

**AUGUST L. HORMAY**  
RANGE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

101 ACADIA STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94131

April 4, 1986

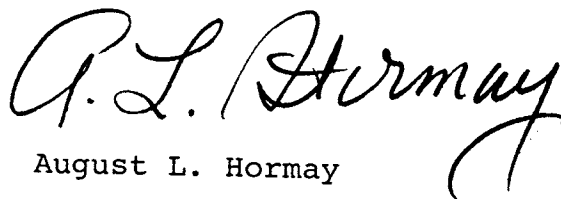
Montana Department of Fish  
Wildlife and Parks  
Wildlife Division  
1320 East Sixth Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59620

Attention: Joe Egan

Herewith are two copies of the Aunt Molly grazing plan.  
The one marked copy is for the Wildlife Division. Hope  
the Parks division finds the plan useful.

Enclosed is an invoice for the job.

Sincerely,

  
August L. Hormay

ALH:be  
encl.

**AUGUST L. HORMAY**  
RANGE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

101 ACADIA STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94131

April 4, 1986

INVOICE NO. 186

Montana Department of Fish  
Wildlife and Parks  
Wildlife Division  
1420 East Sixth avenue  
Helena, Montana 59520

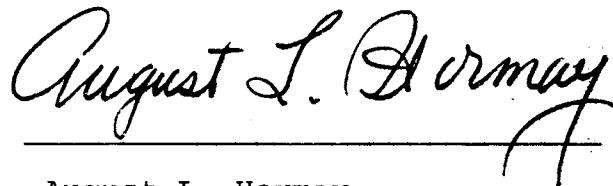
For Services

Preparation of a grazing management plan for the Aunt Molly  
Fishing Access Site.

Plan sent to Mr. Joe Egan of the Wildlife Division, this  
day.

Time: 16 days @ \$225.00 - - - \$3,600.00

I certify that the foregoing statement is true and accurate  
and that I have not been paid therefor.



August L. Hormay

R / May 16/86

RECORD OF DECISION  
Final Environmental Impact Statement  
Management of the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge

This Record of Decision is based on the final environmental impact statement (EIS) on management of the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, dated August 1985. It also considers the comments received from the public during the Fish and Wildlife Service's scoping process, comments resulting from public meetings and circulation of the draft EIS during August 1980, comments responding to a second draft EIS in February 1984, and an interagency working group that reviewed the second draft EIS and its associated comments.

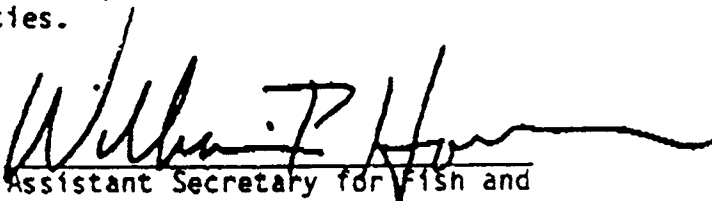
The Five Alternatives described in the final EIS for long range management of the refuge are:

- Alternative A would continue current management programs with an allocation formula that assigns approximately 45 percent of available forage to wildlife and 55 percent to livestock.
- Alternative B (Proposed Action) would allocate about 63 percent of available forage to wildlife, leaving 37 percent for livestock.
- Alternative C would significantly enhance management for wildlife, but would reduce livestock grazing by approximately 50 percent (27 percent of available forage allocated to livestock).
- Alternative D would allocate available forage equally to wildlife and livestock (i.e., 50 percent to each).
- Alternative E would phase out livestock grazing on the refuge and all forage would be available for wildlife.

Alternative B has been selected as the preferred alternative with implementation planned as described in Appendix A (attached). This alternative meets the mandates of Executive Order 7509, Public Law 94-233, The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, other applicable legal requirements, and associated court rulings. This alternative also recognizes that appropriate livestock use is consistent with the primary wildlife purposes of the refuge and describes a management program that integrates this use to accommodate legal, policy, and practical considerations.

As described in Appendix A, ultimate grazing management regimes will be described in habitat management plans that will be prepared by the Fish and Wildlife Service and coordinated with affected entities.

April 22, 1986  
Date

  
Assistant Secretary for Fish and  
Wildlife and Parks

- Attachments: Appendix A - Implementation of the Proposed Action for Management of CMR NWR.
- Appendix A-1 - Assigned Federal stocking levels in livestock AUMs by allotment for the CMR NWR.

## APPENDIX A

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION FOR MANAGEMENT OF CHARLES M. RUSSELL (CMR) NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

#### BACKGROUND

CMR was jointly managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) until 1976 when Public Law 94-233 turned over responsibility for all management to FWS. Prior to 1976, livestock on the refuge was managed under terms of the Taylor Grazing Act by BLM; since then FWS management has been conducted under the authority of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966.

A CMR draft environmental impact statement (EIS), describing management of the grazing program at CMR, was originally prepared in response to litigation filed in United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., et al. vs. Rogers C.B. Morton, et al., 388 F. Supp. 829 (D.D.C. 1974), aff'd 527 F.2d 1386 (D.D.Cir. 1976). Publication of the final EIS was delayed due to subsequent court action, (Schwenke, et al., vs. Secretary of the Interior, et al.). On January 14, 1982, the United States District Court for the District of Montana ruled that CMR must still be administered under the Taylor Grazing Act. This was overturned by the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. 720 F.2d 571(9th Cir. 1983). The Appeals Court ruled: (1) wildlife has priority to forage up to limits specified in Executive Order 7509 (E.O. 7509 established CMR--then Fort Peck Game Range--in 1936); beyond those limits, wildlife and livestock have equal priority; and (3) CMR is to be administered under the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966.

Management complexities at CMR are further compounded by the presence of State and private inholdings, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-administered recreation areas on the reservoir, three State parks, and a segment of a BLM-managed Wild and Scenic River. At present there are 65 refuge grazing allotments with 88 permittees, five of which reside on private inholdings on the refuge.

#### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Grazing management actions planned for CMR under the Proposed Action include:

- The goal is to develop Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) for each allotment by 1989 and to reduce the total grazing animal unit months (AUMs) by approximately 33% by the end of the 1990 grazing season, except that the AUM decrease proposed for each allotment may be increased or further decreased if, upon implementation of the HMPs and proposed grazing management practices and the construction of fencing and water management facilities, it is shown that livestock grazing AUM adjustments are appropriate to meet wildlife objectives under the preferred alternative.

- Forage in AUMs currently assigned to domestic livestock for each refuge allotment and targeted levels are listed in Appendix A-1 (attached). Reductions in AUMs in each allotment will be 20 percent each year beginning with the 1987 grazing season and will be completed by the end of the 1990 grazing season. These reductions will be a critical first step toward bringing the refuge grazing program into compliance with the Executive Order and subsequent Judicial directives. This phased implementation schedule will also allow ranchers to make necessary adjustments in their operations.
- Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) will be developed beginning in 1986 with allotments that are to receive the greatest decreases and, upon FWS approval, will be implemented the next grazing season. These HMPs will consider, as appropriate, both refuge and off-refuge lands as a habitat management unit.

The HMPs will be designed to "fine tune" the management of each unit to assure that specific forage allocation targets are correct, and that forage utilization is managed in a manner that is most sensitive to wildlife, livestock, and public needs. Completion and ultimate approval of the HMPs will be premised on a high level of consultation and coordination with affected livestock permittees, BLM, State Land Board, and other affected entities; however, ultimate approval shall be vested in FWS.

The HMPs will include, but not be limited to the following elements that will provide for meeting wildlife objectives while minimizing impacts to others:

1. Grazing management alternatives that consider stocking rate adjustments, seasons of use, deferred, rest rotation or other systems.
2. Construction of management facilities such as fences, water development, water transport systems, and habitat exclosures.
3. Other habitat management practices such as prescribed burning and farming.
4. Provisions for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the HMPs.

- Ideally, the wildlife objectives for the refuge will be met with minimal impact to associated ranching operations. In cases where it is not possible to craft a plan acceptable to all affected parties, action on the part of FWS will be taken to assure that refuge wildlife objectives are met.
- Upon completion of the HMPs and associated AUM reductions in each allotment, the FWS will provide the additional option of three to five-year grazing permits.

Other detailed management plans will be developed as needed to meet other refuge objectives and may include cooperative public use management plans, farming plans, and a variety of wildlife enhancement plans.

APPENDIX A-1

Assigned Federal stocking levels in livestock AUMs by allotment for the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge.

<u>Allotment Number and Name</u>	<u>Proposed AUMs</u>	<u>Present AUMs</u>
1. Antelope Creek	262	642
2. East Slippery Ann	794	1602
3. Rock Creek	1021	1664
4. Nichols Coulee	3637	5181
5. Beauchamp Creek	488	488
6. Fourchette Creek	17	84
7. North Hawley Creek	11	11
8. Telegraph Creek	676	757
9. UL Bend	1080	1080
10. Box Elder #3	47	54
11. Box Elder	102	199
12. Kill Woman	336	336
13. Larb Hills	420	420
14. Carpenter Creek	1451	2736
15. Cabin Coulee	1163	2044
16. 7 Point	1633	1919
17. Silver Dollar	348	656
18. Skunk Coulee/Mud Creek*	1056	1056
19. Duck Creek	350	436
20. Fort Peck Common	186	238
21. Bear Creek	430	430
22. Bobcat Creek	631	1330
23. Spring Creek	437	674
24. Sand Arroyo/Rock Creek*	291	544
25. Rock Creek	200	437
26. Bug Creek	712	996
27. Nelson Creek	1282	1791
28. Pine Coulee	0	28
29. Big Dry	758	912
30. Snap Creek	634	1033
31. Lone Tree	353	552
32. Coyote Basin	1144	1846
33. Box Creek	936	936
34. Norville Creek	373	395
35. Spring Draw	297	252
36. Sage Creek Point	578	723
37. Penick Coulee	650	833
38. Gilbert Creek	1605	3676
39. Points Pasture	279	668
40. Crooked Creek	1523	1932
41. Hell Creek	1807	2255

## APPENDIX A-1 (Continued)

<u>Allotment Number and Name</u>	<u>Proposed AUMs</u>	<u>Present AUMs</u>
42. Brownie Butte	202	525
43. Snow Creek	1223	1377
44. Hill Coulee	465	583
45. Billy Coulee	4	11
46. Billy Creek	229	355
47. Slaymaker	0	117
48. 7 Blackfoot	463	730
49. Herman Ridge	80	80
50. Devils Creek Common	430	627
51. Ghost Coulee	238	249
52. Deadman Coulee	229	405
53. Lost Coulee	599	599
54. Grass Coulee	867	1218
55. Germaine Coulee	650	900
56. 79 Trail	142	142
57. Deer Coulee	378	1141
58. Soda Creek	1011	2692
59. Musselshell Trail	462	1081
60. Hansen Flat	284	325
61. East Indian Butte	1180	1977
62. West Indian Butte	428	639
63. Mobridge	26	35
64. Two Calf	281	305
65. Judith River	16	48

\* Allotments 18 and 24 are two separate allotments assigned to one operator.