PANGUITCH LAKE ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Cedar City Ranger District
Dixie National Forest
Iron County, Utah

This Allotment Management Plan is made part of your Term Grazing permit in accordance with Part 3, Special Terms and Conditions, dated 6/15/94.

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Land Policy Management Act, as amended by the Public Rangelands Improvement Act 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.*).

An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Revised Panguitch Lake Cattle Allotment management was developed that documents analysis of site-specific, on-the-ground proposals. It was tiered to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (FEIS-LRMP), and to the Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP). After consideration of the analysis contained in the EA, Forest Supervisor Hugh Thompson decided to revise practices on the Panguitch Lake Allotment. The purpose of the revision is to implement and incorporate the goals and objectives of the LRMP by bringing permitted grazing capacity in line with actual grazing and resolving grazing conflicts on adjacent private land.

The Panguitch Lake Allotment Management Plan describes the implementation of this decision. The AMP integrates the actions needed to manage this plan for livestock grazing on the Panguitch Lake Allotment.

An Annual Operating Plan will be prepared prior to each grazing season to outline management requirements on the allotment for that year. The Annual Operating Plan will be on file in the 2220 Section of the Allotment Folder.

I. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A. GOALS

The Dixie National Forest Plan establishes a Forest-wide goal to improve management on all Range allotments, including the Panguitch Lake Allotment (Forest Plan IV-6) and to provide water and soil guidance to other resource activities to protect or improve water quality and quantity and soil productivity. (Forest Plan, IV-8).

Our goal on the Panguitch Lake Allotment is to keep the range resource in an upward trend on less than good condition range and maintain a static trend when it is in good condition (Forest Plan, Chapter II-25). We are also striving to manage the allotment to maintain the suitable range in satisfactory condition, and improve unsatisfactory range to at least fair condition class by 2030 (Forest Plan, Chapter II-25 & Chapter IV-6).

B. OBJECTIVES

1. Meet Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Plan Standards and Guidelines as outlined in Appendix A.

2. By 1998, complete range improvements needed to improve livestock distribution and control.

4. By the year 2000, complete development and/or manage livestock to exclude grazing adjacent to Panguitch Lake.

3. By the year 2003, improve livestock distribution in reseeded areas to improve forage productivity and watershed conditions.

5. By the year 2003, reduce soil compaction and improve soil productivity on key areas such as Cameron Spring meadow and Rock Canyon meadow.

6. Manage proper use on the allotment so as to slow encroachment of undesireable shrub species.

7. Continue monitoring to assure that noxious weeds do not become established on the Panguitch Lake Allotment. Coordinate efforts with Iron County and Garfield counties by documenting new outbreaks of listed species. There have been no noxious weeds identified on the allotment at the present time.

II. MANAGEMENT

A. GRAZING SYSTEM

The allotment is divided into four pastures that will be grazed under a modified deferred-rotation grazing system. The system is designed to provide for the physiological requirements of the plants while providing 656 animal months of grazing.

The Rock Canyon, East Pass and West Pass pastures will be deferred until after seed ripe every third year. Cattle are removed when 60% use is reached on reseedings.

The Panguitch Lake pasture will be deferred until after the heavy recreation use has occurred around Panguitch Lake which is approximately September 15 each year. The grazing capacity of that pasture will accommodate approximately 2 weeks grazing.

The Table below outlines the pastures and schedule for grazing each pasture.

Year	Rock Canyon	East Pass	West Pass	Panguitch Lake
1	A	B	C	D
2	B	C	A	D
3	C	A	B	D

(Repeat cycle)

A - Graze 6/16 until proper use is reached
B - Graze second until proper use is reached
C - Graze third until proper use is reached
D - Graze approximately October 1 to October 15

A private land grazing permit is issued to Grant Houston for 60 animal months use. When permitted cattle are in the Rock Canyon pasture, the private land would be grazed in conjunction with the National Forest.

The Panguitch Lake pasture would include only the area below Panguitch Lake which would encompass Frei's meadow and the area southeast to Pass Creek Spring. Livestock would be prohibited from grazing on the area adjacent to Panguitch Lake for benefit of water quality.

Proper salting and frequent herding are essential for proper distribution of the livestock while on the allotment. Permittees will be responsible for livestock management while they are on the allotment. When the cattle are moved from one pasture to another, it is imperative that they are cleaned out of the grazed pasture and not allowed back in that pasture.

B. CURRENT STATUS OF PERMITS

PERMITTEE	CATTLE	SEASON OF USE	ANIMAL MONTHS
Grant Houston	73	6/16 - 10/15	292
Sheldon Proctor	51	6/16 - 10/15	204
Wallace Heap	42	6/16 - 10/15	168

Numbers, class or season may be adjusted after the first grazing cycle is completed if proper use, as described in Part III, is not achievable under the current system.

C. COORDINATION WITH OTHER USES

Dispersed Recreation - Recreation use on the allotment is confined mainly to Panguitch Lake and the area adjacent to the Lake. Dispersed recreation use associated with Panguitch Lake is found in the Pass and the area west of Cooper Peak. Associated with this use are 4-wheel drive vehicles, ATV's and some mountain bike use. There are no developed campgrounds on the allotment.

Wildlife Provision - Livestock on this allotment will be managed in such a way that will provide for the needs of key wildlife indicator species. Elk and deer herd management plans will define management objectives for individual herd units. Key areas will be identified on the allotment to monitor wildlife use. Adequate forage to sustain big game population levels will be provided.

Watershed - The watershed inventory identifies watershed stabilization work planned for the Pass Creek gully complex, Cameron Wash gully complex, and Rock Canyon gully complex. These are large gully systems that would require a sizeable expenditure of funds to stabilize. Therefore, it is unlikely that improvement work will be accomplished in the near future.

III. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Range improvements on the allotment are important to maintain the integrity of the management system and to reduce conflicts with other resource uses. Permittees are responsible for the annual maintenance of the range allotment improvements as specified in Grazing Permit - Part 3, Special Terms and Conditions. Range improvement standards will be defined in the Annual Operating Plan (Refer to Appendix B for Improvement Map). Permittees are expected to provide all labor and materials necessary for range improvement maintenance.

A. EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS

NAME	TYPE	SIZE	YEAR	CONDITION	MAINTAINED BY
Lower Rock Canyon	Pond	30'X30'	1950	fair	FS/Permittees
Shingle Mill	Pond	30'X30'	1952	fair	FS/Permittees
Judd Trail	Pond	30'X30'	1940	fair	FS/Permittees
Billy Talbot	Pond	30'X30'	1952	fair	FS/Permittees
Gould Wiggle	Pond	30'X30'	1930	fair	FS/Permittees
Upper Rock Can.	Pond	30'X30'	1952	fair	FS/Permittees
North Swale	Pond	30'X30'	1943	fair	FS/Permittees
Party Hollow	Pond	30'X30'	1952	fair	FS/Permittees
Coyote	Pond	30'X30'	1950	fair	FS/Permittees
John Cameron	Tank & trough	10'	1925	poor	Wallace Heap
Pass Creek	Pipeline & tanks	21' tanks	1965	good	Sheldon Proctor
Rock Canyon	Well	Pump	1952	not used	Permittees
Middle Pass	Division fence	2 Mi.	1952	fair	Grant Houston
Pass-Cooper Pk.	Division fence	1 1/2 Mi.	1952	fair	Sheldon Proctor
Rock Canyon	Division fence	1 1/2 Mi.	1934	fair	Grant Houston
Dry Lake Bdry.	Boundary fence	2.5 Mi.	1934	poor	Wallace Heap
Lake-Pass Creek	Division fence	1.0 Mi.	1962	fair	Sheldon Proctor
Panguitch Lake	Boundary fence	2.0 Mi.	1952	poor	Grant Houston

NAME	TYPE	SIZE	YEAR	CONDITION	MAINTAINED BY
Pass Creek	Reseeding	1000 Ac.	1952	fair	FS/Permittees
Rock Canyon	Reseeding	800 Ac.	1952	fair	FS/Permittees

B. PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Proposed improvements will be constructed as funds become available and as specified in cooperative agreements. Permittees will be expected to contribute and/or cost share a minimum of 50% of the total improvement cost except for the prescribed burning projects.

NAME	TYPE	LOCATION	YEAR	CONSTRUCTED BY	MAINTAINED BY
Cameron trough	Spring Development	Rock Canyon	1996	USFS/Permittee	Permittee
East Pass	Pipeline & Trough	Lower East Pass	1997	USFS/Permittee	Permittee
Dry Lake	Cattleguard	Dry Lake Bdry	1994	USFS/Permittee	Permittee
Panguitch Lake	Cattleguard	West Pass-Panguitch Lake Bdry	1995	Forest Service	Permittee

IV. EVALUATION

The allotment will be evaluated on a predetermined schedule to measure the effects of livestock grazing under the prescribed management system. The monitoring plan is designed to measure the following: degree and distribution of livestock use, vegetation density, distribution and vigor, watershed condition, and water quality of Panguitch Lake.

A. LONG TERM MONITORING

MONITOR	STUDY	FREQUENCY	LOCATION	YEAR
Vegetation	Nested Frequency	5-year	West Pass	1996
	Photo points	3-5 years	East & West Pass	1995
Watershed Condition	X-Sections & photo points	2-year	West Pass & Rock Canyon	1995
Water Quality	Annually	Annually	Panguitch Lake	1994

B. ACTUAL USE

Actual use will be documented annually. Cattle numbers and the dates of use will be recorded in each pasture. At the end of the grazing season, permittees will submit to the District Ranger an actual use record of their livestock use on the allotment. An annual grazing report will be compiled and posted in the 2270 Section of the District Files.

C. UTILIZATION STANDARDS

Forest plan monitoring will be done annually on selected benchmarks (BM). Utilization will be monitored in each pasture to assure compliance with the Dixie Land and Resource Management Plan. Unit examinations and utilization mapping will be done in each of the four pastures on a two to three year rotation schedule as outlined below. Appendix A outlines Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines.

PASTURE	METHOD	INTERVAL	LOCATION
Rock Canyon	Unit Examination* Use Measurements**	3 years Annually	Entire Pasture Rock Canyon BM
East Pass	Unit Examination Use Measurements	3 years Annually	Entire Pasture East Pass BM
West Pass	Unit Examination Use Measurements	3 years Annually	Entire Pasture West Pass BM
Panguitch Lake	Use Measurements	Annually	Panguitch Lake BM

*Documentation of grazing effects (R4-2200-15 Form).
**Vegetation measurements to determine percent utilization.

Noxious weed inventory will be completed each year when weeds approach the stage where they can easily be identified. On the Panguitch Lake Allotment this would be in early to mid-July.