

Management Plan  
Sidney Valley Cattle Allotment  
Cedar City Ranger District  
Dixie National Forest  
1980

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## I. INFORMATION SECTION

### A. History and Current Status

From 1920 to 1939 several changes were made in the boundaries of this allotment. Portions of the allotment were added to the Dandelion Knoll and Asay Bench allotments.

On June 6, 1947, the Sidney Valley sheep preference held by Claude Smith and brothers, was waived to the Government and the upper portion known as the Upper Sidney Valley was then added to the Warren sheep allotment.

The allotment was grazed by sheep until 1949, at that time the sheep were exchanged for 60 head of cattle with a July 11 to September 10 season. This is the present obligation.

In 1978 the Lowder Creek land exchange was completed and 320 acres in Lowder Creek was added to the Sidney Valley allotment. Only a small portion of this is suitable range.

B. Ranch Operation

Gilbert Yardley, the present permittee, is engaged in a cow-calf operation and is partially dependent on National Forest land to round out his year long operation. His base operation is located in Beaver, Utah; however, he owns the Asay Creek Ranch and uses this in conjunction with his forest permits. Table I outlines his current permits on the Cedar City Ranger District.

TABLE 1

Allotment	Number	Season	Animal Months
Sidney Valley	60	7/11 - 9/20	140
Asay Bench	171	6/16 - 9/30	599

C. Range Condition and Trend

The allotment analysis was completed in 1965. Based on observations on the area, condition classes have changed slightly from what the original analysis showed. The following table is a summary of present acreages in various suitability, condition, and vegetal types on the allotment. Overall the allotment is considered to be in good condition. Most of the grazing takes place on the meadows. Cattle do exceptionally well on this allotment.

TABLE II

<u>Acres by Suitability and Vegetal Types</u>						
<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Wet Meadow</u>	<u>Dry Meadow</u>	<u>Grass</u>	<u>Conifer</u>	<u>Non-Range</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Excellent						
Good	171	119	.	207		497
Fair			121			121
Not Classified					564	564
Totals	171	119	121	207	564	1182

D. Grazing Capacities

Based on range analysis and follow up studies on the allotment for over 20 years there is ample forage to support the permitted livestock and to meet wildlife and other multiple use needs. A follow up program will continue, to evaluate condition and trend. However, the allotment is considered to be at proper capacity.

## II. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The Management Objectives for the allotment are outlined below:

1. Continue to upgrade fences to eliminate drift between the cattle on this allotment and the sheep on the Warren-Bunker allotment.
- ✓ 2. Correlate grazing use with timber management activities.
- ✓ 3. Maintain or improve forage and watershed conditions on the range by keeping the vegetation in a static or upward trend.
- ✓ 4. Remove unneeded fences.
- ✓ 5. Manage grazing resource use to protect wetland habitat and associated wildlife.
- ✓ 6. Maximize livestock production compatible with other resource uses and activities.

### III. ACTION SECTION

#### A. Management System

The allotment will continue to be grazed as one grazing unit. Most of the grazing capacity is located in Sidney Valley and near Lowder Creek. Cattle numbers will normally be split between the two areas.

Cross fencing to make two units in the allotment has been considered in the past, however, with the good condition of the allotment this added fence won't be necessary.

Forage plants will nearly reach full development stage by the July 11 opening date. Grazing intensity will be regulated by the following proper use criteria:

The R-4 Range Analysis Handbook (Section 60) points out that 50% utilization of the species being managed is about all the use that should be made on most ranges. The exception is wet meadows in good condition when up to 60% utilization might be made. Therefore, in keeping with Regional direction, a proper use factor of 60% of the palatable grasses growing on the suitable range will be used.

Salt will be used as a management tool. It will be placed on the edges of the meadows in an attempt to draw the cattle to the edges of the meadows as much as possible.

On most years the management strategy will be to simply put the cattle on the allotment on July 11 and remove them on September 10.

B. Range Development Program

Existing Improvements

The permittee is responsible for maintenance of the Sidney Valley boundary fence. There is about 4.0 miles of boundary fence located on the north, east and south sides of the allotment.

Proposed Improvements

The interior fences associated with the old Lowder Ranger Station will be removed. Reconstruction of some of the boundary fences is needed to bring them up to standard and to stop the mix of cattle from this allotment and the sheep on the Warren-Bunker allotment.

### C. Correlation With Other Uses

Management of the allotment will correlate grazing with other uses as outlined in the Bunker Creek Management unit in the Cedar Mountain Management area of the Markagunt Plateau Planning Unit.

Specific coordination measures are outlined as follows:

Recreation. Presently there are no improved recreation areas on the allotment. Two areas are listed as potential recreation sites, Lowder Ranger Station and Sidney Valley. The cattle will have to be fenced from these sites if and when they are developed.

Grazing will be regulated to preserve scenic quality of the open meadows and back drop areas visible from major roads.

The Lowder Creek Peat Bog, which is located on the southwest portion of the allotment, is being studied by the University of Utah for archeological and paleological significance. Long Flat adjacent to the allotment on the east side was recently placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Timber. The allotment contains both commercial and non-commercial stands of spruce-fir. It may be necessary after harvest to restrict grazing on cut-over areas to assure regeneration. All new access roads will be closed following timber harvest.

Watershed. The entire allotment is in a satisfactory watershed condition. Management will be directed toward achieving 65% ground cover on all areas.

The entire allotment is within motorized vehicle restricted area. All motorized travel will be restricted to existing roads and trails.

Wildlife. Ample forage will be provided wildlife in the grazing system. Grazing activities will be regulated to maintain and protect wildlife habitat.

#### IV. FOLLOW UP PROGRAM

##### A. Inspections

A follow up program will be implemented to see that the allotment objectives and coordination actions are being met. It will be directed toward obtaining proper use and gathering data to evaluate long term trends of the vegetation and soil.

Field observations and notes will be made when livestock enter and leave the allotment. Unit examination record R4-2200-15 will be completed in conjunction with these observations.

B. Trend Studies

A Photo Plot Transect and Parker 3-Step Transect exist in the Sidney Valley Unit. These studies will be re-read as necessary to determine trend.

C. Livestock Counting

Cattle using the allotment will be counted when they enter the allotment each year.