

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

IRON TOWN CATTLE ALLOTMENT

Pine Valley Ranger District

Dixie National Forest

Prepared by: Benton M. Smith Date 7/4/76
Range Conservationist

Recommended for
Approval by: W. J. [Signature] Date 8/19/76
District Ranger

Recommended for
Approval by: [Signature] Date JUL 8 1976
Chief, Branch of Range Management

Approved by: Frank Jensen Date JUL 8 1976
acting Forest Supervisor

I. INFORMATION

A. History and Past Management

Prior to 1965, the Iron Town Allotment formed part of the Pinto Allotment. That Allotment had remained practically the same, with respect to boundaries, since the establishment of the Forest Service. The Allotment did extend east to Woolsey Water and Birch Creek before the construction of the district boundary fence in the 1930's.

The Allotment had an early history of some sheep use. Wild horses were common on the Allotment and mule deer use was excessive for years.

Previous management plans indicate the Allotment was successively divided into smaller units. Each permittee or group of permittees was assigned a unit. Attempts were made to defer and alternate the use in each unit through herding, hauling water, fencing waterholes, and salting different areas. These efforts were only partially successful.

This table summarizes the grazing obligation during that period:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Season</u>
1913-15	1288	04/15 - 11/15
1916-24	1140	06/01 - 11/15
1925-30	(1/3 permitted number) (2/3 permitted number)	05/01 - 11/15 06/01 - 11/15
1931-37	(1/3 permitted number) (2/3 permitted number)	05/01 - 10/15 06/01 - 10/15
1938-47	300 607	05/01 - 10/15 06/01 - 10/15
1948-65	132 546	05/21 - 09/30 06/01 - 09/30

In 1965, the Allotment was divided into the West Pinto and East Pinto Allotments. The East Pinto Allotment contained the Old Iron Town Division and the Richie Flat Division. In 1975, the Old Iron Town Division was renamed the Iron Town Allotment and the Richie Flat Division became the present East Pinto Allotment.

Since 1965, the Allotment has been placed under intensive management. Approximately 1512 acres have been revegetated, water supply has been improved, and fences were constructed to divide the Allotment into three pastures. The number of permitted cattle was reduced by 30% and the permittees took some non-use until the reseeding were established.

In 1968, a three-pasture rest-rotation grazing system was implemented.

In 1976, the grazing season was extended from 6/1-9/30 to 6/1-10/15.

The goals of the management plan prepared by Ranger Ted E. Cox in 1965 are being met. This Allotment is now under intensive management and range conditions are improving.

B. Permittees and Livestock Operations

The present permittee is engaged in a cow-calf operation. The Forest supplies forage during the summer months. The remainder of the year is spent on BLM or private land. His base property is located near Cedar City and Iron Mountain, Utah.

<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Animal Months</u>
E. Rex Murie	93	6/1 - 10/15	418

Mr. Murie's cattle have a history of repeated trespass on the Forest outside the permitted grazing season. Richard and Robert Clark of Cedar City, Utah are presently managing his operation.

C. Range Analysis Data

The range analysis was completed in 1963. It has been updated to reflect the improvement resulting from revegetation and intensive management.

Suitability Classification

	<u>Acres by Condition Class</u>			<u>Totals</u>
	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	
<u>Suitable</u>				
S 1	964	1,146	0	2,110
S 4	0	165	0	165
S 5	790	0	0	790
S 9	0	1,632	1,500	3,132
Sub-Totals	1,754	2,943	1,500	6,197
<u>Unsuitable</u>				
U 4				259
U 5				2,233
U 9				6,712
Sub-Total				9,204
<u>Allotment Total</u>				<u>15,401</u>

D. Grazing Capacity

The grazing capacity of the Allotment has been firmed up over the past several years. It is believed that the range can support the present obligation of 93 cattle for 4 1/2 months without damage to the range resource or other resource uses.

E. Existing Improvements

A detailed list of the structural improvements on this Allotment is on file in the District office. A brief summary follows:

1. Fences

Approximately 2.75 miles of interior fences separate the Allotment into three pastures. Approximately 17 miles of fence divide the Allotment from adjoining allotments and BLM lands. The maintenance of these fences was turned over to the permittee as part of his term permit issued in 1976.

2. Water Developments

Five springs are developed on the Allotment. They all need considerable repairs.

Thirty-two stock ponds have been constructed, most in conjunction with the chaining projects. Several of them provide water for the cattle at various times of the year, but the majority serve primarily as basins which control runoff and impound sediment.

The cattle also drink from Pinto and Little Pinto Creeks.

II. MANAGEMENT GOALS

- A. Provide adequate forage to meet the present grazing obligation of 418 animal months.
- B. Improve watershed conditions by increasing ground cover and reducing erosion.
- C. Improve range conditions through rest-rotation grazing and revegetation of suitable areas.

III. ANALYSIS SECTION

A. Water Distribution

Water distribution needs to be improved on much of the Allotment. This can be accomplished by piping the suitable springs down to the reseeded areas, placing the fence around Page Ranch on the correct property line to make Trail Spring available, and possibly tapping a private water source at Old Iron Town.

B. Treatment of Pinyon-Juniper

Approximately 2,050 acres of Pinyon-Juniper vegetation which is suitable for revegetation remains on the Allotment. Range condition in this type is poor, with the downward trend indicated in the Range Analysis data still evident. This acreage should be treated as funds become available.

C. Fences

A land exchange was recently completed with Mr. Stuart Lamb near Old Iron Town. The Page Ranch was also recently surveyed. The existing fences around these lands should be placed on the correct property line as soon as possible.

The interior pasture fences in that area should also be examined and possibly relocated or extended. The Iron Town-Stoddard pasture fence apparently is inadequate, as cattle wander almost at will between those two pastures.

D. Erosion Control

A large gully bisects the land parcel obtained from Mr. Lamb. It should be treated to curb the active erosion and allow cattle to drink from the stream which flows along it.

IV. ACTION SYSTEM

A. Management System

The present grazing system is adequate, but it can be improved by altering it to take advantage of the higher elevation and browse in the Stoddard Pasture. The other pastures are lower and warmer, so the cattle naturally want to leave them in mid-summer and move to the Stoddard Pasture. This will also allow the browse in that pasture to reach its full growth every year. Therefore, the grazing system will be as follows:

Year	Pasture		
	Kane Point	Iron Town	Stoddard
1	A	R	B
2	R	A	B

(Repeat Cycle)

A - Graze 6/1 - 7/30 (or until proper use is reached.)

B - Graze 8/1 - 10/15 (or until proper use is reached.)

R - Rest (or graze the last few days of the season if needed.)

B. Proper Use Criteria

The rotation dates listed above are tentative.

The R-4 Range Analysis Handbook (Section 62.2) states that 50 percent utilization of the species being managed is all the use that should be made on most ranges. Therefore, proper use will be considered as 50% utilization of the palatable forage on the suitable range. The cattle will be moved when forage utilization reaches this level.

C. Action Program

- ✓ 1. Initiate new grazing system in 1977.
- ✓ 2. Take action to encourage permittee to manage the cattle properly.
3. Improve water distribution as follows:
 - ✓ a. Relocate 3/4 mile of fence on east side of Page Ranch (in 1976) and develop Trail Spring as funds become available.
 - b. Pipe Duncan Spring two miles to Frank's Pond #1 in FY 1977 or FY 1978.
 - c. Investigate possibilities of tapping private water line at Old Iron Town.
4. Revegetate remaining suitable areas as funds become available.
5. Initiate erosion control on the acquired land (former Lamb property) as soon as possible.
- ✓ 6. Repair water developments as needed.
- ✓ 7. Relocate and extend pasture fences as needed.

D. Proposed Improvements

1. Double-chain and reseed 2050 acres of Pinyon-Juniper vegetation.
2. Install headbox and 2 miles of 1 1/4" plastic pipe at Duncan Spring.
- ✓ 3. Construct 3/4 mile of fence on east side of Page Ranch.
- ✓ 4. Install new headbox, pipe and trough at Trail Spring.

V. COORDINATION WITH OTHER USES

This allotment is in the Pinto Management Area of the Land Use Plan for the Enterprise Planning Unit.

1. Wildlife

Mule deer, cougar, coyotes and numerous species of small animals and birds inhabit the area. Wildlife ramps will be installed in the watering troughs. Excess water will be released into small ponds for use by wildlife.

Chaining will be done on natural contours, in a meandering fashion, to create a maximum amount of edge. Areas will be left within the chainings as cover.

2. Watershed

This management plan will improve watershed conditions on all areas.

3. Recreation

Recreation is limited mainly to hunting and sightseeing. The cattle will be removed before the deer season opens.

4. Timber

Free-use post permits will be issued in those areas to be chained. The public will be encouraged to remove the slash as firewood following the chaining. The cutting of Christmas trees will not be affected by this plan.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS

A small band of horses inhabits the Kane Point Pasture. As they were not present when Public Law 92-195 became effective on December 15, 1971, they cannot be considered as wild free-roaming horses. It is believed that they were introduced or escaped from nearby ranches. None are branded and their possible ownership has not been determined at this time.

As many as 16 horses have been sighted at one time in the pasture. The presence of two colts in the band in 1976 indicates that they are reproducing. One horse has been positively identified as a mature stud.

The horses currently are causing a considerable amount of resource damage. Action must be taken to remove these horses before they multiply beyond control and/or destroy the grass in the reseeded areas.

Occasional trespass by domestic horses and cattle from private lands along Pinto Creek also aggravates the resource damage in this area. Trespass action has been taken against the owners of those livestock. Such action must be continued in the future to keep on top of the situation.

21 horses were removed from the Forest during
Summer of 1978. There was also a lot of...

2 Black studs spotted on Kane Point Unit fall of 1980.
M.H. Simon

VII. FOLLOW-UP

A. Key Species

Since the majority of the forage is produced on the revegetated areas, crested wheatgrass will be the key specie. Management will be directed toward maintaining the species in a healthy condition.

B. Bench Marks

Bench marks have been established in each pasture. They will be read periodically to determine range trend.

C. Allotment Inspections

Form R4-2200-15 will be completed on each pasture grazed each year.

D. Check on Livestock Numbers

The cattle will be periodically counted onto the allotment. Spot checks will be made for unauthorized livestock throughout the year.