

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #172 - Sides A/B

Subject: Everett Lofgren - Of the BLM, on Grasses

Place: Harney County

Date: July 27, 1984

Interviewer: Pauline Braymen

EVERETT LOFGREN: The allotment surveyed out at something like 16 and 16.7 acres per AUM. Now you'll have --- that just means that it took 16 acres to feed a cow for a month.

PAULINE BRAYMEN: Uh huh.

EVERETT: Some of it was a lot worse than that, and some of it, of course, was a little better. But the forage was way too --- slim to satisfy all the operators that were in here. So two of the operators optioned to go to the Diamond Seedings, and took their whole outfit down there and just left these people alone, so that was an advantage to the people that were left. But they had to go down --- oh, I don't know how far it is down there --- but it's 30 miles, or whatever it is, to move their operation down there. That brought the grazing capacity down to about 11 acres I think, 12 acres. Okay.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

EVERETT: In the meantime now, we think that we've got it down to around 10 acres, because when we see it now, you'll see that it's improved considerable from 16-acre ground. It's hard to explain to you what 16 acre ground is, but there isn't very much ---

PAULINE: Well, I've got kind of a ---

EVERETT: There isn't going to be very much with 16-acre ground. When you get up here, you'll kind of see what the results of moving those folks to the Diamond Seeding

and relieving the pressure here, plus this management system.

Now we're going to explain the management system. Remember I told you there was two pastures here. And this is what we call a Graze-Rest System. We graze one-half and rest the other half, every other year. They go back and forth, and they alternate back and forth. The pasture we're going to look at first was rested this year. You are going to look at the rested pasture first. You'll get a feeling for what it looks like when there's been no use, and we'll go around and we'll look at the piece that they just got through coming off. They got them off about a week ago. There's maybe a few cows up there yet, but they just finished. And you'll get an idea of what it looks like when they finish.

Then you'll get an idea of how, assuming that capacity is right, there should be a little bit of forage left over when they get through. 'Cause that's what you are kind of looking for. You don't want them to eat everything.

PAULINE: You want to leave some there, for seed there.

EVERETT: Right. Okay, and that's what we'll look at. Plus, we'll look at the creek over here because it has got a little unique situation on it itself. That's what we call squirrel-tail.

NORA TAYLOR: Look at all the antelope.

BUD SHRODE: Yeah.

EVERETT: Oh, yeah. Look at the bunch of antelope right there --- 6, 9 of them.

PAULINE: What's that first, a bluegrass?

EVERETT: Bluebunch.

PAULINE: Bluebunch.

EVERETT: Bluebunch. Called Bluebunch Wheatgrass.

PAULINE: And the squirrel-tail is the fuzzy stuff?

EVERETT: Yeah, kind of fuzzy stuff. This little spot here is something like 26 acres per

AUM. Which means that --- there wouldn't, you know --- you couldn't even see a bunchgrass here to speak of. It wouldn't mean it wasn't here; it's just that it is so suppressed with so much grazing that you just couldn't see it. Now we don't want to give you the impression that good years don't have something to do with this, they certainly do, but the rest is what we're getting at. Is that the plants have not been grazed, and they have had all the opportunity that is possible to go through their life cycle to perpetuate themselves. You see what I mean? They are just like any other living thing, if you don't give them a chance to reproduce, you know, they are not going to exist very long.

PAULINE: Well, I have been amazed. We bought a piece of property out on Sagehen there, and had it for 3 or 4 years, and I was amazed with just what water would do. We turned the windmill on and just let it run all summer, and all kinds of things came. Just --- you know, where before there wasn't anything there, you'd go out there and thought there was nothing there. And just the application of water, and all kinds of stuff ---

EVERETT: See the squirrel-tail coming here? All of this dead brush you see here was killed by aroga about 1963-4-5, or whatever the heck it was.

PAULINE: The aroga moth?

EVERETT: Yeah, the aroga moth.

BUD: That certainly helped too.

EVERETT: Oh, yeah.

PAULINE: Was that a natural occurrence, or did you introduce it?

EVERETT: No, it was a natural. We've really got it this year. We've really got the aroga this year. This is as good as '63, by a long ways.

BUD: Is it?

EVERETT: Oh, yeah.

BUD: In '63 ... came into Oregon, and I guess really wiped out thousands of acres of

seedings.

PAULINE: Some of that crested wheat seeding down there that Marcus Haines did was aided by the aroga moth. Yeah. I think that's probably about when he did that too.

EVERETT: I think a guy ought to be a little bit careful before you park this thing.

NORA: Yeah.

BUD: Yeah.

EVERETT: These catalytic converters on these outfits, you park them in a spot and it will set this stuff on fire.

BUD: If you want a picture of seeding, this isn't too shabby right here.

EVERETT: It's not too bad right up that hillside there if you want a picture of the seed. Now you stop whenever you --- holler whenever you want us to stop.

PAULINE: This is fine; you find a good place to park the rig. Someplace right up here where it isn't quite as brushy.

... (Background conversation)

BUD: We didn't know what it was back in '61, '62, we were, noticed it, what the hell was going on. Then all of a sudden in '63, we'd find, you know, maybe 5 acres here and 10 there, you know, then all of a sudden we were finding 10,000 acres, 15,000 acres.

EVERETT: Worked in --- Fort Hall, Idaho, at that time and the guy that was the head range guy there, a guy named Charlie Rants, that summer when he saw that stuff they were patches, you know, where it wasn't active. So he went and got a bunch of prisoners out of jail and they cut a bunch of the infested stuff and loaded it on trucks and hauled it, and they spread it around all the places where the stuff wasn't active. This theory being, boy he was going to get this baby going. I don't really know whether that ever worked or not, but ---

BUD: Well, Charlie was up on the Colville, wasn't he?

EVERETT: Oh yeah, on the Colville, and he was on the Yakima once. Won't raise too much wheatgrass. The site is just not good enough, you know what I mean. So really we can't expect to grow too much wheatgrass probably in a site like this. But, it's getting more prevalent all the time. You can see it's taking its place wherever it can find a place to get started good. And that's kind of what we're after.

PAULINE: I notice the soil is a little shallow here for it.

EVERETT: Yes, it is --- these are awful shallow soils. It isn't that squirrel-tail isn't good grass; it's just that you can't use it very late, because of that fuzzy stuff that's on it. It is a real good grass. We better turn around here. This thing drops off in a real steep canyon right there. That squirrel-tail is real good early feed, but when it gets to this point right here---

BUD: There's something going up there, there's antelope.

EVERETT: There's antelope there. They are right there in front of us.

PAULINE: Right there, yeah.

EVERETT: It's the same bunch, I think.

PAULINE: They are really neat animals. I would rather see them than the deer. The bunchgrass is probably what --- the old timers that I have interviewed all referred to when, you know, when they came in or their dad's came in, of the grass, you know. The grass that was here was what attracted the people into this country, and ---

BUD: You know Everett, I'm not so sure that wasn't wild rye that they were talking about.

EVERETT: Oh, I'm sure they were. Now you know, when you hear folks talking about being up to their stirrups, to the stirrups of the horse, they weren't talking about this grass.

PAULINE: Yeah. They weren't talking about this.

EVERETT: They were talking about this basin wild rye. I'll show you, we'll show you some when we get down here to the bottom. And it's showing up, believe it or not, all

over. And, when we get over towards Drewsey, we'll show you some place where it is showing up where we've never seen it before. Well, the fact of the matter is, we went and surveyed it, and never did find it. It was never even listed on the survey sheets. But it's showing up, you know, and that's the stuff that hit the horse's stirrups.

PAULINE: Well, I know it, because this bunchgrass is getting up there pretty good, but it's not that tall.

EVERETT: No. There is another little grass growing here called the Sandberg's bluegrass, which is a good earlier grass, and the wildlife really like it. It's the first one to come, and then the squirrel-tail comes, and then the Bluebunch Wheatgrass comes in the spring.

PAULINE: Well --- this is a silly question, I don't really know the answer to it, but the wildlife or the cattle that graze will take those things that are ready --- I mean when they are grazing in here will they select those things like the squirreltail before they'll go to the bunchgrass?

EVERETT: You bet.

PAULINE: So that the bunchgrass has a time to get bigger and mature before they graze it.

EVERETT: Providing there is plenty of it.

PAULINE: Yeah.

BUD: The animals are really selective of what they graze, and when they graze it.

PAULINE: In other words, if the feed is there, they'll by natural selection will pick out this.

BUD: That's why they say that one cow will overgraze the range. She'll like one particular area, and she'll overgraze that particular area.

EVERETT: ... grass here that can feed anything in. That's why we proposed the seeding down below here. The plants are here and as long as you take care of them, I think they

will be all right.

PAULINE: But, you proposed one, but you didn't do it.

EVERETT: No, but first of all it turned out to be too small, and it would cost too much. Second part was that ---

PAULINE: Let's stop right along here and get a picture of this grass here.

BUD: Well if this was the 16-acre range survey --- now we're stopping ---

PAULINE: Rattlesnake Creek.

EVERETT: Originally this was unfenced. It was fenced with the piece of ground that we just came from over, here by Cow Creek here where Saunders lives. It was all one big field here. That field there was cut off by the rim there, so it was a different one. And the ranchers here can tell you that in the early '60's that this whole creek bottom, from top to bottom --- from the beginning of this private land all the way to the forest boundary was just a solid gravel bed. Primarily because of the livestock that was trailing through here going to the forest, and then coming back again in the fall. Plus grazing besides during the summer.

And so when they set up the allotment here, they had the fellows to use one side one, and one side the other. And that worked pretty good, they just had two pastures, and they just went back and forth. Graze, rest. Graze, rest. But the progress here in the creek was kind of slow, and plus the fact that the fellows that --- in order to do this, they had to let them --- get them off early. They had to get off by the 20th of June, in order to make this bottom to start to grow a little bit.

Well that caused problems for these guys, like I told you before, because of their hay. You see they had to get off --- getting off on the 20th of June put a terrible burden on those guys, 'cause that's just about the time when they are getting ready to start haying. So --- plus the concern about riparian, was pretty significant about that time. So in order -

-- they wanted to make this grow a little faster, so we fenced both sides here.

Well, this side over here more or less grows --- we fenced --- so now this is a long narrow pasture that we graze separately from the other two. And we just graze it early in the spring, well just, you know, whenever we think we can. And the results have been dramatic. You can see the willows coming back in the bottom here, the --- and we've got most of the banks sodded in, and most of the bottom sodded in. When we get up here a little ways you will see some more. We think we've made a lot of progress.

Now if you compare this with the stuff below the fence there you see, you can see we have a long ways to go. See the contrast there between ours and the fence down there? Okay. You have to understand we are never going to make it look as it does below the creek there, because those folks there have been winter grazing that for a hundred years, and of course we can't winter graze this stuff because --- well, we could I suppose, but we can't wait a hundred years to make it look as good as that does down below there. I'm not sure we want to make it look that good. The objective here is to grow fish. And if we can grow fish ---

BUD: If it'd look like that you can't fish in it.

EVERETT: Yeah, if you get something that big you can't get to the fish. When we came here, you know, there wasn't anything in this bottom; it was just a solid gravel bar. We've got the banks pretty well covered up with willows and alder, and a little bit of red osier dogwood. And most of the banks here are starting to green up, which means that the water table is coming up slightly. By restricting the flow here, we are making the water table come up just a little bit, and then that makes the banks greener and this kind of stuff.

The whole process going on here that makes the riparian start to improve however



gradually, but it's working on it.

BUD: Did Bill take any pictures of this?

EVERETT: No, well, he did but they've lost them, and they don't know where they are ...

NORA: That's a rattlesnake.

EVERETT: That's a rattlesnake right there. You bet. Boy I wish I had my camera.

NORA: Oooh, he's a big one. He just ate.

PAULINE: Here, take this. (Handing camera)

EVERETT: I've got to have a close-up.

PAULINE: Here.

EVERETT: Hope I don't get hit by a logging truck. Take the lens cap off.

NORA: He's got pretty nice rattles. He's the first live one I've seen this year. (Laughter)  
Oh, Everett.

BUD: If you want to talk, I'll talk to you.

NORA: Don't jump in the truck, Mr. Snake!

BUD: Get closer Everett!

PAULINE: Oh, right on top. Oh, shoot.

NORA: He's going to be under the truck in a minute.

BUD: Yeah, he's clear on the other side.

NORA: He's almost acting like his tail is broken. Now you've got it.

BUD: I'll move the truck, Everett.

NORA: Pull over to the side.

BUD: If I can get out of here.

PAULINE: There you go.

BUD: If I pull ahead, I'll probably run over him. ...

EVERETT: Didn't get him to curl up very good.

NORA: He wouldn't buzz, would he? Looks like that tail was broken.

EVERETT: He just wants to get away. If I could have cornered him some place it would have been all right.

These little stringers in here catch the silt, so they can fill these pockets up. When we get up here, you'll see some more of them. You can see how they filled in.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

EVERETT: And believe it or not looking at that down there, we grazed this, this year. Does that look like it's been grazed to you?

PAULINE: No, it's beautiful. Looks like you could put some cows in there.

EVERETT: They were in here for almost --- a little over a month. About a month see, and it's going to be pretty tough for anybody to tell me that they --- you know, really have done any grazing to speak of.

BUD: The whole idea of this was for the fisherman --- the fishing.

NORA: Well it's the red band trout.

BUD: Is it?

NORA: Yeah.

EVERETT: Well, no, it wasn't for red band trout. The original purpose was for the Malheur sculpin, which was a threatened and endangered species. Although nobody has ever found one in here, so we don't know --- But that was part of the original purpose, was to provide habitat for the Malheur sculpin. But there are other fish here too, like Nora said, there are red band trout and ---

PAULINE: Was it --- there must have been some indication there had been ---

EVERETT: Yes, the species was here. 'Course I don't think you want to put this in your story, but --- in the early '50's the forest up here sprayed for some kind of a forest bug, and the story is that, of course they didn't have a whole lot of restrictions on the use of

chemicals, and the story goes that when they sprayed up here the chemical come down here in the creek and virtually killed all of the sculpins and whatever else was in here. And that's, there wasn't any left. Of course this has been some time ago, so nobody really, I guess, really knows whether that is true or not. But anyway they know it was the habitat, but there wasn't any species here when they --- Do you know if there are any here now?

NORA: Not as far as I know.

EVERETT: I don't know either. But anyway, the habitat is here if they want to use it. If there is any of them left.

NORA: ... with the irrigation.

EVERETT: But this little creek has become pretty good fishing. There is quite a lot of people use it for fishing.

BUD: Those guys here, day before yesterday, put in a ...

PAULINE: Yeah, those kids, you get a lot of work out of those kids. They get a good supervisor, and they really ---

NORA: Okay, this is the one ...

EVERETT: Okay, this is looking right up this draw right here, and this big tree is that big pine tree right there.

PAULINE: Right there.

EVERETT: Okay, I was standing right here. This willow here was here, the one right there, you can just see the edge of it here.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

EVERETT: And that little pine tree is that little pine tree sitting right there.

PAULINE: Yeah.

EVERETT: Okay, you're looking right up that draw right there. And this --- there wasn't ---

NORA: Oh, that's last years there.

EVERETT: Let's go back here to the beginning. Okay, here's '78, here's '78 --- here's '78, these are just starting to come. There's that same tree right there. You are looking at these willows right in front of us that were that high. And here is '79. And there's another one of '79, see they're starting to fill in a little more all the time. And there is another one of '79, taken a little later, I guess. Another one of '79. And then we jump to --- jump to 1980, they are getting a little higher.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

EVERETT: '81, those must have been across the creek there. I can't see those exactly. But these were taken further down, weren't they?

NORA: Uh huh.

EVERETT: I don't understand that picture, Nora.

NORA: I don't either.

EVERETT: What'd you do there?

NORA: Well, I moved over because I couldn't see anything up the creek anymore.

EVERETT: Oh, you're way up there. You're above ---

NORA: I was right --- No, I just --- Yeah, I moved up into the sagebrush 'cause when I stood where this picture was taken, all you can see is just the willows.

EVERETT: Well, that's what we wanted to show.

NORA: Oh, well ---

EVERETT: You went above the willows, and took a picture of the---

PAULINE: I was going to say, gee, what happened.

EVERETT: Yeah, what happened?

PAULINE: Yeah, there they are.

BUD: They lost everything.

EVERETT: They lost everything.

NORA: I'll fix it next time when I take them again.

EVERETT: This picture is taken right where this pickup is standing right here.

NORA: Okay, well here --- well there's the willows. This is the same series, more or less. Now I've got all the willows.

BUD: You did good there.

EVERETT: You did good there. Excellent. But anyway, the whole purpose is to show that, you know, that it can be done, you know, and there's ---

PAULINE: Well, '79 to '84 is 5 years. That's not that long.

EVERETT: But you have to remember we made this much progress in the previous 10.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

EVERETT: And that was before we fenced this off. And that was purely by just making sure these guys got out early all the time. And we made this much progress, you see.

PAULINE: But there wasn't anything there when you started.

EVERETT: Yeah, because it was just bare when we started. It took us 10 years to get this far, and it took another 5 to get this far with it protected. You see what I'm saying? ...

NORA: This is standing just up a little ways, looking down at this little grove of trees and -- they must have been grazing ---

BUD: Looking back the other way.

EVERETT: Yeah, it's looking down where the trees are, I think.

NORA: So you can see the willows.

EVERETT: You can see the willows coming up there now.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

EVERETT: But anyway, we are making a start and we are pretty proud of this deal. I'm not sure that this is necessarily always the way to do it, but it accommodates the

operators. It makes those guys feel that they are doing something, and that's the main thing. You know, we can do all kinds of things by just throwing people off the range. That's easy enough to do. If we want to make it look good, we just take everybody off and let it grow up. But the idea is to grow cows and do it at the same time, and that's what management is. That's what the whole process is about. If you don't want to do management, we can just throw everybody off the range, and make it look pretty good.

PAULINE: Well, this contingency that advocates that just, you know, no grazing at all, just get those awful cows off of there, well I ---

EVERETT: You can't really fault them for that, you know, you have to understand that they don't really want to figure out ways to accomplish things, they just want to get there.

PAULINE: Having grown up in Harney County, now my family --- my dad or any of my family has never grazed on public lands, we've always, you know, we've had cows, various size herds. We've probably got a larger herd of cows now than my dad ever had, or we've ever had, and so I understand what it takes to take care of those cows. But is the analogy of --- well if you let your front lawn go and don't mow it, you just let it go, it will grow up and go to seed, and eventually the quality becomes very sparse and very thin. Does that same analogy apply to range land?

EVERETT: No.

PAULINE: It doesn't?

EVERETT: The reason it doesn't, is because you water your lawn.

PAULINE: Yeah.

EVERETT: Rangeland is restricted to the amount of water that precipitation will allow it to do. You know, most of our country is pretty arid country. It gets moisture in the winter and in the spring, and maybe on into June, but after that if it doesn't get any more moisture it has got to stop. Something's going to --- to quit. Whereas your lawn, you see,

you can just keep watering that baby; it's going to make it grow all you want. But this stuff is going to stop growing at a certain point, and from then on no matter what you do, the plant is essentially --- Where are we at?

BUD: We've got a ways to go yet.

EVERETT: Ways to go. Can't be too far.

BUD: ... At the same time, you know, it's just like pruning a tree.

EVERETT: ... above the forest boundary.

NORA: That's what I thought.

BUD: We're above the forest here. The last time I came through here I had a --- it was late ...

NORA: Oh.

EVERETT: Oh, is that right? That's possible. There are some big old trees up here. ... I thought it was these big old broken tops right down below here.

NORA: Yeah, maybe it was. I've never come up here when they were up here. But we went wandering around last fall looking for ...

EVERETT: These broken top trees right here --- these big tall ones, the ones that stick up above everything else. These, and then there are some right above us too.

NORA: Yeah, I think they are just around the next, this next shoulder.

EVERETT: Right along in here.

PAULINE: A 180 eagles ---

BUD: Yeah.

PAULINE: In this, right here.

BUD: Roosting right in this general area. Yeah, we're coming down the ---

PAULINE: Are those goldens or ---

EVERETT: Balds.

PAULINE: Balds.

BUD: Right in this area ---

EVERETT: Right in here some place, isn't it Nora?

NORA: Yeah.

EVERETT: In these old broken top trees right up above there. I'm not sure, but right around this bend, they must have gone up the draw. Park it right here ---

NORA: I think the best draw right ---

...

BUD: I came up here with Fred (Taylor) a couple of times, you know, and I asked him if there was any above the road, and he said no. Barbara (Shrode) and I came up here one weekend and ---

EVERETT: Its got to be that draw right there, it can't be any other place. It has to be that draw.

NORA: Fred told me it was awful hard to see the roost trees from the road.

EVERETT: I'm sure those old broken tops trees ---

NORA: Yeah, I think so.

BUD: There are several roosts up in here. They sit down by the power line. They count the birds as they come up. There is about three or four canyons that they come out of, and they put people in each canyon that count them as they come out.

NORA: Then there is also a roost right by the airport.

EVERETT: We'll get hit by a logging truck here, better stay awake here.

BUD: Nobody coming.

EVERETT: See how these draws wash, Pauline. We've thrown some junipers --- they cut some junipers --- had McLaren School for Boys up here once, and they cut all these draws all along here and filled them up with junipers, and they are all starting to heal up



pretty good.

BUD: Have we ever tried to get involved this way with the YACC programs at all Everett?

EVERETT: We used to have YACC here all the time. I don't really know why we don't do it any more; I can't really answer your question. Its never been active since about '77, maybe '76 here.

PAULINE: Well Janet got --- that's how she got started with the Forest Service was as a YACC, whatever.

BUD: Those kids can do a lot of work.

PAULINE: She got her foot in the door there and she's been on that marking crew now 6 years.

EVERETT: They used to have that McLaren School for Boys, but they won't come anymore. Really, heck, that was a good deal as far as I can tell. But the trouble is, I guess, the counselors --- those kids are tough, they're tough. I don't know how they put up with those kids all day long, man I ---

BUD: Testing you all the time, huh?

EVERETT: Oh god, I'll tell you. But, you know, some of them are really good kids, there's not anything wrong with them at all, but ---

PAULINE: Well, and some good hard work with some sense of accomplishment built in is really what they need more than anything else.

EVERETT: No, the counselors got so they --- it was just too big a hassle. Now you can report to Anderson that he did a good job. They grazed this and by golly it still looks good. Can't anybody complain about our grazing program here in the draw anyway.

NORA: He said that the cows hardly spent any time in the creek bottoms. ...

EVERETT: ... I think the improvement process go faster. You see what I mean?

PAULINE: Well, one of the arguments that you hear the ranchers make in favor of

grazing is the reduction of fire danger. Do you really feel that that has much, that the grazing has much benefit that way, or is that a non-valid assumption that if the range is grazed there will be less danger of there being a fire, a range fire there?

EVERETT: That obviously is a true statement. However, if you continually graze things down to a level to where you wouldn't have any fire, you're not allowing for the plants to ---

BUD: Perpetuate themselves.

PAULINE: Yeah.

EVERETT: Yeah, to perpetuate themselves.

PAULINE: Well the other point is that, is the fire necessarily a bad thing?

EVERETT: No, no. There are some things that a fire does as far as operators are concerned; it causes some difficulties to them. But from the stand --- from the plant standpoint, this whole country was once fired, more or less. We don't particularly like fires, but we don't particularly hate them either. Because the only reason we don't like them, is when they come at the wrong period of time. Too early for example, or they wipe somebody out so that it ruins his operation for a year. Mainly the fire that we, the type of fire we prefer is to set back the sagebrush.

PAULINE: A controlled burn at the right time, or with the right conditions to do the most beneficial thing.

EVERETT: Yep.

BUD: To burn at the right time, to control the species here. ...

EVERETT: Really fire is tolerant. The fire doesn't affect them very much. The big Bluebunch Wheatgrass that we talked about for example is pretty fire tolerant, and it'll stand fire pretty good. The fact of the matter is, it sometimes helps it. Some other species, like some of the needlegrasses, they get hurt sometimes by fire. So it all depends on what kind of plants you've got, and this sort of thing as to whether the fire is

good or bad. This is Burney's place right here.

PAULINE: This is new out here, this log house, isn't it?

EVERETT: Yeah, some guy from Portland bought this. This is the old Dunn place.

PAULINE: Yeah.

EVERETT: You know the guy from Portland who bought that, and then he had it up for sale lately. He left anyway, I guess. We didn't take you to them all, because this one is the easiest one to get to as far as the access.

PAULINE: There is no point in ---

EVERETT: The other ones we'd have to open a dozen gates and get around, but they all have the same situation. The first one in town there where Thad Geer and the Tyler boys, and George Purdy, or not George but Clinton, and those guys live, that allotment there. Those folks took their use of the Diamond Seedings while we fixed up their allotments for the same, just exactly like we did here. Now they are on a sequence of use, and it's doing the same thing for their allotment as we're doing for this one. The next one over is Dave Reed, and he has Soldier Creek there. And the Soldier allotment is doing the same thing, and all the way along the front range here, all the way through. They were all in the same boat as Camp Harney was when they started, except they had a little different allotments.

PAULINE: We hear a lot of talk about the crested wheat seedings, when we talk about range improvement, and it seems like crested wheat seedings are one of the first things mentioned. But what percentage of the BLM range in Harney County is native, as opposed to crested wheat?

EVERETT: We have this question asked to us all the time. In over three and a half million acres that's in the district, only 3 per-cent of that is in, or has been treated. I don't know what that adds up to, but ---

PAULINE: Sounds like a very small figure.

EVERETT: It's a very small figure out of three and a half million acres.

PAULINE: Bill Phillips statement the other day, and yours too, to the effect that it was those crested wheat seedings that allowed you really to do some of this improvement.

BUD: Flexibility, by treating that small percent of land we are able to take the pressure off the native range, and install management system on those. Once we get the management system on those, then we can move somebody else into seedings. We've just got to move those around, and let everyone take advantage of it. The ... project when it first started ... figured we could treat 15 to 20 percent of the native land. I mean of the land, we could use that to manage the other 80 percent to improve it. This just allows you the flexibility and the place to go with the cows that you have.

EVERETT: They have just been out here for about a week or so.

PAULINE: Well, this is the east side of the camp.

EVERETT: This is what they call the Mortimer Field.

PAULINE: The which kind of field?

EVERETT: Mortimer.

PAULINE: And what, when did the cows go in here, in April or May?

EVERETT: You don't have your license there now?

NORA: No, they are scheduled to go in the middle of April.

EVERETT: I think they didn't go in here until the first of May.

PAULINE: Probably a little later this year.

EVERETT: I think they went in here right around the first of May, and they just came out of here just lately. So they have been in here May, June, about two and a half months.

PAULINE: Here's the ryegrass. You said that there wasn't a whole lot of this. Any evidence of this when you started the improvement project, but now it's starting to come back in?

EVERETT: This is a little bit better than the other side, by quite a little bit, except ---

BUD: ...

EVERETT: Yeah. We've got a lot better site here too.

BUD: Yeah. Oh, I understand that.

EVERETT: We've got a lot better ground here, a lot better dirt, deeper. We've got a lot of everything here that we didn't have on the other site.

PAULINE: They surveyed it at 22 AUM's before ---

EVERETT: Acres per AUM.

PAULINE: Acres per AUM.

EVERETT: But the reason this --- the worst part of this was over there on the other side of this canyon, which is down next to the Withers place. Obviously so, because the water is on that side, the only place there is water up here.

BUD: This brush is kind of wilted in here. See individual small plants there?

NORA: ...

EVERETT: See these cows have grazed this. Now here is some Bluebunch Wheatgrass. If you look at --- if you look from the standpoint of that --- let's say that, we're going to manage for a certain species of grass, and let's say it is Bluebunch Wheatgrass. And if you see that many of them not grazed, now there's one that has been grazed, I'd imagine, and maybe --- there is another one that has been grazed, just topped off, you see, and there is a whole bunch of them that aren't grazed at all. Which means that, you know, it can't be too bad if you are leaving that much stuff. Some of these plants over here, you can see parts of them have been chomped on, you know, they just took a bite out of the plant and left the rest of it there. And here are some more plants that have been grazed, you can see that they have been chomped off, and pieces of them gone, but all in all you can't hardly ---

BUD: Those two stakes are not ---

EVERETT: That's our transect.

BUD: Transect.

EVERETT: Yeah. Trend transect right there.

SIDE B

EVERETT: ... at certain places and you have got to provide different sources of water for them, and all these sort of things, so we build a reservoir here. These cows normally are -- used to going over into Mortimer Basin to water, but now that we've forced them to come into only half of the whole allotment at one time, rather than being able to use the whole allotment, then we had to provide extra water. So we built this reservoir here, and we built several others on this site too. Although in this reservoir over into the water in Mortimer Canyon is probably not more than

--- less than half a mile. In order to get out in that country over there to that ... You see, that is why we built the reservoirs, was to get them to using that country over there.

PAULINE: I've often thought of the range critics that come and look and say, "Oh look at this, it doesn't look like Western Oregon." I don't know how you combat that problem.

NORA: You can't.

PAULINE: The colors of this country are so much more subtle than in the valley. Like this really looks good to me, and I know it really looks good to you guys too. But how do you change the perception of someone ---

BUD: I guess you've got to get them to understand that we don't get that 50 or 60 inches of rainfall.

NORA: Even at its very best it never will look anything like Western Oregon. It never would. If we never grazed another cow here for a thousand years, it would never look like

Western Oregon.

EVERETT: We've got a little water in there. Now see here even around the water holes, Pauline, they are not taking hardly any of the grass here, even close to the water here. You see they have used a lot of it, but this is all going to get rested again next year. We are just going to have more of the same, and you can just look out across here and see the Bluebunch Wheatgrass coming on all of those ridges. That sort of a green cast that you see out there is all Bluebunch Wheatgrass, and probably some needlegrass. There's a plant in here we call Thurber's needlegrass, it's a common plant here too. It's ---

BUD: As Everett said before, we've been blessed with more moisture than we normally get. It's still green, and it's still growing a little bit after the cows come off of it.

EVERETT: Yeah. I don't want to give you ---

PAULINE: Well, that's a boost. You said 5 years ago you wouldn't see this ryegrass out here like this.

BUD: You wouldn't see all this Bluebunch Wheatgrass either.

PAULINE: Well, what about the feed value of the ryegrass. I've just always considered it as not being very palatable. If I were a cow I don't think I'd want to eat it. Do they graze it ---

BUD: In the right season of the year, if they came in here early, if they graze it early they'll eat it. But, after it starts getting rank ---

PAULINE: Rank.

BUD: --- why they won't touch it, unless you come back here in the winter. ...

PAULINE: They will eat it more like it's dry. When it's dry then. Well, I know they always hayed it, so I assumed it makes good hay.

EVERETT: Boy, I'll tell you, you know, you go down here in the valley bottoms here and take one of those old rank stands and burn it off, and turn the cows in there the next

spring and they just love the stuff. Because they can't stand it when it gets giant like it is.

PAULINE: No.

BUD: They won't stick their nose in it.

EVERETT: But they just love that stuff just when it's just starting to grow. Yeah, it's probably the best feed --- the horses, you know, they just go crazy over that stuff. This is what they call that needlegrass. You see it's got those little needles.

PAULINE: Okay, yeah, I guess it does. I heard you refer to that a lot over the years, but I didn't ---

EVERETT: That's what they call Thurber's needlegrass. There are several needlegrasses, but this is the common type we have in here.

PAULINE: That's Thurber. T H U R B E R.

EVERETT: Right. There are two others. One of them is needle-and-thread. That's the -- - the only difference between it is that the awn is way out here, you know. It may be four inches long. It looks the same though; it has the same aspect to it.

BUD: The interesting thing about this stuff is that when it is wet at night, and the humidity goes up the awn will curl, and I think that seed will screw itself right into the ground and plant itself by the action of that. You see time-lapse photography of the awn, of the moisture and the temperature, it just keeps bending and curling and pretty soon it'll just screw the seed right into the ground.

PAULINE: I was really tickled at one of the comments on that, on the Steens Recreation Plan, the lady that wrote and said, "They just put people to working planting trees out there, you know.

EVERETT: Is that right?

PAULINE: And her point was, "Let's keep the natural native wilderness as it is." But if you have to do something, hire some people to plant some trees out there, which would



destroy the native natural wilderness aspect of it ---

BUD: If they would grow.

PAULINE: Yeah. If they'd grow.

BUD: I was almost flabbergasted, you see, I worked up in the State of Washington for a while, and had people from the Game Department --- have you been up there around Yakima and through there? It's barren hills, and it's hot. A 110 or so in the summertime, and they get 6, 7 inches of moisture, and the Fish and Game Department tried to convince me that we should plant some pine trees out there in those hills. And I'd have to water them for the first couple of years, so the roots got down to the water, and then they would take care of themselves. Those are supposedly trained biologists, you know, they should understand things like that. ... Kind of like ... trees, periodically the clipping or pruning stimulates growth.

PAULINE: Right.

BUD: And grass is ... for the bushes. And that's what a lot of these environmentalists don't understand. That it will stimulate the growth by clipping it.

PAULINE: Well, that's what I've tried to think how I could work this, you know, if you take a lawn down in Portland and you don't water it and you don't mow it, and you don't do anything to it, and you just let it go wild, in a few years it's not going to be the lush thick --- And yet they get so much rain down there, that may-be it would be, I don't know but ...

EVERETT: No, it won't. Not even there, not even there.

NORA: It'd grow itself to death.

BUD: You know it gets tangled up, and then the stuff in there doesn't get light in it. You get a photosynthesis problem. It just gets to be kind of a matty jungle and it isn't the pretty thing that they wanted.

PAULINE: No, you have a little green growth there, but most dead

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BUD: And a lot of things, you know, just like clipping the lawn, it depends on what you want, how you treat your land, or how you treat your lawn. If you want a nice green lawn, why you fertilize it, you water it, you clip and you mow it. If you want something else, why you have to give it a different kind of treatment.

Out here in managing these native ranges, you have the same ritual. You develop the objective you want to get to, and then you proceed with whatever practice you need to use to get to that. And it's real important to get that objective set forth to begin with. I guess the best story I've heard was, "Alice in Wonderland". When Alice was going down the trail and she came to the trail and she stopped at the "Y" in the road, she was sitting there and she couldn't figure out which way to go. And the rabbit came along, and she says, "Which trail should I take?" The rabbit says, "Well, where do you want to go?" "Well, I don't know." Then he says, "It really doesn't make any difference which trail you take, does it?" So you've got to have an objective out there first, and what you want, and then you adjust your management to meet that objective.

PAULINE: Well, it's a little unrealistic to think that you could satisfy all needs on one particular plot of land also.

BUD: But that's right, so therefore you set your objective to meet --- whatever you decide that that's what you want out there, and go for it there.

PAULINE: I don't know whether you were involved in that conversation the other day or not, but the grazing on the Steens for instance, and ---

BUD: No, I wasn't up here.

PAULINE: I feel that the management of the Steens for recreation is probably its best use. And I personally have to go along with that. But I also know from having been here for a long, long time and talking to the old timers, that some of the beauty up there is

fading because of the grasses crowding out the wildflowers. And yet you have the antagonism of the people who simply do not want to see a cow up there at all.

NORA: But they are the ones that probably want to see a lot of pine trees.

PAULINE: Or would want to see the wildflowers.

NORA: Yeah.

BUD: That's what the educated boss says that we have been missing. At one time down in, I'm a little more familiar with the area anyway, but down in Lakeview ... they had a real productive antelope herd out there. And we went in, and reduced livestock grazing and implemented some grazing systems out there to --- and our objective was to grow more grass. But, we lost ... and our antelope dropped. So if we were going to manage that area for antelope, then we better look at our hold card, and do something different from what we have been doing.

PAULINE: That's an interesting observation; I haven't had anyone put that quite that way.

BUD: But just by timing of our grazing, we can do a lot of different things with the same piece of ground.

PAULINE: Well, one of the things that we hit hard on the article that I did on the crested wheat seedings and the value of those, was the fact that a mono --- what was it they called it?

BUD: Mono-culture.

PAULINE: Mono-culture, you know, you wouldn't want three and a half million acres of crested wheat ---

BUD: No.

PAULINE: --- any more than you want three and a half million acres of sagebrush.

BUD: Pure sagebrush, that's right.

PAULINE: And the interspersing of one kind of management with the other, is real

beneficial.

EVERETT: Now you see, when we figure utilization, when we decide how much use is being made in these --- country, we go just about like we have been. Periodically we stop and we get out and look and we say --- and we look at quite a few plants like right here. We might walk out through there and see how many plants have been grazed, and how heavy they have been grazed, where they have been grazed all the way to the ground, or whether they have been grazed. You know, how much of it has been grazed. And since this is a used pasture, you would expect, you know, a considerable amount of grazing compared to the one we just come to, where there was no grazing. You know, as we can see without having to go out there and look, that there hasn't been any appreciable amount of grazing, because there is more feed here than cows can use. There isn't any question but what --- 'course it has something to do with the good year, of course. But the fact that the plants are here to start with means that even in a poor year, we're going to have, you know, adequate feed for the amount of livestock we're grazing here, with-out any trouble.

PAULINE: Even in a poor year, the grass just wouldn't last as long in a short water year.

BUD: ...

NORA: You had them sitting in the back there.

PAULINE: In a short water year, you still are going to have initially about the same growth as you do in a good water year, wouldn't you? Just from what moisture --- but it would dry up faster.

EVERETT: Well, yeah. But you probably wouldn't have as much growth either in terms of height and volume. You get more volume when you have more water because the plant will obviously --- like you said, it'll grow longer and it has a better chance to put on more material. The whole idea here is to have --- so that in the short years you'll have

adequate forage, and not a surplus. In this case we've got a surplus of forage, see. But we wanted to make sure that when we come to a short year, we don't have a lot of growth, at least we have adequate forage for the livestock, and that's the whole process.

PAULINE: Well, a short water year, you won't lose the plant necessarily, you just simply won't have the growth, it'll dry up faster. And the next year when you have more water it will come back.

EVERETT: As long as you've got the plants there you've got that built in safety valve right there.

BUD: We call it vigor. If we can get these plants up and growing robust, and vigorous, and healthy, they'll take these drought years a whole lot better than a weak plant. So, our first objective in improving ranges is to get the vigor back, and once we get the vigor back, then we can worry about getting new plants. First thing is to get the vigor back in the plants.

PAULINE: Have good healthy plants to start with.

BUD: Right. Good healthy plants produce more seed, more reliable seed.

NORA: It can handle adversity, like drought and fires better.

EVERETT: It can handle all kinds of adversity, including grazing. Which is, grazing or --- which is just one of the things that plants have to put up with, including drought, and fire and pestilence. Whatever all the ---

NORA: Famine ---

EVERETT: --- ones that are ...

BUD: Now Everett, on this now you are grazing half of the pasture every other year. And --- it was 22 acres AUM before, and what's this now?

EVERETT: What is it now?

BUD: Yeah.

EVERETT: Oh, right now we are grazing it at about, the two pastures combined, at about 8. We are grazing it right now at about 8. We've got it set up to sustain itself at 10. But we are grazing it at 8 right now.

PAULINE: Well, this is another thing that I think people that, you know, that aren't familiar with AUMs, or aren't familiar --- or don't really know what a cow looks like for sure. What do you say; it takes 8 acres per AUM to handle that cow? That doesn't mean that when the cow comes in and eats up the 8 AUMs, or eats up all those AUMs that there is nothing left there; there is still wildlife habitat.

BUD: Yes, we are still; when we take ... we are still assuming that there is half a plant left.

PAULINE: And there is still forage left for the deer, and for the antelope?

NORA: For the soil.

PAULINE: For the soil, to stop erosion.

BUD: We are only figuring taking 50 to 60 percent of the plants, and there is still that much of the plant left.

EVERETT: To give you an example, when the allotment was first set up, there was --- it was allocated for 2,455 AUMs.

PAULINE: What was that figure again?

EVERETT: 2,455 AUMs. And I remember I told you that two of the fellows took their use to the Diamond Seedings.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

EVERETT: So that brought the demand down to 1,594 AUMs.

PAULINE: Okay.

EVERETT: Okay. But we only allow them to use 1,352. That's where you get that 10-acre figure. Okay, now just leave those figures alone for a minute and let me explain to you what happens. This is 10-acre range, but these years right now we're confident that

we can graze them at 8 acres, because we've got more than enough stuff here. But, I don't think we can sustain that, so we're talking about sustaining it at 10-acre range. Okay, that'll give them their 1,352.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

EVERETT: It's possible that there is more here, but the only way we're going to find out if there is more here is to graze for a period of time and see what is left. You see what I mean? That's what the process is about. Our grazing --- we're using this pasture this year, the fellows will come out here and look, and they'll say, see we only used half of what we could have used. You see what I mean? And then they'll do that for several years, and they'll say well maybe there is more than 1,352 AUMs. Maybe there is 1,594 AUMs. Maybe we can give those guys back all of their suspended non-use, and make the whole thing hold again. But in order to prove that, you have got to come out here and raise them up for that period of a year, and come out and see what happened, if it still looks good. Do that another couple more years, still looks good, everything is going all right. Say all right fellows; let's go to the 1,594 AUMs. Those guys are back where they started from, and they are all set.

Now if it's not here, we'll tell them and they will understand that. And they'll say, we went out here with 1,594 AUMs and we don't have anything left.

BUD: We're out of feed.

EVERETT: So hey, guys --- so we'll go back to 1,352 and that's about all we can handle. And that's the process that we go through when we do one of these things, and it's tough to give you --- Among ourselves, we talk about gut feeling for this thing of handling this.

PAULINE: Yeah.

EVERETT: You probably know, and so do the operators.

PAULINE: Yeah.

EVERETT: But that's not what we have to do. We have to go out there and say that there is, and then go through a process to prove it.

PAULINE: You have to be able to substantiate it.

EVERETT: That's why we are into this heavy monitoring program, is to come out and really see just how much forage there is out here. And it takes time, and it's a process and the operators understand it just as well as we do, because they understand that there is good years and bad years.

PAULINE: Well, I've heard many ranchers say that if they came out and destroyed their grass, then they would be out of business.

EVERETT: We don't want to do that.

PAULINE: And they don't want to do that.

BUD: And I think the best way of putting that is that these ranges are nothing more than a grass factory, and there's still the grass to use. What killed this brush in here Everett, is that the grasshoppers?

EVERETT: In here? No, I don't think so.

PAULINE: Okay. I had been confused about this because I --- my initial indoctrination about the grazing rights, and the way it worked, was that the ranchers always had a share in the cost of those improvements. And then I knew in the last few years, it seemed that the criticism was there, and it didn't seem to be valid.

EVERETT: But then, Pauline, let's just take this Drewsey area for example. We spent over a million dollars here in two years.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

EVERETT: To get this thing started, to get it going. If we had waited for those guys to chip in a million dollars, think how long that would have taken for those guys to come up with a million dollars. With cow prices going up and down, and all these sort of things,



they just would never have been able to do it. And the Bureau took the position that we've got to get something done. We've got to get improvement on the range, and don't -

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BUD: Now.

EVERETT: Now, and don't --- we don't want to wait 25 years to do it. And that was the position they took. Congress took it too, in the passing of the Range Improvement Act, PRIA, or whatever they called it, and FLPMA and the whole works, and they all said, get on with it. Don't ---

PAULINE: Well then actually the operators were a cooperative part of that, in that they took a lot of non-use.

EVERETT: Oh, you bet.

PAULINE: They took some drastic cuts.

BUD: ...

EVERETT: These fellows that hauled their cows all the way to the south, do you think they liked to haul cows from here to Diamond?

PAULINE: I heard, I heard ---

EVERETT: They made sacrifices too, and a lot of them. The first year that the fellows from Drewsey went down there, I'll tell you, they were upset, and we were upset, and the people that were down there were upset. But fortunately we all came through it without any major scars, but we ---

PAULINE: I understand that those people in Drewsey now are just tickled to death with what has taken place. That they have been very pleased with the results of that project.

EVERETT: I think everybody in retrospect is pleased with the process. But at the moment, now it was pretty dang traumatic, at that very moment when --- well for example, some of the guys from Drewsey went down there with --- and moved in with eight other

operators. Why, you can't imagine what --- here was your calves, unbranded calves, branded calves. This guy run polled bulls, and I run horned bulls, and this guy run shorthorn bulls and Charolais. Oh my, you know, just trying to keep them together, they are bound to get upset. They probably weren't too friendly to start with. But you know, they --- like you say, they all, after it was all over they kind of --- well maybe there was an expense to it, probably cost us part of our calf crop. But --- had to run down there all the time, which cost us gas and oil and all that sort of thing. Yeah, they did everything.

BUD: You darn right.

EVERETT: ... saw this desert country where we have fragile situations, the damage that was done a hundred years ago, or even fifty years ago, is sometimes irreversible. We can't --- we probably won't ever get it back to what we might want it to be. But, that doesn't mean that we shouldn't stop trying, or we should stop trying. And it doesn't mean that we shouldn't try to accept something that is just as good as we can do, and still keep every-body functioning. This process means to stop, and it doesn't take very much expertise to stop. There's an old saying, "That if you don't do anything, you can't do anything wrong."

NORA: ... your basic climax forest is really quite a sterile place for your wildlife. But you get some birds in there, and you've got openings and lots of brush, shrubs, and grasses and that's where wildlife is. So, trying to achieve your climax vegetation is not necessarily what they really want to do. When you start listening to what they ... all these animals and all this and that and the other thing. They may say that they are going --- ultimate natural vegetation type, but they are mistaken.

PAULINE: Nature isn't exactly humanitarian. And I think that the wild horses --- situation really ... that pretty well that ---

BUD: How many did you see yesterday, Everett?

EVERETT: All together?

BUD: Yeah.

EVERETT: Oh, a 180, a 181, a 182, something.

BUD: Do they need a certain forage?

...

PAULINE: I think that your Camp Harney allotment over there really plays that up with your fishery and recreation, as to your grazing all in an area, and it looks like a park. Really looks good. Wish there was some way, you know, you could take a picture of that, but it doesn't really ---

BUD: Show it.

PAULINE: --- doesn't really have to be there to see it, for them to see it.

EVERETT: I mentioned historical perspective, and I also told you about --- we talked about how the influx of money from the Congress --- to speed up the process a little bit.

Going back to the case of Camp Harney where we --- where two of the fellows took their use out in order to relieve the range for the other people. We probably could have accomplished the same thing that we accomplished to this point without going through all of this process and spending the implementation dollars to build the fences and reservoirs in order to get the system going, to get the management process going. But, we are talking about restoring the range in a period of 25, 30, maybe 50 years at that rate, in that process. Whereas, if you go through a management system that in general is not only benign to perpetuate range once it is improved, but accelerate its improvement, and therefore get things done quicker.

Reductions in themselves are not necessarily always a cure-all. Take the case again of the Camp Harney allotment. What if we grazed it with the full number of cattle, or half the number of cattle? The same number of cattle would have ended up on Rattle-

snake Creek in either case. Reducing livestock would have no affect on improving the ---

PAULINE: Right, you had to fence that off in order to accomplish

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EVERETT: That's right. The main reason for reducing the numbers there was to try and get pastures more in balance, so that the process would work better, the rest rotation grazing system we got here. You have to realize that if we were to try to pack all the livestock into half of the allotment, that might cause some problems. Therefore, that's the reason we opposed their request that they move to the back seedings temporarily --- or permanently in order to get that process started. You understand what I said?

PAULINE: Uh huh.

EVERETT: And that's true in this allotment that we are in right now. We're in what we call the upper mountain allotment, which is going through a process of management right now. I think that we are convinced that we can't sustain this level of grazing in this allotment. I don't think you want to put this in your report.

PAULINE: Yeah.

EVERETT: I'm just telling you this for kind of some background stuff. These guys --- the range in our view is improving. But from those guys standpoint, it is not going fast enough for them. They are not getting what they want. They want to spray and seed this whole thing, if they could. And therefore get on with --- get their AUMs back within a period of 3 or 4 years. Whereas the process we are doing it now, they probably won't get their AUMs back in 20 years, maybe. See that seeding?

And of course there are some reasons why we don't spray and seed here. That adds to your wildlife problem and some other things. I think it is important that everybody understands the time period involved here in getting range to respond to treatment --- whether it be reduction, or whether it be management, which one. Does that make any

sense to you?

PAULINE: Yeah, I think so.

EVERETT: Plus what's on top of that table right there. That juniper table there, plus all this kind of white looking soil that you see along the edge of this hill right here.

PAULINE: Yeah.

EVERETT: Okay, these soils are real erosive. They are no different than a lot of the soils. But in this particular allotment, they are more --- they have been impacted more than most any of the other places because the stock driveway went right up this road here. Kind of like the roads up here, over the top

--- And I'm talking about historical again, back in the early 1900's, and late 1880's. I'm told numbers of sheep went up this trail to the mountains, to get up on the forest, and back again in the fall. And because these soils are so erosive, they caused some severe damages in this allotment.

Okay, Turen Dunten, and here again you are going to have some problems with this because --- Harvey Cronin is the other guy that holds the permit, but he leases it to Alfred Dunten. So really what we have is the two Duntens in this allotment. Turen and his boy Alfred. Okay, in order to get on top of things here and get this started --- whereas we didn't want to do any treatments here, what we wanted to do was get some vigor back in the plants, and get some ground cover for erosion, and that's mainly for erosion. This didn't have a whole lot to do with anything else.

So these guys have been going to the Diamond Seedings now with everything that they've got since, I imagine right around 1979. At least 4 years, maybe 5, I'm not sure. It's been a long time. And we just lately allowed Turen to come back in here with a few of his pet cows. If you know Turen, he's got a few cows that he calls by name, and he don't like those to get too far away from home. So we let him turn those out up here. But it's

only a few head compared to the permit here.

Essentially this allotment hasn't been grazed to any amount for quite a long time. Just to try to get on top of this vigor problem, and get these plants back. We are about ready to change our process here now, and whether we, you know, allow them to come back with their full numbers, or how we are going to do that, we are going to have to go through a process like I explained to you this morning. Probably let them come in with some cows and we'll let them graze it, and when they get through, we'll look at it, and if it looks all right, we may let them go another year, and then that's the way we do it.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

EVERETT: In the meantime, these guys have been going to the Diamond Seedings with their cows, and giving this whole allotment a rest. Now this was one of the allotments that was identified in the EIS as one of the problem allotments at Drewsey. Even the people who came and looked at this allotment thought it was the terriblest thing they had ever seen.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

EVERETT: I'll have to admit that the first time I saw this allotment; it didn't look any too shiny. But mainly because of the erosion problem. You know, a lot of the soil was lost here. It was hard to get this thing under control. But the more I drive by this thing and look up through the hills here, the more I see all the time. And I'm not sure that we have got all the cover that we want on it right now, but boy, we are getting better all the time. It's not on that side now, that's a piece of private right there. ...

NORA: Well, somebody has just moved back in there.

EVERETT: Is that right? ... a free pasture system here, but by doing it this way we don't have to wait for so long. You see we got results here right away without having to wait. You can see it. Boy, I'll tell you we are getting grass in here that I don't think that anybody

ever thought was here before. This is really an impressive allotment. I wrote down this morning about what the stocking rate was here when they started this outfit.

PAULINE: Is that the Coal Mountain allotment?

EVERETT: Coal Mine.

PAULINE: Coal Mine.

EVERETT: Just like a coalmine. This creek over here is called the Coal Mine Creek. Some of this ground right here next to the fence here surveyed at 32 acres per AUM, but the whole allotment surveys at 16.6.

PAULINE: Now? Oh, then, when you started.

EVERETT: Yeah. When it was surveyed. Some of it --- the average for the whole allotment was 16.6, but some of this down here was 32 acre range. And when we get over here in this draw, I'll show you why. A lot of the silt and stuff that was coming off of this place was running down and filling up their irrigation ditch all the time.

PAULINE: Yeah.

EVERETT: So they tried to --- so they built several dams in here. You can see one right there at the fence, which didn't last. And I don't know where the other ones are right now. There was several others in here that they dozed through ... to try and stop it. But all that does is just --- the water just comes up and to a certain point, and then it goes --- and then it really does erode.

PAULINE: Yeah.

EVERETT: Because it has raised the grade so high that when it comes off that time then it really erodes. So it just made a bigger mess by trying to stop it that way. Well, the only thing we can do right here now to try and stop this is to get as much stuff on the ground as we can. To try and hold the moisture before it gets into that. It's going to be a long process before we'll ever get those gullies healed up. Whether I'll live long enough to see

that, I can't say, but I don't think Turen will.

PAULINE: Yeah.

EVERETT: But, you know, if we can get the cover on the ground, then maybe we might --  
- can go down here and do some things, assuming that we have slowed the water down a little. Then maybe we can put some water spreaders or some things in there to try and divert. We're talking about a lot of expense here, you know, for a little piece of country.

PAULINE: Yeah. How many acres --- I don't think you told me how many acres was in this allotment.

NORA: Okay, there is ... Everybody agrees that our problem with our water philosophy is how fast it's coming off that face there. You didn't have the opportunity to work up there because that was state. Well, now it is federal ground. And Alfred Dunten and I have tossed around the idea of moving some of the fences so that the piece of land that we rested is that face up there, to see if we can't get some vegetation up there that will help open ...

EVERETT: One other complicated factor in that table up there is solid sheet rock. And when it rains an inch off of that thing, it comes off. It all comes off, in one glob ... So you've got volumes of water coming off of this thing almost any time that it rains, which complicates things. It doesn't necessarily mean that that's the whole problem. It just means that it is a complicated factor. But, you know, it is beginning to pick up all the time. You are getting a little bit of green stuff coming. Ordinarily it isn't green like this in a year, but we'll get a little bit of basin wild rye growing, and a lot of Bluebunch Wheatgrass, a lot of Thurber's needlegrass. I wouldn't hesitate to graze this right now, but we don't have a whole lot of water to graze this. ... We use the seedings to improve riparian, we use the seedings to provide watershed protection, and that's the three things we were trying to accomplish. The fact that forage was involved in all three, is true. But nevertheless we



were looking out for riparian and --- pardon?

NORA: Sage grouse on this side of the road.

EVERETT: Oh, I see them, yeah. That is why we keep those three allotments.

PAULINE: Uh huh.

EVERETT: To show you three different viewpoints ---

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