ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

For

Pines C&H Allotment

Powell Ranger District
Dixie National Forest
Region 4

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District Ranger

This Allotment Management Plan is made part of the Term Grazing Permit in accordance with Section 8a of that permit and implements the Decision Notice signed by Hugh C. Thompson, Forest Supervisor, on November 14, 1995.

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INTRODUCTION

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.).

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 (1) prescribing 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) 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 provisions of the FLPMA (43 USC 1702(k), and 36 CFR 222.1(b) (2)., and FSM 1023).

The Pines C&H Allotment Management Plan was prepared in compliance with the approved Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Issuance of 10-Year Term Grazing Permits Assessment, approved on November 14, 1995.

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

I. GOALS, OBJECTIVES & DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

Meet or move toward the following Goals, Objectives and Desired Future Conditions contained in the Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP).

A. Goals:

Continue to improve management on the allotment. (LRMP, Chapter IV-6)

B. Objectives:

Manage the allotment to maintain suitable range presently in satisfactory condition, and improve suitable range that is less than satisfactory condition so that all suitable range is in at least the "Fair" condition class. (LRMP, Chapter IV-6)

C. Desired Future Condition:

1. **2A-Semiprimitive recreation**: "This area will provide the user with a moderate to high probability to experience isolation from the sights and sounds of human, independence, closeness to nature, tranquility and self-reliance through the application of woodsman and outdoor shills in an environment that offers challenge and risk. This opportunity exists for users to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment." (LRMP, Chapter IV-63)

2. **2B-Roaded Natural Recreation**: "This area is characterized by a modified natural environment. Resource modification and utilization practices usually harmonize with the natural environment. In some of the more modified zones within this area utilization practices enhance recreation activities, maintain vegetative cover, and soil. The opportunity to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment and to face challenges associated with more primitive forms of recreation will not be important. Both motorized and non-motorized forms of recreation are possible in this area. The natural features of the landscape will dominate." (LRMP, Chapter IV-68)

3. **4B-Wildlife Habitat MIS Species**: "The area(s) should provide nearly optimum habitat conditions for the fish or wildlife species being emphasized." (LRMP, Chapter IV-82)

4. **6A-Livestock Grazing**: "Acreage of areas receiving this emphasis will remain essentially the same as presently. Production and range condition will be improved. Areas where vegetation manipulation practices have been accomplished will be maintained for optimum forage production. Numbers of livestock improvements (water developments, fences) will increase." (LRMP, Chapter IV-109)

5. **7A-Wood Production and Utilization**: "This management area contains most of the commercial timber on the Forest and is the most highly productive for growing timber. The basic long-range objectives of timber management for this area are: 1. Create and maintain nearly equal areas in seedlings and saplings, poletimber, immature sawtimber and mature sawtimber. 2. Create and maintain stand conditions that will minimize growth loss and mortality from insects and diseases. 3. Convert slow growing stands of mature sawtimber (beyond culmination of mean annual increment for the product size objective) to young, thrifty stands of desirable species." (LRMP, Chapter IV-114)

6. **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, LRMP, Chapter V-6).

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, LRMP, Chapter 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, LRMP, Chapter V-6).

II. ACTION

A. Livestock kind, class numbers permitted, and season of use, and head months (HMs).

Permitted Number	464 Cattle
Class of Livestock	Cow-Calf
Season of Use	6/1 thru 10/10
Head Months (HMs)	2013 HMs

Season of use dates are tentative and are subject to change reflecting yearly changes in climatic conditions and vegetation growth.

B. Grazing system

A four unit deferred rotation grazing system will be used. The following table shows the planned grazing schedule.

Year	North John L. Swale	South John L. Swale	Berry Springs	Casto-Mud
1	6/1-6/22	6/23-8/10	8/11-9/9	9/10-10/10
2	8/19-9/9	6/1-7/18	9/10-10/10	7/19-8/18
3	9/18-10/10	8/1-9/17	7/2-7/31	6/1-7/1
4	7/1-7/22	8/23-10/10	6/1-6/30	7/23-8/22

(Repeat Cycle)

The grazing dates are tentative and will be adjusted as conditions and forage utilization warrant.

C. Management Requirements

1. **Proper Use Criteria:** This criteria is laid out in the Grazing Use Standards or Maximum Allowable Forage Use Criteria as shown in the table below:

Utilization By Seral Stage

Vegetation Type	Very Early	Early	Mid	Late	Comments
Hydric species in riparian areas	6" SH*	6" SH	4" SH	4" SH	Remaining at end of growing season.
Riparian Management Area 9B	6" SH	6" SH	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.
Streambanks	---------- <20% disturbance ----------				Sloughing/trampling/tracks
	Disturbance will be determined by establishing a statistically reliable number and location of 100 foot green line transects within the entire stream reach confined within the pasture. Percent disturbance will be measured along each transect, totaled, and averaged for the entire confined stream reach. An average exceeding 20% disturbance will indicate the proper time to remove livestock from this stream section.				
Riparian browse	---------- ≤50% ----------				New leader production.
Upland	50%	50%	50%	50%	Varying in specific unit from 40-60%.
Crested wheat grass	60%	60%	60%	60%	Management option to intensively graze at higher level to maintain healthy seeding.

Goshawk post-fledgling family areas (PFAs)

Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Species – use criteria applies in 1 to 2 acre openings in 600 acre area, as mapped and identified with grazing permittee (openings larger than 2 acres are not considered within the PFA):
Spruce – Fir – use criteria applies in ½ to 1 acre openings in 600 acre area, as mapped and identified with grazing permittee (openings larger than 1 acre are not considered within the PFA):

Grass, Forb	--- average 20% by weight – all species ---	Not exceed 40%.
Shrub	--- average 40% by weight – all species ---	Not exceed 50%.

Goshawk foraging areas

Ponderosa Pine/Mixed Species – use criteria applies in 1 to 4 acre openings in 6,000 acre area, as mapped and identified with grazing permittee (openings larger than 4 acres are not monitored foraging areas):
Spruce – Fir – use criteria applies in ½ to 1 acre openings in 6,000 acre area, as mapped and identified with grazing permittee (openings larger than 1 acre are not monitored foraging areas):

Grass, Forb	--- average 20% by weight – all species ---	Not exceed 40%.
Shrub	--- average 40% by weight – all species ---	Not exceed 50%.

*SH = Stubble Height

Exceeding any one of these standards in a monitoring area will indicate the proper time to distribute livestock away from that monitoring site onto available feed in other areas of the pasture or allotment. If distribution efforts are unsuccessful at maintaining proper use criterion within the monitoring site, then livestock may be required to be removed from the pasture or allotment.

2. **Livestock Management:** In addition to the proper use criteria, the livestock management practices and stipulations contained in part 2 and 3 of the term grazing permit will be adhered to.

   Livestock entry onto the allotment or into a specific pasture will not be authorized until such time as the soils are dry enough to withstand grazing and forage plants are ready to be grazed.

   Stray livestock will not be allowed to remain in the proviously grazed unit. All livestock will be moved in a timely manner. It is very important that all cattle be removed promptly by the end of the grazing season.

   Herding and salting practices will be followed to achieve proper distribution of livestock. Salt should not be placed closer than ¼ mile to water locations or other wetlands without prior approval. Also, salting locations should be at least 200 feet from developed trails, roads, or other areas of concentrated public use.

   Hauling of water for livestock may be necessary to achieve proper distribution of livestock.

3. **Noxious weed control:** An aggressive control program will be used to stop the spread and/or eradication of noxious weeds. The key to help stop the spread of noxious weeds on the District is monitoring and treatment of known noxious weed sites and identification of new noxious weed populations.

4. **Non Structual Improvements:** Rangeland areas which have been mechanically treated to manipulate vegetative conversions from either pinyon-juniper or sagebrush vegetative types for the specific purpose of providing livestock forage are assigned for permittee maintenance. Portions of livestock grazing capacities are based on production of these treated areas. If, during the tenure of this permit, forage production in these areas declines, thus significantly affecting grazing capacity, adjustments in livestock numbers and/or season of use will be adimistratively made.

III. Range Improvements:

In order to meet the objectives of this plan, all existing improvements will be maintained. Permittees are responsible for maintenance of all improvements. Maintenance must be completed in each unit prior to cattle entering that unit.

Existing range improvements are listed below (also see attached map):

A. Water Developments:

Impovement Name

Berry Spring Pipeline System
Lower Berry Spring Pipeline System
Showalter-Reid Ranch Pipeline System
Coyote Hollow-Lightining Draw Windmill
John L. Swale Windmill
Hancock Flat Pipeline System

B. Fences:

Improvement Name	**Size**
Forest boundary Casto Canyon and Losee Canyon Allotment and Forest boundary Cabin Hollow to Pat Willis Draw	10.3 miles
Forest boundary Pat Willis Draw to Flake Mtn Unit	1.3 miles
Unit and allotment boundary Pines Private lands to Spring Creek	6.5 miles
North John L Swale/South John L Swale Units	3.2 miles
Berry Springs/Casto Mud Units	2.5 miles
Allotment boundary Spring Creek to Flake Mtn Unit	4.4miles
Mud Springs Creek Corral	

Maintenance of all assigned improvements will be to established standards. All maintenance must be done annually wheather the allotment is actually grazed or not.

Maintenance must occur thoughout the season and cannot be a one time action. It is the permittees responsibilitiy to ensure that the necessary coordination occurs between adjacent allotments to ensure that maintenance is completed in a timely manner.

Damage resulting from big game, snow or other acts of nature, or human caused actions, must be repaired in a timely manner so as to insure the integrity of the structure.

If serious or repeated problems occur, the permittee will contact the Forest Officer and work to determine a long term solution to the problems. Replacement of improvements will depend on funding availability as well as the ability to ensure that necessary clearances are obtained. Failure to complete the assigned maintenance in a timely manner and to standard may be cause for actions to be taken against the grazing permit.

IV. EVALUATION

The allotment will be monitored as described below to measure success of the implementation in meeting the goals and objectives of the plan. Methodology of the identified studies is contained in the Forest Service Range Analysis Handbook, (eg. photo points and nested frequency).

Unit examinations will be made periodically during the grazing season. Estimates of forage utilization will be made. An evaluation of the health and condition of the range ecosystem will also be made.

Improvement maintenance and condition will be documented, and any needed improvement work identified.

Nested frequency plots will be established, and will be reread at five to ten year intervals as needed to document changes in the vegetative communities, to monitor trend and ecological status over time.

It is the Permittees responsibility for ensuring that maintenance is completed to standard and on time, that livestock do not enter the allotment or pasture prior to the approved entry date, that livestock are removed from pastures and the allotment as specified, and that livestock do not enter or re-enter pastures that either have already been grazed, or that are planned for rest. The permittee(s) will monitor the allotment continuously throughout the grazing season, and coordinate with the Forest Officer to resolve any problems in a timely manner.

Monitoring of allowable use is the joint responsibility of the Forest Service and the permittee(s). Although the Forest Service will make every effort to assist the permittee in ensuring compliance with the standards, the permittee has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the allowable use standards are met.

V. ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Each year at the annual permittee meeting (or through correspondance if no meeting is held), the permittee(s) and the Forest Service will discuss a set of Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) based on this Allotment Management Plan. The AOI will detail the current season's management schedule, maintenance responsibilities, rangeland development program, allowable use standards, key areas, and so forth. The AOI will become an amendment to this AMP and as such, part of the Term Grazing Permit.