on the entire plot, including the sprouts (Fig. 5).

The fire for burning the standing brush on Plots A, B, & C was started along the ridge at the south boundary in the densest brush cover. Pressure flame throwers were used for ignition. The burn which resulted was quite spotty, due to the relatively poor weather conditions. Results were very poor on that portion north of the road, due to the low, scattered brush and scanty herbaceous cover. The work of burning out islands left by the main fire was continued as weather and burning conditions permitted until September 18, 1949. No special effort was made other than attempting to ignite these islands with flame throwers. Usually, when temperatures were high and relative humidity correspondingly low. Burning was most effective with temperatures between 70 and 80 degrees F, and relative humidities of 20 to 50 per cent, especially if a wind was blowing; generally there was but little wind blowing during the period when other conditions were most favorable. It was estimated that about 60 per cent of the brush cancy on plots A, B, and C was removed (Fig. 5).

Seeding the Spring Dall Area.

It was planned to seed plots B. C, and D to range forage plants following burning; Plot A was to be allowed to revegetate naturally.

The kinds of seed and rates of seeding for the various plots are given in Table 6.

Tota la	6.68	11.11	10.99	0 0 EV V
Alfalfa Bur elover Burnet	1,13 ,75 ,76	2,22 1,11	2+06 1+05	450, 241.7 66.7
Legures, etc.:				
Harding grass Orchard grass Ryegrass, annual Ryegrass, pereanial Smilo Tall fessue	2,27 ,56 ,58	4.44 .56 1.11 1.11 3.11 .56	4.11 .51 1.03 1.03 1.03	900 87.5 55.5 208.5 208.5 175 87.5
Grasses:	:			
Kind of Seed	Pounds Plot B	of Beed	LTOP D. Set your	Total Seed (lba*)

Table 6. Finds of Seed and Rates of Seeding, Spring Dell Range Study Area, October, 1949.

the set of the set of

Original estimates placed the area of each plot at 100 acres. Seed was sown at rates to give five pounds per acre on Plot B and ten pounds per acre on Plots C and D. When aerial photographs had been obtained subsequent planimetering gave the acreages shown in Table 4, accounting for the fractional poundages in the rates of seeding.

Prior to sowing, the seed was tested for vishility by germinating samples between moist blotters; results indicated a high percentage of germination. A portion of the seed applied to each plot was treated to counteract depredations by seed-eating birds and rodents.* The treatment consisted of applying one ounce of yellow dye and one-half ounce of 1080 Rodenticide to each 100 pounds of seed used in this test. Application and mixing were done by the San Benito County Agricultural Commissioner. A quantity of seed was treated sufficdent to sow a strip approximately S50 feet wide the full length of each seeded of other.

The seeding was done by plane, on October 7, 1949. A total of about three hours was required, including ferrying and loading time. The operation began about 7:00 a.m., with the weather clear and calm. There was a wind, estimated at two to three miles an hour, by the time the job was completed, but drifting of the seed was negligible.

Sample counts, made within two hours after seeding, indicated seed well distributed over the entire area, averaging about 52 seeds per square foot. One hour after the seed treated with yellow dye was applied, black harvester ants were observed carrying these seeds to their nests.

Range Variety Trial Plots.

Trial plots of 36 varieties of forage crop plants were established on October 11, 1949. The seed of each variety was broadcast on the surface ash of Plot D, in a circular plot containing 200 square feet, with an identification stake marking the center of each plot. These plots were sown on an area where the ash from the burn was about one inch deep and quite evenly distributed.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

The first general rains fell here during the first half of November, 1949, about one month after the seeding. Following this rain very good germination of the seeded species was observed. During the first week of January, 1950, there was a period of extremely cold weather for this locality, with temperatures as low as 20 degrees F. This weather caused severe frost heaving, resulting in death of most of the seedlings. This cold weather coincided with the period of greatest rainfall for the season.

*On advice of Dr. Walter E. Howard, Assistant Zoologist, Agricultural Experiment Station, University of California, Davis.

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The seeding was done by plane, on October 7, 1949. A total of about three hours was required, including ferrying and loading time. The operation began about 7:00 a.m., with the weather clear and calm. There was a wind, estimated at two to three miles an hour, by the time the job was completed, but drifting of the seed was negligible.

Sample counts, made within two hours after seeding, indicated seed well distributed over the entire area, averaging about 32 seeds per square foot. One hour after the seed treated with yellow dye was applied, black harvester ants were observed carrying these seeds to their nests.

Range Variety Triel Flots.

Trial plots of 36 veristies of forege crop plants were established on October 11, 1949. The seed of each variety was broadcast on the surface ash of Plot D, in a circular plot containing 200 square feet, with an identification stake marking the center of each plot. These plots were sown on an area where the ash from the burn was about one inch deep and quite evenly distributed.

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At the height of the growing season in the spring of 1950 there was only a fair growth of annual vegetation. It consisted mainly of red brome and filaree, with small amounts of soft ohese. This forage was not grazed (except by deer), but permitted to go to seed in an attempt to secure a better growth by reseding. Only a relatively small number of seeded plants was in evidence on the area generally.

On the range variety trial plots fair to excellent showings were made by rose clover, California common alfalfa, amilo, orchard grass, red top, fescue, Sherman bluegrass and the ryegrasses. All these plots were closely grased by deer before the end of the summer, the Sherman bluegrass being grased only after all others had been closely eaten.

The sprouting species of brush made a vigorous regrowth on plots A, B, & C during the 1950 season. There was a considerable number of seedlings as well as sprouts. Seedlings were virtually absent on Plot D, and sprouting much less vigorous. This was due in part to the fact that the first regrowth of sprouts on this plot had been destroyed when the plot was burned, and partly to the greater accessibility of these sprouts to deer.

There was considerable evidence of increased activity of rodents on the Study Area, especially of jackrabbits and pocket gophers. The jackrabbits appeared distributed generally over the area, while the gophers appeared concentrated in Plot D just south of the county road.

Growth conditions were more favorable during the winter and spring of 1950-51, both as regards temperatures and rainfall. Even so, as late as March, 1951, the area looked as though the plant cover would consist mainly of some filaree and a great abundance of annual weeds. By early May the aspect had of forage plants than had been anticipated from earlier observations. This was especially true of the seeded species. There was a considerable population of Harding grass, smilo, and the ryegrasses. There had also been an excellent growth of resident annuals, particularly filaree and red brome. The forage production as the and better on Plot D than on Plots A, B, and C.

On the variety trial plots excellent growth was recorded for big bluegrass, red top and Madrid yellow blossom sweet clover; very good growth for orchard grass; and good growth for rose clover, smilo, tall fescue, and annual ryegrass.

On June 12, 1951, grazing was begun on the Spring Dell Area. A herd of mature cattle was placed on the area for dry summer feed, with plans to run them here for about three months.

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CONCINIZIONS

Based on experience on the Spring Dell Study Area to date, the following tentative conclusions can be drawn:

1. The combination of mechanical means and fire, used on Plot D, was more effective in removing the brush cover than where fire was used alone. It required three-fourths of an hour of equipment-use per acre to break down the brush on Plot D; the method used in this study can be improved on to make it more efficient. Preparation and labor for burning were reduced. Where topography permits use of equipment, this type of treatment before burning is recommended.

S. Success of reseding will depend on olimatic conditions, especially during the winter following seeding. If these are favorable for germination and growth, a reasonable degree of success may be antioipated; however, the hazards still are great. Low temperatures and limited rainfall during the winter follow-ing reseeding were important limiting factors in this study.

3. The following species showed the best growth in the variety trial plots on Spring Dell: Rose clover, yellow blossom sweet clover, Harding grass, orohard grass, smilo, and annual and perennial ryegrasses. Their values for re-

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5. The following species showed the best growth in the variety trial plots on Spring Dell: Rose clover, yellow blossom sweet clover, Harding grass, orchard grass, smile, and annual and perennial ryegrasses. Their values for reseeding areas having climate and soils similar to Spring Dell need further study.