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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

U
CLASSIFICATION-Fremont
Natural Areas
Goodlow Mtn.

2/10/42

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT OF PROPOSED
GOODLOW MOUNTAIN NATURAL AREA



Loran L. Stewart
Assistant Forester

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT OF PROPOSED
GOODLOW MTN. NATURAL AREA

1. Description

This area lies on the east slope of Goodlow Mountain in the southwestern part of the Fremont National Forest. The legal description follows:

T. 39 S., R. 13 E., W.M.	
Sec. 4, W $\frac{1}{2}$	319.01 Acres
" 5, All	654.10 "
" 6, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	286.84 "
Total	1259.95 "

All of the above described area is National Forest land.

2. Acreage by Dominant Cover Types

a. Ponderosa Pine (mature P ₄)	1039.95 Acres
b. Ponderosa Pine (poles P ₂)	7.00 "
c. Ponderosa Pine (seed. & sap. P ₁)	34.00 "
d. Juniper	100.00 "
e. Sagebrush and grass	79.00 "
Total	1259.95

3. Physical and Climatic Conditions

- a. Elevation varies from 4900' to 5300'
- b. Topography is gently rolling to moderately steep. The ground is uniform and not broken up by draws or cliffs. The exposure is south and east.
- c. Soil is uniform over the area and is made up of clayey loam, derived from decomposed igneous rock of volcanic origin.
- d. Precipitation averages approximately 19 inches of which 10 to 12 inches fall between November 15 and April 15. Snow fall accounts for about 8 inches of the total precipitation.
- e. Temperature varies widely, extremes of -40° to 105° have been recorded nearby.
- f. Average Frost Free Period is 2 months, - July and August and killing frosts have been known to occur in both these months.

4. Forest Values

a. Silvicultural Description

The proposed area is almost entirely covered with a heavy stand of ponderosa pine, except for a burned area of about 41 acres, and approximately 179 acres of open sagebrush and juniper in the east part of Section 4.

The site is predominantly IV with some low site III in some of the draws and some V and VI along the lower edges of the timber in the southern part of Section 5. At some time in the past, the area was very thinly populated with tree growth with here and there a wolf tree. These wolf trees seeded in the new crop which is approximately 195 years old. This structure can be distinctly seen as one walks through the forest here and there a large overmature tree and the rest almost uniform in age, height and size.

The area in general has a southern exposure with a gentle slope to the east.

The vigor of the trees on the area seems to be better than the average for the forest. This is no doubt due to several causes: 1. The age of the stand; 2. The exposure; 3. Fire within the last 50 years has swept through the area and thinned the stand so there is no serious competition for light and moisture.

Beetle loss appears to be less here than in most parts of the Forest and very little recent damage was observed, probably due to the above reasons.

b. Timber estimates (M. Ft. B.M.)

<u>Mature</u> <u>Ponderosa Pine</u>	<u>Immature</u> <u>Ponderosa Pine</u>	<u>Incense</u> <u>Cedar</u>	<u>White</u> <u>Fir</u>	<u>Total</u>
14,077	552	153	142	14,924

c. Merchantability of Timber

Approximately one-half the mature pine volume is in trees of very good quality. The remainder is in trees of fairly young age that have not as yet put on very much clear wood. The stand is almost pure pine, fairly open grown and on a southern exposure, and therefore has not pruned up very rapidly.

d. Value of Timber as Protection to Watershed

The drainage from this area is into the very fertile Langell Valley, which depends almost entirely on irrigation for crop production. The water from this area is not impounded in either of the two reservoirs serving this valley but nevertheless contributes its proportionate share of watershed protection for the valley.

e. Reproduction

Pine reproduction over the area is normal for a stand of this character, is in good condition and appears to be healthy.

f. Fire Damage

Light fires appear to have covered most of the area at several different times, probably the latest of these has been at least 30 to 50 years ago. Little damage was done to the present stand.

In 1918 a severe fire burned over 41 acres of the tract and killed 100% of the timber. This is known as the Goodlow Mountain Burn. A very dense stand of pine reproduction now appears on this burned area, and the type has changed within the last 15 years from burn to P. 1.

g. Suitability for Practical Forest Management

The area seems ideal for the purpose for which it is being set aside. It has not been disturbed by logging or recent fires and the timber cover is in its native condition.

h. Present Uses of Timber

The timber lying to the north, west and south has all been selectively cut. No demand for the cutting of the timber on the proposed Natural Area is anticipated in the next decade, either for commercial or local use. There will unquestionably be a demand for this timber when the now limited supply of virgin timber is exhausted in the Klamath Basin.

5. Agricultural Values

Agricultural possibilities on the area are precluded due to soil cover and climatic conditions, and the lack of water for irrigation.

6. Grazing Values

a. At present 800 sheep graze this area for one week during the period June 16 to August 31.

b. The land is now stocked to normal grazing capacity. No overgrazing is in evidence.

c. Overgrazing would affect the permanent grazing value of the area but would have little or no effect on the timber.

7. Mineral Values

The tract is situated a long distance from any commercial mineral zone and so far as is known no mineral values of any kind exist on it.

8. Value for Public Use Other than those Enumerated

The area is of no value to the public for hydro-electric power, reservoir development, recreation or other uses.

9. Settlements

The country immediately adjacent is sparsely settled. Three or four ranches are located two to four miles distant. These are primarily stock ranches and the people are in no way dependent upon the area for their livelihood, except for the grazing resources it affords and this use would not be discontinued by the creation of the "Natural Area". Langell Valley is quite densely populated, but here again no dependence is placed on the area as this population is engaged primarily in agriculture.

10. Transportation Facilities

A good road crosses Section 5 in a north and south direction. This road connects with the Barnes Valley road on the south and the Ely-Bonanza road on the north.

11. Plan of Management

This area is set aside for the purpose of maintaining a tract of ponderosa pine in its natural condition. The management of this area will consist chiefly of protection against fire, cutting, trespass, or disturbance of any sort that will alter the natural conditions of the forest cover. The area will be administered as an integral part of the Fremont National Forest. Its protection is a function of the Supervisor and his staff.

- a. Signs and Boundary Marking. To facilitate the management of the area and prevent trespass or disturbance the boundaries of the area should be run and marked by blazes and standard signs or by other means, and informational signs posted at points of entrance.
- b. Roads, Trails, and Other Improvements. One road and several other wagon trails cross the tract in a general north-south direction. The use of these without further widening or timber cutting is not detrimental to the purposes for which this area was set up. Construction of further roads or trails is unnecessary and should not be permitted. No other improvements exist on the area and none should be permitted.
- c. Fire Protection. The fire protection of this area will be handled by the regular protective force of the Fremont National Forest. Since the area is surrounded on three sides by recently cut land, special pains should be taken to see that fires do not develop on the outside and extend into this area until such time as the slash hazard thereon is abated.

- d. Timber Cutting. Since this area is to be maintained in its natural condition, no cutting of live or dead trees or removing of any forest material should be permitted, except such as is necessary to remove trees fallen across the roadways or in an emergency such as fire fighting.
- e. Grazing Use. For the present the grazing of sheep at not to exceed the present basis will be permitted, but overstocking must be strenuously guarded against.
- f. Special Uses. There is no demand for special uses on this area that cannot be provided elsewhere and none should be granted.
- g. Relation of This Area to Research Work of this Region. This tract will serve as an example of southern Oregon ponderosa pine growing under natural conditions for scientific comparison with analogous areas of ponderosa pine elsewhere in the region. It will afford an opportunity to study the life history and mortality of trees of various classes. For over 20 years Section 5 has been under observation by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine for study of bark-beetle activity in all classes of trees. More recently, two 10-acre plots in Section 5 have been established with all trees 10 inches and over tagged, recorded, and fully described. These permanent plots will continue under observation, but will have no effect on the natural condition of the area.
- h. Technical Examination and Description. The Bureau of Entomology already has made a technical examination of its section-size sample plot and the two 10-acre sample plots. As opportunity affords, a detailed ecological examination of the whole area should be made and a report prepared which will form the foundation of a life history of the area. This should be repeated at intervals.
- i. Deviation from Management Plan. This area will be administered according to this management plan without deviation except on approval of the Chief of the Forest Service.

12. Public Sentiment

Since the adjacent people are not dependent upon the area for their livelihood, recreation or convenience, public sentiment is believed neutral as to the establishment of this proposed "Natural Area".

14 Loran L. Stewart
Assistant Forester.

Approved March 13, 1942

14 Edward S. Cliff
Forest Supervisor

Approved March 18, 1942

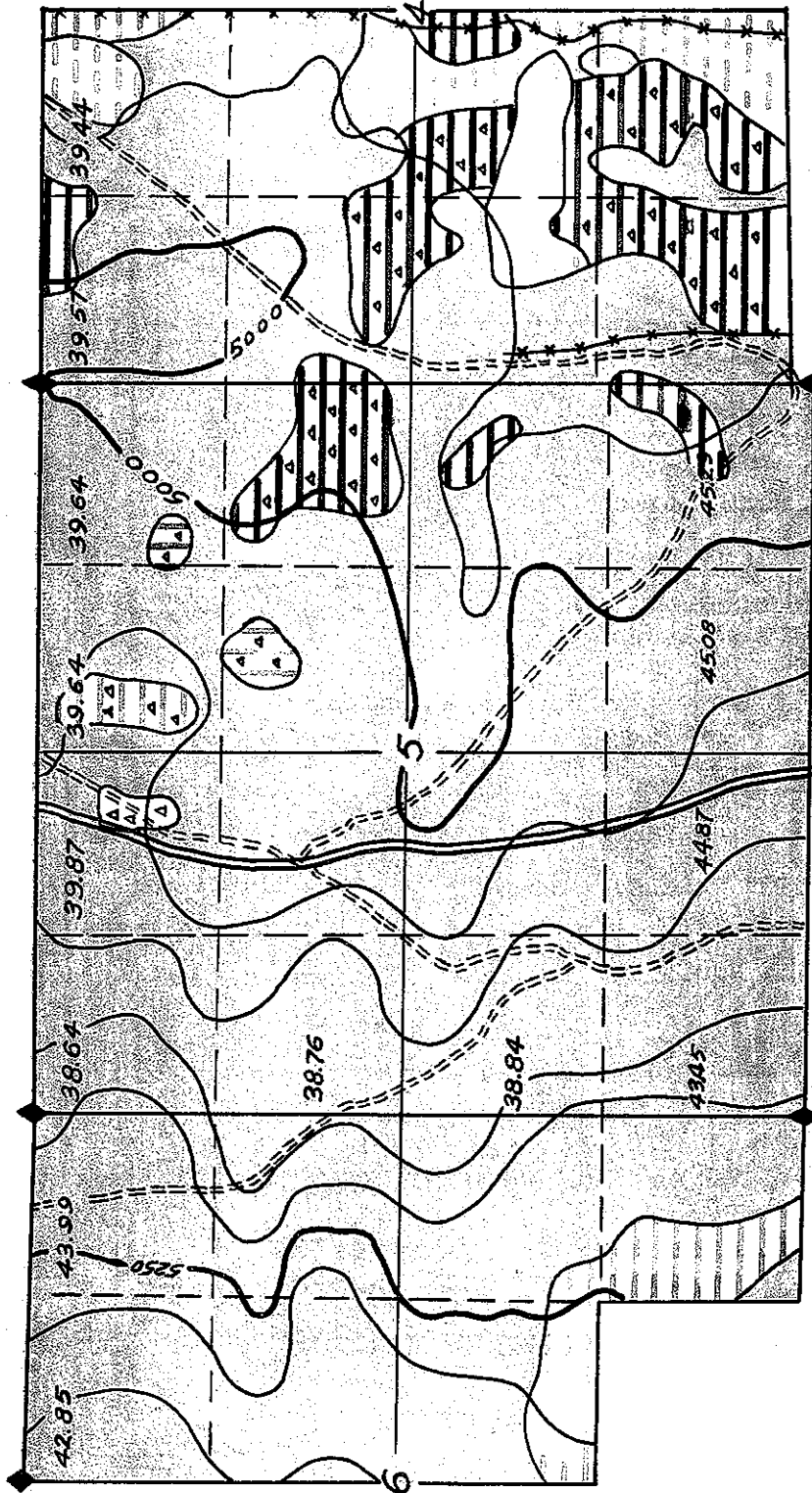
14 J. H. Brundage
Regional Forester

Approved March 19, 1942

14 Stephen N. Wyckoff
Director, Pacific Northwest Forest Range & Experiment Station

Approved May 12, 1942

14 L. H. Kneipp
Acting Chief, Forest Service









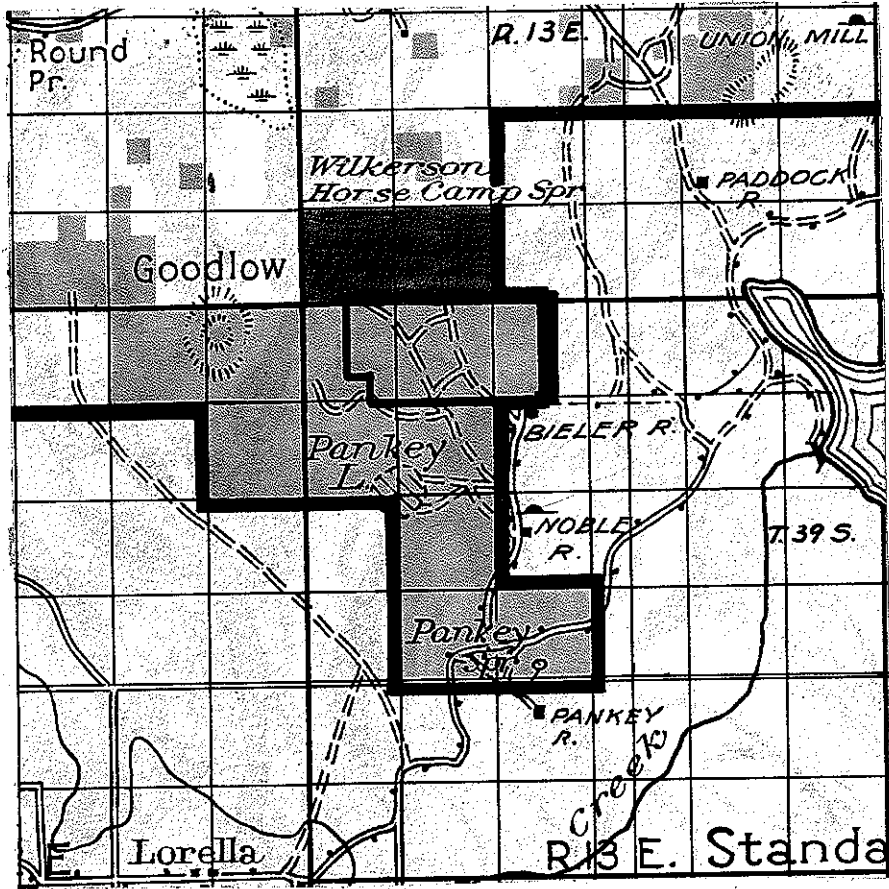
Proposed Goodlow Mtn. Natural Area

Location: T. 39S. R. 13E. W.M.

Scale 4" = 1 mile

-----Legend-----

-  Mature Ponderosa Pine (P4)
-  Saplings & Poles, Ponderosa Pine (P2)
-  Seedlings, Ponderosa Pine (P1)
-  Juniper
-  Grass
-  Sagebrush



PROPOSED GOODLOW MTN. NATURAL AREA

Selectively cut area acquired through land exchange.

Boundary of proposed Natural Area