

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

East Pines C&H Allotment

Powell Ranger District  
Dixie National Forest  
Region 4

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**ACTING FOREST SUPERVISOR**

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

### A. Description

The East Pines C&H Allotment is located approximately 15 miles east of Panguitch and includes portions of Spring Creek, Showalter, West Fork Hunt Creek, East Fork Hunt Creek, and Center Creek drainages.

The Allotment varies in elevation from 7500' to 9500'. The surface area varies from nearly flat lands in the lower elevations to steep slopes in the Flat Top-Casto Bluff area. Many of the steep areas form physical barriers that restrict livestock movement.

Eight main land types (or land forms), together with their associated vegetative species and soils, comprises the Allotment makeup. They are as follows: 1. Small mesas with very steep side slopes. Dominant species include ponderosa pine, manzanita, black sage, mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, scattered pinyon and juniper, with numerous grasses and forbs. Gravelly cobbly loam and sandy loam are the main soils. 2. Benches and toeslopes below mesa tops and rolling hills. Ponderosa pine, pinyon, juniper, black sage, big sagebrush, bitterbrush, rabbitbrush, manzanita, Indian ricegrass, mutton bluegrass, and squirrel tail are the main vegetative species present. Primary soil is gravelly loam. 3. Steep, highly dissected slopes with numerous rock outcrops. Most of this type is unsuitable for livestock grazing. 4. Long, narrow floodplains and adjacent alluvial fans. Dominant species are big sagebrush, rabbitbrush, sedges, western wheatgrass, blue grama, yarrow, blue grass, Indian ricegrass and black sagebrush. Silt loams and silty clay loams are the main soil textures. Pediment sideslopes. Main species are big sagebrush, rabbitbrush, slender wheatgrass, Indian ricegrass, cactus and some pinyon and juniper. Main soil class is gravelly loam. 6. Steep hillsides; big sagebrush, fringed sagebrush, bitterbrush, rabbitbrush, mountain mahogany, and scattered pinyon and juniper are the dominant species. Soil class is cobbly loam. 7. Stream bottoms and toe slopes; main species are big sagebrush, rabbitbrush, western wheatgrass, blue grama, black sagebrush and seeded crested wheatgrass. Silt loams and gravelly loams soils are present. 8. Long pediments; black sagebrush, big sagebrush, rabbitbrush, slender wheatgrass, Indian ricegrass, mutton bluegrass and some pinyon and juniper are the major species. Loams and gravelly loams are the main soil classes.

A detailed soil map and description is contained in the Powell District Land Type Report.

Precipitation averages between 14" and 22" with the higher elevation areas receiving the most precipitation. Summer rains usually occur as thunderstorms and they are frequently of a short, intense duration.

The East Pines Allotment contains 15,485 acres of National Forest Land. The Allotment is surrounded by state land, private land, and other National Forest lands. At present, 1 permittee, Art Evans, grazes 307 head of cattle from 6/1-10/10 for 1330 animal months.

The Allotment is also a very important range for wildlife.

## II. HISTORY AND CURRENT STATUS

### A. Past Actual Use

Prior to 1954 the area now included in this Allotment was used in common by sheep and cattle permitted on the following allotments: East Hunt Creek C&H Allotment, West Hunt Creek S&G Allotment, Prospect C&H Allotment, and Rock Creek S&G Allotment.

In 1953 common use was eliminated in the area and the East Pines C&H Allotment was established. Range that was previously in the West Hunt S&G Allotment was transferred to the allotment with an agreement that the increase in area would compensate for the so called "cattle drift rights." This Allotment also included most of the reseeded portions of the East Hunt Creek, West Hunt Creek and Prospect Allotments. It also included a significant portion of the Pines Allotment. This "portion" of the Pines Allotment was included to satisfy the obligation for one of the permittees preference on the Allotment at that time.

Around 1950 some 5770 acres were reseeded. The reseeded portions of the Allotment were grazed for the first time in 1954. Actual and permitted use of the area presently in the East Pines Cattle Allotment prior to 1954 can be found in Section 3 of the classifile folder for this allotment. Actual use for the 1954-76 period are shown below:

Year	Number of Cattle	Animal Months	Season
1954	439	1463	7/1 - 10/8
1955	447	1565	7/1 - 10/14
1956	401	1404	6/23 - 10/6
1957	265	933	6/11 - 10/4
1958	274	959	7/1 - 10/14
1959	283	1132	6/16 - 10/14
1960	183	732	6/16 - 10/15

Year	Number of Cattle	Animal Months	Seasons
1961	258	1032	6/16 - 10/15
1962	283	1132	6/16 - 10/15
1963	269	1076	6/16 - 10/15
1964	269	1076	6/16 - 10/15
1965	307	1074	6/1 - 9/15
1966	307	1074	6/1 - 9/15
1967	307	1074	6/1 - 9/15
1968	307	1074	6/1 - 9/15
1969	305	1072	6/1 - 10/1
1970	307	1074	6/15 - 9/30
1971	305	1077	6/16 - 9/30
1972	307	1210	6/1 - 9/30
1973	307	1074	6/1 - 9/15
1974	307	1074	6/1 - 9/15
1975	307	1330	6/1 - 10/10
1976	293	1309	6/8 - 10/24

#### B. Past and Present Management

From 1954 - 1968 the Allotment was grazed on a deferred rotation system. Since 1968 it has been grazed on a three pasture rest-rotation system. This system appears to be working well and with the development of additional water should work even better.

Under the old deferred system livestock handling practices were not as intensive as they should have been. As a result areas near water were overgrazed while other areas were grazed little or not at all.

C. Current Status of Permits and Range Operations

Table I - Present Permittee and Permitted Forest and BLM Use

	<u>F.S. Term Permit</u>			<u>BLM Licenses</u>	
	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>AUM's</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>Season</u>
Art Evans (East Pines Allot.)	307	6/1-10/10	1330	300	12/1-6/1
Art Evans (Red Creek Allot. on Cedar City Dist.)	34	6/16-10/10	381	190	12/1-5/1

State Land

<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>Season</u>
300	10/10-12/1

The permittee runs crossbreed cattle, however, the hereford breed comprises most of the cows. The permittee is engaged in a cow-calf operation as well as other business interests to sustain his livelihood. The permittee has fall grazing permits on state lands that are adjacent to National Forest land in John's Valley. Winter grazing is on BLM lands southeast of Escalante on the 40 Mile Ridge. The cattle are trucked from the winter range to the summer range. During the winter months some of the cattle are fed on commensurate ranch property in Panguitch and Parowan Valleys.

III. RANGE CONDITION AND TREND

The Range Allotment Analysis was completed in 1963. Since that time, considerable improvements in range management have been accomplished, as a result, the original range analysis is outdated. Following is an estimated summary of present acreages (by pastures) in various suitability and condition classes.

## SHOWALTER (PASTURE #1)

Condition Class	Acres by Suitability Classes and Vegetative Types					
	Suitable	Secondary Range	Total	Unsuitable (Used)	Unsuitable (Not Used)	Non Range
Good	563	--	563	--	--	--
Fair	1701	--	1701	--	--	--
Poor	157	--	157	--	--	--
U, 7 & Non Range	--	--	--	682	--	--
Total	2421	--	2421	682	--	--

Reseeded: 1229 Acres

## WEST HUNT (PASTURE #2)

Condition Class	Acres by Suitability Classes and Vegetative Types					
	Suitable	Secondary Range	Total	Unsuitable (Used)	Unsuitable (Not Used)	Non Range
Good	1202	--	1202	--	--	--
Fair	2125	--	2125	--	--	--
Poor	668	--	668	--	--	--
U, 7 & Non Range	--	--	--	740	--	2923
Total	3995	--	3995	740	--	2923

Reseeded: 2276 Acres

## EAST HUNT (PASTURE #3)

Condition Class	Acres by Suitability Classes and Vegetative Types					
	Suitable	Secondary Range	Total	Unsuitable (Used)	Unsuitable (Not Used)	Non Range
Good	1590	--	1590	--	--	--
Fair	1017	--	1017	--	--	--
Poor	697	268	697	--	--	--
U, 7 & Non Range	--	--	--	345	106	701
Total	3304	268	3572	345	106	701

Reseeded: 2265 Acres

## TOTAL ALL PASTURES

Condition Class	Suitable	Secondary Range	Total	%
Good	3355	--	3355	23
Fair	4843	--	4843	31
Poor	1522	268	1522	10
U, 7 & Non Range	--	--	5497	36
Total	9720	268	15,485	

Reseeded: 5770 Acres

IV. ESTIMATED GRAZING CAPACITY

The allotment has been grazed under a rest-rotation grazing system for approximately 8 years (more than two full rotation cycles). Our records and observations indicate that the presently permitted 307 head of cattle can have a full forage supply for the 1330 permitted A.U.M.'s even on low precipitation years and still meet the multiple use requirements for the allotment. Therefore, the allotment is considered properly stocked.

The following table shows the Estimated Capacities of the suitable range for the three pastures on the allotment:

	Showalter	West Hunt	East Hunt	Total
Suitable Acres	2421	2995	3304	9720
*Cow Months	550	760	670	

\*Based on R4-2200-15's in the past four years and general observations.

V. MANAGEMENT GOALS

Management goals on the East Pines Allotment are to improve forage and watershed conditions along Showalter Creek, Center Creek, East and West Hunt Creeks and to sustain forage and watershed conditions on areas currently in fair to good range condition.

Specific management activities or interim management objectives to accomplish the above goals and objectives are as follows:

- ✓ 1. Work with the permittee "rider" to attain proper livestock distribution through proper salting, herding and maintenance of range improvements. Emphasize the protection of heavily used area such as the creek bottoms in Showalter, West Hunt, East Hunt and Center Creek.
  2. Provide additional water in areas of the allotment that currently have little or no stock water available; particularly in Showalter and West Hunt units. Provide for wildlife water needs also.
  3. Provide a full forage supply for the permitted 307 head of cattle and their calves from 6/1-10/10 for 1330 A.U.M.'s.
  4. Provide adequate forage and cover for the antelope, deer and elk that inhabit the allotment.
  - ✓ 5. Control livestock drift from the East Pines Allotment to the Hunt Creek Sheep Allotment.
  6. Provide suitable habitat for the sagegrouse.
  7. Further evaluate and if necessary construct let-down fences in West Hunt and East Hunt areas to minimize damage from elk.
  8. Plan and coordinate for wildlife habitat needs on remaining structural and nonstructural projects.
  9. Maintain the present 3-unit rest rotation grazing system.
  10. Maintain a permanent trend study on a key area within each unit.
- ✓ When cattle are moved from one pasture to another they will be allowed to drift as much as possible. When livestock have to be moved between the East Hunt and Showalter pastures it will be necessary to trail across the West Hunt pasture. Such movement must be as quick and effective as possible to prevent use of the rested pasture.

## VI. ACTION PROGRAM FOR THE ALLOTMENT

### A. Management System

The three pasture rest-rotation system begun in 1968 will be continued. It evolved from a three pasture deferred-rotation system. Under the planned system two pastures will be grazed and one rested each year.

The rest-rotation system is keyed to plant physiology and is designed to allow plants to grow and reproduce. Desirable, healthy and vigorous plants result from a properly used allotment based on the rest-rotation system. Such results aid in maintaining and improving range watershed conditions and allow for maximum livestock production.

Following is the planned grazing schedule:

Year	#1 Showalter	#2 West Hunt	#3 East Hunt
1	6/1-7/31	8/1-10/10	Rest
2	8/11-10/10	Rest	6/1-8/10
3	Rest	6/1-8/10	8/11-10/10
	Repeat Cycle		

#### Treatment

Rest: No cattle grazing: Exception: On drought years the third pasture may be used near the end of the grazing season.

Graze at Range Readiness: 6/1-7/31 6/1-8/10

Graze at Seed Ripe: 8/1-10/10 8/11-10/10

These dates are tentative and may be changed due to vegetative conditions.

The system allows each pasture a minimum of one complete year of rest and one deferment until after seed ripe every three years. This will promote plant vigor, litter production, seedling establishment, and overall increase of forage production.

#### B. Range Development Program

Much of the development on the allotment has been completed. However, some of the improvements need reconstructing due to snow and elk damage. These are listed in the proposed improvements.

Since water (or lack of it) is the limiting factor in getting good livestock distribution it is necessary to actively pursue this part of the development program. As funds become available spring sources should be developed in Center Creek, Showalter Creek, Pat Willis Draw (head of) and other areas if found.

Several earth fill reservoirs have been constructed on the allotment. Some of them have never been maintained and have become filled with sediment. Others have had their dams breached. As new ponds are constructed or old ones reconstructed an on-site analysis of the construction material will be determined. Sites with poor material will be avoided for pond construction. Existing reservoirs that don't hold water because of previous material should be bentonited.

C. Existing Structural Improvements

Project Name	Type Improvement	Size	Location	When Constructed	Maint. By
Pines-Prospect Boundary Fence	4-strand barb wire	11 1/2 Mi.	Forest Bdry. Sec. 3, 10, 15, 22, 27, 34, 3, 10, 9, 8		Permittee
John L. Swale Pasture	4-strand barb wire	1 1/2 Mi.	East Pines-Pines Bdry Fence North & East of Reid Ranch		"
Mud Spring - Showalter Unit	4-strand barb wire	1 1/2 Mi.	Bdry. separating Showalter Unit (East Pines Allot.)		"
West Side Division Fence of Showalter	4-strand barb wire	3 Miles	Fence between forks of Pat Willis and across Mud Spring Ridge, Sec. 14, 11, 10, 3 & 34		"
Allotment Division Fence Separating East Pines C&H and East Hunt S&G	4-strand barb wire	8 3/4 Mi.	Showalter to Prospect Cr. Sec. 1, 36, 25, 30, 19, 20, 17, 16, 9, 10, & 3	1962	"
Allotment Bdry. fence separating Showalter pasture and Hunt Cr. S&G	4-strand barb wire	2 Miles	Sec. 1, 2, 35, 34 & 27		Hunt Cr. S&G Permit
Pasture fence separating East & West Hunt Pastures	4-strand	3 3/4 Mi.	Sec. 27, 28, 29 & 30	1962	Permittee
Drift Fence at head of Showalter Creek between ponds	4-strand	1/2 Mile	Section 28	1975	"

Project Name	Type Improvement	Size	Location	When Constructed	Maint. By
Center Creek Spring	1200 gal. tank 7 metal troughs & two ponds	1 1/2 Mi. 1 1/4" plastic pipeline	Sec. 30, T34S R3W		Permittee
Upper Pat Willis Reservoir	Earth Fill Reservoir		Right Fork at Pat Willis		"
Prospect Creek Spring Development	Head Box & enclosure		Sec. 3, T34S		"
Hunt Creek Flat Reservoir	Earth Fill Reservoir		Campbell Meadows		"
Cougar Flat Reservoir	Earth Fill Reservoir		Cougar Flat		"
Spring Creek Reservoir #2	Earth Fill Reservoir		Middle of Spring Creek Drainage	1956	"
Spring Creek Reservoir #1	Earth Fill Reservoir		Upper Spring Creek Drainage	1956	"
Upper Showalter Creek Reservoir	Earth Fill Reservoir		Middle of Showalter Creek Drainage		"
Sec. 3 Spring Creek Reservoir	Earth Fill Reservoir		Head Right Fork Pat Willis Draw	1956	"
Kocherhans Reservoir	Earth Fill Reservoir		Fenced Development in lower Showalter north of Flake Mtn.		"
5 Reservoirs			Spring Creek Drainage		
3 Reservoirs			Showalter Creek Drainage		
2 Reservoirs			Right Fork of Drainage in Lower Showalter Creek		
1 Reservoir			Middle of Center Creek		
4 Reservoirs			Cougar Flat		

D. Existing Nonstructural Improvements

Treatment	Acres	Location	Year
Dixie Harrowed, Plowed & Drilled	5770	Pines Reseeding	1949-1950's

E. Proposed Improvements1. Structural

Name	Type	Size	Location	Project Work	Estimated Cost
Center Creek Spring Pipeline Extension	Plastic Pipeline	1 Mile	Sec. 27 & 28 T34S, R3W	Crawler Tractor laying pipeline	\$1700.00
East Pines C&H Hunt Cr. S&G Division	Let down barb wire	1 Mile	Section 1 T35S, R4W	Reconstruct existing fence	\$ 900.00
East Pines C&H Pines C&H Division fence	Let down barb wire fence	1 Mile	Section 12 T35S, R4W	Reconstruction	\$1000.00
West Fk. Hunt Cr. Spring Dev.	Headbox	2 1/2 mi.	Sections 26 & 36, T34S, R3W Section 31, T34S, R3W	Crawler Tractor laying pipeline	\$3200.00
Showalter Creek Water Development			Showalter Creek	Develop water if available	
"Ponds" Rehabilitation	Stock Water	10	Over Entire Allotment	Bentonite-clean out with crawler tractor	\$100/pond
Headcut rehabilitation	check dams	2	Section 6 T35S, R3W	Crawler Tractor	\$ 500.00
3 Cattle Guards		12'	Section 29, 2 & 3, T34S, R3W	Installing cattle guard & timbers	\$3000.00

## VII. CORRELATION WITH OTHER USES

### A. Wildlife

On December 17, 1975, 70 head of antelope from Parker Mtn. were released on the Widtsoe Allotment which lies north of the East Pines Allotment. At present, the travel and use patterns for these animals have not been established. In the fall of 1977 an additional 100 head of antelope from Parker Mtn. is scheduled to be released near Tom Best Springs which is on the east side of this Allotment. (See the Environmental Analysis Report dated 5/11/72 (2640) for specific details concerning the transplant.) It is anticipated that these animals will range over 4 or 5 allotments on the west side of John's Valley.

Due to the different grazing habits of antelope and cattle, no conflicts of use are expected. Range structural improvements are being modified to allow free movement of antelope. Planned improvements will be designed and constructed to permit migration of all big game.

The antelope are to be maintained at a number which does not cause major conflict with livestock grazing. The exact number will be adjusted in accordance with subsequent findings from habitat evaluation studies, and upon agreement between the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the U.S. Forest Service.

The Elk Winter Range extends across about 2400 acres on the upper portion of the allotment. Most of the Mt. Dutton elk herd (an estimated 340 animals) winter on south facing slopes in Center Creek, Prospect Creek and East and West Hunt Creeks. During the summer most of them migrate off the allotment.

The elk have caused considerable damage to the ridge top fences in Showalter, Center Creek, East and West Hunt Creek Drainages. As a result, existing, or planned fences in the elk winter range area will be constructed as let down type fences.

Competition between elk and livestock is not significant at this time, but it may require considerable coordination in the future if the elk herd increases.

The allotment is situated on the southeast end of the Antimony Deer Herd (#50) Unit. Most of the area is deer summer range. At one time the area was overstocked with deer; consequently some of the browse was overused. Deer numbers were reduced through special

hunts in the late 1950's and early 1960's. Today deer numbers are down, and there is considerable deer habitat on the Allotment that is not being utilized.

The Utah Prairie Dog is found in two colonies adjacent to Tom Best Spring. These areas and the adjacent John's Valley area harbor the largest remaining colony of the Utah Prairie Dog. In years past this animal was hunted and poisoned almost to extinction. Consequently, it has been added to the list of endangered species. At present the population is increasing. Although there are no known conflicts between cattle grazing and the prairie dogs, efforts will be taken to insure that structural and/or non-structural improvements do not interfere with the existing prairie dog colonies.

The sage grouse is the only upland game bird found on the allotment. Habitat in the Tom Best Springs area is ideal for these birds. Any future revegetation projects will be designed to maintain or improve the grouse habitat.

Bald and Golden Eagles occur within the allotment. Their exact habitat locations aren't known, but the golden eagles may nest in the Flat Top and Casto Bluff areas. The bald eagle is a migratory bird and frequents the area mainly in the winter months. Several other raptors as well as many species of songbirds inhabit the area year round or seasonally.

#### B. Watershed

There are some portions of this allotment where watershed conditions could be improved. These areas are due mainly to the nature of the soil and improper distribution of livestock. The rest-rotation grazing system, and additional water developments, is improving this situation.

#### C. Timber

Commercial timber stands occur as scattered ponderosa pine. Most of this timber is south of Tom Best Road. There are no known long term conflicts between livestock grazing and timber production. Timber sales will be designed and laid out to have as minimum impact as possible on the environment. Marking will be done on a tree selection basis.

#### D. Recreation

This allotment receives heavy recreation use particularly during the hunting seasons. Elk and deer hunters camp at Showalter, Center Creek, West Hunt Creek, Prospect Creek and at Tom Best Spring. Coyote

and cougar hunters and trappers "patrol" the roads yearlong trapping, calling and looking for prey animals.

With antelope now inhabiting the allotment more "sightseers" can be expected.

#### E. Mining

There are 62 limestone mining claims just north of Tom Best Springs on Forest Service and State lands. So far, only surface sampling has been conducted. Full scale mining is anticipated in the near future. Future efforts will be taken to coordinate the mining operations with the livestock, wildlife and other resources of the area.

### VIII. ALTERNATIVES

All grazing sequences are subject to change depending on vegetation and soil conditions, financing (or not) of structural improvements, and needs and desires of permittees, as well as unforeseen circumstances. The grazing system as described in this plan allows for flexibility which is essential for good results.

### IX. FOLLOW-UP SECTION

Studies and inspections will continue to be made on the allotment to evaluate (1) range condition and trend, (2) accomplishment of management goals, (3) effectiveness of the grazing system and (4) adequacy of the stocking rate.

#### A. Benchmarks

There is at least one benchmark and photo-point transect on each of the three units. These will be read periodically on the rested unit as subsequent data is needed.

#### B. Parker 3 Steps

There are no Parker 3 Step Trend Studies established on the allotment. At the present time there is not a need for establishing them on the allotment.

#### C. Unit Inspection Records

Unit examination records "R4-2200-15" will be kept and use intensity mapping will be conducted on a yearly basis.

D. Utilization Standards

The management system is designed so that the physiological needs of the grasses are met. However it is not planned to "grub" any unit to the ground. The cattle will be moved to the next unit when an acceptable degree of use has been achieved.

E. Check on Livestock Numbers

The cattle will be periodically counted onto the allotment or when they change units. It is not contemplated that excess numbers will be placed on the allotment. Should problems occur, dye branding or tagging can be reinstated.