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GRAZING ON PUBLIC DOMAIN SHOULD BE LINKED WITH FEDERAL  
FOREST SERVICE

Throughout the western states are 142,000,000 acres of public domain which for many years have been grazed by stock without federal regulation. Over-grazing has greatly reduced the carrying capacity by destroying natural plant life and in many places has caused a destructive erosion of the soil.

The Taylor Grazing Act passed by Congress was an important step toward the correction of these evils. However, the Act has not yet been put into effect. An amendment proposed at the last session of Congress was passed but vetoed by President Roosevelt. It seems likely that there will be no federal regulation on the public domain until certain management difficulties can be worked out.

One serious objection to the Act is that all these lands were placed in charge of the Department of the Interior. This necessitates building up an entirely new service in the Department to regulate grazing. It means a complete duplication of the work now carried on by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture.

In conserving the outdoor resources of this country, no department of the government has built up a better organization devoted to an important cause than the Federal Forest Service. These men for many years have had to deal with practical outdoor problems where private interests were very strong and yet where it was most important to guard the property of the public. The most difficult problem in the nation today is to protect and conserve that which belongs to all the people as a whole against private selfishness. It is almost impossible with resources like the streams, lakes and rivers of the country, which are public property and yet subject to public.

use. The waterfowl and other game resources and the public domain are typical examples of resources that are hard to conserve.

The wages of rangers and supervisors have been low, but men have been attracted by outdoor service. With heart and soul in the work, they have developed courage and intelligence to act for a more permanent and general interest instead of a temporary local or political interest.

Around the forested areas of the country center our most important public resources. The control of the ever-threatening menace of forest fires is a big job. Another is the handling of forests on a sustained yield basis. It also requires careful study of soil and plant life and proper regulation to prevent erosion of the soil. Grazing of domestic stock is inseparably linked with federal forest areas, also a constructive plan of game management. The cooperative use of forests by the public for recreational purposes is vital, yet certain regions are essential as wilderness areas. Federal foresters are handling these problems on a business basis for the highest public use.