United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Dixie National Forest
Cedar City Ranger District
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Cedar City, UT 84720-7769
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Allotment Management Plan

For

Strawberry C&H Allotment

Cedar City Ranger District – Dixie National Forest – Region 4

Management Plan Prepared by /s/ *Brian Monroe* **Date:** 9/17/2009
Rangeland Management Specialist

Reviewed By: /s/ *Merlin Esplin* **Date:** 9/17/2009
Permittee

Approved by: /s/ *Dayle Flanigan* **Date:** 9/18/2009
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

Strawberry C&H 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 and Past Management—
As early as 1900 the Strawberry Allotment was part of a large area of common use range. In order to create exclusive cattle range in Tommy Creek and Asay Bench, the permittees, along with those on adjacent allotments, assisted with the retirement of seep permits, which were waived back to the Forest Service for range protection. At that time, portions of the present allotment were formed into sheep allotments. In 1949 the permittee changed his preference from sheep to cattle and the allotment has been grazed by cattle since that time.

In 1964 this permit was waived from M.G. Holgate to J.B. Investment Company and, at that time, the permit was reduced 50% to reflect the estimated carrying capacity of the allotment. The adjustment was made prior to sale of land and the transfer of the permit. In 1976 the permit was transferred from J.B. Investment Co. to Clark and Florene Lamb. This permit was then waved to Mack Esplin in 1997 who is the present permittee.

In 1979 the Willis Creek sheep allotment was retired, making it possible to realign allotment boundary lines on this and several adjacent allotments; thus, creating the present allotment. This allotment has been previously been called the Swains Creek Allotment. However, due to some boundary changes, resulting from the retirement of the Willis Creek Allotment, it will now be called the Strawberry Cattle Allotment.

The season of use for this allotment has historically run anywhere from 7/1 to 10/15.

D.Current Management – The Strawberry C&H Allotment as depicted in map 1 (appendix) has one (1) pasture and is grazed by 75 cow/calf pair during a season of use 7/16 to 10/15. There are

5,572 acres on the allotment of which 716 acres are suitable for cattle grazing, while 4,856 acres are classed as timber or non-range types.

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

A. Summary of Existing Resource Conditions

The Strawberry Allotment has experienced an increase in conifer as well as a decline in Aspen which is further agitated by little to no Aspen Regeneration. One of the concerns on this allotment is the uncontrolled recreation such as dispersed camping and the use of OHVs in the Lars Fork drainage. There is evidence that the actual stream and stream channel are being used as a race track and jump area, with water traps, for UTVs, ATVs and full sized four wheel drive vehicles.

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).

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)

- Maintain the relative frequency 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).

- 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 or above 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 Strawberry Allotment. Coordinate efforts with Iron and Garfield Counties by documenting new outbreaks of listed species. Currently there are 2 main areas that are being treated at the present time. Those areas are Sandy Creek for Hoary Cress (whitetop) infestation and Three Mile Creek for Musk thistle. Canada thistle has also been found on the allotment.

B. 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:

➢ 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 weeds in the following priority:
    A. Dalmation Toadflax, Spotted Knapweed, White Top, Musk thistles, Scotch thistle, Canada thistle.

B. Invasion of new plant species classified as noxious weeds;
C. Infestation in new areas;
D. Expansion of existing infestations of Scotch, Musk and Canada thistle, and other noxious weeds; and
E. Reduce acreage of current infestation. (IV-37)

➢ 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)

➢ 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)
4. One of the concerns on this allotment is the uncontrolled recreation such as dispersed camping and the use of OHVs in the Lars Fork drainage. There is evidence that the actual stream and stream channel are being used as a race track and jump area, with water traps, for UTVs, ATVs and full sized four wheel drive vehicles.

III. Management Actions

A. Management System

1. Livestock Grazing System

The Strawberry Allotment is managed as a one pasture allotment with season long grazing.

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

2. Utilization Standard Criteria

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
Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs)	Pond Pine/ Mixed Species	Grass/Forb	Avg 20% NTE 40%		Applies in up to 2-acre openings in 600-acre areas
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

B. Livestock Management

1. No livestock will be allowed on Forest lands until range readiness as determined by the Forest Service has been reached.
2. 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.
3. Permittee is required to provide a rider/herder to achieve proper distribution and management of the livestock.
4. Utilization will be followed as prescribed. When the prescribed use level is reached livestock will be moved to the next unit or off the allotment.
5. Numbers and season of use will be adjusted annually if determined necessary by the District Ranger.
6. Distribution is critical as utilization is approached you will be required to move to the next allotment. Therefore, it is vital that the herd be moved daily out of areas of high consentration to areas typicaly 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.
7. Salt will be located at least 1/4 mile from water troughs, springs, ponds, lakes, wet meadows and riparian areas. Salt will be moved from areas where feed has been used to standards. (IV-37)
8. 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%.
9. Fences will be designed and located to consider wildlife and visual impacts.
10. All stock water troughs will have small animal escape features installed.
11. Permittees will be required to notify the Forest Service when animals enter the Forest and when they leave at the end of the season.
12. Existing fences will be extended or modified where needed in order to provide a complete barrier to livestock movement.
13. Cultural resource survey and clearance will be required prior to construction of ground disturbing range improvements.
14. 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.
15. 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.

C. Noxious Weed Prevention Practices

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
ALL NATIONAL FORESTS

Weed Free Hay Order

PROHIBITIONS:

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (a) and (b), and 36 CFR 261.58(t), a Regional Forester may prohibit possessing, storing, or transporting any part of a tree or other plant, as specified in the Order. By this Order, the following acts are prohibited on the area, roads, and trails as described in this order, all within National Forest System Lands within the Intermountain Region until further notice:

1. Possessing, storing, or transporting, non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch on National Forest System Lands without having each individual bale or container tagged or marked as weed free, or having original and current evidence of weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet the State and/or County standards for certification as weed free.

EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (e) the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing them from the effect of this Order.
2. Any member of an organized rescue force in the performance of an official duty.

AREA DESCRIBED:

All National Forest System Lands within the boundaries of the Intermountain Region that include the Ashley, Boise, Bridger-Teton, Caribou-Targhee, Dixie, Fishlake, Humboldt-Toiyabe, Manti-Lasal, Payette, Salmon-Challis, Sawtooth, Uinta and Wasatch-Cache National Forests.

PURPOSE:

The above prohibition is necessary to prevent the spread of noxious weeds into a vulnerable ecosystem on National Forest System lands.

IMPLEMENTATION:

1. This Order will be in effect when signed and shall remain in effect until further notice.
2. Any violation of this prohibition is punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000 for an individual or $10,000, for an organization, and/or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months. [Title 16 USC 551, Title 18 USC 3571(b)(6), Title 18 USC 3581 (b)(7)].
3. This Order supersedes any previous orders prohibiting the same, or similar, acts in the above described areas.

Done at Ogden, Utah this 11th day of February 2003.

JACK G. TROYER
JACK G. TROYER
Regional Forester
Intermountain Region

Order Number: 04-00-097

A. Rangeland Improvement Program

No improvements are scheduled for this allotment.

3.Vegetation Management

IV.Monitoring and Evaluation

A) Effectiveness Monitoring

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

1. Maintain re-read and re-photograph the following ground cover, photo points, 3' X 3' photo plots and nested frequency studies at least every 10-15 years.

   a. 8125 Strawberry Exclosure
   b. 8066 Strawberry

7. Re-read the Green Line every 10-15 years.

   a. 6138 Lars Fork

B) 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.

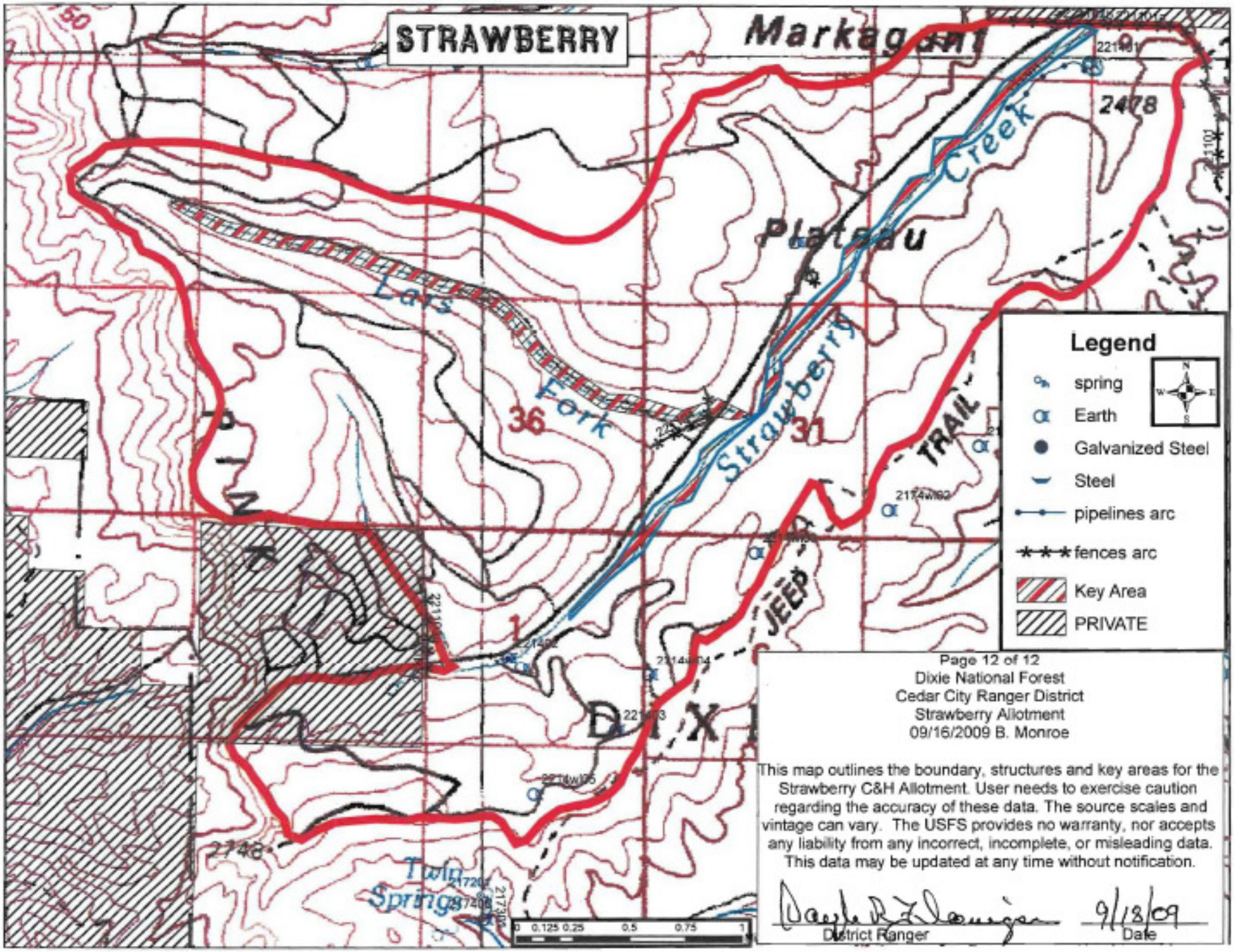
IIV.Improvements

STRAWBERRY RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

ID #	FEATURE_NAME	FEATURE_TYPE	SIZE	PERMITTEE_NAME
221101	STRAWBERRY RIDGE BOUNDARY	FENCE	.82	MACK ESPLIN LIVESTOCK
221101A	STRAWBERRY RIDGE BOUNDARY	FENCE	.22	MACK ESPLIN LIVESTOCK
221101B	STRAWBERRY RIDGE BOUNDARY	FENCE	.53	MACK ESPLIN LIVESTOCK
221102	STRAWBERRY VALLEY STUDY ENCLOSURE	FENCE	.17	CEDAR CITY RD
221103	STRAWBERRY BOUNDARY	FENCE	.14	MACK ESPLIN LIVESTOCK
221103A	UPPER STRAWBERRY BOUNDARY	FENCE	.26	MACK ESPLIN LIVESTOCK
221301	STRAWBERRY DITCH	WATER_SYSTEM		MACK ESPLIN LIVESTOCK
221302	UPPER STRAWBERRY DITCH	WATER_SYSTEM		MACK ESPLIN LIVESTOCK
221402	UPPER STRAWBERRY RESERVOIR	WATER_SYSTEM		MACK ESPLIN LIVESTOCK
221403	STRAWBERRY RIDGE RESERVOIR	WATER_SYSTEM		MACK ESPLIN LIVESTOCK
221404	POND	WATER_SYSTEM		
221405	POND	WATER_SYSTEM		
2214WL01	STRAWBERRY RIDGE 1	WATER_SYSTEM		CEDAR CITY RD
2214WL02	STRAWBERRY RIDGE 2	WATER_SYSTEM		CEDAR CITY RD
2214WL03	STRAWBERRY RIDGE 3	WATER_SYSTEM		CEDAR CITY RD
2214WL04	STRAWBERRY RIDGE 4	WATER_SYSTEM		CEDAR CITY RD
2214WL05	STRAWBERRY RIDGE 5	WATER_SYSTEM		CEDAR CITY RD

IIIV. Graphics and Appendices

A. Allotment Boundary/Range Improvement/ Key Area Map


STRAWBERRY
Markagunt
Plateau
Creek
Strawberry
Lars
Fork
TRAIL
JEEP
Twin
Springs
2478
36
31
Legend
spring
Earth
Galvanized Steel
Steel
pipelines arc
fences arc
Key Area
PRIVATE
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Dixie National Forest
Cedar City Ranger District
Strawberry Allotment
09/16/2009 B. Monroe
This map outlines the boundary, structures and key areas for the Strawberry C&H Allotment. 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.
District Ranger
9/18/09
Date