

HARRIS FLAT C&H ALLOTMENT

MANAGEMENT PLAN

1980

(This plan updates the Allotment Management Plan which was approved by Jack Shumate, Forest Supervisor, March 28, 1968, and as was updated in 1977.)

*5 Penas
Notes to be
Included*

Plan Updated By: *Lyle B. Harris* Date: *3/25/81*
Range Conservationist

Recommended Approved By: *Robert H. Brown* Date: *4/3/81*
District Ranger

Approved By: *J. Shumate* Date: *4/21/81*
Forest Supervisor

I. INFORMATION SECTION

A. Description

The allotment is located south of U-14 about three miles west of Long Valley Junction. It includes Dairy Canyon, Stout Canyon, Billingsly Creek, and a portion of Swains Creek. The area in Swains Creek, between the mouth of Billingsly Creek and the Swains Creek private land, was added to the allotment in 1980 as a result of the formation of the new Strawberry Allotment. This resulted from the termination of the Willis Creek Sheep Allotment, which allowed the realignment of boundaries on several adjacent allotments.

The Harris Flat Allotment contains a total of 11,229 acres. Approximately 85 percent of the total area is timber type of which approximately one-fourth is suitable for cattle grazing.

Private land adjoins the allotment at Harris Flat, Swains Creek, and in Stout Canyon. Most of the private land is being developed for summer homesites.

B. History and Current Status

From the creation of the Forest until 1939, there was common use grazing on about half of the area within this allotment. After 1939, the allotment was exclusive sheep range until 1966 when the preference was exchanged from 1090 sheep to 70 cattle, with a July 1 to September 15 season.

From 1925 to 1966, the number of permitted sheep varied from 800 to 1500, with the grazing seasons fluctuating from July 1 - September 15 to July 6 - September 20.

In 1969, four head of cattle, permitted to Howard B. Spencer on Spencer C&H Allotment, were transferred to Harris Flat C&H Allotment. This resolved the need for a fence between the two allotments in Lower Stout Canyon.

In 1970, Kent Anderson purchased the 24 cattle permitted on Dairy Canyon C&H Allotment. The permit and allotment were added to Harris Flat C&H Allotment. Again in 1977, Kent Anderson purchased four cattle from Spencer Ranches Inc. and the permit was transferred to Mr. Anderson.

Actual and permitted use for past years is shown on 12-R4, 29-R4, and R4 2200-23 sheets in the allotment classifile folder.

The current permit is shown below:

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>C.M.</u>
Kent S. Anderson	88	7/1 - 9/15	264

C. Range Condition and Trend

Range allotment analysis was completed in 1963, and it is now partially outdated. Observations and studies on the area indicate the range has improved. Changes in the original condition classes are shown on the compilation sheet, section 2 of the allotment classfile folder. A summary of the current acreages by condition class and suitability for each range type is shown as follows:

Suitability	Condition Classes				Total
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Not Classified	
Grass	101	52	501		654
Wet Meadows		48			48
Mtn. Brush		460	63		523
Timber		1,516	882		2,398
Unsuitable				1,808	1,808
Non-Range				5,798	5,798
Total	101	2,076	1,446	7,606	11,229

D. Grazing Capacity

Range analysis data and observation on the allotment during the last five years indicate there is sufficient capacity to support permitted livestock numbers, and to meet wildlife requirements as well as other environmental requirements if the permittee is willing to put in the effort to properly manage the cattle. It is possible on drought years the cattle will have to be removed from the allotment prior to September 15.

II. MANAGEMENT GOALS

Specific objectives for the allotment are identified below:

- ✓A. Keep the range in a static or upward trend.
- ✓B. Correlate grazing use with timber management activities.
- ✓C. Eliminate unauthorized grazing among Harris Flat C&H, Strawberry Creek C&H, and Shingle Mill C&H Allotments.
- D. Continue to upgrade range improvements.
- ✓E. Achieve better cattle distribution in Upper Stout Canyon, and portions of Harris Flat unit by encouraging permittee to haul water.
- ✓F. Encourage livestock utilization on outlying areas through proper salting, herding, and riding.
- G. Work with private land owners in Swains Creek, Stout Canyon, and Harris Flat to maintain boundary fences and cattleguards to avoid possible conflicts.
- ✓H. Enhance wildlife habitat through proper grazing practices and range and wildlife improvement projects.
- ✓I. Develop a cooperative fence maintenance program between private land owner and permittee.

III. ACTION PROGRAM

A. Management System

The allotment is divided into three units and grazed under a deferred-rotation system. The Stout Canyon and Dairy Canyon units will be used alternately first and last each year. Thus, the grasses complete their growth cycle every other year before being grazed.

The Harris Flat unit will be grazed second each year, which will normally be after the grasses are near full development. The wet meadow on Swains Creek is fenced separately and will be grazed with 25 to 50 cattle for approximately 2 weeks, depending when proper use is reached.

The following table outlines the sequence of grazing:

Year	Stout Canyon	Harris Flat	Dairy Canyon
1	A	B	C
2	C	B	A
(Repeat cycle)			

- Treatment A - Graze after range readiness - (approximately 7/1 to 7/25) - until proper use is reached.
- B - Graze during late flowering to early seed ripe - (approximately 7/26 to 8/20) - until proper use is reached.
- C - Graze after seed maturity - (approximately 8/21 to 9/15) - until proper use is reached or 9/15. Cattle will then be removed from allotment.

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.

This 50 percent factor will be an average figure; as it is known, the cattle will use some preferred spots more heavily while the outer reaches of suitable range will receive less utilization.

C. Administrative Action to Implement Program

The District Ranger or Range Conservationist will check the allotment periodically during the grazing season. They will make observations and utilization studies as needed to determine the progress of the cattle grazing. 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 Development Program

The permittee is responsible for his proportionate share of the maintenance of structural range improvements on the allotment. Maintenance of private land boundary fences will be the responsibility of the private land owner and permittee. A cooperative fence maintenance program dividing the responsibilities will be one of the management goals.

Existing Improvements:

Project Name	Type	Size	Location	Const.	Maintenance
Stout Canyon Boundary Fence	Barbed Wire	.5 miles	Sec. 13, T39S, R7W		Private Land Owners
Dairy Canyon Division Fence	Barbed Wire	.25 miles	Sec. 14, T39S, R7W	1953	Permitted
Harris Hollow Drift Fence	Barbed Wire	.5 miles	Sec. 35, T39S, R7W		Permittee
Harris Flat Boundary Fence	Barbed Wire	2.5 miles	Sec. 22,23,24, T38S,R7W; Sec. 19 & 20,T38S, R6W		Permittee
Billingsly Creek- Swains Creek Drife Fence	Barbed Wire	2.0 miles	Sec. 23 & 26		Permittee
Stout Canyon- Harris Flat Division Fence	Barbed Wire	.5 miles	Sec. 30, T38S, R7W		Permittee
Billingsly Hollow	Reservoir		Sec. 26, T38S, R7W	1949	F. S. & Permittee
Harris Flat	Reservoir		Sec. 25, T38S R7W	1949	Permittee & F.S.
Harris Flat	Wildlife Raintrap	20' tank	Sec. 25, T38S, R7W	1980	F.S.
Stout Canyon	Reservoir		Sec. 6, T39S, R6W		Permittee & F. S.
Right Fork	Reservoir		Sec. 32, T38S, R6W		Permittee & F.S.

Proposed Improvements:

<i>Completed</i>	Project Name	Type	Size	Location	Const.	Maintenance
	Upper Stout Canyon	Reservior	100' Dia.	Sec. 30, T38S, R6W	1984	Permittee
		Reservoir	100' Dia.	Sec. 1, T39S, R6W	1984	Permittee
	Stout Canyon fence removal	Barbed wire & cattleguard	.25 mile	Sec. 7, T39S, R6W	1985	-
1996 ✓	Swains Creek boundary fence	Barbed wire	1.0 mile	Sec, 22 & 23, T38S, R7W	1985 (If necessary)	Permittee
	Swains Creek drift fence	Barbed wire	.5 mile	Sec. 3 & 4, T39S, R7W	1986 (If necessary)	Permittee

E. Correlation with Others

Management activities on the allotment will be correlated with other uses outlined in the Stout Canyon management unit of the Asay management area of the Markagunt Plateau Land Use Plan.

1. Recreation

There are presently no improved or proposed recreation areas on the allotment nor any known conflicts with grazing. Recreation use is dispersed type, such as hunting, hiking, and sightseeing.

2. Timber

The allotment includes several proposed timber sales. The necessary coordination action is to notify the permittee of the sale plans prior to harvest and fence plantation for a few years, if need be, until the planted seedlings have grown beyond the point where they can be damaged by the cattle.

The timber sales will open up dense stands of trees and create additional forage, at least on a temporary basis, for the cattle.

Where new timber sale roads cross fences, cattleguards will need to be installed to control livestock.

3. Wildlife

Deer population is controlled by hunting in the East Zion Deer Herd units. The deer herd is very low in numbers at the present time. There are presently no conflicts between cattle grazing and deer use. A wildlife water guzzler was constructed in 1980 on Harris Flat. It may need to be fenced to restrict cattle from using it in the future.

4. Watershed

There are some small headcuts in Billingsly Creek. Also, the area along Swains Creek, east of the old sawmill site, needs improvement. Some Small headcut structures and better management of the cattle on these areas will aid in their recovery.

5. Other Uses

There are subdivisions in Swains Creek, Stout Canyon and at Harris Flat that are all adjacent to the allotment. Coordination between the private land owners and permittee will be necessary to maintain boundary fences and reduce conflicts.

IV. FOLLOWUP PROGRAM

A. Inspection

A followup program will be continuing to see that the allotment objectives are being met. It's purpose will be to firm up allotment capacity, make changes to improve the management system and to gather data to evaluate apparent and long-term trends of vegetation and soil.

Field observations and notes will be made, if possible, when livestock enter and leave each unit. A minimum requirement will be to document use in the first grazed unit. Unit examination record R4-2200-15 will be completed in conjunction with these observations.

B. Studies

There is one Parker 3-Step on the allotment and it is located in the Harris Flat unit. It will be read as necessary to determine trends in vegetation and soil. No other permanent studies are planned at this time.

C. Livestock Counting

Livestock will be counted as necessary prior to going on the allotment to maintain proper accountability on the allotment.