

**Editorial**  
**The Trail Boss**  
**HAROLD F. HEADY**

*Professor of Forestry (Range Management), University of California, Berkeley.*

Since "The Trail Boss" became the Society's trade mark, I have wondered at the image it portrays and have heard various opinions expressed. The one I prefer is the Boss's dedication to a job and his determination to reach his goal no matter the set backs from storm, fire, and Indians. All will agree that the image of putting out all that he has to reach his objective in the face of adversity is a fitting motto for the Society and for us as individuals.

Also the emblem may suggest to some that the range management objective has concern with livestock. If the concern is only with livestock, I believe that the image is much too narrow. It is this area of range management objectives to which the following remarks are addressed.

Range managers, because of the breadth of their training and their job responsibilities, are land managers. Their concern is with all the resources of the land. They are practicing ecologists in a broad sense, as they are concerned with the whole of the landscape, the production of goods and services from the landscape, and man's impact on the landscape. The range manager is vitally concerned with the impact of consumer organisms on the landscape, including domestic animals, wild animals, and man himself. Recently increased importance of wild animals and of recreational man in the rangeland setting needs further recognition. This leads me to suggest that the range manager should exercise initiative and leadership in rangeland management where the objective is more than livestock production. He has the fundamental knowledge and experience to accomplish efficient land use of several types.

The range man's animal management problems and solutions are centered on 5 principles. They are correct stocking rate, season of use, frequency of use, kind of animal, and distribution of animals. These are so widely known and applied in livestock management that it may be trite to repeat them. I do so for the purpose of emphasizing that much in successful game-range management depends on the same five principles. Range management is still range management whether the animals used are domestic or wild. It seems to me that the range manager's knowledge and experience in using these principles of managing the influence of animals on their food and cover resources is as vital to game management as it has been to successful range livestock management.

The relatively new and rapidly expanding field of wildland recreation can use these same principles. Man as a camper, hiker, and hunter in wildland situations exerts pressures on wild lands in terms of his numbers, season of use, frequency of use, kind of use, and his distribution. Many problems of recreational use are problems within these five areas. Their solutions lie in the application of concepts with which the range man is already familiar and experienced. It is a short step from rotation of grazing to rotation of camp grounds and the rotation of trampling by human feet. The increasingly critical problem of recreational horse grazing is a range problem which should be solved by range people.

Range managers are concerned with the manipulation of vegetation as much as they are with animals. Very large bodies of information on seeding, control of noxious plants, fertilization, and soil conservation prove this point conclusively. Game management and recreational management are also concerned with manipulation of natural vegetation. Range managers can and do con-

tribute to these fields but I believe the changing demands on our wild lands gives us a largely untaken opportunity to be more effective as land managers. Management of vegetation for game and recreational purposes is a new challenge demanding visionary thinking which range people can provide.

The purpose of the Society, as stated in every Journal issue, can be interpreted to include the uses of wildland for game and recreation but it takes some word-twisting to do so. "The science and art of grazing land management" could include recreational areas but I believe our profession is saying too frequently that these are no longer "grazing areas" when actually they are areas "grazed" by man. "... sustained use of forage, soil and water resources" again confines the application of our subject matter facility too closely to the livestock industry by the choice of the word "forage." "... sustained use of vegetation, soil and water resources" would be more suitable. The Society's objectives need revising.

These comments do no injustice to the fact that range management has a principle orientation toward livestock, but growing "conflicts" over the use of rangeland for domestic animals, game animals, and recreational purposes will not be solved in the best interests of all land users until the range manager applies his special facility in solving those problems. We need to stimulate our interest and increase our influence in all wildland management problems.

It is fortunate that The Trail Boss portrays a man, a man willing to accept responsibility, and a man capable of delivering the goods in the face of adversity. The dedication of The Trail Boss to the herd makes it a fitting symbol of the range manager's dedication to animals, land, and people. Both The Boss and today's range manager are more than just cowboys.