

SAGE VALLEY - HORSE VALLEY S&G ALLOTMENT

MANAGEMENT PLAN

1977

Sage Valley S&G Allotment Management Plan written by Leslie Jones, For-
ester and Foyer Olsen, District Forest Ranger, on March 31, 1970. Plans
approved by Alvin F. Wright, Forest Supervisor, March 31, 1970.

Horse Valley S&G Allotment Management Plan written by Lyle Wilkinson,
Range Conservationist and Norman Huntsman, District Forest Ranger, on
July 21, 1972. Plan approved by Alvin F. Wright, Forest Supervisor,
August 21, 1972.

Updated By: Dale B. Harris Date: 3/4/77

Recommended By: R. K. Jensen Date: 3/4/77

Approved By: Frank Jensen Date: MAR 8 1977
ACTING FOREST SUPERVISOR

I. INFORMATION SECTION

A. Description

The Sage Valley-Horse Valley Allotment is in two separate areas, i.e., (1) the Horse Valley division includes Forks Valley, Horse Valley and Clear Creek. It encompasses 4,730 acres of National Forest land and 320 acres of private land. The private land is partially fenced. (2) The Sage Valley division includes Blowhard, Midway Valley and Sage Valley. There are 6,471 acres of National Forest land in this area. Cedar Breaks National Monument borders this division on the north side.

Elevation ranges from 8,300 feet in lower Clear Creek to 10,530 feet on Horse Valley Peak. Most of the Sage Valley portion lies above 9,500 feet.

Precipitation varies from 20 inches near Panguitch Lake to nearly 35 inches in Midway Valley. Approximately 60 percent of the moisture occurs as snowfall.

B. History and Current Status

The Horse Valley division has been grazed primarily by sheep since the establishment of the National Forest. The area was formed after combining Kings Valley (Kings Valley-Sage Valley S&G allotment), Clear Creek (Bunker Creek-Clear Creek S&G allotment), and Horse Valley Peak S&G allotments. Several permit transfers and waiving of permits to the government resulted in changing permitted numbers, seasons, boundaries and allotments.

The Sage Valley Division was formed by combining the Blowhard, Nellie Flat and original Sage Valley allotments. As many as 4,200 sheep once grazed this area for 4.5 month season.

Through most of the 1960's two bands of sheep were grazed on the allotment. One band grazed Horse Valley and one band grazed Sage Valley. Beginning in 1969, about 1,350 head of sheep grazed the two combined areas. The sheep would normally graze the Horse Valley portion first for about a week then trail approximately 12 miles to Sage Valley. About mid-September the sheep were trailed back to Horse Valley where they grazed until the end of the season.

In 1976, Halterman and Hulet Livestock Company purchased the sheep from the Randell Adams estate and acquired the grazing permit. In 1984 Glen Halterman transferred his portion of the grazing permit to Carlisle Hulet.

The current permit is written as follows:

TABLE 1

Permittee	Season	Number	Sheep Months
Carlisle W. Hulet	6/26 - 10/10	1,350	6,075

The present permittee is engaged in a ewe-lamb operation and is dependent on National Forest land to round out his year-long operation. Private land and BLM winter grazing provide forage when the sheep are not on the forest.

D. Range Condition and Trend

Range allotment analysis was completed on Sage Valley in 1968 and in 1970 on Horse Valley. Range conditions have improved since that time and trend is static or up on both areas. The following tables summarize the current acreages in the various suitability, condition and vegetal types.

Horse Valley

TABLE II

Condition Class	S1	S2d	Type		S10	S6	7&7T	Totals
			S2w	S4				
Excellent			37		151			188
Good	100	149	124		579			963
Fair	334			133	423	178		1068
Non-range							2511	2511
Totals	445	149	161	133	1153	178	2511	4730

Sage Valley

TABLE III

<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>S1</u>	<u>S2d</u>	<u>S2w</u>	<u>S4</u>	<u>S6</u>	<u>S10</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Closed</u>	<u>Total</u>
Good	140	226	466	803	479		2114				2114
Fair	1146		77		1260	47	2530				2530
Poor			193		1519	208	1920				1920
<u>Unclassified</u>								988	47	366	1401
Total	1286	226	736	803	3258	255	6564	988	47	366	7965

E. Grazing Capacity

Since this basic grazing system and numbers of livestock have been in operation for over ten years, it is known there is adequate grazing capacity to maintain the current sheep numbers for the permitted season. There is also ample forage to meet wildlife requirements on the allotment.

II. MANAGEMENT GOALS

Specific objectives for the allotment are described as follows:

- ✓ 1. Employ a grazing system that will maintain overall plant vigor and increase ground cover in key areas such as Horse Valley, Cove, Midway and Sage Valley.
- ✓ 2. Provide for deer requirements in the management system.
- ✓ 3. Protect the esthetic values along U-14 and provide tourists an opportunity to photograph a western sheep operation.
- ✓ 4. Develop improvements needed to properly manage the sheep.
5. Stop unauthorized use by cattle on Horse Valley Division.
6. Work with private land owners to maintain boundary fences, gates and cattleguards.
- ✓ 8. Protect timber plantations in Deer Valley and those proposed in the Blowhard sale until trees have grown to size beyond damage.

III. MANAGEMENT SECTION

A. Management System

A deferred-rotation system of grazing will be used on the allotment. It will be divided into four units; two on the Horse Valley Division and two on the Sage Valley Division. The Grazing schedule is outlined in the following table:

TABLE IV

Year	Horse Valley	<u>Units</u>		Sage Valley
		Cove	Blowhard	
1	A	D	C	B
2	D	A	B	C
(Repeat Cycle)				

A - Graze first

C - Graze third

B - Graze second

D - Graze fourth

This system is designed to allow the plants to complete their physiological growth cycle (produce seed and establish seedlings) at least every other year.

The size of the allotment and good forage conditions will provide the needed forage with only moderate utilization under this system. The annual plan of use will specify period of use, campsites, etc., on sensitive areas within the grazing units.

Midway Valley in the Sage Valley unit will normally be grazed last. Sufficient water for livestock will determine, to an extent, when this portion of the unit is grazed. Light to moderate utilization on this area will be permitted so as to maintain esthetics along highway U-14.

B. Range Development and Improvements

Existing Improvements

Project Name	Type of Improvement	Size	Location	Const.	Maintained By
Cove Pond	Reservoir		Sec. 14, T35S, R8W.	1976	Permittee
Kings Valley Pond	Reservoir		Sec. 11, T35S, R8W.	1976	Permittee
Horse Valley #1 Pond	Reservoir		Sec. 12, T35S, R7W.	1976	Permittee
Horse Valley #2 Pond	Reservoir		Sec. 12, T35S, R9W.	1976	Permittee
Blowhard Pond	Reservoir		Sec. 15, T37S, R9W.	1962	Permittee
Sage Valley Pond	Reservoir		Sec. 24, T37S, R9W.		Permittee
Midway Trough	Metal trough	100 ft.	Sec. 25, T37S, R8W.	1940	Permittee
Sage Valley	Metal trough	10 ft.	Sec. 30, T37S, R8W.		Permittee
Blowhard Enclosure	Log		Sec. 14, T37S, R9W.	1925	Forest Service

Horse Pasture Reservoir Sec. 20, T. 37S, R. 8W. 1998 Permittee

C. Correlation With Other Uses

Management activities on the allotment will be correlated with other uses outlined in the Horse Valley management unit of the Little Creek management area and the Sage Valley management unit of the Cedar Mountain management area of the Markagunt Plateau Land Use Plan.

Timber

The Deer Hollow timber sale was completed in 1971. The area will be selectively logged in 1978. Reforested areas will be closed to grazing until seedling establishment.

The Blowhard timber sale north of U-14 is proposed for harvesting in 1977. Areas selected for reforestation will be closed to grazing until seedling establishment.

Recreation

The esthetic values along highway U-14 will be maintained as described in section III. Sheep camps will be located in the background away from highway U-14. Tourists enjoy photographing the sheep in the meadows, the herder, his camp, horse and dogs.

Wildlife

Deer populations are controlled by hunting. The area is in the Parowan and east Zion deer herd units. The competition between wildlife and domestic grazing will be negligible because there is ample forage for both on this summer range.

Special Uses

Blowhard Ridge has the necessary elevation, location and topography to make it a suitable communication center. There is no conflict between grazing and the radar site.

Roads

There are roads in Midway, Sage Valley and Blowhard that need to be closed to vehicular travel because of damage to the meadows. Presently the roads are used by the sheep operators to travel to camp sites and water sources. Before closing these roads another access or suitable camping site will be provided.

D. Followup Section

Inspection

As part of the allotment management and inspection schedule, form R4 2200-15 will be completed for each unit each year.

Inspections will be made prior to the grazing season to determine the date of range readiness. Later inspections will be made to firm up the dates of seed maturity on each unit and to check compliance with the annual plan of use - correlated use restrictions to be placed in management plan.

At least one benchmark will be maintained in each unit. A permanently marked site analysis transect and photo plot will also be maintained on each benchmark.

Long term condition and trend studies will be established on each division as needed. Presently there are two condition and trend transects on the Sage Valley portion. One photo transect is located in Sage Valley and one in Midway Valley. Normally, these will be read at five-year intervals.

Check on Livestock Numbers

The sheep will periodically be counted as they enter the allotment or when they change units.