

Allotment Management Plan
Little Valleys Cattle Allotment
Cedar City Ranger District
Dixie National Forest

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I. INFORMATION SECTION

A. Description

The Little Valleys Cattle Allotment is located about five miles west of Panguitch. The allotment contains a total of ~~18,805~~^{25,096} acres, of which about 45 percent is classed as suitable range. It includes the Three Mile and Five Mile drainages on the lower range, and Corral Hollow, Owens Hollow and Caddy Creek drainages on the upper range.

The only private land within the allotment is 320 acres belonging to Eva M. Tebbs. It is located approximately in the center of the upper range and unit boundary fences connect into this private land on three corners to divide the upper range into three units.

Panguitch City has the only special use permit on the allotment. It is for a water transmission line, running parallel with the Five Mile road. There has been a continuing agreement with Panguitch City to use some water from this waterline for livestock water.

B. History and Current Status

Prior to 1939, the allotment was used in common by sheep, cattle and horses. Actual numbers and use records are rather vague, but according to T.A. Nicholes (Grazing Capacities and Lambing Weights; Sevier National Forest, 1916), 3,237 head of sheep, 125 head of cattle and 41 head of horses grazed the Little Valleys allotment in 1916, for a 5½ month season, 5/15 - 10/31.

By 1938, there were approximately 530 head of cattle, 60 head of horses and several large bands of sheep grazing the area with a grazing season from 5/16 - 10/15.

In 1956, the permittees took 50 percent non-use and reduced the season by 15 days. In 1966, the permittees voluntarily reduced the number of permitted cattle by 50 percent, from 487 to 264.

A division fence was constructed in 1939 in Indian Hollow which split the spring and summer units. In 1967, two more division fences were constructed. These fences established three units on the summer range. In 1975 the lower range was divided into two units, when a division fence was constructed east of Mud Spring.

In 1973, the Caddy creek area was added to the Little Valleys allotment following a series of permit transfers and a change of class of livestock. This included the Cottonwood Caddy S&G allotment being retired and the 1200 head preference held by J.M. Hammon Company was transferred to the Willis Creek S&G allotment. The 1600 head sheep preference held by Richard Brinkerhoff on the Willis Creek allotment was transferred to the Red Creek allotment and exchanged for 70 cattle. This allowed the Caddy Creek area to be added to the allotment and the Maloy Dodds permit transferred to it from the Red Creek Allotment.

D. Range Condition and Trend

Range allotment analysis was completed in 1965 and periodically updated. The table below is a summary of the acreages in various suitability and condition classes and vegetative types.

Suitability	Condition Class			Total
	Good	Fair	Not Classified	
Grass	*3,943			3,943
Wet Meadow	74			74
Sagebrush	170	965		1,135
Browse		130		130
Pinyon-Juniper		234		234
Aspen	606	604		1,210
Unsuitable			11,060	11,060
Non-Range			1,019	1,019
Total	4,793	1,933	12,079	18,805

* 1713 acres of reseeded range is combined with grass type.

E. Grazing Capacity

Based on allotment followup, there is sufficient forage to support the permitted cattle for the existing grazing season and satisfy the requirements of wildlife and other uses on the allotment. There are no plans for further increases or reductions.

Evaluations of grazing capacity and condition and trend will continue on the allotment. This activity is very important since deer and elk populations are gradually increasing.

II. ALLOTMENT GOALS

The management objectives for this allotment are to provide a proper balance between livestock use and the forage resource, and correlate grazing use with the other resources. Specifically, the plan seeks to:

- A. Keep range in a static or upward trend.
- B. Provide a full forage supply for the 303 head of permitted cattle and their calves for a 6/1 - 10/15 season.
- C. Provide for wildlife requirements.
- D. Employ a grazing system which will maintain plant vigor and maintain soil stability.
- E. Encourage livestock utilization on outlying areas through proper salting, herding and riding.
- F. Remove unneeded fences.
- G. Continue to upgrade improvements.
- H. Achieve better participation by permittees in maintenance of improvements.

III. ACTION SECTION

A. Management System

The allotment units are arranged in a "horseshoe" shaped pattern. Therefore, the grazing schedule is designed so the cattle can be moved from unit to unit without long drives. Also, there are two early units and three higher elevation units, so the grazing schedule has to accommodate this difference. The early units will be used on alternate years in the spring; the three higher elevation units will be used yearly with two units going to seed before use each year.

The schedule is as follows:

Year	Unit #1 Three Mile	Unit #2 Five Mile	Unit #3 Owen's Hollow	Unit #4 Myers Valley/ Caddy Creek	Unit #5 Corral Hollow
1	A	B	C	D	E
2	B	A	E	D	C

Code: A - Graze first (Approximately 6/1 - 7/5)
B - Rest (Or graze last few weeks of grazing season when necessary)
C - Graze second (Approximately 7/6 - 8/5)
D - Graze third (Approximately 8/5 - 9/15)
E - Graze fourth (Approximately 9/16 - 10/15)

Note: The above dates are tentative. The cattle will be rotated when proper use is reached.

B. Proper Use Criteria

The R-4 Range Analysis Handbook (Section 60) points out that 50 percent 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 percent utilization might be made. Therefore, in keeping with Regional direction, a proper use factor of 50 percent of the palatable grasses growing on the suitable range will be used.

C. Administrative Action to Implement Program

District personnel will check the allotment periodically during the grazing season. They will make utilization and followup studies and note the progress of the cattle in the system. They will inform the permittee when the unit is nearing proper use and when the cattle are to move to the next unit and be removed from the allotment.

D. Range Improvements

There are opportunities for some additional range improvements on the allotment including ponds and pipelines. Some old water developments and fences need to be improved and/or reconstructed.

Existing Improvements

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Type of Improvement</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>When Constd.</u>
Clark Spring Pond	Earthen	Sec. 27, T34S, R6W	1954
Clark Spring Pipeline and Pond	Earthen	Sec. 27, T34S, R6W	1979
Mud Spring Pond	Earthen	Sec. 22, T34S, R6W	1954
Sage Flat Pond	Earthen	Sec. 15, T34S, R6W	1954
Corral Hollow Pond	Earthen	Sec. 25, T34S, R6W	1930
Right Swale Owens Hollow Pond	Earthen	Sec. 26, T34S, R7W	1935
Owens Hollow Pond	Earthen	Sec. 23, T34S, R7W	1941
Horse Bench Pond	Earthen	Sec. 26, T34S, R7W	1930
? Twin Peaks Pond	Earthen	Sec. 22, T34S, R7W	1935
Mud Spring Pond	Earthen	Sec. 15, T34S, R8W	1982
Wagon Box Pond	Earthen	Sec. 36, T34S, R7W	1977
? Three Mile Pond	Earthen	Sec. 4, T34S, R8W	1980
Caddy Creek Pond #1	Earthen	Sec. 29, T34S, R7W	1977
Caddy Creek Pond #2	Earthen	Sec. 28, T34S, R7W	1977
Lower Caddy Cr. Pond	Earthen	Sec. 27, T34S, R7W	1977
Rt. Fork Caddy Pond	Earthen	Sec. 20, T34S, R7W	1977
Five Mile	<u>4 Metal Troughs</u>	Sec. 17, T34S, R6W	1930
Indian Hollow	<u>4 Metal Troughs</u>	Sec. 25, T34S, R7W	1930
- Owens Hollow	1 Metal Trough	Sec. 23, T34S, R7W	1963

Little Valleys Admin. Site	1 Mile of Pipe- line & 1 Metal Trough	Sec. 33, T34S, R7W	
Five Mile	3.5 mile of Pipeline & 5 Troughs	Five Mile to Three Mile - Sec. 10, 15, 16 21 & 22, T34S, R8W	1982
Corral Hollow Exchange	Cattle Exclosure	Sec. 26, T34S, R7W	1930
Spring Unit Fences	5 Miles	Panguitch Creek - Indian Hollow	1939
Allotment Boundary Fences	10 Miles	Around Allotment	1939
Allotment Division Fence	1.5 Miles	Between Owens and Corral Hollow	1967
Allotment Division Fence	1.5 Miles	Between Tebbs' Ranch and Caddy Cr.	1967 & 1979
Allotment Division	1.5 Miles	Between Owens Hollow	1967
Mud Spring Division Fence	1.0 Mile	Section 15 & 16, T34S, R8W	1975
Three Mile Chain & seed	1363 acres	Sec. 3, 10, 15 & 22 T34S, R8W	1975
Five Mile Dixie Harrow	1015 acres	Sec. 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 27, 28, 34 T34S, R8W	1956

Proposed Improvements

The following projects may be done as funds become available:

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Type of Improvement</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Scheduled</u>
Little Valleys Admin. Site Pond	Earthen	Sec. 33, T34S, R7W	1987
Ridge Pond	Earthen	Sec. 29, T34S, R7W	1987
Shakespear Pond	Earthen	Sec. 33, T34S, R7W	1987
Upper Owens Hollow Pond	Earthen	Sec. 14, T34S, R7W	1987

Rock Quarry Hollow Pond	Earthen	Sec. 9, T34S, R6W	1988
Meyers Valley	Fence Removal	Sec. 3, T35S, R7W	1986
Five Mile Seeding	Chain & Seed - 300 Ac	Sec. 16, 21, 22 & 27, T34S, R6W	1985
✓ Pole Hollow	Cattleguard 14 feet	Sec. 36, T34S, R7W	1985
✓ Five Mile Pipeline Continuation (If necessary)	Pipeline & Tank	Sec. 22, T34S, R6W	1986

E. Correlation with Other Uses

Management of this allotment will correlate grazing with other uses. Following are specific coordinating actions:

Recreation - There are five inventoried potential recreation sites on the allotment. Occasional recreation use is made of these undeveloped sites during the fall hunting season. It is not anticipated that these potential areas will be developed within the near future. There are no anticipated conflicts with grazing on these sites.

Timber - There are several small commercial stands of Douglas fir on the allotment. These stands are generally located on the north facing slopes in Shakespear Hollow, Indian Hollow and the head of Owens Hollow. These areas are not planned for any future timber cutting. Some deer use is made of the timbered areas for cover and protection.

Wildlife - Both deer and elk are found on the allotment and are gradually increasing. The livestock management system provides for these wildlife species. If and when big game populations increase to a point where conflicts with livestock occur, at that point, allotment capacity in terms of deer and elk numbers will need to be firmed up.

Sage grouse are common in the Corral Hollow and Owens Hollow units. There is no known conflict with sage grouse and the present livestock grazing. However, management of livestock is adversely affected when gates are left open during the sage grouse hunting season.

Small areas of water fowl nesting occur on the lower end of Caddy Creek. The present mangement system of grazing should provide adequately for this water fowl habitat.

There are a few riparian areas on the allotment. The management system and proper use criteria are designed to minimize conflicts between grazing and riparian areas.

The allotment mangement plan was reviewed with personnel from the Division of Wildlife Resources on 3/31/83 and no conflicts were indentified.

Watershed - A portion of the Panguitch City municipal water source is located in Indian Hollow. This area is withdrawn from grazing use and is fenced.

Special Uses - In conjunction with the Panguitch City water systems, there is a water transmission line from Indian Hollow and DeLong Creek to Panguitch which crosses through a portion of the allotment. The water transmission line runs parallel with the Five Mile road and poses no problem with allotment management. In fact, the livestock association is allowed a hookup near the head of Five Mile for livestock watering on the Three Mile reseeding from June 1 - July 15 and September 15 - October 15 annually.

IV. FOLLOWUP SECTION

A. Inspection

Allotment inspections are conducted on a minimum of one unit each year. This inspection is documented on examination record R4 2200-15. Compliance checks are made periodically throughout the grazing season to determine proper use, maintain compliance with annual plan of use and to check for unauthorized use.

B. Studies

There are two Parker 3-Step transects located on the allotment. One is located in the Five Mile unit and one in the Myers Valley - Caddy Creek unit. These condition and trend studies will be maintained and reread on about 5 to 10 year intervals. No other permanent studies are planned at this time.

C. Livestock Counting

Livestock will continue to be tagged most years on the allotment. Spot checks for compliance with permitted number and season of use will be made each grazing season.