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PACIFIC SOUTHWEST FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION

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A. L. Hormay

A 5-UNIT REST-ROTATION GRAZING PLAN PROVIDING  
TWO SEASONS OF REST FOR SEEDLING ESTABLISHMENT

This grazing plan is designed to rehabilitate and maintain bunchgrass ranges. Establishment of new reproduction of forage species is essential for range improvement. Experience on the range in northeastern California has indicated the need for resting the range from grazing for two full growing seasons to insure seedling establishment under the semi-arid and partly deteriorated site conditions that prevail there. The following grazing plan incorporates this amount of vitally needed rest. It has application in many parts of the Great Basin Region.

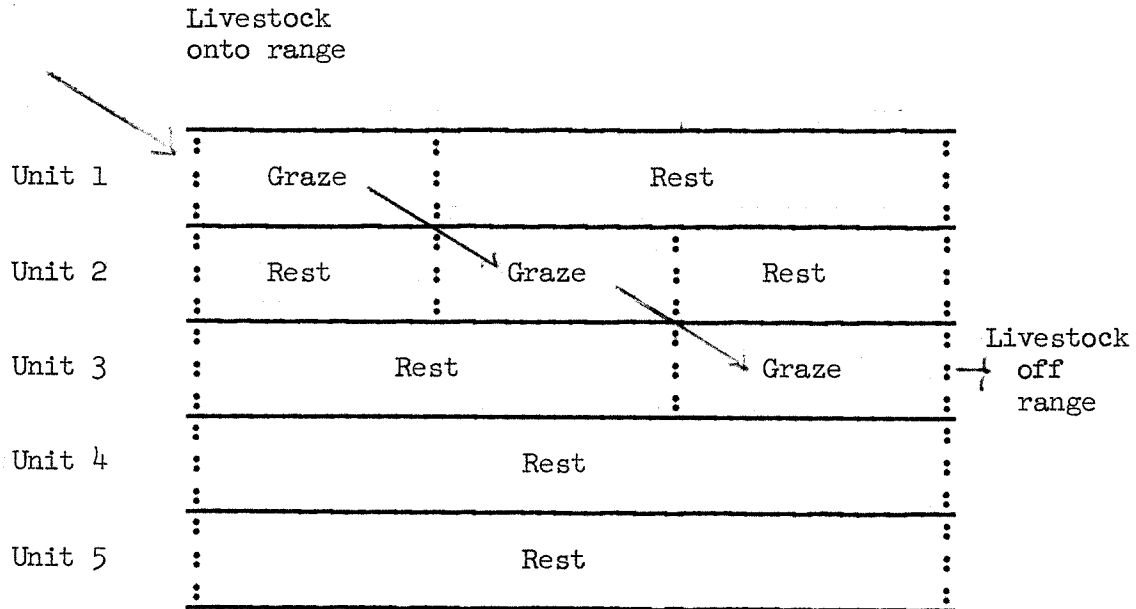
The range is divided into 5 units of approximately equal grazing capacity. Each unit is grazed and rested during a 5-year cycle as follows:

- First year - Graze about 65 percent of the available forage in the unit during the first third of the grazing season
- Second year - Graze about 65 percent of the available forage in the unit during the second third of the grazing season
- Third year - Graze about 65 percent of the available forage in the unit during the last third of the grazing season and after seed of the key species ripens
- Fourth year - Rest unit seasonlong for seedling establishment
- Fifth year - Rest unit seasonlong for seedling establishment

This sequence of treatments is repeated over and over again until desired range condition is obtained. Then the range can be grazed more fully.

Each year 3 units are grazed and 2 rested and about 40 percent use is made of the total available forage on the range. The 5 units are grazed and rested in the following way: At the beginning of the season all the animals grazed on the range are put into one unit for a third of the season. Then they are moved into a second unit and grazed for another third of the season and finally, they are turned into a third unit and grazed there the

remainder of the season. The last move is made after the seed of the key forage species is ripe. This handling of the livestock is illustrated in the following diagram:



The grazing schedule for all 5 units during a 5-year grazing cycle is as follows:

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4	Unit 5
1st year	Graze 1st third of season	Graze 2nd third of season	Graze last third of season	Rest season-long	Rest season-long
2nd year	Graze 2nd third of season	Graze last third of season	Rest season-long	Rest season-long	Graze 1st third of season
3rd year	Graze last third of season	Rest season-long	Rest season-long	Graze 1st third of season	Graze 2nd third of season
4th year	Rest season-long	Rest season-long	Graze 1st third of season	Graze 2nd third of season	Graze last third of season
5th year	Rest season-long	Graze 1st third of season	Graze 2nd third of season	Graze last third of season	Rest season-long