

Black Mountain Sheep Allotment
Management Plan
1982

Plan written by Jerry Green on 3/10/69 and approved by Edward A. Harvey,
Acting Forest Supervisor 3/10/69.

Updated By: Dale B. Harris 3/31/82
Range Conservationist Date

Approval Recommended By: Robert H. Bunn 4/1/82
District Ranger Date

Approval Recommended By: Frank Jensen 4/1/82
Range Staff Officer Date

Approved By: [Signature] 4/5/82
Forest Supervisor Date

I. INFORMATION SECTION

- A. Description - The Black Mountain allotment is located about 2 miles northeast of Duck Creek. It encompasses approximately 20,000 acres of land between U-14 and Mammoth Creek, and west of Asay Knoll. It is primarily in the ponderosa pine timber type. There are scattered grass openings throughout the allotment including Bowers Flat, Uinta Flat, and Burrows Flat. The principle live water within the allotment boundary is located at Bowers Spring. Intermittent water is found in Strawberry Creek, Swains Creek, and Wilson Creek. Allotment acreages are summarized in Section I, C of the Management Plan.

B. History and Current Status

This allotment is a consolidation of four previous allotments: Duck Creek, Burrows Flat, Black Mountain and Willis Creek.

Common use with cattle and sheep was practiced from the creation of the Forest in 1905 until the spring of 1939. The range was divided in 1939 and common use was eliminated. In 1939, the permittees assisted in retiring sheep preferences equal to 2288 sheep, which were waived back to the Government for range protection. This was equal to about 15 percent reduction. In 1947, the three allotments were consolidated through the purchase of permitted livestock by Roland S. Esplin, who was permittee at that time. A permit for 1780 sheep with a season of 7/6 - 9/20 for 4450 sheep months was issued.

In 1966, the permit was adjusted to 1600 sheep for 3200 sheep months. In 1977, Roland Esplin sold a portion of his base property to Harold C. Hatch of Panguitch, Utah, and the permit was transferred to Mr. Hatch. At that time Mr. Hatch requested the permit be amended to 1000 sheep for a 6/26 - 9/30 season.

In 1981, the Strawberry Ridge area, north of U-14, was added to the Black Mountain allotment. This piece of range came from the retired Willis Creek allotment.

C. Ranch Operation

The present permittee, Derik Brinkerhoff has a ewe-lamb ban of sheep. He is dependent on National Forest rangeland to round out his year long operation.

Private lands near Glendale, Utah are used for spring, fall, and summer grazing.

The current status of the permit is:

TABLE I

Permittee	Number	Season	Sheep Months
Derik Brinkerhoff	1000	6/21 - 9/30	3333

The entering date for Black Mountain allotment was moved from June, 26 to June 21 because of the acquisition of additional range from the Willis Creek allotment.

D. Range Condition and Trend

The allotment analysis was completed in 1964. The following table summarizes present acreages in the various suitability, condition, and vegetal types.

Acres by Suitability Classes and Vegetal Types

Condition Class	<u>Suitable</u>				Sub Total	<u>Unsuitable</u>					Closed Total	
	S1	S5	S6	S10		N5	U6	N6	7	8		
Good	503	20	3287	434	4244						4244	
Fair	1196	224	8155	799	10374						10374	
Unclassified						15	335	516	2272	1471	78	4687
Total	1699	244	11442	1233	14618	15	335	516	2272	1471	78	19305

II. ALLOTMENT GOALS

The objectives for the Black Mountain allotment are outlined below:

- A. Keep range in static or upward trend.
- B. Manage forage to provide for 1000 sheep and their lambs for the permitted grazing season.
- C. Manage sheep grazing in cut-over timbered areas to be compatible with Forest regeneration and reforestation.
- D. Graze sheep so as to maintain asthetic values along the Mammoth Creek road and Highway U-14.
- E. Minimize conflicts with recreation use in the Duck Creek - Movie Ranch recreation and subdivision complex.

III. ACTION SECTION

- A. Management System - The allotment is divided into two large units and grazed under a deferred rotation grazing system. The unit boundary runs northeasterly from the U-14 - Mammoth road junction to Wilson Creek. Houston Flat, Bowers Flat, and Duck Creek Sinks will be in Bowers Flat unit, and Uinta Flat and Strawberry Ridge in Strawberry Creek unit.

Bowers Spring is the most dependable water source on the allotment. Black Rock Spring and Cold Spring also provide livestock water but are not as reliable. Cold Spring has a storage tank and trough that isn't functioning.

To obtain proper distribution, the permittee hauls water to his sheep on most areas of the allotment during the time they are permitted.

The sheep will enter the allotment at Wilson Creek each year. Approximately one and a half months will be spent in each unit.

The grazing schedule for the Black Mountain allotment is outlined below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Bowers Flat</u>	<u>Strawberry Creek</u>
1	A	B
2	B	A

Repeat Cycle

A - Graze 1st - 6/26 - 8/15, or until proper use is reached.

B - Graze 2nd - 8/16 - 9/30, or until proper use is reached, at which time, the sheep will be removed from the 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.

- 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 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 and be removed from the allotment.

D. Range Development Program

Existing Improvements

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Constructed By & Year</u>
Dry Hollow Reservoir	60'x100'	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 11 T38S, R7W	F.S. 1938
Uinta Flat Reservoir	60' Diam.	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 2 T38S, R7W	F.S. 1938
Uinta Flat Exclosure	5 Acres	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 1 T38S, R7W	F.S. 1960
Wilson Creek Reservoir	40' Diam.	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 13 T37S, R7W	F.S. 1939
Houston Flat Reservoir	40' Daim.	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 15 T37S, R7W	F.S. 1939
Bowers Flat Reservoir	40' Diam.	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 27 T37S, R7W	F.S. 1944
Bowers Flat Exclosure	1 Acre	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 27 T37S, R7W	F.S. 1938
Black Mountain Reservoir	60'x100'	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 3 T38S, R7W	F.S. 1938
Bowers Spring Reservoir	30'x90'	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 33 T37W, R7W	F.S. 1945
Uinta Flat Reseeding	Plow, pit and drill 190 acres	Section 1 T37S, R7W Section 36 T38S, R7W	F.S. 1962
Henrie Knolls Wildlife Guzzler	20'	Section 17 T37S, R7W	F.S. 1981

Proposed Improvements

<u>Type</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Constructed By</u>	<u>Schedule-</u>
Cold Spring (Try to develop year around water source)		Section 14 T38S, R7W	F.S.	When funds are available

Sidehill Spring - Is located at the head of a draw northwest of Swains Creek and U-14 junction, Section 14, T38S, R7W. The Forest Service plans to investigate possibility of piping this spring toward Asay Bench.

E. Correlation with Other Uses

Recreation - There are presently no improved recreation areas on the allotment. Both Mammoth Cave and Bowers Cave are located within the allotment. At the present time, there is no conflict with grazing. If the recreation pressure should greatly increase, it may be necessary to close the area around the caves to grazing.

Timber - A considerable portion of the allotment contains commercial ponderosa pine intermixed with scattered stands of aspen. Ponderosa pine is being managed to harvest the old growth trees and thin the understory to develop optimum growing space. Some openings occur in the stand as a result of harvesting to control disease (mistletoe) or wild fire, and planting is required. These areas will be protected, as needed, by temporary fencing until plantations are established.

Aspen stands are being harvested to release understory ponderosa pine or to regenerate aspen. Where aspen regeneration is desired, protection from grazing may be needed for one or two years. Temporary fencing may be needed for protection.

Watershed - The allotment is in satisfactory watershed condition. There are a few areas where ground cover needs to be increased. The grazing system and proper use criteria should improve conditions in those sensitive areas.

Wildlife - Deer are the only big game species on the allotment of any consequence. Competition for forage between deer and sheep is insignificant as the deer numbers are presently below the estimated carrying capacity of their winter range. When the deer numbers increase to the carrying capacity of their winter range, there still should not be any conflict on this allotment for summer range.

There are various other wildlife species including a variety of birds that inhabit the allotment. Turkeys are occasionally sighted on the allotment. Availability of water restricts and limits wildlife use in all forms.

In 1981, a rain trap (wildlife guzzler) was constructed near Henrie Knolls and will provide year around water for wildlife in this area. Long range plans include provisions for additional wildlife water developments on this allotment.

The allotment management plan was reviewed with personnel from the Division of Wildlife Resources on 3/29/82 and no conflicts were identified.

IV. ALLOTMENT FOLLOWUP

- A. Inspections - A followup program will be implemented to see that allotment objectives are being met, and to make changes to improve the management system and to gather data to evaluate trends of vegetation and soil. Field observations and notes will be made when livestock enter and leave each unit. Unit Examination Record R4-2200-15 will be completed in conjunction with these observations.

- B. Studies - There is an existing Parker 3-Step and photo plot transect located south west of Uinta Flat. This transect will be maintained and read periodically to determine long term trends in vegetation and soil.

There is also a five acre exclosure on Uinta Flat, and a one acre exclosure on Bowers Flat that will be maintained. The fence will be kept in good repair. These exclosures will provide valuable information on the effect (if any) the sheep grazing is having on vegetation and soils on Uinta and Bowers Flat.

C. Check on Livestock Numbers

The sheep will be periodically counted onto the allotment. It is not contemplated that excess numbers will be placed on the allotment.