

Deep Creek Sheep Allotment
Management Plan
1982

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I. INFORMATION SECTION

- A. Description - The Deep Creek Allotment is a long narrow piece of land that stretches over 16 miles from one end to the other. There are two main grazing areas, one is the Deep Creek drainage on the west side, and the other is the Willis Creek and Dry Basin drainage on the east. The middle portion of the allotment is a narrow corridor between Navajo Basin and the pink rim. It is used primarily for trailing the sheep from one grazing area to the other.

There are approximately 16,592 acres of land on the allotment of which 2752 is classed as suitable for grazing. Vegetation consists largely of spruce-fir with a few open sage-grass areas such as Dry Valley on the eastern portion, and on aspen overstory with a forb-grass understory in the Deep Creek area.

B. History - The Deep Creek Allotment was created in 1966 when the Deep Creek and Navajo Lake Allotments were combined.

The old Deep Creek Allotment has always been exclusive sheep range. From 1911 to 1966, permitted numbers varied from 2346 to 1029 and grazing seasons varied from 7/1 - 10/31 to 7/6 - 8/25.

The Navajo Lake Allotment has also always been exclusive sheep range. Permitted numbers varied from 506 to 701. Grazing season from 7/11 - 8/15 to 7/1 - 9/30.

The Alfred Stucki Estate grazed sheep on the Navajo Lake Allotment from 1923 to 1965. Additional range in Dry Valley was acquired in 1946.

In 1961, due to the need to coordinate grazing use with recreation, the area west of Navajo Lake to the Deep Creek Rim was closed to grazing.

The old Deep Creek Allotment has been grazed since 1936 by sheep owned by Roy Lundgren. In 1939, to prevent erosion around the Blowhard area, the steep slopes above Highway U-14 were closed to grazing.

In 1981, the Midway and Blowhard portion of this allotment was taken out and added to the Deer Valley and Sage Valley allotments. At the same time, Dry Valley and Willis Creek, on the vacant Willis Creek allotment, were added to this allotment. History of the Willis Creek allotment indicates that from 1910 to 1922, sheep numbers varied from 1240 head to 1450 head.

In 1922, the allotment changed hands and 1099 head of sheep were permitted. In 1924, the permit was reduced to 989 head. In 1930, the number was changed to 791. This was increased in 1934 to 967. A ten percent reduction was applied in 1935 which changed the permit to 870, with a season from 7/1 - 9/30. This prevailed until 1944 when the number was further reduced to 715 with a 7/6 - 9/20 season.

After 1947, the Willis Creek, Strawberry Ridge, and Ikes Valley Allotments were managed by the Brinkerhoff family. The area was grazed largely as one unit with considerable switching of range from year to year.

The total preference until June 27, 1966, was 568 for Ikes Valley, 1071 for Willis Creek, and 920 for Strawberry, for a total of 2559 head of sheep.

On June 27, 1966, Richard M. Brinkerhoff obtained the combined preference for all three allotments which was 1600 head of sheep with a season of 7/1 - 9/20.

In 1973, Richard Brinkerhoff exchanged his sheep grazing preference on Willis Creek for J.M. Hammond's sheep preference on the Cottonwood - Caddy allotment. At the same time, Brinkerhoff was given a 70 head cattle permit in place of his sheep preference, which was added to Red Creek and Little Valley - Cattle allotments. Caddy Creek went to the Little Valley allotment with Maloy Dodds' preference of 81 head of cattle. The remainder stayed in the Red Creek allotment.

J.M. Hammond grazed sheep on the Willis Creek allotment until 1975 when he sold base property and transferred the permit to Bar I Bar Cattle Company. The Bar I Bar Cattle Company grazed sheep in 1976 and then went out of business. The permit was terminated in 1980 due to nonuse. This allotment was then distributed to three adjacent (Strawberry, Black Mountain, Deep Creek) allotments. Thus, the Willis Creek portion was added to this allotment.

- C. Ranch Operation and Current Status - The present permittees, Roy Lundgren and Charles Douglas Lundgren, have a one band ewe-lamb sheep operation. The permittees are dependent on National Forest summer range to round out their year long operation. Private lands adjacent to the Forest in Deep Creek, and BLM lands near Mesquite, Nevada, are used for spring, fall and winter grazing. With the addition of Dry Valley and Willis Creek to their Forest allotment, it is believed the allotment is now at proper grazing capacity.

The current status of the permit is outlined below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Numbers</u>	<u>Sheep Months</u>
Roy Lundgren & Charles Douglas Lundgren	7/1 - 8/31	1029	2058

D. Range Condition and Trend - The allotment analysis was completed on the old Navajo Lake Allotment in 1960. The Willis Creek portion of the Deep Creek Allotment was completed in 1962. The analysis on the remainder of the Deep Creek Allotment was completed in 1968. The data has been periodically updated since then.

The following table shows a summary of present acreages in the various suitability, condition and vegetal types.

Acres by Suitability Classes and Vegetal Types

Condition Class	Suitable						Sub Total	Unsuitable				Total	
	S1	S2d	S4	S5	S6	S10		U6	7t	8	Closed		
Good	15	72		45	368	1002	1502						1502
Fair			306		410	542	1258						1258
Unclassified								126	8648	83	4975		13832
Total	15	72	306	45	778	1544	2760	126	8648	83	4975		16592

II. ALLOTMENT GOALS

Objectives for the Deep Creek Allotment are as follows:

- ✓ A. Keep range in a static or upward trend.
- B. Provide sufficient forage to graze 1029 sheep and their lambs for a two month grazing season.
- ✓ C. Minimize recreation conflicts with the sheep grazing in the Navajo Basin complex and Duck Creek recreation area.
- ✓ D. Graze sheep in cut over timbered areas to be compatible with forest regeneration and reforestation.
- ✓ E. Graze sheep to avoid conflicts with subdivision and other private land owners.
- ✓ F. Protect aesthetics along Dry Valley Road by properly grazing sheep.

III. ACTION SECTION

- A. Management System - The allotment is divided into two units and grazed under a deferred-rotation grazing system. The two units are divided near Navajo Lake. The Deep Creek unit will include everything west of Navajo Lake. The Willis Creek unit will consist of the eastern half of the allotment including Dry Valley and most of the Willis Creek drainage. Sheep will enter the allotment on July 1. One year they will graze the Deep Creek unit first for approximately one month. They will then trail along the ridge south of Navajo Basin to Dry Valley. They will finish out the grazing season in the Willis Creek Unit. The next year the grazing sequence will be reversed.

The grazing system is outlined in the following table:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Deep Creek</u>	<u>Willis Creek</u>
1	A	B
2	B	A

(Repeat Cycle)

- A - Graze first, approximately 7/1 - 7/30, or until proper use is reached.
- B - Graze second at late flowering, approximately 8/1 - 8/31, or until proper use is reached. Sheep will then be removed from the Forest.

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

D. Range Development Program

Existing Improvements

<u>Type Improvement</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Years Cons't</u>	<u>Maintained By</u>
Reese Hollow Water Trough	100'	Section 34 T37S, R9W	1940	Permittee
Mill Creek Boundary Fence	.50 mi	Section 35 T37S, R9W	1953	Permittee
Dry Valley Reservoir	40' x 100'	Section 16 T38S, R8W	1938	No maintenance needed
Deep Creek Water Trough	100'	Section 28 T37S, R9W	1940	Permittee

Proposed Improvement

<u>Type Improvement</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>To Be Constructed By</u>	<u>Maintenance By</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
Reese Hollow Dugout (Pond)	Section 34 T37S, R9W	F.S.	Permittee	1985
Deep Creek-Webster Flat Boundary Fence (.75 miles reconstruction)		F.S. & Permittee	Permittee	When funds available
Deep Creek-Fife Mill Boundary Fence (2.0 miles reconstruction)		F.S. & Permittee	Permittee	When funds available

E. Correlation with Other Uses

1. Timber - The allotment contains both commercial and non-commercial stands of aspen, fir, and spruce. Some clear cutting has taken place. More timber sales are planned in the future. The only action necessary is to restrict grazing on reforested areas as needed for seedling establishment.
2. Recreation - The Navajo Basin complex and Duck Creek recreation area are closed to grazing. The aesthetic value along the Dry Valley Road will be maintained through proper use of the forage resource.
3. Watershed - The planned grazing system is expected to increase ground cover. Consequently the soils should become more stable. Soil productivity is expected to increase over the years.
4. Wildlife - Deer are the primary big game species on the allotment although some elk and bear have been observed.

Turkeys are found throughout the allotment, but are more prevalent in the Deep Creek drainage. Blue grouse are also found in most areas.

Deer populations are controlled by hunting in the Parowan and East Zion Deer Herd units. The competition between domestic sheep grazing and wildlife is not a factor as there is abundant summer forage on this allotment for deer, far beyond the winter range capacity which is below the Forest boundary. Sheep numbers are presently balanced with the grazing capacity, and no change is anticipated.

Proposed water developments planned for the allotment will benefit all forms of wildlife.

IV. ALLOTMENT FOLLOWUP

- A. Allotment Inspections - Periodic inspections will be made on the allotment to check compliance with annual plans of use and to determine proper use in each unit. As part of the inspection, form R4-2200-15 will be completed for each unit inspected. Information obtained each year will be compared to evaluate progress toward allotment objectives.

- B. Studies - Grazing impact studies will be used as needed in conjunction with unit examination record.

There is one permanent 3-Step condition and trend study located in Dry Valley. This transect was established in 1937 and will be maintained. No other permanent studies will be established unless needed.

- C. Livestock Counting - Sheep will be periodically counted as they enter the allotment. There have been no known problems with excess numbers being placed on the allotment.