ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

CAMERON WASH C&H ALLOTMENT

ESCALANTE RANGER DISTRICT

DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST

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I. INFORMATION

A. History

The present allotment has been arrived at by adding and subtracting parts of other C&H and S&G allotments over the years. Past use records are difficult to interpret because of the many boundary and class of livestock changes. Prior to 1912, Cameron Wash was part of the Pine Lake C&H allotment. In 1913 it was changed to a sheep allotment. The class of livestock fluctuated back and forth or was in common use until 1958 when sheep were eliminated. At that time the allotment was divided between the Pine Lake C&H allotment and the Cameron Wash C&H allotment. In 1974 additional changes were made to put permittees grazing on more than one allotment into one allotment. Part of the Pine Lake C&H was fenced and added to Cameron Wash C&H to arrive at the present allotment. A general rundown of past use is as follows:

YEAR	SEASON	NUMBER		AMIMAL MONTHS	
		CATTLE	SHEEP	CATTLE	SHEEP
1912	5/12-9/30		1364		6170
1923	6/1-9/30		1381		5060
1933	"	30	985	99	3520
1944	"	183	985	500	3517
1945	"	103	985	477	3517
1945	"	103	952	477	2856
1947	"	103	1090	477	3542
1948	"	82	952	390	2539
1949	"	42	857	166	2571
1950	"	22	952	86	2856
1951	"	30	952	135	2856
1952	7/1 -9/30	3	583	9	1555
1954	6/1-10/15	29	952	87	1745
1955	"	184	-	775	-
1956	"	140	900	595	1800
1957	"	137	-	573	-
1958	"	179	*	807	
1959	"	197		812	
1960	"	199		814	
1961	"	160		640	
1962	"	171		568	
1963	"	123		512	
1968	"	151		628	
1969	"	156		624	
1973 to 75	"	213		852	

*S&G permit changed to C&H

The allotment has an early history of overuse. Past management has been somewhat difficult because of a lack of dependable water. When sheep grazed the area they could be driven to Pine Lake or Dipping Vat Spring for water. Because sheep were herded more inaccessible areas were grazed. When cattle used the allotment they frequently overused the range around the water.

Attempts to correct this situation were made by digging ponds but this did not correct the problem because rainstorms that provided overland flow were not dependable. Approximately 3946 acres were reseeded in the late '40's and through the '50's. These reseedings have been a success and many acres of suitable range were rehabilitated.

Several reductions in numbers of livestock have been made. Use peaked during the '40's but continual reductions were made from that time until 1963. At that time a reduction was made coupled with some non-use for range protection. The non-use was restored in 1973 thus arriving at the present obligation.

B. Current Permits

25% increase authorized in 1986 based on 3 year PU data

The present permittees are involved in cow-calf operations. Two graze their cattle on BLM permits during the winter and spring and one uses his private lands and feeds hay. The Forest permits are used to round out their operations. The present permittees and permits are as follows:

PERMITTEE	SEASON	CATTLE	AUM'S
Obie Shakespear	6/11-10/10	78	312
Carl Frank ~~Vernal~~ Shakespear	"	76	304
R.L. Stewart	"	59	236
	Total	213	852

BLM permits allow grazing from 11/16 to 6/10. The Forest permit has been dated to open the day after the BLM permit closes.

C. Range Analysis

The range analysis was completed in 1962. It is now outdated. A summary of present conditions is as follows:

Classification		Acres
Primary	suitable	6500
Non range	unsuitable	6258
	Total allotment acres =	12758

Condition of Primary Range	Acres
Good (Part has been reseeded)	3974
Fair (Negative Range)	2526
Total =	6500

The trend on the primary range is generally static.

D. Grazing Capacity

The grazing capacity has been firmed up. The allotment can carry the presently permitted 852 cow months obligation.

E. Present Management

Up to 1975 the cattle were usually placed south of Dipping Vat Spring for two to three weeks each spring. Then they were spread over the allotment around existing water for the rest of the season. On years of high precipitation, distribution would be quite good. On years of low precipitation, only three watering areas would last through the entire grazing season. Occasionally, high intesity rainstorms would fill a pond but this was sporadic and could not be depended on.

The lack of sufficient dependable water has made any grazing system marginal with cattle. During the summer of 1975 a pipeline from Clay Creek was completed down Cameron Wash and Dipping Vat Spring was piped to four ponds.

These two water developments now provide ample water to work for any grazing system desired on the allotment.

F. Development Program

1. Existing Improvements

	Project	Type	Size	Location
✔	Dipping Vat Spring Water Development	Pipeline & 4 ponds	2.5 miles	Dipping Vat Spring
✔	Cameron Wash Water Development	Pipeline & ~~11~~ ponds tanks	8.5 miles	From above Pine Lake down Cameron Wash to the Forest Service boundary
✔	Johns Valley Road & F.S. Boundary fence	4-strand barbed wire	5.6 miles	F.S. boundary
✔	Zabriskie Sawmill division fence	3-strand barbed wire	1.1 miles	From Zabriskie Sawmill site south to its end
✔	Pole Canyon-Cameron Wash Division Fence	3-strand barbed wire	4.8 miles	F.S. boundary east up Cameron Wash to the Burro Canyon-Pine Lake fence
✔	Burro Canyon-Pine Lake Allotment Division Fence	4-strand barbed wire	2.0 miles	From Burro Point west to the Pole Canyon-Cameron Wash division fence.

Several reseeding projects which total about 3946 acres were completed from the 1940's to the late 1950's.

2. Proposed Improvements

done

Fence	3-strand	1.7 miles	Zabriskie Sawmill fence

II. MANAGEMENT GOALS

The basic objective of this plan is to meet the physiological needs of the forage plants while providing for soil stability. Specific goals to strive for are:

1. Maintain the present permittee aum's on the allotment.

2. Use fire as a goal for maintaining the grass reseedings where applicable.

3. Sagebrush spraying may be used as an alternate tool for maintaining the grass reseedings.

III. ANALYSIS

A. Relationship of Permit to Permittee's Operations

Each of the permittees on this allotment is engaged in a cow-calf operation. The Forest permits are used to round out their operations. Without the permits the individual operations would be reduced by approximately 1/3 in size and probably could not survive without consolidating with some other outfit.

B. Management Options

There are two viable alternatives that could meet the basic management goals on this allotment. The factors used in selecting the planned programs were existing improvements, cost to implement and the benefits that might be derived from each alternative.

1. Alternative #1

The allotment could be grazed under a deferred-rotation system. This would require approximately 2 miles of new fence. It would allow removal of approximately 2 miles of existing fence. This alternative was rejected because it does not eliminate the need for any new fence and it would not simplify the system.

2. Alternative #2

The allotment could be combined with the Pine Lake C&H allotment. This would require the 2 miles of new fence but it would bring Pine Lake into a rest-rotation system of grazing. The problems with this are centered around the permittees. All the Cameron Wash cattle come from the Tropic area. Gathering and moving is much easier if they do not have to cut back cattle from the Antimony area. Also the Pine Lake permittee objects to mixing his registered cows with unregistered livestock.

An additional problem with this alternative is that when the cattle were in the Pine Lake unit a large concentration could be expected around the lake and campground. This would be undesirable but could be overcome with approximately 2 additional miles of fence.

IV. ACTION

A. Management Program

The planned program calls for a three pasture rest-rotation grazing system.

The grazing schedule will be as follows:

Year	Oil Well Unit	Dipping Vat Unit	Little Dump Unit
1976 87	A (6/11 - 7/15)	R (8/22 - 10/10)	B (7/16 - 8/21)
1977 88	R (8/22 - 10/10)	B (7/16 - 8/21)	A (6/11 - 7/15)
1978 89	B (7/16 - 8/21)	A (6/11 - 7/15)	R (8/22 - 10/10)

(Repeat cycle)

A= Graze first — 6/11 to 7/31 (Start at range readiness)
B= Graze second — 8/1 to 10/10 (flowering to seed ripe)
R= Rest — Season long or graze the last month of grazing season where needed.

The dates are only tentative. It may be found after working the system, more or less time can be spent in any one of the three units during the A or B grazing period. No additional time should be planned in the R grazing period.

The R unit will be grazed only if needed. The need to graze this unit will be determined by use on the other two units. To prevent any unit from receiving use in excess of 60 percent of the total forage available, the R unit may be used to aid in completing that grazing season. It is expected this will occur only on years of drought.

To aid in preventing cattle from grazing a unit out of cycle the water in the two pipelines can be controlled. About two weeks prior to the cattle going into a unit the water will be put into the ponds in that unit and taken out of the unit being grazed. This should provide for uniform as well as controlled use.

B. Development Program

Done 8/76 [illegible]

1. The only priority development at this time is to extend the Zabriskie Sawmill division fence.

2. An additional tool that will be used to aid in maintaining grass reseedings will be fire. As a general rule spring burnings will be used within one-half mile of water and fall burnings beyond that distance. This will aid any sage grouse that might use the area.

3. Spraying may be used as an alternative to burning.

C. Correlation With Other Uses

There does not appear to be any major coordination problems on the allotment. However, to assure that the principle functions are covered, each was evaluated as follows:

1. Timber

At this time no sales are planned on the allotment for the next five years. It is possible a small salvage sale could materialize but this would be for less than 250 thousand feet. No plantations or thinning projects exist.

2. Wildlife

This allotment receives only light use from mule deer during the summer and usually no use in the winter. This has been the case for several years. There is no known reason for the lack of summer use other than low numbers of deer. It appears that the influence of livestock on the deer herd is minimal while hunting pressure is quite heavy.

Small mammals and birds should not be adversely influenced by the proposal. It is possible habitat for sage grouse is now available because of the water lines into Cameron Wash. If the grouse should become established enough water for their use will be made available at each pond along the pipeline.

3. Watershed

Considerable damage by grazing was done to the watershed in the early 1900's. Coupled with the grazing, improperly located roads and canals have created large gullies down most draws on the allotment. Work was started in 1975 to stabilize some of the gullies. It is planned to continue this work as funds become available and eventually most of the gullies should be stabilized. New work will be fit into the grazing pattern to provide as much protection as possible.

4. Recreation

The only appreciable recreation use on this allotment is during the deer hunting season. There are usually two or three camps set up on the allotment. Cattle are removed prior to the hunting season and this reduces the conflict between hunters and cattle to a minimum.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION NEEDED

There does not appear to be any administrative problems preventing implementation of the plan.

VI. FOLLOW-UP

A. Inspections

Form 2200-15 will be completed every year on at least one unit of the allotment. This inspection will provide needed checks for compliance with the objectives of the management plan.

Additionally a photo plot or 3-step trend study is located on each unit. There will be a current running of these studies on hand before implementation of the new system. Future follow-up studies on these sites will be used to determine trend.

The studies should be rerun every six years during the year the unit is rested. The studies are located in the district files under the following names and numbers:

NAME	NUMBER	TYPE STUDY	UNIT
Dipping Vat	D6-7	3-Step	Dipping Vat
Cameron Wash	D6-8	3-Step	Oil Well
The Flat	D6-12	Photo Point (10 staked plots with a 9.6 hoop)	Little Dump

This inspection program plus assuring the permittees follow the annual operating plan should provide for adequate protection of the range resource.

B. Check on Livestock Numbers

Cattle will be counted, dye marked or tagged as needed to assure proper control of livestock numbers.