

Webster Flat Allotment Management Plan



Forest Service

Dixie National Forest
Cedar City Ranger District

1789 N. Wedgewood Lane
Cedar City, UT 84720-7769
435-865-3200



Allotment Management Plan

For

Webster Flat Allotment

Cedar City Ranger District – Dixie National Forest – Region 4

Management Plan Prepared by: Brian Monroe Date: 09/16/2008
Rangeland Management Specialist

Reviewed By: Paul W. [Signature] Date: 9/16/08
Permittee

Reviewed By: Edward A. [Signature] Date: 9/16/08
Permittee

Approved by: Wayne R. [Signature] Date: 9/23/08
District Ranger

This Allotment Management Plan is hereby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit and is incorporated in Part 3 of that permit

**Webster Flat S&G Allotment Management Plan
Cedar City Ranger District
Dixie National Forest**

I. Introduction

A. Authority - The Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), as amended by the Public Rangelands Improvement Act (PRIA) 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.).

B. Definition - 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) range improvements to be installed and maintained, 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), 36 CFR 222.1 (b) (2), and FSM 1023).

C. History – Records dating back to 1912 show that the Webster Flat portion of the allotment has been exclusive a sheep allotment, with the exception of a period of three years (1946-1948) during which cattle were grazed under a temporary permit. Permitted numbers have varied from 1000 to 1407, with a grazing season within the dates of 7/1-10/31. 1995 the Fife Mill S&G Allotment was merged with the Webster flat allotment. The Fife Mill S&G Allotment has been a sheep allotment since 1922 with numbers ranging from 1121 to 450 with a grazing season within the dates of 7/1 to 9/30. 2006 the Deep Creek Allotment was dissolved with the Deep Creek pasture being absorbed into the Webster Flat Allotment this resulted in an increase in time from 7/1 to 6/24.

D. Current Management – The Webster Flat S&G Allotment as depicted in map 1 (appendix) consists of six pastures: Deep Creek, Webster Flat, Grassy, Fife Mill East, Fife Mill West and the Hole. Two permittees are authorized to graze 1200 ewe/lamb pairs during a season of 6/24 through 9/10. The allotment consists of approximately 6,749 acres of National Forest System lands, of which approximately 3,300 acres (49%) are suitable.

II. Goals & Objectives, Desired Resource Condition, Standards & Guidelines

A. Summary of Existing Resource Conditions

Grass/Forb/Tree ratios, weedy/adventive species ratios, ratio of annuals to perennials, and the ratio of introduced to native taxa have all remained relatively stable on the site between 1993 and 2004. Although some species have decreased (*Bromus carinatus* 10% *Poa pratensis* 3%) most species have increased, overall vegetation composition on the site has remained stable between 1993 and 2004. (Study Number 1011 Webster Flat)

B. Goals and Objectives (Desired Condition)

- Maintain riparian ecosystems in at least a mid-seral successional stage.
- Maintain streambanks in at least a moderate bank stability rating.(Winward 2000)
- Maintain at least a medium to high resource value on upland sites to attract Elk and Deer away from riparian areas.
- Maintain mountain meadow communities at or above 60% effective ground cover.
- In aspen community types, maintain a mixed age class of aspen with ground cover at or above 75%.
- Achieve or maintain satisfactory range conditions on all rangelands.
 - All suitable rangelands currently in "poor" condition, as determined according to FSM 2209.21 (R-4) will be improved to "fair" or better condition by 2030.(IV-37)
- Manage livestock grazing in shrub community (*Symphoricarpos oreophilus*, Snowberry *Sambucus racemosa* Elderberry) facilitate sprouting and sprout survival. With a canopy cover of 5%.
- Protection of threatened, endangered and sensitive plant and animal species: Provide a season of use and utilization level that will protect population of sensitive plants and animals. Protection of plants must allow for sufficient seed production to maintain or improve current populations.
- Control or eradicate Priority I and II noxious weed infestations as they occur on the allotment using the concepts of Integrated Pest Management.

C. Land and Resource Management Plan Standards and Guidelines

The Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) approved in 1986 outlines the Standards and Guidelines that will be achieved through future management activities on the Dixie National Forest. The following Standards and Guidelines will be implemented through this Allotment Management Plan:

➤ **Range**

1. Provide forage to sustain local dependent livestock industry. (IV-36)
2. Remove livestock from allotments for the remainder of the grazing season when proper use is reached. (IV-36)
3. On rangeland in less than satisfactory condition, remove livestock when recovery of range condition cannot be accomplished by the grazing system.(IV-112)
4. Invest in cost effective grazing management and associated range improvements.
5. Invest in cost effective grazing management and rangeland productivity improvement. Where improvements include water developments. Where water right is in the name of the United States. (IV-112)
 - A. Structural improvement will not adversely affect big game movement. Reference FSM 2541.23.
6. Control noxious farm weeds in the following priority:
 - A. Musk thistles, Scotch thistle, Canada thistle.
 - B. Invasion of new plant species classified as noxious farm weeds;
 - C. Infestation in new areas;
 - D. Expansion of existing infestations of Scotch, Musk and Canada thistle, and other noxious farm weeds; and
 - E. Reduce acreage of current infestation. (IV-37)

➤ **Range Improvements**

1. Structural range improvements should be developed to benefit both wildlife and livestock.
 - A. Structural improvements and maintenance will be in accordance with FSM 2209.22 (R-4) and 2609.11. (IV-37)
2. To facilitate the control of soil erosion within acceptance tolerance, soil survey or site specific soils data will be used to develop revegetation projects.(IV-37)

➤ **Recreation**

1. Manage livestock grazing to enhance recreation opportunities in existing and proposed recreation sites.
 - A. Construct fences of material other than barbed wire around developed sites. (IV-59,61)
2. Exclude grazing of recreational stock and livestock in developed recreation sites.
 - A. Maintain vegetation in fair or better range condition.(IV,59)
3. Manage livestock distribution and stocking rates to be compatible with recreation use. Locate Structural improvements to meet Visual Quality Objectives. (IV-65)

III. Management Actions

A. Management System

1. Livestock Grazing System

The Webster Flat Allotment will be managed as a modified deferred rotation system. The rotation is as follows:

YEAR	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
2008 / 2014	Fife Mill East	Deep Creek	The Hole	Webster Flat	Grassy	Fife Mill West
2009 / 2015	Deep Creek	The Hole	Grassy	Webster Flat	Fife Mill West	Fife Mill East
2010 / 2016	Fife Mill West	Fife Mill East	Webster Flat	Grassy	The Hole	Deep Creek
2011 / 2017	Fife Mill East	Deep Creek	Fife Mill West	Webster Flat	Grassy	The Hole
2012 / 2018	Deep Creek	Fife Mill West	Grassy	Fife Mill East	The Hole	Webster Flat
2013 / 2019	Fife Mill West	Fife Mill East	Deep Creek	The Hole	Webster Flat	Grassy

The grazing rotation may be further modified depending on resource needs and conditions.

2. Utilization Standard Criteria

Dixie NF - Maximum Allowable Forage Use Criteria					
UTILIZATION BY SERAL STAGE					
Vegetation Type	Very Early	Early	Mid	Late	Comments * SH = Stubble Height
Riparian Hydric Species	6" SH	6" SH	4" SH	4" SH	Remaining at end of growing season
Riparian Emphasis Management Areas	6" SH	6" SH			Remaining at end of growing season
Hydric Species in wet meadows not influenced by streams	6" SH	6" SH	4" SH	4" SH	Remaining at end of growing season
Non-hydric Species in Riparian Areas	2" SH	2" SH	2" SH	2" SH	Remaining at end of growing season
Upland Species	50%	50%	50%	50%	Varying in specific unit from 40-60%
Wheatgrass Seedings	60%	60%	60%	60%	Management option to exceed 60% use to maintain healthy seedings
Riparian Browse	<50%				New Leader Production
Streambanks	<20% disturbance				Sloughing, trampling, dislodged stones, animal tracks
Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs)	Pond Pine/ Mixed Species	Grass/Forb		Avg 20% NTE 40%	Applies in up to 2-acre openings in 600-acre areas
Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs)	Pond Pine/ Mixed Species	Shrub		Avg 40% NTE 50%	Applies in up to 2-acre openings in 600-acre areas
Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs)	Spruce-Fir	Grass/Forb		Avg 20% NTE 40%	Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 600-acre areas
Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs)	Spruce-Fir	Shrub		Avg 40% NTE 50%	Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 600-acre areas
Goshawk Foraging Areas	Pond Pine/ Mixed Species	Grass/Forb		Avg 20% NTE 40%	Applies in up to 4-acre openings in 6000-acre areas
Goshawk Foraging Areas	Pond Pine/ Mixed Species	Shrub		Avg 40% NTE 50%	Applies in up to 4-acre openings in 6000-acre areas
Goshawk Foraging Areas	Spruce-Fir	Grass/Forb		Avg 20% NTE 40%	Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 6000-acre areas
Goshawk Foraging Areas	Spruce-Fir	Shrub		Avg 40% NTE 50%	Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 6000-acre areas

B. Livestock Management

1. No livestock will be allowed on Forest lands until range readiness as determined by the Forest Service has been reached.
2. All improvements (range facilities) on the allotment will be maintained by the assigned permittee (as provided for in Part 2, 8i of the Term Grazing Permit) to a condition adequate to perpetuate the life of the facility and to serve the purpose intended.
3. Permittee is required to provide a rider/herder to achieve proper distribution and management of the livestock.
4. Utilization will be followed as prescribed. When the prescribed use level is reached livestock will be moved to the next unit or off the allotment.
5. Numbers and season of use will be adjusted annually if determined necessary by the District Ranger.
6. Distribution is critical as utilization is approached you will be required to move to the next unit. Therefore, it is vital that the herd be moved daily out of areas of high concentration to areas typically ignored. Do not allow livestock to concentrate at historically used areas. Strays will not be allowed to stay in previously grazed units and will be moved promptly.
7. Salt will be located at least 1/4 mile from water troughs, springs, ponds, lakes, wet meadows and riparian areas. Salt will be moved from areas where feed has been used to standards. (IV-37)
8. All improvements will be constructed by cost-sharing between the permittees and the Forest Service unless otherwise specified. Maximum share of improvements by the government will be 50%.
9. Fences will be designed and located to consider wildlife and visual impacts.
10. All stock water troughs will have small animal escape features installed.
11. Permittees will be required to notify the Forest Service when animals enter the Forest and when they leave at the end of the season.
12. Existing fences will be extended or modified where needed in order to provide a complete barrier to livestock movement.
13. Cultural resource survey and clearance will be required prior to construction of ground disturbing range improvements.
14. Carcasses of dead livestock on National Forest lands will be removed by the owner for a distance of at least three-hundred (300) feet from any live water and one-hundred (100) feet from any trailhead or recreation trail. Carcasses will be removed for a distance of at least five-hundred (500) feet from any campground or picnic area.
15. Prohibit trailing of livestock along the length of riparian areas. Relocate stock driveways where found in riparian areas. Rehabilitate damaged riparian areas to achieve riparian-area goals.

C. Noxious Weed Prevention Practices

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
ALL NATIONAL FORESTS**

Weed Free Hay Order

PROHIBITIONS:

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (a) and (b), and 36 CFR 261.58(t), a Regional Forester may prohibit possessing, storing, or transporting any part of a tree or other plant, as specified in the Order. By this Order, the following acts are prohibited on the area, roads, and trails as described in this order, all within National Forest System Lands within the Intermountain Region until further notice:

- 1. Possessing, storing, or transporting, non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch on National Forest System Lands without having each individual bale or container tagged or marked as weed free, or having original and current evidence of weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet the State and/or County standards for certification as weed free.**

EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (e) the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing them from the effect of this Order.
2. Any member of an organized rescue force in the performance of an official duty.

AREA DESCRIBED:

All National Forest System Lands within the boundaries of the Intermountain Region that include the Ashley, Boise, Bridger-Teton, Caribou-Targhee, Dixie, Fishlake, Humboldt-Toiyabe, Manti-Lasal, Payette, Salmon-Challis, Sawtooth, Uinta and Wasatch-Cache National Forests.

PURPOSE:

The above prohibition is necessary to prevent the spread of noxious weeds into a vulnerable ecosystem on National Forest System lands.

IMPLEMENTATION:

1. This Order will be in effect when signed and shall remain in effect until further notice.
2. Any violation of this prohibition is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000, for an organization, and/or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months. [Title 16 USC 551, Title 18 USC 3571(b)(6), Title 18 USC 3581 (b)(7)].
3. This Order supersedes any previous orders prohibiting the same, or similar, acts in the above described areas.

Done at Ogden, Utah this 11th day of February 2003.

JACK G. TROYER
JACK G. TROYER
Regional Forester
Intermountain Region

Order Number: 04-00-097

A. Rangeland Improvement Program

No improvements are scheduled for this allotment.

3. Vegetation Management

IV. Monitoring and Evaluation

A) Effectiveness Monitoring

The following monitoring program is proposed for the Webster Flat Allotment Analysis area:

1. Maintain re-read and re-photograph the following ground cover, photo points, 3' X 3' photo plots and nested frequency studies at least every 10-15 years.

- a) 1015 Webster Flat Fife Creek
- b) 1011 Webster Flat
- c) 5091 Fife Mill-Browse
- d) 200404 Fife Creek Aspen Regeneration Photopoint
- e) 1013 Fife Mill
- f) 7078 Deep Creek
- g) 7079 Lundell Spring

7. Re-read the Green Line every 10-15 years.

- a) 1015 Webster Flat Fife Creek
- a) 7073 Fife Mill West

B) Annual Operating Instructions

The Forest Officer will develop Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) each year. The AOI will be based on this Allotment Management Plan. Where feasible, multiple year AOI's may be employed with annual adjustments as necessary. The AOI will detail the current season's management schedule, rangeland development program, and use of key areas. These instructions will implement adaptive management in response to the results of the long-term studies. The AOI will become a part of the permit.

IV. Improvements

WEBSTER FLAT/FIFE MILL/DEEP CREEK RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

ID	IMPROVEMENT NAME	Improvement Type	LENGTH (miles)	Maintenance Responsibility
242101	WEBSTER FLAT-LONE PINE BOUNDARY	FENCE	.05	NELSON, EDWARD
242101A	WEBSTER FLAT-LONE PINE BOUNDARY	FENCE	.03	NELSON, EDWARD
242101B	WEBSTER FLAT-LONE PINE BOUNDARY	FENCE	.09	NELSON, EDWARD
242101C	WEBSTER FLAT-LONE PINE BOUNDARY	FENCE	.74	NELSON, EDWARD
242102	DEER HAVEN CAMPGROUND	FENCE	.23	FS/Permittee Cooperative
242103	WEBSTER FLAT-CEDAR CANYON BOUNDARY	FENCE	.18	NELSON, EDWARD
242103A	WEBSTER FLAT-CEDAR CANYON BOUNDARY	FENCE	.56	NELSON, EDWARD
242104	WEBSTER FLAT/DEEP CREEK DIVISION	FENCE	.47	NELSON, EDWARD
242104A	WEBSTER FLAT/DEEP CREEK DIVISION	FENCE	.14	NELSON, EDWARD
242105	WEBSTER FLAT/GRASSY DIVISION	FENCE	.71	NELSON BROTHERS FARM
242105A	WEBSTER FLAT/GRASSY DIVISION	FENCE	.06	NELSON BROTHERS FARM
242106	DEEP CREEK/GRASSY DIVISION	FENCE	.61	NELSON BROTHERS FARM
242107	WEBSTER FLAT/DEEP CREEK DIVISION	FENCE	.5	NELSON BROTHERS FARM
242108	FIFE MILL/GRASSY DIVISION	FENCE	.62	NELSON BROTHERS FARM
242109	FIFE MILL/DEEP CANYON BOUNDARY	FENCE	.42	NELSON BROTHERS FARM
242109A	FIFE MILL/DEEP CREEK BOUNDARY	FENCE	.07	NELSON BROTHERS FARM
242109B	FIFE MILL/DEEP CREEK BOUNDARY	FENCE	.24	NELSON BROTHERS FARM
242110	FIFE MILL DIVISION	FENCE	.29	NELSON BROTHERS FARM
242110A	FIFE MILL DIVISION	FENCE	1.11	NELSON BROTHERS FARM
242111	FIFE MILL ALLOT BOUNDARY	FENCE	.49	NELSON, EDWARD
242111A	FIFE MILL ALLOT BOUNDARY	FENCE	.02	NELSON, EDWARD
242111B	FIFE MILL ALLOT BOUNDARY	FENCE	.05	NELSON, EDWARD
242111C	FIFE MILL ALLOT BOUNDARY	FENCE	.05	NELSON, EDWARD
242111D	FIFE MILL ALLOT BOUNDARY	FENCE	1.21	NELSON, EDWARD
242112	UPPER DEEP CREEK DIVISION	FENCE	.36	NELSON, EDWARD
242113	FIFE MILL DIVISION	FENCE	.32	NELSON BROTHERS FARM
242114	FIFE MILL/DEEP CREEK DIVISION	FENCE	1.09	NELSON, EDWARD
242115	DEEP CREEK BOUNDRY	FENCE	2.66	PRIVATE
242501	NORTH FORK CORRAL	HANDLING FACILITY	100FT.X100FT.	NELSON BROTHERS FARM
242201	DEER HAVEN SPRING	WATER SYSTEM		CEDAR CITY RD
242202	WEBSTER FLAT SPRING	WATER SYSTEM		NELSON, EDWARD
242205	REESE HOLLOW SPRING	WATER SYSTEM		NELSON, EDWARD
242301	DEER HAVEN PIPELINE	WATER SYSTEM		NELSON, EDWARD
242302	WEBSTER FLAT PIPELINE	WATER SYSTEM		NELSON, EDWARD
242305	REESE HOLLOW PIPELINE	WATER SYSTEM		NELSON, EDWARD
242401	DEER HAVEN TROUGH	WATER SYSTEM		NELSON, EDWARD
242401A	DEER HAVEN ENCLOSED TANK	WATER SYSTEM		NELSON, EDWARD
242402	DEER HAVEN RESERVOIR	WATER SYSTEM		NELSON BROTHERS FARM
242403	LUNDELL TROUGH	WATER SYSTEM		NELSON BROTHERS FARM
242404	WEBSTER FLAT SPRING POND	WATER SYSTEM		NELSON, EDWARD
242405	REESE HOLLOW TROUGH	WATER SYSTEM		NELSON, EDWARD

IIIIV. Graphics and Appendices

A. Allotment Boundary/Range Improvement Map

