

DANDELION KNOLL SHEEP ALLOTMENT

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Cedar City Ranger District

Dixie National Forest

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Date: 2/21/78

Approval
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Date: 2/27/78

I. INFORMATION SECTION

A. History

The allotment has been exclusive sheep range since the establishment of the Forest. Previous to the establishment and fencing of Cedar Breaks National Monument, this allotment contained about 3700 acres. It extended to the "Breaks" rim and south to include the range in the old Lakes Allotment. For many years prior to 1935, the season of use on this allotment was 7/1 - 9/30 for about 1250 sheep. From 1935 to 1940, the season was 7/1 - 9/15 and the number was reduced to 995. Since 1940, the season has been adjusted several times to the present season of 7/11 - 8/20 for 1325 sheep months.

In 1976, 701 acres of suitable range at the head of the Mammoth drainage was added to the allotment. This piece of range was part of the old Ireland sheep allotment.

B. Permittees

The present permittees are engaged in a ewe-lamb operation and are dependent on the National Forest to round to round out their year long operation. They run their sheep on private and BLM lands when they are not on the forest.

The following is a list of the current permittees and permittee numbers:

TABLE 1

Permittees	Number	Season	Sheep Months
Glenna Orton	595	7/11 - 8/20	791
Dennis Stowell	400	7/11 - 8/20	532
Totals	995		1323

C. Range Condition and Trend

The Range Allotment Analysis was completed in 1965 and is now outdated. Observation on the allotment indicate condition classes have changed. Table II reflects the current conditions on the allotment.

Table II

Acres by Suitability Classes and Vegetal Types

Condition Class	Dry Grass	Dry Meadow	Wet Meadow	Sage-brush	Timber	Aspen	Sub-total	Heavy Timber	Barren	Total
Good			164	26	165	219	574			574
Fair	1195	133					1328			1328
								466	30	496
TOTALS	1195	133	164	26	165	219	1902	466	30	2398

D. Estimated Grazing Capacities

Range Allotment Analysis and proper use studies indicate there is sufficient grazing capacity for permitted sheep and wildlife requirements.

General range conditions are fair to good and trend is stable or upward. Intensive followup will continue to evaluate condition and trend and firm up allotment capacity.

II. MANAGEMENT GOALS

Management objectives for the Dandelion Knoll allotment are as follows:

1. Employ a grazing system which will provide for the physiological requirements of the plants.
2. Graze allotment to protect esthetic values adjacent to Brian Head-Panguitch Lake Highway.
3. Evaluate sheep camps and relocate them as necessary to maintain esthetic values adjacent Brian Head-Panguitch Lake Highway.
4. Coordinate use in the Summit unit, Dandelion Knoll allotment with use in the Mammoth unit, Brian Head allotment.
5. Work up trailing plan for transient sheep bands on Mammoth Summit to minimize conflict with permitted use.
6. Upgrade fences as needed adjacent to private land and National Park boundary.

III. ACTION SECTION

A. Grazing Schedule

The allotment is divided into three grazing units. These units will be used on a deferred-rotation system of grazing. This system will provide for plant vigor, litter accumulation and seedling establishment.

Table III shows the schedule of use by grazing unit:

Table III

Year	<u>UNITS</u>		
	North	South	Summit
1	A	B	C
2	B	A	C

Treatment A = Graze 7/11 until proper use is reached.

Treatment B = Graze second until proper use is reached.

Treatment C = Graze third until proper use is reached or 8/20. Sheep will then be removed from allotment.

The Summit unit is scheduled for late summer use to minimize conflicts with recreation. However, for range purposes, it may be desirable some years to use the Summit unit first and delay use on the north and south units. Only moderate utilization will be allowed in the Summit unit in any case.

One year out of three, the Brian Head sheep and the Dandelion Knoll sheep will graze the head of the Mammoth for the same ten day period. To avoid mixing the sheep, the Brian Head band will be grazed on the east portion of the Mammoth unit.

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% utilization might be made. Therefore, in keeping with Regional direction a proper use factor of 50% of the palatable grasses growing on the suitable range will be used.

C. Administrative Action to Implement Program

The District Ranger or Range Conservationist 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 permittees when the unit is nearing proper use and when the sheep are to move to the next unit and be removed from the allotment.

D. Range Development Program

There are boundary fences adjacent to the private land and Cedar Breaks National Monument. The fences are in fair to poor condition.

The permittees and private land owners are responsible for fence maintenance.

At the present time, there are no improvements planned for the allotment.

E. Correlation with Other Uses

Management of this allotment will correlate grazing with other uses as outlined in the Bunker Creek Management Unit in the Cedar Mountain Management area of the Markagunt Plateau Land Use Plan.

Recreation

There are no improved recreation areas on the allotment. The allotment is used some by fisherman during the summer and deer hunters in the fall. The Brian Head-Panguitch Lake Highway traverses the allotment and is used mostly by recreationists during summer. Salt grounds, bedgrounds, and camp sites will be located away from the road. Presently, there are no conflicts between grazing and recreation use.

Timber

A small commercial sale is likely on the allotment. The area will be evaluated at the time of harvest to determine the need for protection from grazing.

Watershed

The entire allotment is in satisfactory watershed condition. Sheep trailing along water courses will be prohibited.

Wildlife

The Dandelion Knoll allotment is located in the Parowan-Main Canyon Deer Herd unit. There is no conflict between deer and sheep grazing.

III. FOLLUP SECTION

A. Inspection

An intensive followup program will be implemented to see that the allotment objectives are being met. It will be geared to firming up the allotment capacity, to evaluate the grazing system and to evaluate apparent and long term trends for vegetation and soil.

Inspections will be conducted annually. Unit examination record R4-2200-15 will be completed in conjunction with allotment inspections.

B. Studies

A Parker 3-Step Transect was established in the North Unit in 1953 and re-read in 1959. This study will be maintained. A benchmark will be established in the Summit unit. A permanently marked site analysis transect and photo plots will be established at the benchmark.

C. Counting

Sheep will be counted each year prior to or shortly after entering the allotment. This will be documented as will the dates sheep move to and from each unit.

D. Alternatives

The followup program will determine if the management objectives are being met. If they are not, a rest-rotation system of grazing will be implemented.