

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

for

KANAB CREEK C&H ALLOTMENT

Powell Ranger District
Dixie National Forest
Garfield and Kane Counties, Utah

Prepared By: Evan Boshell Date: 5-10-94
Range Conservationist

Reviewed By: Ralph Rawlison Date: 5-12-94
Acting Forest Range Staff

Approved By: Carlton P. Guillette Date: 5/16/94
District Forest Ranger

This Allotment Management Plan is made part of the Term Grazing Permit in accordance with Section 8a of that permit and implements the Decision Notice signed by Carlton P. Guillette, Powell District Ranger, on February 12, 1993.

KANAB CREEK C&H ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Powell Ranger District
Dixie National Forest

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), as amended by the Public Rangelands Improvement Act allows for Allotment Management Plans (AMP's) to be included in grazing permits at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture. [43 U.S.C. (1752 (d), as amended by 92 Stat. 1803 (1978)]. The Secretary has elected to exercise this discretion and has delegated his authority to issue regulations in this area to the Chief of the Forest Service. [36 CFR (222.1 et. seq.)].

An Allotment Management Plan is defined in FLPMA as a document prepared in consultation with lessees or permittees applying to livestock operations on the public lands prescribing (1) the manner in and extent to which livestock operations will be conducted in order to meet multiple use, sustained-yield, economic and other needs and objectives, (2) describing range improvements to be installed and maintained, and (3) containing such other provisions relating to livestock grazing and other objectives found by the Secretary to be consistent with the provisions of the FLPMA. [43 USC (1702(k), and 36 CFR (222.1(b) (2)., and (FSM 1023)]. The Kanab Creek C&H Allotment Management Plan was prepared in compliance with the approved Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Kanab Creek, Upper Blubber, Robinson Canyon/Lower Blubber C&H Allotment Management Plan Environmental Assessment, approved on February 12, 1993.

The AMP integrates the actions needed to manage rangeland resources for livestock grazing. The AMP must integrate resource goals, objectives, standards, guidelines and management requirements for the management of rangeland resources including soil, water, wildlife, fisheries and vegetation for a wide array of resource uses with livestock grazing.

I. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A. GOALS

Meet the following Goals and Desired Future Conditions contained in the Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan which include the following:

The majority of the upland range sites are at or near the desired future condition for those vegetation communities. There is an opportunity to better distribute livestock while maintaining these desired plant communities for optimum forage production (Dixie National Forest L&RMP, Chapter IV-109).

There are riparian areas which contain vegetation communities which are at an earlier successional stage with lower resource values for riparian dependent species than vegetation communities which have the potential to occupy these sites. The management area direction would be to provide healthy, self-perpetuating riparian plant communities (Dixie National Forest L&RMP, Chapter IV-135).

This allotment is presently obligated under a Term Grazing Permit. The desired future condition is to permit livestock grazing and develop an allotment management plan that will ensure proper management (Dixie National Forest L&RMP, Chapter IV-21).

Water quality and stream channel stability are not providing for adequate fisheries habitat on some stretches of the East Fork of the Sevier River and Kanab Creek. The desired future condition is to maintain and improve existing levels of water quality and to maintain or improve stream channel stability, in areas where they have been degraded (Dixie National Forest L&RMP, Chapter IV-135).

B. OBJECTIVES

1. Maintain overall stream habitat conditions (MA-9A) at least 50 percent of optimum (Dixie National Forest L&RMP, Chapter IV-138).
2. Reduce water temperature to below the maximum of 68 F in the East Fork of the Sevier River (MA-9A) and its tributaries.
3. Maintain at least 80 percent of the potential ground cover within 100 feet from the edges of all perennial streams (MA-9A), or to the outer margin of the riparian ecosystem, where wider than 100 feet (Dixie National Forest L&RMP, Chapter IV-141).
4. Maintain at least 70 percent of the linear distance of all riparian ecosystems in at least an upper mid-seral successional stage (Dixie National Forest L&RMP, Chapter IV-42).
5. Maintain 40 percent or more of overhanging grasses, forbs, sedges and shrubs along banks of streams (Dixie National Forest L&RMP, Chapter IV-33).
6. Maintain 50 percent or more of total streambank length in stable condition (Dixie National Forest L&RMP, Chapter IV-33).
7. No more than 25 percent of stream substrate should be covered by inorganic sediment less than 3.2 mm in size (Dixie National Forest L&RMP, Chapter IV-33).
8. All suitable rangelands currently in "poor" condition will be improved to fair or better range condition (Dixie National Forest L&RMP, Chapter IV-37).

II. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Livestock kind, class, numbers permitted, season of use and animal months permitted are as follows:

Permitted Number - 60 cattle
 Class of Livestock - cow-calf
 Season of Use - 6/11 - 10/10
 Animal Months - 240 AM's

<u>Permittees</u>	<u>Cattle</u>
Ott, J. Robert & Mira Loy	60

- B. A deferred-rotation grazing system will be used with the following units and dates:

Year	Lower	Middle	Upper	
1993	8/01-9/10	6/11- 7/31	9/11-10/10	Or until proper use is reached.
1994	6/11-7/31	9/21-10/10	8/01- 9/20	Or until proper use is reached.
1995	8/01-9/10	6/11- 7/31	9/11-10/10	Or until proper use is reached.
1996	6/11-7/31	9/21-10/10	8/01- 9/20	Or until proper use is reached.
(Repeat Cycle)				

The Lower Unit will be used either first or second each year. This should allow regrowth to occur at least every other year along the riparian areas. The Upper Unit will be used second or last each year. This unit has the least amount of streamside riparian vegetation, so using this unit last should have the least impact on riparian vegetation.

The grazing dates are tentative and will be adjusted as conditions and forage utilization warrant.

- C. Proper Forage Utilization

Vegetation management goals are to leave stubble heights of 4-6 inches along riparian areas to provide sufficient herbacious forage biomass to meet the requirements of plant vigor maintenance, streambank protection and sediment entrapment.

Up to 50 percent utilization of forage will be allowed. This 50 percent utilization level should allow this allotment to maintain current conditions with some improvement.

D. Management Requirements

The following activities described here are necessary to achieve the objectives stated in Section I:

An Annual Operating Plan will be developed to prescribe management activities needed for each year.

No livestock will be allowed on National Forest System lands until proper range readiness is reached, annually.

Herding and salting practices will be followed to achieve proper distribution of livestock.

Monitoring of forage utilization levels will determine when to move livestock to the next scheduled unit. When all the scheduled units have been grazed to proper use, livestock will be removed from the allotment.

All range improvements will be maintained, to Forest Service standards which they were constructed to, prior to livestock entering units scheduled to be grazed each year. Reconstruction of improvements will be completed as determined necessary by the District Ranger and as funds are available.

When livestock are moved to the next unit, all livestock will be moved in a timely manner. Strays will not be allowed to stay in the previously grazed unit.

Grazing these units under a deferred rotation grazing system may require that livestock be trailed across units not scheduled for grazing at that time. It will be necessary that livestock be moved through the units promptly and not be left in the unscheduled units.

Monitoring of sedimentation levels in streams will continue.

Control of shrubby cinquefoil (Potentilla fruticosa), may become necessary. Any vegetation control will be approved by the District Ranger.

Historic and/or cultural resource clearances will be completed prior to any new range improvement construction.

Threatened, endangered and sensitive plant and animal species will have Biological Evaluations prior to any new range improvement construction where necessary.

III. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

The following range improvements are needed to implement livestock management on the Kanab C&H Allotment.

<u>Existing Improvements</u>				
<u>Name</u>	<u>Improv. No.</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Maintenance By</u>
East Fork - Kanab Cr. Bdry. Fence	003232	1.0 mile	Sec. 2, T38S, R4W-1/2W	J. Robert Ott(.5-N.1/2) E.Fk.Permittes(.5-S.1/2)
Kanab-Lower Blubber Bdry. Fence	003907	.5 mile	Sec. 2, T38S, R4 1/2W	Robinson Canyon Permittes
Lower-Middle Division Fence	003601	.75 mile	Sec. 10, T38S, R4 1/2W	J. Robert Ott
Middle-Upper Division Fence	003602	.75 mile	Sec. 16, T38S, R4 1/2 W,	J. Robert Ott
Upper Division Fence	003603	.25 mile	Sec. 20 & 21 T38S, R4 1/2W	J. Robert Ott
Middle Kanab Fork Spring	003604		Sec. 20 & 21 T38S, R4 1/2W	J. Robert Ott
Upper Kanab Creek Pond	003605		Sec. 20 T38S, R4 1/2W	J. Robert Ott
Robinson-Kanab Bdry. Fence	003902	.5 mile	Sec. 35 T38S, R5 W	Robinson Canyon Permittes
R.Fk. Kanab-L. Fk Blubber Bdry. Fence	003954	.5 mile	Sec. 12 T38S, R4 W	Upper Blubber Permittee

IV. EVALUATION SECTION

Ecosystem monitoring and inspections will continue to be made on the allotment to further evaluate (1) range condition and trend; (2) effectiveness of the grazing system; (3) accomplishment of the management objectives; and (4) adequacy of livestock stocking rates.

A. Nested Frequencies

There are no nested frequency clusters on the allotment. One study will be established on the allotment and re-read approximately every 10 years.

B. Riparian Transects

There are no riparian vegetation monitoring transects on the allotment. One study will be established on Kanab Creek and re-read approximately every 5 years.

C. Unit Examinations (Inspections)

Unit examinations will be conducted annually on the allotment. These examinations will evaluate compliance with the Annual Operating Plan's directions. Examinations will also evaluate forage utilization by livestock in key areas of the allotment. These key areas are located along Kanab Creek for measuring stubble height levels and in the open uplands for measuring forage utilization levels.

D. Utilization Surveys

Forage utilization by elk will be monitored by using approved Forest Service methods. These surveys will be established in key foraging areas and will evaluate forage utilization by elk prior to livestock grazing.

E. Sedimentation Surveys

Sedimentation in streams will be monitored to evaluate water quality and fisheries spawning habitat trends.

F. Streambank Stability

Streambank vegetation and soil stability will be monitored (photo plots) in representative reaches of Kanab Creek.