ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Deer Creek Sheep Allotment

(Deer Creek - Horse Valley - Table Mountain)

Powell Ranger District, Dixie National Forest, Region 4

Plan Revised By: Donald G. Young Date: 4/15/76

Plan Approved By: Walter H. Pierson Date: 4/15/76
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ACTING FOREST SUPERVISOR

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. History and Past Use

There are three units that make up the Deer Creek S&G Allotment; Horse Valley, Table Mountain and Deer Creek.

1. Horse Valley

Previous to 1922 this was part of the old Smith Canyon C&H Allotment. The present permittee, Cannon Livestock Company, acquired the permit in 1933 and additional preference in 1935.

Prior to 1938 the unit was known as the Lost Creek-Bull Rush Allotment. Sheep numbers varied from 1076 prior to 1924 to 900 in 1931 when a 10% reduction was made.

2. Table Mountain

This unit has always been sheep range. There has been some cattle drift from the Jones Corral Allotment and vice versa with the sheep. Drift occurs in the Dandelion Flat vicinity.

The unit has been used in conjunction with other units and actual use between units is difficult to separate.

Cannons acquired the permit in 1933.

3. Deer Creek

In 1909 about 3,000 lambing ewes summered in Deer Creek. In 1911 there were 1,777 head of sheep permitted to graze from May 15 to October 31. During this early period the allotment boundary included only the Deer Creek drainage. The permit was reduced and transferred. In 1944, 758 head of sheep were permitted to graze. In 1945 the Dry Hollow area was added to the allotment and the permitted obligation increased to 1079 head. Approximately 50 head of cattle ran in common with the sheep throughout the history of this allotment. These cattle were permitted to graze on the Jones Corral C&H Allotment.

Deep Creek was formerly a separate common use allotment. Until 1925, the Deep Creek Allotment was grazed in connection with other nearby allotments and no use records are available. In 1925, 869 sheep grazed the allotment from 5/21-9/30 and about 40 head of cattle from 5/10-10/31. In 1940 the Deep Creek and Pine Creek Allotments were combined and the season adjusted to 7/1-9/30.

Cannons acquired the Deer Creek permit in 1940.

Common use was eliminated in 1960. The common use cattle (142 head, 6/1-9/30) were confined to Deer Creek and the sheep to the Deep-Pine Allotment (1000 head, 7/1-9/30). This proved unsatisfactory and in 1961 the cattle were moved to the Jones Corral C&H Allotment, the sheep to the Deer Creek S&G Allotment, and the Deer-Pine Creeks S&G Allotment combined into these adjacent allotments.

In reviewing district records it is difficult to calculate the percent reductions on the allotment prior to 1940. The last reduction was in 1965. Sheep numbers were reduced from 2000 to 1200, AUM's from 5000 to 3600, and the season made uniform for all units (7/1 to 9/30).

The last boundary changes occurred in 1976. The bottom of Deer Creek up to the forks was included so sheep would have access to water. To stop the Jones Corral-Table Mountain drift a boundary adjustment was made at Dandelion Flat. A fence is proposed along part of the new boundary.

The Horse Valley unit boundary was extended to include more of the Snowbank area; also the boundary was changed in Lost Creek so that the reseeded area would be included as part of the Mud Springs C&H Allotment.

B. Past Management

1. Horse Valley - Table Mountain

In 1938 a deferred-rotation system between the two units was initiated. This consisted of lambing on one allotment for two years and grazing on the other for 1943 sheep months. This plan continued into the late 1940's. A three unit deferred-rotation was initiated in 1965. This was the result of the inclusion of the Deer Creek unit and the reduction in livestock numbers. A three unit rest-rotation system began in 1969 and has been in use since then.

2. Deer Creek

This unit never had any real management until 1961. Prior to 1961, due to the large number of permitted stock, it was not feasible to practice a rest-rotation grazing system. The entire unit was needed to feed the sheep each year. No effort was ever made to practice any method of deferred grazing. Since 1965 the unit has been grazed with Horse Valley and Table Mountain on a rotation system.

C. Range Condition

Range Allotment Analysis was completed in 1964. That analysis is now outdated. Following are the present approximate suitability and condition classifications:

Condition Class	Suitable Range (Acres)	Unsuitable Range (Acres)	Total
	Horse Valley Unit		
Fair	2,207		
Poor	430		
Not Classified		22,526	
Sub Total			25,163
	Table Mt. Unit		
Good	3,070		
Fair	1,465		
Not Classified		5,255	
Sub Total			9,790
	Deer Creek Unit		
Good	2,290		
Fair	3,115		
Not Classified		17,371	
Sub Total			22,776
ALLOTMENT TOTALS	12,577	45,152	57,729

D. Grazing Capacity

As has been pointed out, the allotment has been under a rest-rotation system of grazing since 1969. The allotment can adequately carry the 1200 head of sheep for the 7/1-9/30 season and still leave adequate forage for wildlife and other onsite needs.

Potential

Until water is developed on the Table Mountain and Horse Valley units there is little chance within the immediate future to increase sheep numbers. There are 1100 acres of suitable (not used) range in the Horse Valley unit. Development of water on this area is scheduled for the summer of 1976. Table Mountain has no live water other than in the bottom of Pole Canyon. Water availability will be poor on this unit until a pond is constructed at Dandelion Flat; other possibilities include piping the Jones Corral water to the Table.

There has never really been any live water developed on the allotment. Ponds have been constructed but they have not really been effective because of poor location and lack of bentonite.

E. Present Permittees and Livestock Obligations

Gerald Cannon (Cannon Livestock Co.) of Circleville is the only permittee on the allotment. He has a 1200 head ewe-lamb operation from 7/1 to 9/30. His operation generally consists of summering on the National Forest, spring and fall on private land, and wintering on National Resource Lands on the Wah Wah Desert. Lambs coming off the National Forest are sold in the fall.

Following are grazing leases and the one permit on other Federal Lands:

Area	Number	Class of Stock	Season of Use
B.L.M.	1400	Sheep	Oct. 15 - May 15
B.L.M.	1200	Sheep	May 15 - Oct. 30
B.L.M.	1100	Sheep	Oct. 1 - Oct. 15
B.L.M.	100	Cattle	Oct. 15 - Oct. 28
Fishlake N.F.	792	Sheep	June 20 - Sept. 30

The permittee owns 6000 acres classified as 200 cultivated, 200 acres improved pasture, and 5600 acres of spring-fall range. He also leases 7500 acres of State Land.

II. MANAGEMENT GOALS

A. To effectively manage the allotment, allow flexibility on-the-ground and in this plan.

B. Develop the Lost Creek water source and pipe on to the Horse Valley Unit.

C. Construct net wire fence and pond at Dandelion Flat to prevent sheep and cattle drift and to provide water for sheep.

D. Continue to graze allotment on a 3-unit rest-rotation system.

E. When trailing between Deer Creek and Horse Valley units herd sheep off Mt. Dutton closed area; herd sheep on low range when trailing between Table Mountain and Deer Creek.

F. Allow trailing to water in lower Deep Creek.

G. Continue to cooperate with permittee and government trapper to effectively control coyotes.

H. Continue to seek adequate financing to construct National Forest boundary fences in the Deer Creek-Cow Creek areas.

I. When funds become available chain 1500 acres of P-J on the Horse Valley unit; have archeologist look at this season.

J. If chaining work is completed fence National Forest boundary from Smith Canyon to Horse Valley Creek.

K. On range improvement projects take wildlife needs into consideration.

III. ACTION PROGRAM FOR THE ALLOTMENT

A. Management System (Rest-Rotation)

The planned system on the allotment is to graze 1200 sheep as follows:

	UNIT		
Year	Horse Valley	Table Mountain	Deer Creek
1976	B	Rest	A
1977	Rest	A	B
1978	A	B	Rest

(Repeat Cycle)

A - Graze 7/1 - 8/15 (Range Readiness)

B - Graze 8/16 - 9/30 (Flowering through seed ripe)

Rest

Over a period of 45 years this system has evolved from a no rest system. It works real well on this allotment and the permittee is satisfied with it.

The trailing distance to water and lack of water on all units continues to be a problem. This has shown up in weight gains on lambs. In 1974 lambs just off the allotment weighed 65 pounds. With the continual development and distribution of water weights should correspondingly increase.

B. Action Program

1. Development System

a. Existing Improvements

Name and Location	Year Constructed	Type	Size	Maintenance Responsibilities
National Forest Boundary	1944	4-wire	¼ mile	Forest Service
Drift fence (Pole Canyon)	1940's	4-wire	¼ mile	Permittee
National Forest Boundary	1963	4-wire	½ mile	Forest Service
National Forest Boundary	1968	3-wire	1 mile	Forest Service
National Forest Boundary	1934-35	4-wire	7 mile	Forest Service
Dry Hollow (Sec. 21)	1964	Stock Res.	-	Permittee
Mountain Springs (Sec.28)	1955	Stock Res.	-	Permittee
Little Cow Creek	1964	Stock Res.	-	Permittee
Mountain Springs	-	Stock Res.	-	Permittee
Dry Hollow (Sec. 14)	1964	Stock Res.	-	Permittee
Table Mtn. (Sec. 33)	1971	Stock Res.	-	Permittee
Table Mtn. (Sec. 4)	1971	Stock Res.	-	Permittee
Table Mtn. (Sec. 3)	1971	Stock Res.	-	Permittee
Corral Flat	1963	Stock Res.	-	Permittee
Road Hollow	1963	Stock Res.	-	Permittee
Lower Road Hollow	1962	Stock Res.	-	Permittee
Horse Valley	1962	Stock Res.	-	Permittee
Lower Snow Bank	1962	Stock Res.	-	Permittee
Upper Horse Valley Creek (Sec. 11)	-	Stock Res.	-	Permittee
Upper Snow Bank	-	Stock Res.	-	Permittee
Bull Rush	-	Spring and Stock Res.	-	Permittee

b. Proposed Improvements (Structural)

Location	Type	Size	Cost Estimate	Priority*
Table Mountain Unit	Bentonite 6 ponds	-	$ 500	Fourth
National Forest Bdry. (Horse Valley)	3-Wire	6 miles	9000	Sixth
Horse Valley Unit	Construct 3 Ponds	-	750	Third
National Forest Bdry. (Deer Cr. & Cow Cr.)	3-Wire	3 miles	4500	Fifth
Horse Valley Unit	Headbox, pipeline and 6 Ponds	6 miles	6000	First
Dandelion Flat	3-Wire & Netwire	1.7 miles	2500	Second
Dandelion Flat	Stock Reservoir	-	100	Second
National Forest Bdry. (Table Mtn.)	3-Wire	4 miles	6000	Seventh

*Work priorities will depend on availability of funds.

c. Proposed Improvements (Non-Structural)

Location	Type	Size	Cost Estimate	Priority
Chokecherry-Bull Rush-Marshall Basin	P-J Removal	1500 acres (Approximate)	$30000	Second
Table Mountain	Prescribed Burn	500	500	First

IV. CORRELATION WITH OTHER USES

The District Environmental Impact Statement and Land Use Plan are in the process of being completed. The allotment management goals are based on the decisions in the Land Use Plan thereby insuring coordination between functions.

More specific actions necessary to coordinate uses are as follows:

A. Wildlife

The 1967 allotment management plan discussed at length the overuse by deer and the resulting downward trend on both vegetation and soil. Since 1967 deer numbers have changed drastically. Where harvests were 3000 per year they have declined to 300 in 1975. Hunting is now limited to bucks only. Vegetation and soil trends are generally up.

The elk population is estimated at 300 to 400. Herd numbers appear to be static. Hunting is limited to bulls only. The average kill is about 30 head per year. Success ratio about 15%.

A few elk drift onto the Horse Valley and Table Mountain units during the summer. Year round many of them are concentrated on the Deer Creek unit. Of the three units hunting pressure is concentrated mostly in Deer Creek.

Seventy antelope from the Parker Mountain herd were released on the Widtsoe C&H Allotment during November 1975. Some of these animals may possibly migrate to the Deer Creek unit.

Other animals and birds using the allotment include cougar, bobcat, coyotes, sage grouse and pine grouse. Pine grouse are quite numerous around the "rim" of Table Mountain and are usually hunted every year.

To maintain and/or enhance game and sheep habitat, projects involving vegetation manipulation would be so designed to re-establish or increase growth on browse and forb species. Where P-J removal is completed a grass seed mixture including bitterbrush, alfalfa, mahogany, etc. would be needed. Big sagebrush areas can be broadcast burned and allowed to revegetate naturally.

Water developments will be designed and constructed to allow use by small animals and birds.

Three wire fences are needed to prevent cattle drift onto sheep range especially along the National Forest boundary in the Cow Creek-Deer Creek areas. These fences will be built to wildlife standards - top wire a maximum of 42" above ground and bottom wire a minimum of 18" above ground.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS

All of the units on the Deer Creek Allotment border the Jones Corral C&H Allotment. For the last 40 years there have been problems between permittees concerning drift and water. The cattle permittees have resented the sheep coming near the allotment and vice versa with the sheep permittee. The heart of the problem has been the lack of water on the Table Mountain and Deer Creek units. For the sheep to have any water at all they frequently have had to go into lower Deer Creek and Dandelion Flat. To prevent the drift problem a sheep tight fence will be constructed through Dandelion Flat tying into Rocky Ford and Pole Canyon. A pond will be constructed on the north side of the fence so that sheep can have water. Also sheep will be permitted to use lower Deer Creek.

VI. ALTERNATIVES

All grazing sequences are subject to change depending on trend of soil and vegetation, financing (or not) of structural improvements, needs and desires of the permittee (and Forest Service), as well as unforeseen circumstances.

VII. EVALUATION FOLLOWUP

A. Annual Operating Plan

This plan is prepared annually prior to the grazing season. It is mutually developed between the District Ranger and the permittee and outlines instructions for grazing the allotment.

B. Unit Examination Record (R4-2200-15)

This form is used to followup and record what's happening yearly on the allotment. Inspections are made prior to cattle entering the allotment and after they leave the allotment. Inspections are made as needed during the actual grazing season. To determine forage production a few plots are clipped, weighed and recorded. Comparisons are then made from year to year.

C. Photo Plots and Site Analysis (R4-2200-13)

To establish long term trend units should have recorded photo plots and a site analysis form completed. A determination can be made from this data to see how much (or how little) increase there is in vegetation. Installation and remeasurement should be timed to coincide when a pasture is not in use. Data should be collected every 5 years. Locations that have established 3-step transects should be used and tied in with photo plot and site analysis work.

D. Allotment Management Plan

This plan should be maintained annually. All changes and corrections should be incorporated into the plan by pen-and-ink notation. If there are changes in goals or major program alterations needed then the entire plan should be revised.