BLACK HILLS ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

PINE VALLEY RANGER DISTRICT
DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST
WASHINGTON COUNTY, UTAH

PREPARED BY Randy Russell DATE 7/2/93
RANGE CONSERVATIONIST

REVIEWED BY Willard Randall DATE 7-2-93
PERMITTEE

APPROVED BY [signature] DATE 7/7/93
DISTRICT RANGER

This Allotment Management Plan is made part of your Term Grazing permit in accordance with Section (8a) of that permit, approved on April 21, 1986, and implements the Decision Notice signed by Thomas A. Contreras, Pine Valley District Ranger on January 19, 1993.

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INTRODUCTION

The Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), as amended by the Public Rangelands Improvement Act allows for Allotment Management Plan (AMP's) to be included in grazing permits at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture. (43 U.S.C. (1752(d), as amended by 92 Stat. 1803 (1978)). The Secretary has elected to exercise this discretion, and has delegated his authority to issue regulations in this area to the Chief of the Forest Service. (36 CFR (222.1 et. seq).

An Allotment Management Plan is defined in FLPMA as a document prepared in consultation with lessees or permittees applying to livestock operation on the public lands prescribing (1) the manner in and extent to which livestock operation will be conducted in order to meet multiple use, sustained-yield, economic and other needs and objectives, (2) describing range improvements to be installed and maintained, and (3) containing such other provisions relating to livestock grazing and other objectives found by the Secretary to be consistent with the provision of the FLPMA. (43 USC (1702(k), and 36 CFR (22.1 (b) (2)., and (FSM 1023).

The AMP integrates the actions needed to manage rangeland resources for livestock grazing. The AMP must integrate resource goals, objectives, standards, guidelines, and management requirements for the management of rangeland resources including soil, water, wildlife, fisheries, and vegetation for a wide array of resource uses with livestock grazing.

I. GOALS AND OBJECTIVE

A. GOALS.

This Allotment Management Plan will meet the goals, standards and guidelines contained in the Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

The goal for "Range" listed in the Forest Plan, is to improve management on all allotments (IV-6). The Standards and Guidelines pertaining to the Black Hills Cattle Allotment are found on the following pages in the Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (IV-36 and 41).

The goals for the Black Hills AMP are the following:

1. Improve and maintain the riparian area below Calf Spring Ranch in a Potential Natural Community Ecological Status.

2. The upland vegetation will be maintained at an early to mid seral ecological status in Management Areas 1 General Forest Direction and 6A Livestock Grazing.

3. Improve the ground cover around watering locations and riparian areas on the Allotment.

4. Improve the Mule Deer habitat in Management Area 4C Wildlife Habitat Bushy Range and around the riparian area.

5. Improve cattle distribution on the Allotment.

B. EXISTING CONDITION

In general many areas on the Allotment are in a upward vegetation and soil trend. The existing conditions which do not meet the Standards and Guidelines described in the FLRMP are the following:

1. Cattle use in the riparian areas has been greater then 60 percent.
2. Cattle use within 1/4 mile of watering locations has exceeded 50 percent.
3. Browse species within 1/4 mile of watering locations are showing a hedged appearance from greater then 50 percent use from livestock and wildlife.

C. OBJECTIVES

1. By 1995 show an improvement in ground cover in the riparian areas on the allotment, especially around the pond below Calf Spring Ranch.
2. By 1995 improve water fowel nesting and hiding habitat around the pond below Calf Spring Ranch.
3. By 1997 improve cattle distribution on the allotment, by installing new water locations on the allotments.
4. By 2000 improve mule deer habitat in Management Area 4C on Flat Top Mountain.
5. By 2000 improve the appearance and vigor of the browse species by improving cattle distribution on the allotment.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Livestock kind, class, numbers permitted, season of use, and other.

Permitted Number	70 Cattle
Class of Livestock	Cow/Calf
Season of Use	5/16 through 10/15
Animals Unit Months	350 AUM's

Livestock numbers and season of use may be adjusted if proper use, as desribed in Part III of the Grazing Permit, is not achievable under the current system.

Permittee

Randall Family Properties
(Willard Randall)

B. Grazing system

The grazing rotation for the Allotment is a two pasture deferred rotation grazing system. The grazing rotation will be repeated every two years.

Grazing Rotation

First Year

Pasture	Permitted Cattle	Season of Use
Black Hills	70	5/16 through 7/15
Calf Springs	70	7/16 through 10/15

Second Year

Pasture	Permitted Cattle	Season of Use
Calf Springs	70	5/16 through 8/15
Black Hills	70	8/16 through 10/15

The above dates are estimates. Actual entry and exit dates would be determined by the District Ranger in consultation with appropriate Range Staff. These dates would depend on factors such as forage development, soil condition and proper use determination. Permittees will be notified and cattle would be removed from the Allotment when the Forest Officer judges the allotment to be at proper use.

Salt locations will be at least 1/4 mile from water troughs, springs, and ponds.

As cattle enter an allotment pasture, they need to be evenly distributed throughout the pasture.

The Annual Operating Plan will be prepare on a yearly basis. The District Ranger or his/her representative will meet with the grazing permittee each year to discuss the coming grazing season.

C. Monitoring Criteria

Proper use would be 50 percent utilization on grasses determined by weight of annual forage production of perennial grass plants except crested wheatgrass where proper use would be 60 percent of current years growth (LRMP IV-36). Proper use in riparian areas would be 60 percent on grass and grass-like species (LRMP IV-41) or 3 to 6 inch stubble heights by the end of the growing season. Proper use on bitterbrush, gambel oak and serviceberry in Management Area 4C Wildlife (Bushy Range) Habitat would be a maximum of 50 percent of current years growth. Percent utilization by grazing ungulates would be measured by appropriate District Range Staff utilizing approved Forest Service Range Analysis techniques.

D. Management Requirements

1. The fence that would be constructed around the pond below Calf Spring Ranch would improve the residual ground cover, plant vigor, water quality, wildlife habitat and the condition of the riparian vegetation. Cattle would not be allowed to graze within the fenced area, until the area achieves a potential natural community ecological status as defined in the Integrated Riparian Evaluation Guide, Intermountain Region, dated March 1992. A lane to water would be left to allow cattle access to water.

2. When livestock are moved to the next pasture, all livestock will be moved in a timely manner. Strays will not be allowed to stay in the previously grazed pastures.

3. Livestock numbers and season of use may be adjusted annually as determined by the District Ranger.

4. Once allowable use is reached in a particular pasture cattle will be moved into the next pasture in the grazing rotation, or if cattle are in the last pasture in the rotation they will be moved off the National Forest.

III. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

The existing range improvements which include fences and water developments are located in the grazing permittee's Term Grazing Permit.

Proposed Range Improvements

Fences

1. Fence 1/4 mile of the riparian area below Calf Spring Ranch to the irrigation pond. A lane to water would be left to allow cattle access to water. Estimated costs for labor and material would be approximately $3,000. This project is scheduled to be completed by 1994.

2. Reconstruct 1 mile of the Black Hills-Gunlock Allotment south boundary fence. Estimated costs for labor and material would be $3,000. This project is scheduled to be completed by 1994.

Water Development

1. Construct a 10,000 gallon guzzler on the east end of the Black Hills pasture. A trough would be placed along the boundary fence of the Black Hills and Gunlock Allotments. Estimated costs for labor and material would be approximately $12,000. This project is scheduled to be completed by 1994

2. Extend the Randall Well pipeline in T.37S., R.17W., Section 32, SLBM, Washington County Utah, 1/2 mile east to the Corner pond. Estimated costs for labor and material would be approximately $2,500. This project is schedule to be completed by 1993.

Non-Structural Range Improvement

1. Burn 500 acres of sage brush and oak brush in T.37S., R.17W., Section 32, 33, and 34 in the Black Hills and Calf Spring pastures. Estimated costs for labor and material would be approximately $3,000. This project is scheduled to be completed by 1998.

All range improvements on the Black Hills Allotment are the responsibility of the current permittee on the Allotment. All new range improvements will be cost shared 50/50 with the Forest Service and grazing permittee. Completion of the range improvements will depend on District's priorities, the permittee's willingness to help, and funding.

IV. EVALUATION SECTION

A. Actual use by cattle in the Black Hills and Calf Springs pasture will be measured at least two weeks after cattle move from a particular pasture. The inspections conducted on the allotment will be filed in 2210 Range Analysis folder an a copy of the inspection will be sent to to the grazing permittee.

B. Ecological Status of Rangeland

Utilization surveys will be scheduled in the future to determine the grazing capacity.