

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN
UPPER VALLEY EAST CATTLE ALLOTMENT
ESCALANTE RANGER DISTRICT
DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST

Allotment Management Plan Prepared by Craig Whittekiend, Range Conservationist and Ervin Burrows, District Ranger in February, 1967. Plan approved by Jack Shumate, Forest Supervisor on 3/367. Plan updated by Dan Baird, Range Conservationist 2/9/77

Updated by Charles B. Bonafant Date 3/16/78
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Approval Recommended by Frank Jensen Date 3/22/78
Chief Branch of Range Mgt.

Approved by Merlin J. Dunlap Date 3/28/78
Forest Supervisor

updated 2/25/81 GMD

I. INFORMATION

A. History

The Upper Valley area was included in the National Forest in December, 1910. Information indicates the Allotment became overstocked shortly after Escalante was settled. From 1910 to 1960 a sizeable reduction was made in permitted numbers. By 1966 the present 366 cattle with a season of 6/16 to 9/30 was arrived at for the Upper Valley East Allotment.

In the 1940's a reseeding program was undertaken to try to correct major watershed problems and provide forage for the cattle. In 1965 most of the previously reseeded crested wheatgrass stands were sprayed with 2,4-D to control invading sagebrush. Also 872 acres of additional range was plowed and seeded on the two (East and West) Upper Valley Allotments. The permittees took complete nonuse from 1966-1967 while the reseedings were becoming established.

These reseedings helped considerably in improving range and watershed conditions. However, several large gullies remained and were successfully rehabilitated in 1979 and 1980.

The permittees have cooperated in salting and riding to gain proper distribution and management of the cattle.

Before 1965 a considerable amount of unauthorized use occurred between the Upper Valley and the Canaan Mountain Allotments. This problem was solved in 1965 with construction of the Canaan Mountain fence.

In 1960, completion of Highway U-54 made it desirable to divide the Upper Valley Allotment. The present Upper Valley East and Upper Valley West cattle allotments are the results.

B. Current Permits

At present all of the permittees are engaged in cow-calf operations. The permits are as follows:

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>No. of Cattle</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>AUM's</u>
Grant Liston	57	6/16 - 9/30	199
Neal Liston	71	"	248
Robert Liston	20	"	70
*Stan Liston	218	"	763
Total	<u>366</u>		<u>1280</u>

*Has additional permit on Upper Valley West C&H Allotment.

Each of the permittees has a grazing license on BLM lands from 10/1 to 4/15. The BLM lands are separated from the Forest. Efforts were made several years ago to correlate the ending date on the Forest with the opening date on BLM ranges.

C. Range Allotment Analysis

The range allotment analysis completed in 1961 is now partly outdated. Several site analysis updates have been made since that time and a summary of the present range condition follows:

<u>Suitability</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Suitable	4724
Unsuitable	10091
Nonrange	619
Total acres in allotment	<u>51434</u>

<u>Condition of Suitable Range</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Good (partly reseeded)	2441
Fair (partly reseeded)	1706
Poor	<u>577</u>
Total	<u>4724</u>

Studies and observations show the trend is static on most of the Allotment. However, there are areas where it may be declining.

D. Estimated Grazing Capacity

Range inspections and grazing impact studies show this Allotment to be close to capacity on wet years. On dry years it becomes badly overgrazed if the cattle stay the full season. Therefore, it will not be possible for the cattle to stay the full grazing season on some years.

E. Present Management

The Allotment is managed under a three unit deferred-rotation grazing system. The grazing system is discussed more fully in section IV.

F. Existing Improvements

Over the years several improvements have been constructed on the Allotment. Maintenance of the structural improvements being used for range management purposes are the responsibilities of the permittees. The improvements are as follows:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SIZE AND TYPE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
*1. Lower South Hollow Fence	0.8 miles, 4 strand barbed wire	From the SW corner Sec. 16 T36S, R1E, east to where it ties into the South Hollow-Liston Flat division fence.
2. South Hollow Willow Creek Fence	3.8 miles, 4 strand barbed wire	From the draw in the SE quarter Section 30, east to its end.
3. South Hollow Liston Flat Fence	3.1 miles, 4 strand barbed wire	From the Liston Flat south to where it intersects the South Hollow-Willow Creek fence.
4. Canaan Mountain Allotment Division Fence	3.0 miles, 4 strand barbed wire	Two sections: One from Shurtz Bush east to the divide between Shurtz Bush and Willow Creek and one from east of Winter Spring east to its end.

*Numbers correspond to numbers on allotment map accompanying this plan.

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|-------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 5. | South Hollow water development #1 | Head box, pipe & trough | In the NE quarter Sec. 32, T.36S, R1E |
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| 6. | South Hollow water development #2 | Head box, pipe & trough | In the NE quarter Sec. 29, T36S, R1E |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 7. | South Hollow water development #3 | Head box, pipe & trough | In the NW quarter Sec. 21, T36S, R1E |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 8. | Liston Flat water development | Head box, pipe & trough | In the SE quarter Sec. 9, T36S, R1E |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 9. | Pole Spring pipeline | 3.7 miles pipeline and 5 tanks | From Pole Spring down South Hollow |

In addition to the preceding improvements approximately 900 acres have been reseeded and/or sprayed with 2,4-D to control sagebrush. In 1979 and 1980 major gullies in South Hollow and Liston Flat areas were 'pushed', check dammed, and reseeded.

II. MANAGEMENT GOALS

The basic objectives of management on the Allotment are:

- a. Provide for soil stability and meet the physiological needs of the forage plants.
- b. Get and keep the range trend in an upward direction.
- c. Maintain or improve the grass seedings in South Hollow and Liston Flat by not overgrazing them.
- d. Maintain the current a.u.m.'s on the Allotment when possible.
- e. Help provide for a stable economic base in the local community as much as possible by providing a stable livestock grazing base on the Allotment.
- f. Use fire as a goal for maintaining the grass reseedings where applicable.
- g. Provide abundant forage for the deer that inhabit the Allotment.

III. ANALYSIS

A. Relationship of Permits to Permittee's Operations

At present each permittee is engaged in a cow-calf operation. The cattle spend approximately 10 months on Federal land. Each permittee raises only enough hay to meet minimum ranch needs. The loss of the Forest permit would reduce the size of each ranch operation by at least 50 percent.

B. Management Options

Several management systems have been tried on the Allotment. The present system allows the forage plants to complete their growth cycle every other year. This coupled with proper utilization of the forage should help to improve range and watershed conditions. Therefore, the system will be continued.

IV. ACTION

A. Grazing Schedule

The three pasture deferred-rotation grazing schedule is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Liston Flat Unit</u>	<u>South Hollow Unit</u>	<u>Willow Spring Unit</u>
1	A	B	B
2	B	A	B

(Repeat cycle)

A = Graze first - 6/16 until proper use is reached.

B - Graze second - until proper use is reached or the 9/30 off date

Approximately 150 cattle will be put into the Willow Spring Unit. The remaining 216 head will go into either South Hollow or Liston Flat Unit.

B. Proper Use Criteria

Even though the Allotment is managed under deferred rotation grazing principles, the forage cannot be grazed in excess of proper use. Some stubble and seedheads must be left on the grazed units.

The Forest Service R-4 Range Analysis Handbook (Section 60) defines 50 percent utilization of the current year's growth and over as heavy use and cautions on exceeding this amount. Since there is an extreme need for plant and litter cover on much of the Allotment for watershed protection purposes the 50 percent utilization factor will be considered proper for the Allotment. If this percentage is exceeded, further watershed deterioration could occur on parts of the Allotment.

Proper use determinations will be made on the palatable grasses growing on the major suitable range types in each unit.

PHOTO OF OVER UTILIZATION



Liston Flat - September, 1977. Due to drought conditions the forage on the Allotment was seriously over utilized in 1977. Utilization to this level can't be repeated. Adequate stubble and seedheads must be left after the cattle leave the unit each year. This is necessary to protect the soil, meet multiple use needs and keep the forage plants in a healthy condition. Since this time areas such as this have been restored to good production and vigor.

C. Administrative Action to Implement Program

The Range Conservationist will check the Allotment periodically during the grazing season. He will make utilization and follow-up studies and note the progress of the cattle in the system. They will inform the permittees when the unit is nearing proper use and when the cattle are to move to the next unit.

The permittees will need to have riders available to properly move and distribute the cattle. The permittees will also need to place salt in proper locations and perform needed maintenance of fences and water developments.

D. Development Program

No additional developments are needed to make this grazing system work. A tool that might be used to aid in maintaining the grass reseeding would be fire. This would be used to control invading sagebrush and pinyon-juniper. However, pure grass monocultures are to be avoided as they become heavily infested with the black grass bug (Labops). This insect species already inhabits the pure stand of grass on the Allotment.

E. Administrative Action Needed

There does not appear to be any administrative problems preventing implementation of this plan.

F. Multiple Use Coordination

This Allotment is included in the proposed Paunsaugunt-Sevier planning unit. A land management plan is being prepared at this time. No major changes in grazing use are expected due to this planning process.

There does not appear to be any major coordination problems on the Allotment. However, to assure that the principle functions are covered, each was evaluated as follows:

a. Timber

At this time no sales are planned for the next five years on the Allotment. It is possible that some small salvage sales could occur. These would require only minimal work roads. There have been sales in past years that have not regenerated naturally. One plantation exists in the South Hollow drainage. This plantation is not fenced and some damage to the young trees is occurring from trampling. In order to gain the needed tree stocking rate, fencing could be required.

Timber harvesting has opened up several areas and improved the grazing value. It is felt the grazing value on these areas will stay relatively high for at least 15 years. After that time trees may have a sufficient canopy to reduce the ability of forage plants to produce. No major problems are foreseen between the timber and grazing function.

b. Wildlife

This Allotment is in the Kaiparowits deer herd (60b) unit. Deer numbers have been low in this unit for the last 15 years. The Allotment is only a small part of the herd unit, but it provides a considerable amount of the summer range for the deer. The reasons for low deer numbers are not known but the planned program should aid deer.

Other wildlife including bears, cougars, and coyotes are found on the area. These animals should not be affected by the planned program. No rare or endangered species are found on the area.

c. Watershed

There are some fairly large areas on the Allotment where natural erosion is high. There is also evidence of past man created erosion in many of the draws and flats. The flatter lands tend to "catch" and moderate the erosion that occurs naturally by absorbing overland flow. This is why these areas must have sufficient ground cover and not be overgrazed.

The area had several active gullies that have been "treated". Where revegetation projects have been carried out, the gullies have been stabilized.

The planned grazing system will aid in stabilizing many of the problem areas.

d. Recreation

A considerable part of the Allotment is adjacent to and visible from Highway U-12. Other than the esthetics, the only appreciable recreation use that occurs is during the deer hunting season. Several hunter camps are set up on the Allotment and a considerable amount of road hunting occurs. Cattle are removed prior to the hunting season so little conflict occurs between these two functions.

V. FOLLOW-UP

Annual inspections and proper use studies will be made on the units grazed each year. This inspection will be documented on Form R4-2200-15 and related forms. These inspections will provide needed checks for compliance with the annual operating plan and aid in determining future needs.

VI. CHECK ON LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

Cattle will be counted, dye branded, or tagged as needed to assure control of livestock numbers.