



United States
Department of
Agriculture

BLACK MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Forest
Service

Dixie National Forest
Cedar City Ranger District

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Allotment Management Plan Black Mountain S&G Allotment

Cedar City Ranger District – Dixie National Forest – Region 4

Management Plan Prepared by: _____ Date: _____
Rangeland Management Specialist

Reviewed By: _____ Date: _____
Permittee

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
District Ranger

This Allotment Management Plan is hereby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit and is incorporated in Part 3 of that permit

Black Mountain S&G Allotment Management Plan

Cedar City Ranger District

Dixie National Forest

I. Introduction

A. Authority -The Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), as amended by the Public Rangelands Improvement Act (PRIA) allows for Allotment Management Plans (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.).

B. Definition - An Allotment Management Plan is defined in FLPMA as a document prepared in consultation with lessees or permittees applying to livestock operations on the public lands prescribing: 1) the manner in and extent to which livestock operations will be conducted in order to meet multiple use, sustained-yield economic and other needs and objectives, 2) range improvements to be installed and maintained, such other provisions relating to livestock grazing and other objectives found by the Secretary to be consistent with the provisions of the FLPMA (43 USC 1702(k), 36 CFR 222.1 (b) (2), and FSM 1023).

C. History – This allotment is a consolidation of five previous allotments: Duck Creek, Burrows Flat, Black Mountain, Willis Creek and Deep Creek (Ikes Valley).

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 a 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 Vacant Willis Creek allotment.

In 2006 the Ikes Valley unit was transferred from the Deep Creek allotment and added to the Black Mountain allotment. The permitted season of use was changed to 6/15-10/8 while maintaining the same livestock numbers.

D. Current Management – The Black Mountain S&G Allotment as depicted in [Figure 1](#) (appendix) consists of 3 pastures: Bowers Flat, Strawberry Creek, Bowers Flat. One permittee is authorized to graze 1,000 ewe/lamb pairs during a season of 6/15 through 10/8. The allotment consists of approximately 40,577 acres of National Forest System lands, of which approximately 40,577 acres (66%) are capable.

II. Goals & Objectives, Desired Resource Condition, Standards & Guidelines

A. Summary of Existing Resource Conditions

The overall status of the allotment shows little negative impact from recent grazing activity. There is evidence of previous erosional events. Many of the soils in this allotment are sensitive or prone to erosion. There is evidence on most channels of previous erosional events which may have occurred during the 20th century periods of overgrazing. Much of the top soil has been lost and productivity is low in some areas, i.e. in meadows where organic horizons have not re-established as quickly as in forested areas. (Anderson)

Ground cover in the Uinta Flat and Bowers Flat area is below desired condition. These areas have been noted in previous years as low ground cover. These areas will be of special interest for monitoring both utilization and trend. The Allotment has been rested for three consecutive years during which time the ground cover deteriorated instead of improving. The deterioration was comparable to the same deterioration noted inside the exclosures and is therefore attributed to climatic conditions rather than a lack of grazing. The Wilson Spring study has documented an increase of invasives in particular *Chrysothamnus parryi* and *Chrysothamnus nauseosus*. This same area has had multiple cattle unauthorized use (trespass) from neighboring private land.

Houston Flat is an area that receives heavier use as cattle drifting from the Asay Bench allotment move between the upper pastures into the lower pastures. This use is unauthorized and efforts are made each year to limit this use.

B. Goals and Objectives (Desired Condition)

1. Achieve or maintain satisfactory range conditions on all rangelands (Dixie NF LRMP IV-37). Satisfactory range condition on a site is defined as meeting or moving toward desired condition. A downward vegetation and/or soil trend (site is moving away from desired condition) would also cause further evaluation and/or change in management direction (Dixie NF LRMP V-6).

a) Desired Condition

Uplands

- Maintain minimum ground cover on uplands as specified in the current Dixie National Forest Supplement to FSH 2209.21 – Rangeland Ecosystem Analysis and Management Handbook Chapter 20 – Rangeland Inventory and Analysis. (Range Vegetation Condition and Trend - measurement of ground cover and soil stability -Monitoring and Evaluation Program, Dixie NF LRMP V-6).

BLACK MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Maintain the relative frequency or cover of invasive plants at less than 10 percent on uplands not affected by fire or already infested by invasive plants. (Range Vegetation Condition and Trend - measurement of plant composition and vigor - Monitoring and Evaluation Program, Dixie NF LRMP V-6).
- Maintain a plant composition overall resource value rating of greater than “low” on all uplands not affected by fire or already infested by invasive plants. (Range Vegetation Condition and Trend - measurement of plant composition and vigor - Monitoring and Evaluation Program, Dixie NF LRMP V-6). Maintain a plant composition watershed resource value rating of greater than or equal to “medium” on all uplands with soil erodibility (Kw) values greater than 0.25. (Range Vegetation Condition and Trend - measurement of plant composition and soil stability - Monitoring and Evaluation Program, Dixie NF LRMP V-6).
- In aspen community types, maintain a mixed age class of aspen with ground cover at or above 75%.
- Improve plant diversity and revert areas that have conifer encroachment issues (pinyon, juniper, spruce and fir).

Riparian Areas

- Maintain riparian ecosystems at $\geq 60\%$ of potential. Potential for late seral community types is defined by % gradient and substrate classes (Dixie NF LRMP IV-41 amended 9/95; revised 3/96).
- Maintain 50 percent or more of total streambank length in stable condition (Dixie NF LRMP IV-33). This will be interpreted as maintaining 50 percent of all riparian areas with at least a moderate bank stability rating.

2. Protection of threatened, endangered and sensitive plant and animal species: Provide a season of use and utilization level that will protect population of sensitive plants and animals. Protection of plants must allow for sufficient seed production to maintain or improve current populations.

3. Control or eradicate Priority I and II noxious weed infestations as they occur on the allotment using the concepts of Integrated Pest Management.

Continue early detection for noxious weeds to prevent establishment on the Black Mountain Allotment. Coordinate efforts with Iron, Kane and Garfield Counties by documenting new outbreaks of listed species. Currently there are no known noxious weeds within the boundary of this allotment.

C. Land and Resource Management Plan Standards and Guidelines

The Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) approved in 1986 outlines the Standards and Guidelines that will be achieved through future management activities on the Dixie National Forest. The following Standards and Guidelines will be implemented through this Allotment Management Plan:

1. Range

1. Provide forage to sustain local dependent livestock industry. (IV-36)
2. Remove livestock from allotments for the remainder of the grazing season when proper use is reached. (IV-36)
3. On rangeland in less than satisfactory condition, remove livestock when recovery of range condition cannot be accomplished by the grazing system.(IV-112)
4. Invest in cost effective grazing management and associated range improvements.
5. Invest in cost effective grazing management and rangeland productivity improvement. Where improvements include water developments. Where water right is in the name of the United States. (IV-112)
 - a. Structural improvement will not adversely affect big game movement. Reference FSM 2541.23.
6. Control noxious farm weeds in the following priority:
 - a. Musk thistles, Scotch thistle, Hoary Cress (White Top) Canada thistle.
 - b. Invasion of new plant species classified as noxious farm weeds;
 - c. Infestation in new areas;
 - d. Expansion of existing infestations of Scotch, Musk and Canada thistle, and other noxious farm weeds; and
 - e. Reduce acreage of current infestation. (IV-37)

2. Range Improvements

1. Structural range improvements should be developed to benefit both wildlife and livestock
 - a. Structural improvements and maintenance will be in accordance with FSM 2209.22 (R-4) and 2609.11. (IV-37)
2. To facilitate the control of soil erosion within acceptance tolerance, soil survey or site specific soils data will be used to develop revegetation projects.(IV-37)

3. Recreation

1. Manage livestock grazing to enhance recreation opportunities in existing and proposed recreation sites.
 - a. Construct fences of material other than barbed wire around developed sites. (IV-59,61)
2. Exclude grazing of recreational stock and livestock in developed recreation sites.
 - a. Maintain vegetation in fair or better range condition.(IV,59)
3. Manage livestock distribution and stocking rates to be compatible with recreation use. Locate Structural improvements to meet Visual Quality Objectives. (IV-65)

III. Management Actions

A. Management System

1. Livestock Grazing System

The Black Mountain Allotment will be managed as a modified deferred rotation system. The rotation is as follows:

YEAR	1st	2nd	3rd
2013/2016/2019 /2022	Bowers Flat	Strawberry Creek	Ikes Valley
2014/2017/2020 /2023	Strawberry Creek	Ikes Valley	Bowers Flat
2015/2018/2021 /2024	Ikes Valley	Bowers Flat	Strawberry Creek

The grazing rotation may be further modified depending on resource needs and conditions.

2. Utilization Standard Criteria

The following is not an all-inclusive list of proper-use criteria. There may be additional criteria necessary for grazing allotments. These proper-use criteria may be added to or adjusted at any time in the Allotment Management Plant (AMP) or the Annual Operating Instructions (AOI).

Exceeding any one of these standards in a monitoring area will trigger livestock removal from the pasture or allotment.

Dixie NF - Maximum Allowable Forage Use Criteria					
UTILIZATION BY SERAL STAGE					
Vegetation Type	Very Early	Early	Mid	Late	Comments * SH = Stubble Height
Riparian Hydric Species	6" SH	6" SH	4" SH	4" SH	Remaining at end of growing season
Riparian Emphasis Management Areas	6" SH	6" SH			Remaining at end of growing season
Hydric Species in wet meadows not influenced by streams	6" SH	6" SH	4" SH	4" SH	Remaining at end of growing season
Non-hydric Species in Riparian Areas	2" SH	2" SH	2" SH	2" SH	Remaining at end of growing season
Upland Species	50%	50%	50%	50%	Varying in specific unit from 40-60%
Wheatgrass Seedings	60%	60%	60%	60%	Management option to exceed 60% use to maintain healthy seedings
Riparian Browse	<50%				New Leader Production
Streambanks	<20% disturbance				Sloughing, trampling, dislodged stones, animal tracks
Where it is determined through the landscape assessment process that ungulate grazing is contributing to an identified functioning-at-risk condition relative to habitat needed to support goshawk and its prey; the following utilization standards will be implemented.					
Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs)	Pond Pine/ Mixed	Grass/Forb	Avg 20% NTE 40%	Applies in up to 2-acre openings in 600-acre areas	

BLACK MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

	Species			
Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs)	Pond Pine/ Mixed Species	Shrub	Avg 40% NTE 50%	Applies in up to 2-acre openings in 600-acre areas
Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs)	Spruce-Fir	Grass/Forb	Avg 20% NTE 40%	Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 600-acre areas
Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs)	Spruce-Fir	Shrub	Avg 40% NTE 50%	Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 600-acre areas
Goshawk Foraging Areas	Pond Pine/ Mixed Species	Grass/Forb	Avg 20% NTE 40%	Applies in up to 4-acre openings in 6000-acre areas
Goshawk Foraging Areas	Pond Pine/ Mixed Species	Shrub	Avg 40% NTE 50%	Applies in up to 4-acre openings in 6000-acre areas
Goshawk Foraging Areas	Spruce-Fir	Grass/Forb	Avg 20% NTE 40%	Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 6000-acre areas
Goshawk Foraging Areas	Spruce-Fir	Shrub	Avg 40% NTE 50%	Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 6000-acre areas

IV. Monitoring and Evaluation

A. Effectiveness Monitoring

The following monitoring program is proposed for the Black Mountain Allotment Analysis area:

1. Maintain re-read and re-photograph the following studies at least every 10-15 years.

Dixie Vegetation Trend Studies	
Study ID	Study Site Name
9178	Burrows Flat
9177	Mammoth Cave
9099	Uinta Flat Exclosure
9096	Uinta Flat Exclosure
6139	Strawberry Knoll
9171	Seaman Canyon
7108	Ikes Valley
9180	Houston Flat
9179	Wilson Spring
9176	Duck Creek Sinks
7109	Bower Flat Exclosure
7106	Bower Flat Exclosure

V. Improvements

Special Terms and Conditions

A. RANGE IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE AND LIVESTOCK HERDING STANDARDS

The following maintenance standards apply to all range improvements on the allotment. The permittee shall maintain all range improvements assigned in this permit to the standards listed below. The permittee shall promptly notify the Forest Officer regarding improvements that cannot be maintained to these standards; these improvements will then be scheduled for reconstruction. The livestock herding standards listed below will be followed.

Maintenance work resulting in ground disturbance will require prior authorization. In many instances, archeological and biological surveys will need to be done.

1. Range Structural Improvements

1. All improvements (range facilities) on the allotment will be maintained by the assigned permittee (as provided for in Part 2, 8i of the Term Grazing Permit) to a condition adequate to perpetuate the life of the facility and to serve the purpose intended.
2. All improvements will be constructed by cost-sharing between the permittees and the Forest Service unless otherwise specified. Maximum share of improvements by the government will be 50%.

2. Stockwater Developments -- Water Troughs (or Tanks), Pipelines and Stockwater Ponds

1. Fences around spring sources will be maintained to the standards established for "range fences" (as below) to prevent livestock from accessing the spring source.
2. Headbox lids or covers shall be in place, or if broken replaced, to prevent dirt, rodents, or other refuse from falling into the headbox.
3. All outlet pipes and valves from headboxes must be functioning properly.
4. Pipeline leaks will be repaired or the damaged section replaced with materials similar to the original construction materials.
5. Pipelines with valve cover boxes will be kept covered and repaired when needed.
6. Water troughs (tanks) will be kept at heights that make them usable to livestock. Troughs that become elevated from livestock trampling will be periodically backfilled to maintain a usable height.
7. Water troughs that become uneven due to settling will be reset and leveled.
8. Water shall not be allowed to overflow the sides of the troughs. Overflow pipes must be kept clear. Overflow pipes will be buried at least 6" deep (unless steel pipe is used) and the end of the overflow

BLACK MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

pipe must be protected from trampling by livestock (use rocks). Water from the overflow pipe must be directed away from the trough area at least 30 feet.

9. Inlet pipe shall be protected by anchoring to the trough with a single post next to the vertical pipe and brace or pole supporting the horizontal pipe. Inlet and outlet pipeline will be buried at least 6" deep to ensure protection from trampling. Steel pipe will be used where rock or hardpan prohibits digging.
10. All troughs shall be equipped with a wildlife escape ramp. Wildlife escape ramps shall be maintained in a functional capacity to provide access for small mammals and birds.
11. Troughs, storage tanks, and pipelines will be drained and cleaned periodically to prevent algae and debris buildup and damage from freezing.
12. Poles, posts, and trough-framing materials used in the construction of the water development will be maintained, repaired, or replaced as needed.
13. Stockwater ponds will be kept clear of debris, floating logs, dead animals, etc. Spillways will be cleaned and maintained to prevent washing out or becoming plugged.
14. Old posts, troughs, pipe, wire, and other materials that have been removed will be promptly hauled off of the National Forest.

3. Range Fences and Corrals

1. All broken wires will be spliced and repaired in such a manner that tension on a wire can be maintained. Wire splices will be made with 12-gauge size tie wire or type of wire used in initial construction. Nicro-press sleeves may also be used.
2. Broken or rotten posts, broken braces, and missing staples will be replaced where and when needed to maintain the fence. Replacement post will be cedar (juniper) or treated material.
3. Wires will be re-stretched where needed.
4. Broken or missing stays will be replaced where needed.
5. Fences will be maintained to meet big game standards (bottom wire 16" above ground, top wire 40-42" above ground) on.
6. Staples will not be driven so deep into the post that they scar or create a weak spot in the wire.
7. All gates will be closed before livestock enter the grazing units and opened and tied back in the fall after livestock leave the allotment.

BLACK MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

8. Wire gate tension will be sufficient to prevent the gate from sagging and still be easily opened and closed. Gate loops will be made from smooth wire (barbless wire), not barbed wire.
9. Trees that fall on fences will be cut and removed when and where needed; broken wires will be spliced and re-stretched; broken poles will be replaced.
10. Broken or rotten sections of log or pole fences and corrals will be replaced as needed.
11. Corrals will be kept clean of litter, in good repair, and usable condition.
12. Metal posts will be straightened or replaced as necessary. Clips will be used to fasten wire onto metal posts.
13. "Let-down" fences will be let-down promptly when livestock exit the allotment.
14. Old posts and wire that have been removed will be promptly hauled off of the National Forest.

4. Livestock Herding Standards

1. Numbers and season of use will be adjusted annually if determined necessary by the District Ranger.
2. No livestock will be allowed on Forest lands until range readiness as determined by the Forest Service has been reached.
3. Permittees will be required to notify the Forest Service when animals enter the Forest and when they leave at the end of the season.
4. The permittee or association will furnish sufficient riders or herders for proper distribution, protection, and management of livestock on the allotment as required by the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and/or Annual Operating Instructions (AOI).
5. Distribution is critical as utilization is approached you will be required to move to the next unit or off of the Allotment. Therefore, it is vital that the herd be moved daily out of areas of high concentration to areas typically ignored. Do not allow livestock to concentrate at historically used areas. Strays will not be allowed to stay in previously grazed units and will be moved promptly.
6. Salt should be placed no closer than 1/4 mile from water nor within 100 feet of roads. In some instances, salt may be placed near upland water sources only if there is a problem keeping livestock in the area. Avoid salting in natural passes.
7. Salt will be moved from areas where feed has been used to standards. (IV-37)

BLACK MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

8. Livestock should be drifted instead of trailed wherever possible. Prohibit trailing of livestock along the length of riparian areas. Relocate stock driveways where found in riparian areas. Rehabilitate damaged riparian areas to achieve riparian-area goals.
9. Carcasses of dead livestock on National Forest lands will be removed by the owner for a distance of at least three-hundred (300) feet from any live water and one-hundred (100) feet from any trailhead or recreation trail. Carcasses will be removed for a distance of at least five-hundred (500) feet from any campground or picnic area.
10. Rider and herder camps will be kept clean, litter picked up and properly disposed of. Excess hay and other materials will be removed from the camp site when it is moved. Holding pens or corrals used for riding stock will be cleaned up and debris hauled off or disposed of.
11. No nooning, shading, or bedding within 100 yards of any streams.
12. Only one night/one time use of bed grounds.
13. Do not bed sheep within 200 yards of designated campgrounds, trails, trailheads, or maintained roads.
14. Only once-over grazing is allowed.
15. Only certified noxious weed free hay and straw will be used on the Dixie National Forest.

B. Rangeland Improvement Program

1. **Structural Improvements**
None.
2. **Vegetation Improvement and Management**
None.

C. Annual Operating Instructions

The Forest Officer will develop Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) each year. The AOI will be based on this Allotment Management Plan. Where feasible, multiple year AOI's may be employed with annual adjustments as necessary. The AOI will detail the current season's management schedule, rangeland development program, and use of key areas. These instructions will implement adaptive management in response to the results of the long-term studies. The AOI will become a part of the permit.

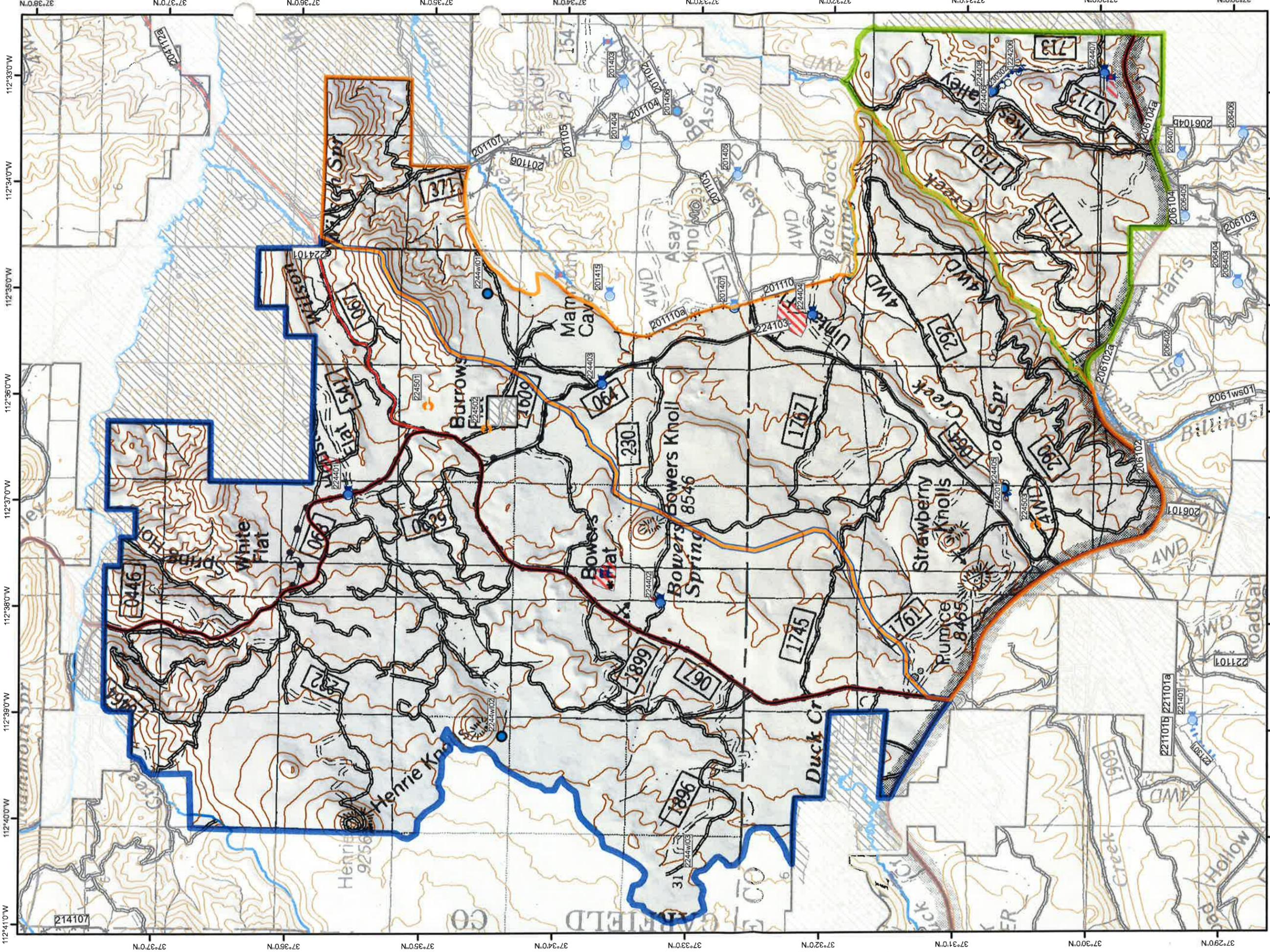
BLACK MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

BLACK MOUNTAIN RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

ID #	STRUCTURE NAME	FEATURE TYPE	SIZE	MAINT. RESPONSIBILITY
224101	WILSON CREEK BOUNDARY	FENCE	.39	ALLEN B. DALLEY
224102	BOWERS FLAT EXCLOSURE	FENCE	.11	CEDAR CITY RD
224103	UINTA FLAT EXCLOSURE	FENCE	.38	CEDAR CITY RD
224501	MAMMOTH JUNCTION CORRAL	HANDLING_FACILITY	200 X 200	ALLEN B. DALLEY
224502	BURROWS FLAT CORRAL	HANDLING_FACILITY	100 X 100	ALLEN B. DALLEY
224503	STRAWBERRY FLAT	HANDLING_FACILITY	200 X 80	ALLEN B. DALLEY
224201	COLD SPRING	WATER_SYSTEM		ALLEN B. DALLEY
224301	COLD SPRING PIPELINE	WATER_SYSTEM		ALLEN B. DALLEY
224401	HOUSTON FLAT RESERVOIR	WATER_SYSTEM		ALLEN B. DALLEY
224402	BOWERS SPRING POND	WATER_SYSTEM		ALLEN B. DALLEY
224403	MAMMOTH CAVE JUNCTION POND	WATER_SYSTEM		ALLEN B. DALLEY
224404	UINTA FLAT RESERVOIR	WATER_SYSTEM		ALLEN B. DALLEY
224405	COLD SPRING TROUGH	WATER_SYSTEM		ALLEN B. DALLEY
2244WL01	WILSON CREEK GUZZLER	WATER_SYSTEM		CEDAR CITY RD
2244WL02	HENRIE KNOLL GUZZLER	WATER_SYSTEM		CEDAR CITY RD
2244WL03	DUCK CREEK GUZZLER	WATER_SYSTEM		CEDAR CITY RD

Graphics and Appendices

Boundary/Range Improvement Map.
Map Designating Key Areas.







Black Mountain Allotment

Page 13 of 14
 Dixie National Forest
 Cedar City Ranger District
 Black Mountain Allotment
 3/20/2013 B. Monroe

This map outlines the boundary, structures and key areas of the Black Mountain S&G Allotment to be used in association with the Allotment Management Plan. User needs to exercise caution regarding the accuracy of these data. The source scales and vintage can vary. The USFS provides no warranty, nor accepts any liability from any incorrect, incomplete, or misleading data. This data may be updated at any time without notification.

Legend

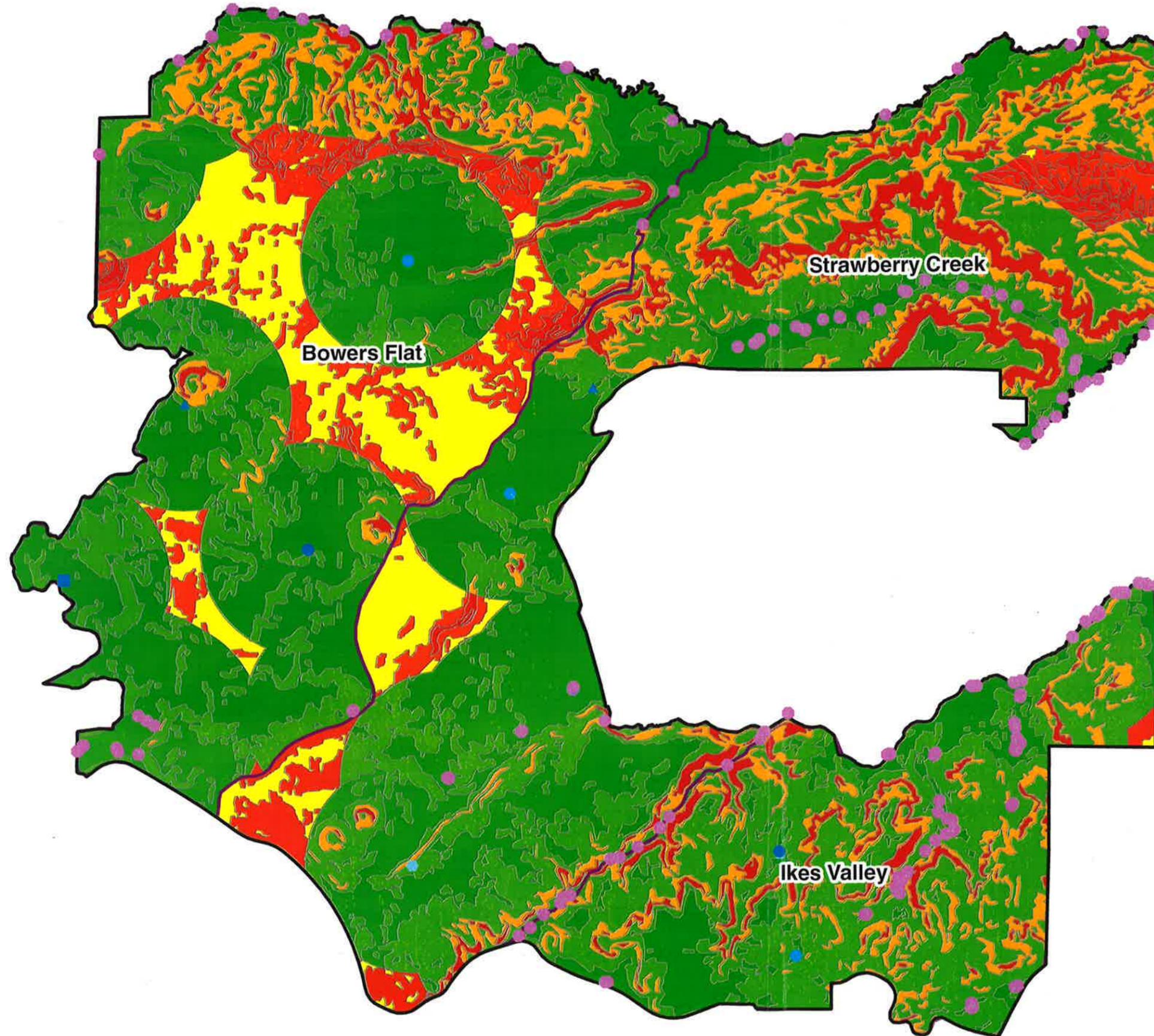
	Springs		Monitoring Sites
	Corrals		Key Area
	Pond		Pasture
	Galv. Trough		Bowers Flat
	Steel Trough		Ikes Valley
	Pipelines		Strawberry Creek
	Fences		



0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

Black Mountain Allotment Capacity Acres

Total Acres - 40,577
Capable Acres - 26,869



0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

Legend

Capable Acres Capability Factor

-  0
-  0.2
-  0.35
-  0.4
-  0.5
-  0.7
-  1
-  Concrete bottom rim
-  Enclosed tank
-  Pond
-  Reservoir
-  Trough
-  Perennial
-  Allotment
-  Pasture