



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Ely District Office
Pioche Star Route, Ely, Nevada
89301

IN REPLY REFER TO

6620
(N-047)

June 2, 1975

August L. Hormay
P.O. Box 245
Berkeley, Calif. 94701

Dear Gus:

Enclosed is the briefing on Goshute Creek you were notified of by the Nevada State Director.

We are looking forward to your visit.

Sincerely,

Quentin R. Schroeder
Acting District Manager

Enclosure



Save Energy and You Serve America!



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

Memorandum

June 5, 1975

To: District Managers (in demonstration area program)

From: A.L. Hormay, Range Conservationist

Subject: Multiple-use land management demonstration area program, planning format, and management plans

I assume you received a copy of the first half of the format from the state director earlier this week. I will send you the other half in a few days when it is finished. It covers management and environmental impact statements. The first half dealt with background for management.

Please start developing a management plan for your demonstration area using the format as a guide for content and organization. Include any additional subjects not mentioned in the guide and, of course, omit subjects that do not apply.

I need information for tightening the format and making it more useable. I would like to know what material you propose to include in your plan, the general form of presentation and the language used in the text. So, please send me a copy of the first rough draft of the text as soon as you can get it ready. Include table and figure (maps, diagrams, charts, and photographs) references in the text. Include table and figure headings, and descriptions in the appropriate places, but do not include the tables and figures themselves.

Prepare the first draft without consulting outside interests. It will not be complete by any means and should not appear so, because it will be submitted to the planning group (outside interests) for their input and they should see and feel there is room and need for their contributions.

cc: G.D. Fulcher,
Denver Service Center.
D.P. Brubaker,
Lander Res. Area Manager.
State Directors,
Idaho; Montana; Oregon; Wyoming



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

Copy mailed: June 5, 1975

Wyoming: Brubaker; Wolf; Baker
Montana: Cleary; McIntosh; Zaidlicz
Idaho: Haszier; Finlayson; Mathews
Oregon: (State Director); LeNoue
Colorado: Rudd; Fulcher

(13)



United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER TO
4115

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

District Office
Box 1048
Dillon, MT 59725

June 18, 1975

Mr. A.L. Hormay, Range Conservationist
Pacific Southwest Forest and Range
Experiment Station
1960 Addison P.O. Box 245
Berkley, California 94704

Dear Mr. Hormay:

We have received your memos dated May 30 and June 5, 1975, which deal with planning format and management plans on demonstration areas.

In view of our current F.Y. budget, it was necessary that an environmental analysis and management plan be completed for the Matador Cattle Allotment before now. This we have done and are enclosing a copy of each.

We have been successful in preparing and letting contracts for the installation of fences, cattleguards and pipelines to implement the management plan on the Matador Allotment. Monies for these projects were budgeted and had to be obligated prior to June 30, 1975. Therefore, we worked all winter with agencies and the lessee involved to complete this analysis and plan.

Your comments will be welcome.

Sincerely yours,

Steve B. Wilkinson
Area Manager

Enclosures (2)



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

Memorandum

June 20, 1975

TO: District Managers (in demonstration area program)

FROM: A. L. Hormay, Range Conservationist

SUBJECT: Format, Multiple-use land management plans.
Demonstration area program.

Enclosed is the second half of the format together with some revised pages of the first half. This cast-up of the format is by no means complete but I believe adequate for you to develop the first draft of a management plan for your demonstration area.

It will take some time to work out a complete and fully satisfactory format. I am looking to the districts and others involved in the demonstration area program for help in accomplishing this. The first draft of your plan will include many useful ideas I'm sure. Send the draft to me as soon as possible. I plan to get a revised draft--reflecting a consensus of district ideas--back to you for use in finalizing of the plan you will be sending to outside interests for their input.

Notice I omitted reference to an environmental impact statement in the present draft of the format. This is because the format does not cover the subject formally. A management plan prepared according to format would in essence be an environmental assessment (self assessment) and an environmental impact statement. I believe plans such as we are developing, together with examples of results with advocated management will obviate the need for separate environmental impact statement except in certain special situations. Time would be best spent working out management plans first. If needed, impact statements could be prepared quickly thereafter.


I'm sure the Bureau can point to examples of good results with management now advocated. Additional examples will be available from the demonstration area program within two years if management is started this year.

You will be preparing a multiple-use plan--a plan in which all land resources and uses on an area are considered in relation to one

another, and in which methods for achieving goals are spelled out for each use. The plan should be clear not only to the land manager, but to land users and other interests concerned with land-management and to the public in general.

Such a plan should:

1. Provide a clear description of the management area, including natural resources and their value
2. Stress the importance of renewable resources
3. Describe uses of the area by man and their impacts and also the effects of natural forces
4. State management goals for the area as a whole and for each use or activity separately
5. State the basic land management principles used in the plan
6. Describe the management methods proposed for each use to achieve objectives
7. Describe anticipated results. Illustrate with actual results obtained on other areas



- ③ cc: G.D. Fulcher,
Denver Service Center.
- ① D.P. Brubaker,
Lander Res. Area Manager.
- ② State Directors,
Idaho; Montana; Oregon; Wyoming



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
DENVER SERVICE CENTER
DENVER FEDERAL CENTER, BUILDING 50
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

IN REPLY REFER TO

4112.15
(D-330)

JUN 26 1975

Memorandum

To: District Manager, Grand Junction, Colorado

From: Director, DSC

Subject: Review of Proposed Management Plan, Round Mountain Allotment,
Bookcliffs Area, DeBeque Planning Unit, Grand Junction, Colorado

Enclosed is an evaluation of the subject management plan prepared by Hugh Harper of the DSC Range Staff.

Garth H. Rudd

Enclosure

cc: SD, Colorado
WO-330
✓ Gus Hormay



Save Energy and You Serve America!

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS AND PROBLEMS
ROUND MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENT
DEBEQUE PLANNING UNIT
GRAND JUNCTION DISTRICT, COLORADO

General

Upon request of the Grand Junction District, Hugh Harper of the DSC Range Staff spent from May 27 to 30, 1975, in the Grand Junction District to review the problems of the Round Mountain Allotment in the Bookcliff Area. Three days of this time were spent in the field where movement and activities were limited because of frequent rainfall. However, fairly good coverage of the allotment was realized by use of vehicles and saddle horses. Those participating in the field tour included Jack Haslem, Dean Evans, Al Pearson and Alan Tohill. On Friday morning, May 30, Hugh Harper had a close-out review with District personnel including DM Tom Owen, Chief of Resources, John Buck, Area Manager, Harold Sherrets, Range Spec., Jack Haslem, Natural Resource Spec., Al Pearson and Range Con., Dean Evans.

The Allotment

The allotment formerly consisted of about 50,000 acres, but now is 17,626 acres in size. Nearly two-thirds of the former acreage has been recently removed from the allotment and designated for use by wild horses and mule deer. Nearly all of the portion removed is comprised of rough, broken ridges, canyons, and washes of low productivity. Vegetation consists almost entirely of pinon-juniper. The horse-deer area is the southwest portion of the former allotment. A portion of it contiguous to the remaining Round Mountain Allotment was chained in about 1967 and is fairly productive, about

10-12 acres per AUM of forage. Within the wild horse-deer designated area, 480 acres of land is owned by the livestock operator who grazes cattle on the Round Mountain Allotment. He has been granted 96 AUM's of use on the allotment in an Exchange of Use Agreement for the forage production on his 480 acres of private land, 5 acres/AUM.

The majority of the 17,626 acres in the Round Mountain Allotment is of low productivity consisting of precipitous rocky areas, washes or rather dense pinon-juniper vegetation with practically no understory vegetation. These categories comprise about 70 percent of the Round Mountain Allotment.

About 30 percent of the allotment is of gentler topography and fairly productive soils. Much of this more productive area has been chained or plowed and seeded. The chained areas are coming into fairly dense coverage of shrub species, including oak, serviceberry mountain mahogany, bitterbrush and sage. Cheatgrass is the dominant herbaceous species, Western wheatgrass (Agsm), Indian ricegrass (Orhy), Poas, junegrass (KOELE), and squirreltail (Sihy) are present.

In the areas which were plowed and seeded to crested wheatgrass, sagebrush has come back in strongly and cheatgrass is the dominant grass species. Crested wheatgrass is still present; only a few of the native perennials named above are present in the areas which have been plowed and seeded. However, there are probably more present than believed, but because of the heavy livestock grazing pressure and selective grazing by the cattle, the native grass species are difficult to see and recognize.

The areas which have been chained in the allotment, about 2,300 acres, and the more open portions of the pinon-juniper type support healthy shrub stands that are being utilized by mule deer. The allotment appears to be nearly critical deer winter range. There are numerous deer antlers, deer trails and deer pellet groups. Though it may not be classified as "critical" it is highly important in that it is the range used during the average winters thus allowing the lower elevation critical winter range to rest most winters and thereby be able to support the deer during the 3-4 severe winters out of every ten winters.

Considerable surface erosion is occurring throughout most of the allotment. The watershed problem is aggravated by the bare soil in the pinon-juniper type on the steep slopes. The combination of an abundance of cheatgrass and lack of healthy vigorous perennial grass does not provide adequate watershed protection. Gullies and headcuts are common. The approximately 14 inches of annual precipitation, much of which occurs as high intensity rainfall, requires much more herbaceous cover of better quality than is presently existing, for proper watershed management.

Livestock Grazing Situation. During recent years and up until this year, 1975, the allotment has been grazed by cattle for about two months each spring. Use has amounted to less than 1200 AUMs with grazing use terminating about June 1-10. Starting in 1975 the grazing use will be spring and fall with 600 AUMs spring use and 644 AUMs fall use. The spring use starts later and will end June 20-25. The newly initiated fall grazing will occur from October 1 to November 30.

The total grazing use that formerly occurred on the original allotment of about 50,000 acres is now to be provided by the 17,626 acres. In addition, it is also slated to provide another 96 AUMs of use that was provided by the 480 acres of private land in the wild horse-deer area, now no longer to be used for cattle grazing. As mentioned above only about 30 percent of the Round Mountain Allotment is suitable, potentially productive grazing land. The other 70 percent should be grazed by livestock only in a manner whereby the vegetative and watershed resources could be improved.

The allotment is presently divided into four pastures of unequal carrying capacity. There is variance in the condition and productiveness of the pastures depending on past cultural treatments, sites, distance from water, etc., but the allotment appears to be producing useable livestock forage at the rate of 12 to 15 acres per AUM. On this basis, and in the experience of Jack Haslem who has been involved with the allotment for several years, the livestock grazing capacity of the allotment is approximately as follows:

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Total AUMs</u>
Redrock	6718	100
Pine Gulch	3625	80
Cosgrove	2379	50
Round Mountain	4904	120
	<u>17,626</u>	<u>350 AUMs</u>
	Total	350 AUMs

This estimate was somewhat substantiated upon return to the District Office. A range survey had been conducted on the allotment in 1972 and a check of the results of that survey showed a grazing capacity of 290 AUMs for the four pastures as compared to the field estimate of 350 AUMs.

It is obvious difficulties are going to be encountered in trying to provide 1,244 AUMs of cattle grazing use when the grazing capacity is approximately 350 AUMs. A grazing plan has been initiated that provides for grazing two pastures in the spring and one pasture in the fall with one of the four pastures rested each year. Within the grazing plan there is a provision for grazing the two spring-grazed pastures in the fall if the one pasture scheduled for fall grazing does not have adequate forage to sustain the fall grazing use.

In attempting to provide 1244 AUMs of grazing use on an allotment with an estimated carrying capacity of 350 AUMs there are going to be serious adverse impacts on vegetative, watershed and wildlife habitat resources. Under past spring grazing use it is believed that not all of the licensed use was actually used. Now, with the new operator there will be an attempt to use the full qualifications. The two pastures scheduled for use this spring are being grazed. I don't think they will provide sufficient forage to last until June 25, as scheduled, even though this is a good growing year. There will be practically no regrowth after cattle removal on June 25. These are the pastures with the greatest estimated grazing capacity, Redrock and Round Mountain, totaling 220 AUMs. In the fall, Pine Gulch with 80 AUM capacity is to be grazed from October 1 to November 30, by 317 head of cattle, with the option of regrazing Redrock and Round Mountain pastures if feed is needed. The demand totals 644 AUMs; the total fall grazing capacity is estimated at 120 AUMs.

The first noticeable impact will be on the shrub species that are so important to the wintering deer. They are in fairly good condition now because the area has not been grazed previously during the fall. In addition to the cattle being forced to utilize the shrub species because of lack of forbs and herbaceous species, the cattle would naturally seek out the shrub species to provide for their nutritional needs. By October the forbs are mostly gone and the grasses are dormant. During dormancy, the protein level of the grasses is below the seven percent level which is necessary to sustain a grazing animal. For the cattle to live they will have to depend on the shrubs whose protein levels exceed twelve percent even if herbaceous species were present, creating serious competition between domestic livestock and deer.

There is likely to be another adverse impact on the shrub species, particularly bitterbrush. Under previous grazing management the livestock left the allotment between June 1 and 10. Observations in the field indicate the bitterbrush is likely to be blooming on about June 10 this year. In most areas, bitterbrush is highly palatable to livestock during the flowering stage -- in fact, at this time cattle will often seek it out even if good grass is available. The annual growth of bitterbrush is also starting at this time. Both the flowers which result in the seed crop, and the annual growth which produces next years flowers and seed crop are likely to be removed by the grazing which is now scheduled to occur from June 10 to June 20 or 25 each year. In the management plan, one of the objectives is to increase bitterbrush a significant amount (not defined) and to reduce the amount of utilization on the bitterbrush component of the forage. This is not going to occur.

Other important wildlife shrub species that will be adversely impacted include mountain mahogany and shadscale.

The Horses.

It is estimated there are about 50 horses in the Round Mountain Allotment and another 40 in the wild horse-deer area for a total of about 90 head. At the time of enactment of the wild horse and burro legislation in December 1971, there was an estimated 73 head in the total area.

Present plans call for gathering and removing all the horses from the Round Mountain Allotment during the fall of 1975. They are to be confined to the wild horse-deer area. With the steep terrain and dense vegetation of the horse habitat area, I am pessimistic about the chances of success in gathering the horses and believe that to clear the allotment of horses, many will have to be disposed of, on-site. Another problem -- but of equal significance -- will be keeping the horses in the designated area. The older horses will want to return to their home country and will continually work the fences for at least two years.

The boundary fencing crosses several washes subject to periodic cloudbursts which may tear out fencing, trees may fall across the fence and there is always the possibility of a gate being unintentionally left open, or intentionally opened by persons sympathetic to the horses' natural instinct to return to their home range. With these possibilities, keeping the allotment clear of horses may be a continuing and costly responsibility. Based on the horse gathering cost in the comparatively gentle open terrain of the Burns, Oregon, District in 1974 which was \$750 per horse, gathering of the approximately 50 horses in the Round Mountain Allotment could cost \$40,000 to \$50,000 and total and permanent results are unlikely to be achieved.

The Proposed AMP

Within the existing AMP some additional information must be provided:

1. Because of the heavy deer use of the area, fences to be constructed at 42" height should have 10" of space between the two top wires so that the hind legs of jumping deer do not become entangled. (Regarding fencing - with much rather steep terrain through P-J areas, I believe 3-wire fencing would be adequate for many segments of the boundary and interior pasture fencing. This would reduce costs and hazards to deer movement.)

2. In Part II Objectives, the objectives state, for example, increase the density of the perennial vegetation by 15%; increase the percent composition of western wheatgrass by 30%, increase ground litter by 50%, etc. In order to measure progress toward achievement of these goals and to determine when the goals have been reached there must be establishment of what the levels are presently. This lack of base data is common to six of the seven objectives identified.

Summary and Recommendations

In summary, several serious problems exist and I do not believe present plans provide satisfactory solutions. My recommendations are:

1. Do not remove the wild horses from the Round Mountain Allotment. Reduce them to the band sizes that existed in December 1971 and maintain these approximate levels by control actions every two years.

2. Consider requesting the Colorado Division of Wildlife to discontinue harvesting of mountain lions in the area to help control horse populations.

3. Observe results and performance of the horse population with the above actions. Make no changes from present livestock pastures, but combine the Cosgrove and Pine Gulch Pastures and operate them as one pasture in a 3-treatment, 3-pasture rest-rotation grazing plan.

For grazing, use one pasture in the spring, a second pasture in the fall, with the option of also using the spring-use pasture in the fall and rest the third pasture. Provide the usual rotation plan in succeeding years for a full 3-year cycle. If, by the end of the third year, the grazing plan still has to be broken by going into the rest pasture to provide the forage, livestock use must be reduced to the level where the grazing plan can be followed without detriment to the watershed and wildlife habitat values and to the well being of the livestock. Trying to provide all of the grazing qualifications -- and without planned management -- has been significant in the deterioration of this allotment.

During this initial 3-year period, browse species are going to suffer to some extent from livestock utilization and lack of reproduction, but not to an irreversible level. Studies to monitor browse utilization and condition should be established immediately. A 4-treatment, 4-pasture grazing plan is needed. During the initial 3-year grazing period study how the productive grazing areas (including the portion now in the designated horse-deer area) could be divided into four pastures of nearly equal grazing capacity, and with ease of movement between the pastures, so that a 4-treatment, 4-pasture grazing plan can be initiated.

Grazing to trample seed shortly after seed ripening time speeds the rate of recovery in comparison to grazing in the fall several months after seed ripe

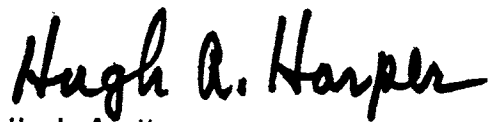
time. With the planned spring-fall grazing use, and cattle being far away on a USFS allotment at seed ripe time, rate of recovery of the range is going to be slower than desirable. Alternatives: Does the operator have yearlings that could be put on the allotment at seed ripe time and let the cows use the pasture in the fall that the yearlings would have used. Could the adjacent Winter Flat Allotment cattle be used for seed trampling in the Round Mountain Allotment and fall grazing use be exchanged as described for the yearlings above? (Further comments on the Winter Flat Allotment are at the end of this report) Though much farther away, does the Coon Hollow Allotment and its livestock offer some possibilities to achieve timely grazing use to trample ripened seed? Coon Hollow Allotment is in serious condition and needs attention. The ongoing spring grazing use appears to be largely dependent on shrubs such as shadscale and rabbit brush for lack of herbaceous species.

4. If the plan to divide the total area into a livestock use area and a horse-deer area is still retained, then the cattle use area must be divided into a 4-treatment, 4-pasture plan with pastures of equal grazing capacity. To provide proper browse management, only one-half of the area could be grazed during any one year.

Basically the problem is one of trying to provide over 1200 AUMs of livestock grazing use on an area with a present grazing capacity of about 350 AUMs and a potential grazing capacity of 600 AUMs if the public resource values of watershed and wildlife and horse habitat are to receive the management consideration we have the responsibility to provide.

[Some comments on the Winter Flat Allotment: This allotment is on a 'graze the best pasture' plan. Range condition is good and shows what can be accomplished with management. It also indicates the potential of the Round Mountain Allotment. However, one fault of the 'best pasture' concept is that it tends to relegate phenological and physiological processes of a plant and potentials that could be enhanced with planned treatments to a somewhat happenstance situation. For example, instead of always moving into the best pasture, after seed is ripe in the poorest pasture, greater benefits would be realized by grazing this poorest pasture to get this ripe, viable seed planted by livestock trampling and then the pasture should be rested until the resultant seedlings are firmly established.]

I am sorry to have to write such a pessimistic report, but the above is the way I analyze the problem.



Hugh A. Harper
Grazing Systems Specialist, DSC
June 20, 1975