

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

WARREN - BUNKER S & G

Cedar City Ranger District

Dixie National Forest

Revised By: Don B. House Date: 3-11-76

Recommended By: Paul H. Rasmussen Date: 5/17/76

Approved By: Frank Jensen Date: MAY 20 1976

ACTING FOREST SUPERVISOR

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Description

The Warren-Bunker S&G allotment is located on the Markagunt Plateau approximately six miles west of Panguitch Lake. It covers an area of about 7,600 acres.

At an elevation of between 9,000 and 10,000 feet, it stretches across the Bunker Creek, Castle Creek and Mammoth Creek drainages.

B. History and Current Status

From the creation of the forest in 1905 to 1947, many small allotments were consolidated into the present Warren-Bunker allotment. Portions of the allotment were withdrawn to form exclusive cattle range on the Red Desert and the Clear creek allotments.

In 1955 the grazing preference was obtained by J. Harold Mitchell from Howard M. Adams, who then transferred the grazing preference to Harold S. Mitchell in 1968. In 1970 Glen Halterman obtained the grazing permit on this area.

In 1966 the State of Utah transferred 920 acres in Sections 16 and 21, Township 36 South, Range 8 West, to the Forest Service through a land exchange program. Because of this acquisition 50 sheep were added to the Warren-Bunker allotment and additional range with no increase in sheep numbers was added to the Castle Valley allotment.

In 1975 Glen Halterman and Melvin Miller (Dry Lake-Bunker C&H) mutually agreed to a boundary change. The Delong stretch was added to Warren-Bunker S&G and the south half of Section 2, Township 36 South, Range 8 West, was added to Dry Lake-Bunker C&H with no change in numbers or season.

In 1990 Scott Stubbs purchased 900 head of sheep and the grazing permit from Glen Halterman. The permit was reduced at this time from 1122 to 900 sheep with no change in season.

In 1997 Scott Stubbs agreed to a trade with Paul Hatch, permittee on the Dry Lake-Bunker - Hatch Mountain cattle allotment. The Castle Valley portion of the Hatch Mountain allotment was added to Warren-Bunker and the head of Bunker Creek was added to Dry Lake-Bunker - Hatch Mountain. There was no change in permitted sheep number or season.

The current permit is written as follows:

TABLE 1

Permittee	Season	Number	Sheep Months
Scott Stubbs	7/6 - 9/20	900	2250

The present permittee is engaged in a ewe-lamb operation and is dependent on National Forest land to round out his year-long operation. Private lands provide forage when the sheep are not on the forest.

C. Range Condition and Estimated Grazing Capacity

Range allotment analysis was completed in 1967. The following is a summary of present acreage in the various suitability, condition and vegetal types:

Suitability	Condition Class			Total
	Good	Fair	Not Classified	
Grass	672	143		815
Meadow	433	217		650
Sagebrush	275			275
Timber		2,027		2,027
Aspen	357	116		473
Unsuitable			125	125
Non-Range			3,060	3,060
Total	1,715 [?]	2,463 [?]	3,185	7,425

Grazing capacity and permitted sheep months are very close on this allotment. If the permittee is willing to put in the effort to properly manage the sheep, during most years, proper use and multiple use objectives can be met. However, some years proper use will be reached before September 20 and the sheep will have to leave the allotment.

II. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The management objectives for this allotment are to provide for the physiological requirements of the plants and provide a proper balance between sheep numbers and the forage resource. Our goal is to attain maximum forage production through sound livestock management while correlating grazing use with other uses and activities. Specifically, the plan seeks to accomplish the following:

- A. Stabilize soil condition in upper portion of Sidney and Bunker Creek units.
- B. Provide a full forage supply for 1122 sheep for 2805 sheep months, if possible.
- C. Eliminate trespass from adjacent allotments.
- D. Install condition and trend studies in each grazing unit as needed.
- ✓ E. Implement followup program to test management system and to firm up grazing capacity.
- ✓ F. Provide for wildlife requirements in the management system.
- G. Maintain aesthetics along Panguitch Lake - Cedar Breaks highway.
- ✓ H. Protect tree plantations and natural regeneration in timber sales from grazing until trees are established.

III. ACTION PROGRAM

A. Management System

The allotment will be divided into two units and will be grazed under a deferred rotation management system. The system is designed to delay grazing in each unit until after flowering and seed ripe stage of some forage plants, every other year.

The estimated date of flowering is July 10 and seed ripe is August 10. Sheep will begin grazing one year in Bunker Creek and the next year in Mammoth Creek.

Following is the schedule of use:

Year	<u>SIDNEY VALLEY</u> Bunker-DeLong Stretch	<u>CASTLE VALLEY-</u> Hancock-Lowder Stretch
1	A	B
2	B	A

Code: A - Graze first until proper use is reached (approximately 7/6 - 8/15)

B - Graze second until proper use is reached or 9/20 (approximately 8/16 - 9/20) whichever is reached first. The sheep will then be removed from the allotment.

The grazing plan as outlined above will be tested based on the management objectives outlined in Section II. If the objectives are not being met after a period of four years, then the system will be modified or an alternative system will be implemented.

B. Proper Use Criteria

The R-4 Range Analysis Handbook (Section 60) points out that 50 percent utilization of the species being managed is about all the use that should be made on most ranges. The exception is wet meadows in good condition when up to 60 percent utilization might be made. Therefore, in keeping with Regional direction, a proper use factor of 50 percent of the palatable grasses growing on the suitable range will be used.

C. Administrative Action to Implement Program

District personnel 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 and be removed from the allotment.

D. Range Improvement

Existing

Name	Improvement	Size	Location	Year	Maintained By
Castle Valley/ Warren-Bunker Bdry	Log worm	2.0	Sec 16, 21, 22 & 27, T36S, R8W	1953	Permittee
Dry Lake-Bunker/ Warren-Bunker Bdry	Log Worm	1.0	Sec 2 & 3 T36S, R8W	1977	Permittee
Red Desert/ Warren-Bunker Bdry	Log worm	1.5	Sec 27 & 33 T36S, R8W	1979	Permittee
Sidney Valley/ Warren-Bunker Bdry	Net Wire	3.0	Sec 8, 17, 20 & 29, T36S, R8W		Permittee
Lowder Creek Timber Sale	Net Wire	2.5	Sec 20, 21 & 29, T36S, R8W	1981 & 1982	Forest Service
Sidney Valley	Dugout	1	Sec 8 T36S, R8W	1981	Permittee

Proposed

There are possibilities for a couple of ponds on the allotment to improve livestock distribution. Reconstruction of the boundary fence between Warren-Bunker and Dandelion Knoll sheep allotment may be necessary.

Also, consideration will be given to construction of a boundary fence between Warren-Bunker and Brian Head S&G to eliminate the grazing problem identified on that boundary line.

E. Correlation With Other Uses

Management of the allotment will correlate grazing with other uses as outlined in the Markagunt Land Use Plan. Following are specific coordinating actions that have been or will be taken for each use on the allotment.

1. Recreation

There are no improved recreation areas on the allotment. There is some fishing along Castle Creek, but no conflicts with grazing exists. Deer hunters use the allotment during bow and arrow and regular hunting seasons. There is some conflict between bow and arrow hunting and grazing as livestock are still on the range.

2. Timber

The allotment contains both commercial and noncommercial stands of spruce and white fir. The only action necessary is to restrict grazing on reforested areas as needed to establish trees.

3. Watershed

At the present time, the allotment is in a satisfactory watershed condition and does not require extensive watershed rehabilitation work. Management and proper use criteria will be directed toward achieving and maintaining a minimum of 65 percent ground cover.

4. Wildlife

Deer populations are controlled by hunting on the Parowan Herd. Competition between domestic grazing and wildlife will not be a factor as deer numbers are presently near the estimated carrying capacity of the winter range.

Riparian areas are very limited on this allotment. On those riparian areas that have been identified there are no know conflicts with livestock use.

The allotment management plan was reviewed with personnel from the Division of Wildlife Resources on 3/31/83 and no conflicts were identified.

IV. FOLLOWUP PROGRAM

Range inspections and studies will continue on the allotment to determine proper use, measure effectiveness of management system, evaluate range condition and trend, and firm up grazing capacity.

Livestock will be counted periodically, prior to their entering the allotment. Compliance with the annual plan of use will be checked throughout the grazing season. A benchmark will be maintained in at least one of the grazing units.

Presently, there are Parker 3-Step transects in Bunker Creek and in the Delong Stretch. Both transects will be maintained and used to determine trends in vegetation and soil.