

State California
District Riverside
Allotment Name Southcott

Date April 7, 1967

STATUS OF REST-ROTATION GRAZING ALLOTMENTS

Supplemental information on each rest-rotation allotment:

1. Is the rest-rotation system in operation? Yes No .
2. Date of start of first grazing season March 1, 1967.
(Actual date for allotments under management. Planned date for allotments not yet in operation.)
3. Is the form of management in effect or to be applied the same as the one reviewed or suggested by Mr. Hormay?
Yes No . If not, supply the following information:
 - a. Diagram of grazing formula in use or planned.
 - b. Map showing pasture layout.
 - c. Map diagrams showing movement of livestock between pastures for one grazing cycle.

In cases where rest-rotation grazing has been in effect for one year or more, please comment briefly on the prospects, merits or deficiencies of the system. It is a little too early to fully judge the system, but your comments will be helpful in pointing up future grazing training programs.

Allotment Management Plan
Southcott Lease

I General Information

A. Location and Description

The Southcott Lease is located in eastern San Bernardino County in the Woods Hills-Gold Valley Area approximately 25 miles northeast of Essex, California on the Mitchell's Caverns Road.

Mr. Fleetwood Southcott is the nonresident owner of the ranch and the lessee. Mr. Don Benshoof is the ranch operator residing on the ranch. Mr. Benshoof has full authority in cooperative programs with the Soil Conservation Service and the Bureau.

There are 16,185 acres of federal land and 1,360 acres of private land for a total of 17,545 acres within the lease boundary. The privately owned land is Gold Valley Ranch, property of the lessee.

Approximately 1,300 acres of land located on the western central boundary are within the effective use area of this lease. This acreage is being negotiated for at the present time and will become a part of the management plan area eventually.

A map of the area is attached.

B. Resource Data and Range Developments

Resource Data

1. The soil is derived from decomposed granite.
2. The topography ranges from rolling hills to rough and mountainous terrain.
3. The elevation ranges from 3,800 feet to 6,000 feet above sea level.
4. The average annual rainfall recorded at the Mitchell's Caverns station is 7.18 inches.
5. There are three major vegetative types: (a) Pinon-Juniper Woodland, (b) Mixed Desert Shrub, (c) Blackbrush (Coleogyne) - Needlegrass.

The grazing capacity ranges from waste to 5 acres per animal unit month for an average of 17 acres per AUM. Erosion hazard is high

on the loose granitic soil, however, the trend is one of improving erosion conditions. Forage production is high in terms of site potential under existing vegetative cover. High volume, palatable, perennial grasses are present in all vegetative types. The good condition and improving trend existing on the area are attributable to light to nonuse for the past ten years. The lessee and his ranch operator have now restocked the lease. Since the lease is relatively small and use must be year long, an economic operation would place a heavy load on the land under continuous grazing. Although the high value forage plants are in evidence, there is undeveloped potential in terms of forage quality. To maintain good range condition and improve forage quality under grazing pressure, it is mandatory that the lease be managed under a planned grazing system.

Range Developments

Although much of the lease is fenced into pastures, some fencing will be necessary to implement an intensive management plan. Additional water developments will be required. Existing projects appear on the attached map in black; proposed projects in red.

Potential

Under an intensive grazing management system an increase of from 5 to 10 percent density from the present 20 to 25 percent density can be expected. The expected increase should be in the form of high quality forage plants.

Livestock Management

Present livestock use is light and year long. There has been no pressure on the range for the past 10 years and the range is in good condition. The need for a management system is to maintain and improve the range since it is now stocked to the estimated grazing capacity. Use will be year long and in accordance with the selected grazing system.

Correlation with Other Programs:

Lands - The area is Type I (best blocked) and classified for multiple use management.

Minerals - Minerals exploration is carried out on a small scale, but does not conflict with grazing. Gold and silver have been taken from sites on the lease in the past.

Recreation - Camping, rock hounding, sightseeing and hunting are recreation uses made on the area. These uses are compatible with grazing at the present level of use.

Wildlife - Deer, bighorn sheep and/or feral burros share forage in two areas of the lease with cattle. Upper Gold Valley has dual cattle and deer use, but competition is not critical because of topography and cover requirements for deer. In the Woods Mountains, bighorn, burros and cattle share the range to some extent. Since this is marginal range for cattle anyway, primary consideration will be given to wildlife here.

II. Objectives

1. To maintain good range condition when grazing is resumed after a long period of non-use.
2. To increase overall ground cover density by 5 to 10 percent.
3. To increase the production of high volume, palatable forage plants such as blue grama and bush muhly.

III. Procedure

To reach the stated objectives, a four pasture rest-rotation system has been selected. The reasons for the selection are enumerated as follows:

1. Under continuous grazing palatable species are selected for use by livestock, forcing unfair competition among forage species. The rest-rotation system will provide for equal competition among species.
2. Since intensive use is required by the operator to make this an economic unit, the most intensive management system available will be required to protect and improve the range.
3. Since much of the lease is already under fence, it will cost little more to implement an intensive management plan than to use a less intensive and less effective plan.

IV. Provision for Modification

This allotment management plan can be altered jointly by the Lessee and the District Manager on the basis of allotment evaluation studies, noncompliance and additional data on other resource uses.

Rest - Rotation Grazing Plan
Southcott Lease

Introduction

This grazing plan includes approximately 18,000 acres of combined federal and privately owned range land in the Gold Valley - Wood Hills area of eastern San Bernardino County.

The area is divided into several pastures by existing fences. Additional fencing will be done to separate the area into five pasture units, of approximately equal grazing capacity. (See attached map).

The grazing season on the area is 12 months. Since Unit V is suited to winter use by its location, topography and vegetation, 2.5 months grazing use, from mid-December or early March, will be made on it each year. The remaining 9.5 months use will be made on combinations of Units I, II, III and IV, as described in the action plan. (See attached map and diagram).

The key forage plants and their approximate dates of their developmental stages are tabulated and attached. The dates will be affirmed each year by the ranch operator to insure proper livestock distribution.

This grazing plan is a cooperative program including the owner and the operator of the Gold Valley Ranch, Soil Conservation Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Action Plan

Livestock Handling for Unit I for Four Years

In Year 1, Unit I can be grazed to its maximum capacity for livestock production.

In year 2, it must be rested until August fifteenth. By August fifteenth, the seed has ripened. The unit should be grazed to its full capacity from August fifteenth to the end of the season. Two benefits are realized. Cattle can be released to a Unit with more feed available, and in grazing, they will thresh, bury and trample the current year's seed crop. In short, cattle will prepare a seedbed and plant the seed.

In Year 3, it must be rested for a full season for the purpose of permitting the planted seeds to germinate and develop.

In Year 4, it can be grazed after July 15 if additional forage is needed. Rest until July 15 permits the seedlings to develop mature root systems, so a cow cannot uproot them in grazing.

The cycle of four treatments will be repeated for each Unit permitting a total of three Units available for grazing each year. (See diagram in Appendix).

By permitting the proper rest intervals and by beginning the grazing periods at the correct time, invading plants should not increase in numbers. Grazing naturally discriminates against the most palatable and nutritious plants. By allowing development in fair competition, the high value forage plants should be able to compete favorably against invading plants.

Range Improvements Needed to Implement the Plan

The Bureau of Land Management will construct 6.6 miles of fence needed to separate the pasture units.

The Bureau of Land Management and the ranch operator will develop the necessary watering facilities. The ranch operator will assume maintenance responsibility for all range improvements.

Utilization Checks and Trend Studies

Utilization checks should be made, using the Occular Estimate Methods, on the following dates:

Dec. 15 - In Units under treatments #1 (total use),
#2 (seed trampling) and #4 (use after
seedling establishment).

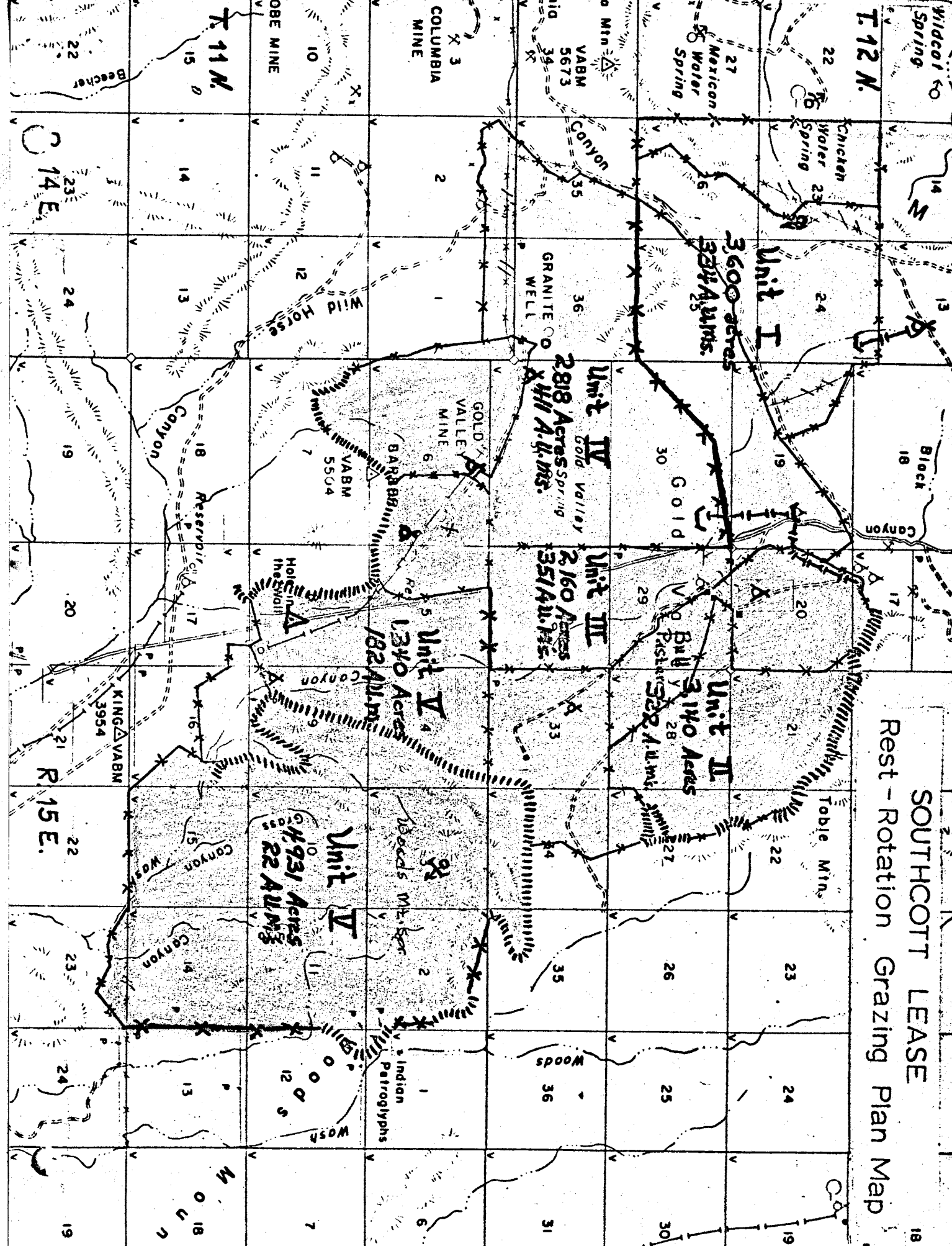
Trend studies should be made using photo points in mid-July on Units under treatments #2, #3, and #4. These checks should be made at not more than 3 year intervals.

Key Forage Species	Utilization %	Start Growth (Date)	Flowering Period			
			Boot (Date)	Milk (Date)	Seed Ripe (Date)	
<u>Grasses (Perennial)</u>						
Bush Muhly		April	June	July	Aug.	
Blue Grama		April	June	July	Aug.	
<u>Shrubs</u>						
Desert Bitterbrush			Mid-Mar.			June
						(Purshia glandulosa)

*Specific dates must be determined each year and each season.

SOUTHCOTT LEASE

Rest - Rotation Grazing Plan Map



Southcott Lease
Grazing Plan Agreement

The Riverside District, Bureau of Land Management, agrees to construct, by contract, approximately 6.6 miles of standard four strand barbed wire fence. Three miles of fence on the Northwestern boundary of the lease will include all of sections 23 and 26, T. 12 N., R. 14 E., in the grazing plan area. Six tenths of a mile of fence on the south line of section 32, T. 12 N., R. 15 E., will separate the winter use area from the rotation plan pastures. Three miles of fence from the northwest corner of section 29, T. 12 N., R. 15 E., to the south quarter corner of section 26, T. 12 N., R. 14 E., will complete the division of the lease into five workable pasture units. B.L.M. personnel will aid the ranch operator in determining proper stocking rates and dates and writing up the management plan.

The owner and/or operator agrees to include privately owned and controlled lands within the Southcott Lease in the administration of the grazing plan, maintain records of stocking dates and livestock numbers by pasture unit, aid in developing stock water, maintain fences and watering facilities, make determinations as to proper dates to begin grazing on pasture units included in the plan, and adhere as closely as possible to the requirements of the plan.

The Soil Conservation Service agrees to advise the ranch operator on the development of privately owned range lands and supply aerial photo mosaic coverage of the entire lease.

Don Benschhoof by W. H. Benschhoof 3-21-67
Name Date

Fleet Southcott, Jr. by Fleet Southcott, Jr. 8-11-67
Name Date

Area Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service by Don L. Seal 5-4-67
Name Date

Manager, Riverside D.&L. Office
Bureau of Land Management by Hal H. McClain 8-15-67
Name Date

GRAZING FORMULA

TREATMENT	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
GRAZE (M.L.P)			[Shaded]									
REST VIGOR												
GRAZE AFTER SEED RIPE												
REST REPRODUCTION												
REST REPRODUCTION												
			SPR GROWTH BEGINS									
							FLEECING BEGINS	SEED RIPE				

YEARLY GRAZING SCHEDULE

MANAGEMENT UNIT	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
First Year 1969	UNIT I											
	" II											
	" III											
	" IV											
Second Year 1970	UNIT I											
	" II											
	" III											
	" IV											
Third Year 1971	UNIT I											
	" II											
	" III											
	" IV											
Fourth Year 1972	UNIT I											
	" II											
	" III											
	" IV											
Fifth Year 19												
Sixth Year 19												