

A Device for Determining Boundaries of Browse Plots

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THE determination of browse production by plot methods presents a problem with which the researcher is not normally confronted in the determination of herbaceous forage production. The vertical limits and the projected sides of three-dimensional plots are difficult to accurately define. The device described in the following paragraphs proved to be of considerable value for this purpose in a recent study of browse production in a pine-hardwood timber stand in Texas. In this study data were required on the total annual growth of all non-herbaceous species within 5 feet of the ground. Ten one-quarter milacre belt transects were located within each of 6 one-quarter acre timber plots. The dimensions for the milacre transects were 1 by 5 by 10.89 feet. In order to maintain a high degree of accuracy of the three-dimensional plots the rigid wooden frame shown in Figure 1 was constructed. This device nicknamed the "bossy" has an inside clearance of 1 by 5 feet. A one-foot measuring stick with a notch at the center point was made for measuring the plot at ground level. The "bossy", which is open at the bottom, can be placed in an upright position above the one-foot stick when the upper limits of the transect are desired. Another feature of the device lies in the fact that by removing three winged-nuts and the attached bolts, the frame can be collapsed and by replacing the bolts and nuts a compact unit results which requires a minimum of space

in transporting. The entire "bossy" requires approximately 18 feet of one-inch lath of good quality material and 6 bolts with winged nuts.



FIGURE 1. The "bossy" describes the projected sides and height of the browse plot.

The following procedure was employed when using the "bossy" in this study. A heavy cord was stretched along the long axis of the plot and attached to steel pins at each end. The limits of the plot within a few inches of the ground were determined by using the one-foot stick.

When browse was encountered more than a few inches above the ground, the "bossy" was placed in position above the plot to determine the upper limits for clipping.

Oftentimes vines and branches of shrubs originating outside the boundaries

completely traverse the plot. In other instances plants originating within the plot extend beyond its limits. The "bossy" is a valuable aid in determining the proper clipping limits. The method is accurate enough to determine the portion of an individual leaf that is to be taken or left.



RANGE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST AND EXHIBITION

A range photography contest and exhibition will be held at the Seventh Annual Meeting of the American Society of Range Management in Omaha, Nebraska, January 26 to 29, 1954. There will be the following five divisions, the first four being black and white, and the last color:

1. Range landscape.
2. Individual range plant (without portrait lens).
3. Range conditions and fence-line contrasts.
4. Close-up (with portrait lens or higher magnification).
5. Color print, any size.

All entries must have been taken by a member of the Society. All black and white photos must be mounted, unframed, and 8 by 10-inch or larger. Any range subject is eligible with the provision that neither animals nor mechanical devices shall be the principal subject.

Photographs shall be accompanied by up to a 25-word description, plus name and address of photographer, typed on separate white background that can be attached to the bottom of the photograph with gummed tape from the back. These will be numbered at the meeting. (Names and addresses may be helpful to Society members in locating good photographs to illustrate publications.)

Individuals may enter not more than one photo in each of the five divisions. Photographs will be taken to and from the exhibition room by the member displaying them or by someone designated by the member who is attending the meeting.

Viewing members at the Annual Meeting will vote on signed ballots to be deposited in a conveniently located box. Voting will be for the one photograph the individual likes best in each division; and for the best in the show.—*H. W. Cooper*, Chairman, Display Committee.