MANAGEMENT PLAN

NAVAJO RIDGE SHEEP ALLOTMENT

Cedar City Ranger District
Dixie National Forest

Plan Prepared By: Phillip H. Bayles - 4/8/68

Approved By: Jack Shumate - 4/19/68

Updated By: Lee B. Harris Date: 2/14/79
Range Conservationist

Approval Recommended By: Robert H. Brunson Date: 2/23/79
District Ranger

Approval Recommended By: Frank Jensen Date: 3/1/79
Chief, Branch of Range Management

Approved By: Merlin D. Bishop Date: 3/1/79
Forest Supervisor

I. INFORMATION SECTION

A. History and Current Status

The allotment has been exclusive sheep range since 1949 when common use on the allotment was eliminated. Permitted numbers have varied from 1406 to 783 and grazing seasons have varied from 6/16-10/31 to 7/6-8/31. The present obligation is for 783 sheep with a grazing season of 7/6 to 8/31.

The allotment boundary was changed in 1976 when a portion of the old Ireland Allotment southeast of Bear Flat was added to the Navajo Ridge Allotment. In 1978 approximately 243 acres in the northeast corner of the allotment became private land as a result of a land exchange.

B. Ranch Operation

The present permittee has a ewe-lamb operation which is dependent on National Forest to round out his year-long operation. Bureau of Land Management, private and State Lands are used for fall, winter, and spring grazing.

The current permit is written as follows:

TABLE 1

Permittee	Allotment	Sheep Numbers	Season	Sheep Months
Lorin Jones	Navajo Ridge	783	7/6 - 8/31	1,436

Lorin Jones also has a permit on the Cedar Canyon allotment for 218 sheep June 26 to September 10 for 545 sheep months.

C. Range Condition and Trend

The Range Allotment Analysis was completed in 1966. It has been updated to reflect current conditions. The following is a summary of present acreages in the various suitability, condition, and vegetal types:

Table II

Acres By Suitability Classes and Vegetal Types

Condition Class	Suitable S1	S4	S6	S10	Sub Total	Unsuitable Closed	7	8	Totals
Good	122	55	311	1286	1774				1774
Fair	350		434		784				784
Not Classified						35	665	231	1931
Totals	472	55	745	1286	2558	35	665	231	3489

D. Estimated Grazing Capacity

Followup inspections indicate there is adequate forage to support the current sheep numbers and to meet wildlife requirements. However, during very dry years, it may be necessary to remove the livestock from the allotment before the end of the grazing season.

II. MANAGEMENT GOALS

Specifically the plan seeks to accomplish the following:

1. Employ a grazing system that will maintain overall plant vigor and increase ground cover near head of Red Creek, south of Sugarloaf Mountain and on Bear Flat.

2. Provide for wildlife requirements in management system.

3. Monitor sheep trailing on stock driveway and reduce trailing time and bedding as needed to maintain satisfactory range conditions and meet allotment objectives.

4. Eliminate unauthorized livestock use where possible. (Six Lakes cattle allotment is not fenced; consequently some drift may have to be tolerated.)

5. Continue to work with permittees to eliminate unauthorized use on Mammoth Summit.

6. Continue to work with permittees to prevent conflicts with Brian Head Ski Development complex.

7. Regulate grazing to protect existing watershed work.

8. Protect esthetics along Navajo Ridge road.

III. ACTION SECTION

A. Management System

The allotment is divided into three grazing units. These units will be used under a deferred-rotation management system which is designed to give maximum livestock production and still allow the plants to complete their physiological growth cycle. If the system doesn't meet the objectives outlined under Section II, then an alternate system will be implemented.

The grazing system is outlined as follows:

Table III

Year	Third House	Bear Flat Hole	Tink's Racetrack
1	A	B	C
2	C	A	B
3	B	C	A
		(Repeat Cycle)	

A - Graze first-until proper use is reached.
B - Graze second-until proper use is reached.
C - Graze third-until proper use is reached or 8/25. The sheep will then be removed from the allotment.

B. Proper Use Criteria

The R-4 Range Analysis Handbook (Section 60) points out that 50% utilization of the species being managed is about all the use that should be made in most ranges.

The exception is wet meadows in good condition then up to 60% utilization might be made. Therefore, in keeping with Regional direction, a proper use factor of 50% of the palatable forage species growing on the suitable range will be used.

C. Administrative Action to Implement Program

The District Ranger or Range Conservationist 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.

The permittee will need to have a herder to properly herd the sheep. The permittee will also need to place salt in proper locations and perform needed maintenance of fences and water developments.

D. Administrative Problems

Two sheep driveways are located in the allotment. One follows the Sugarloaf road through the allotment to Bear Flat and the other driveway goes through the allotment next to Cedar Breaks National Monument.

There is still evidence of excessive use along the Sugarloaf road as a result of dual use. As specified in Section II, trailing time must be reduced where possible to reduce further conflicts with existing allotment grazing.

Also, the Six lakes cattle allotment is not fenced and some drift to the adjacent alloments occurs. One objective in the Six Lakes C&H plan is to change the cattle permits to sheep permits when the opportunity arises.

E. Range Development Program

1. Existing Improvements

Name	Type	Location	Constructed	Maintained By
High Mountain	Reservoir	NE¼NW¼, Sec 18, T36S, R9W	1962	Forest Service
Tink's Racetrack	Reservoir	NE¼NE¼, Sec 18 T36S, R9W	1962	Forest Service

F. Correlation With Other Uses

Management of this allotment will correlate grazing with other uses as outlined in Sugarloaf Mountain unit of the Yankee Meadow Management area of the Markagunt Plateau Planning unit. Specific coordination measures are outlined as follows:

Recreation

There are two existing recreation areas on the allotment. The two areas are Brian Head Ski Lift and the Twisted Forest area. Occasional sheep use on the ski slopes has resulted in contention with Brian Head Ski operation.

The Navajo Ridge Road is used for scenic drives. Grazing will be regulated to insure that views from the Navajo Ridge road are retained.

A portion of the Bear Flat Hole unit is included in the proposed Ashdown wilderness area which will be considered by congress in 1979. The grazing management system outline in Section III will maintain wilderness objectives.

Timber

There are commercial and noncommercial stands of spruce, white fir, aspen and Bristlecone pine on the allotment. Bristlecone pine, both dead and living, will be protected. Other species will be protected as necessary by restricting grazing on reforested areas.

Watershed

Some watershed rehabilitation work was done to stabilize those areas damaged by overgrazing and other uses. These areas will be protected as necessary to maintain existing watershed work.

Management and proper use criteria will be directed toward achieving and maintaining a minimum of 65% ground cover on all areas.

Wildlife

There are a variety of wildlife species on the allotment. Deer are present during the spring, summer, and fall. The range is also used as deer fawning area.

Forage is retained through the grazing system for wildlife requirements each year. Also, grazing will be regulated to protect the deer fawning habitat.

IV. FOLLOWUP SECTION

A. Inspections

Inspection will be made during the grazing season to firm up pheonology data and to check compliance with annual plan of use. As part of the inspection, form R4-2200-15 will be completed for each unit each year.

B. Management Studies

A photo plot and site analysis transect will be permanently established in at least 2 of the 3 units to determine soil and vegetative trends.

C. Counting

Sheep will be counted each year at or near the time they enter the Forest.