

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sunflower Flat Cattle Allotment

Gold Creek Ranger District

Humboldt National Forest

1. Objective

The management objectives for this allotment are to develop and manage the forage resources to its maximum sustained yield in conformance with the Nevada sub-regional guides and the Gold Creek District Multiple use management plan. The goal is to attain maximum forage production on the suitable range through rest-rotation, and the control of wyethia and sagebrush by the application of herbicides. Proper use of forage by livestock on the suitable cattle grazing areas is the objective of this allotment plan. The range improvement program is outlined on page 4 of this plan. All physical improvements are planned for completion by 1970. Existing improvements are shown on attached map of the allotment.

2. History and Current Status

- a. Past actual use - Actual and permitted use for past years is shown on the 12-R4 and 29-R4 forms in Section 3 of the classifile folder for this allotment. Until 1922 most of the allotment was used by large numbers of cattle and sheep. In 1922 the common-use was shifted west to the McDonald Creek road and Kearns and Laing were shifted east onto the present allotment. The area between the McDonald Creek road and Allegheny summit and the section west of Poorman Creek were in common-use and remained so until Mendive changed to cattle in 1946. At this time a reduction in stocking was applied and permitted use was reduced to the figure at which it now stands as follows:

PX	504	6/16-10/16	2016 AM
Mendive	225	" "	900 AM
Whitaker	471	" "	1884 AM
Wildhorse	135	" "	540 AM
	<u>1335</u>	<u>6/16-10/16</u>	<u>5340 AM</u>

Allowable drift to the common-use area to the west was set at 135 C and 540 AM. Until 1950 this allotment was a unit of the old Gold Creek C&H allotment and actual use records were not kept seperately.

Since 1949 actual-use has averaged 1320 C for 4489 AM. Annual non-use (62 to 135 head) and deferment of spring grazing during the past 5 years shows less actual use than the permitted use. (See table on page 3 .)

- b. Past Management - Cattle on this allotment have never been intensively managed. Cattle were turned out on the same early range areas each season with some variation in turn-out date. Some attempts were made to herd cattle on lower units until higher elevation range was ready. Cattle distribution has generally been good since there is gentle topography and many small springs. Permittees were very reluctant to enter into a rest-rotation system of grazing.

The rest-rotation system was initiated in 1960 with the allotment being divided into 4 units.

During the past 5 years the permittees have contributed considerably to the development of additional water places throughout the allotment (See Cooperative agreement dated May 31, 1963 .)

- c. Ranch Operations - The normal operation by the permittees has been a cow-calf plan of use, however, one permittee has occasionally run as high as 80% steers. About 20% of the cattle owned by the permittees use this allotment for summer grazing. The remainder summer on other forest allotments privately owned, BLM, or leased lands. At the close of the summer grazing season the cattle are usually taken to the commensurate ranch lands.

The following table shows the present permittees and their permitted National Forest and BLM use:

Name	<u>National Forest</u>			<u>BLM Licenses</u>		
	Pref. No.	Season	Permitted AUM's	No.	Season	Permitted AUM's
Mendive	225	6/16-10/15	900			750
Corbari	135	"	540	See attached BLM Licenses in Appendix.		540
PX	504	"	2016			15,037
Whitaker	471	"	1884			6,450
<u>Totals</u>	<u>1335</u>	<u>-----</u>	<u>5340</u>			<u>22,777</u>

Chart below shows actual use on the Sunflower Flat Allotment over the past 10-year period:

Actual Use	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	Average 10 Year Period
No. of cattle	1319	1319	1150	1298	1176	1178	1234	1291	1281	1213	1328	1254
Cow months use	5014	4619	3994	4902	4610	4444	4485	4954	4827	4519	5558	4721

This table shows that actual use has been about 9% below obligated use during the period.

- d. Range Conditions - Except for 545 acres of fenced, private land there are no closed areas. In addition to the fenced private land, there are 1296 acres of open private land. W. W. Whitaker owns 125 acres which they waive for a private land permit on Tennessee C&H. The W. T. Jenkins Co. owns 849 acres which they waive for sheep use on the Mountain City District. The remainder of the private land is in mining claims.

This allotment is unusually free from waste or non-range types. The following table shows the summary of estimated National Forest acreages in various suitability and condition classes at the present time:

<u>Suitable Range Used</u>		
Excellent Condition	2,500
Good	"	7,5000
Fair	"	7,825
Poor	"	600
Very Poor	"	70
<u>Unsuitable Range Used</u>		0
Unsuitable Range Not Used		0
<u>Suitable Range Closed to Grazing</u>		0
<u>Suitable Range Not Being Used</u>		0
<u>Non-range</u>		540
Total.....		19,035

3. Estimated Grazing Capacity

The grazing capacity of the suitable range in its present condition, based on proper use studies, is estimated to be about 10,000 cow months. Present obligation is 5340 cow months with a recommendation for a 10% increase. It is believed that the partially completed development program, the rest-rotation system of management, and good management by the permittees can further increase the capacity significantly. See carrying capacity computations in the "Classifile "

folder Section 5, Study data.

4. Management System

System to be used - The following table outlines the rotation that was used through 1964 and the revised system of management to be used beginning with the 1965 season:

FIRST ROTATION - 1960 THRU 1964

<u>Unit</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>
Poorman	9/ 6 - 10/15	Rest	7/26 - 9/ 5	6/16 - 7/25
Chicken Cr.	6/16 - 7/25	9/ 6 - 10/15	Rest	7/26 - 9/ 5
Chipman Mdw.	7/26 - 9/ 5	6/16 - 7/25	9/ 6 - 10/15	Rest
Sunflower	Rest	7/26 - 9/ 5	6/16 - 7/25	9/ 6 - 10/15

During the first rotation it became apparent that a more reasonable rotation was needed so cattle would not be moved so far in each rotation. Frequently cattle had to be moved entirely through a resting unit to the next unit to be grazed. To facilitate better management, the rotation was therefore changed to the following:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
1 Poorman	D Rest	A 6/16 - 7/25	B 7/26 - 9/ 5	C 9/ 6 - 10/ 5
2 Chicken Cr.	C 9/ 6 - 10/15	Rest	6/16 - 7/25	7/16 - 9/ 5
3 Chipman Mdw.	B 7/26 - 9/ 5	9/ 6 - 10/15	Rest	6/16 - 9/25
4 Sunflower	A 6/16 - 7/25	7/26 - 9/ 5	9/ 6 - 10/15	Rest

5. Range Development Program

- a. Existing Improvements - See record of Range Improvements R4-2200-12 for detailed description and location.

Aerial herbicide (Artr. & wyethia)	5500 Acres
Water Developments - See attached list and map.	74 Water Development
Division Fence - See attached map	15 Miles
Total Allotment Fence	38 Miles

- b. Proposed Improvements - Consist of the following:

Aerial herbicide (wyethia)	3200 Acres
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See project plan attached for improvement schedule.

6. Correlation With Other Uses

Management of this allotment will correlate grazing with other uses as outlined in the Intermountain Management Guide, and the Gold Creek Ranger District Multiple Use Plan. This allotment is mostly within

the intermediate zone with small amounts in the travel influence zone. (See Multiple Use map) Specific coordinating requirements that have been or will be taken for the intermediate zone are as follows:

a. Intermediate Zone

- (1) Timber - There is no timber found on the allotment except aspen. Present stands will be protected and buffer strips of 200' will be made when spraying.
- (2) Recreation - There is one developed campground on this allotment. It will be fenced and excluded from grazing. As recreation use increases, other planned campsites (see NFRS data) will be developed and protected from grazing.
- (3) Wildlife - Deer use this allotment from May through October. All of the winter range is outside the allotment. Little conflict exists between cattle and deer since it is used as summer range by both. The deer are chased off early by hunters. An estimated 500 sageshens summer on the allotment for about 7 months, May through October. Herbicide application projects have been reviewed with the Nevada Fish and Game Dept. before work has been done and this coordination will continue.
- (4) Watershed - Because of gentle terrain, watershed condition is generally good. No watershed rehabilitation is planned or needed. Improving range and ground cover conditions through the allotment management and development program will continue to improve watershed conditions. The goal of proper grazing use will be to produce and maintain a minimum of 60% ground cover of vegetative material on all land suitable for cattle grazing.

b. Travel Influence Zone

Meadow Creek is listed in the travel influence zone. Grazing will be controlled as far as possible to maintain the aesthetic values of this zone. No type conversion will be made in Meadow Creek.

7. Allotment Inspection

- a. Range Readiness - The allotment is divided into 4 units which are very similar in vegetative type and elevation. Range Readiness does not pose a problem with a June 16 opening date. Occasionally a wet spring necessitates holding off 3-5 days after the 15th but this can be done with no problem as need arises.

Grazing Impacts

These studies will be made to firm up grazing capacity estimates.

Site analysis records will be taken to determine benefits and production of all rehabilitated areas. A photo record will be kept of these transects.

3 - Step Transects

<u>Poorman Unit</u>	<u>Chicken Cr. Unit</u>	<u>Chipman Unit</u>	<u>Sunflower Unit</u>
Groundhog Established- 1959	Chicken Cr. Est. 1959	Establish one	No. Sunflower Est. 1959
Will read- 1967	Will read 1967		Will read 1967

Photo Points

<u>Poorman</u>	<u>Chicken Cr.</u>	<u>Chipman</u>	<u>Sunflower</u>
Establish 3	Establish 3	Establish 3	Establish 3

b. Proper Use Criteria

The suitable range will be utilized within the limitations required for soil stability. Plant vigor, seed production, and establishment of new seedlings will be maintained or improved. The entire allotment has been under rest-rotation management since 1960 and most of the development program is completed. The following Criteria for utilization will be used:

1. 60% use of all available forage in the units grazed.
2. New seedlings of desirable forage species established.

c. Accountability of Livestock Numbers - All livestock using this allotment will be counted as they enter the forest, unless waived by Ranger. Periodic checks for non-permitted cattle will be made.

Plan Prepared by:

Kenneth R. Dittmer
District Forest Ranger

Date:

2/10/66

Plan Approved by:

Robert A. Rasmussen
Forest Supervisor

Date:

2-24-66

Sunflower Flat Allotment

Historical Use:

- Very heavy early livestock use by cattle & sheep. (1868-1922)
- 1941: 2112 c. 6/1 - 11/15 11,616 AM's
- Red'n * - 1946: 1324 c. 6/16 - 10/16 5,336 AM's
1350. & 540 AM's allowed to drift to Jenkins S&D allot.
- 1953: Estimated carrying capacity was 5336 AM's w/ 540 AM's drift + to the Jenkins S&D allotment.

From 1949, to 1964, average actual use was 1254 c. & 4721 annis or about 9% below permitted use.

1964 → Grazing capacity estimated at 10,000 em's. Existing obligation at that time was 5340 em's w/ a recommendation for a 10% increase. At that time, it was believed that w/ BMP's, capacity could be further increased.

Grazing System

Four-Pasture Rest-Rotation System.

- Implemented in 1960.
- Between 1960-64, pasture rotation was scheduled such that, the rest pasture had to be crossed to reach a use unit. This was changed in 1965 to facilitate moving from pasture to pasture w/o skipping pastures.

Range Improvements

a. Existing as of 1964

Aerial herbicide (Artrg Wyethia)	5500 acres
Water Developments	74 each
Division Fence	15 mi
Total Allot Fence	38 mi

b. As of 1964 - another 3200 acres of Wyethia spraying was proposed

Nevada Humboldt NF
Gold Creek Ranger District

Aug 11-13, 1981

Sunflower Flat Cattle Allotment

Pastures

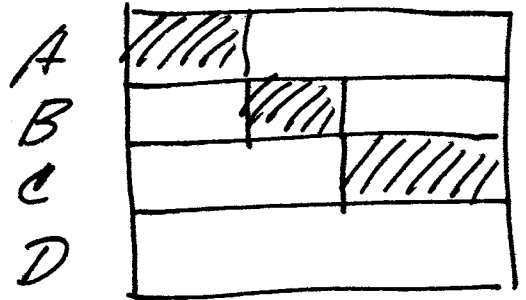
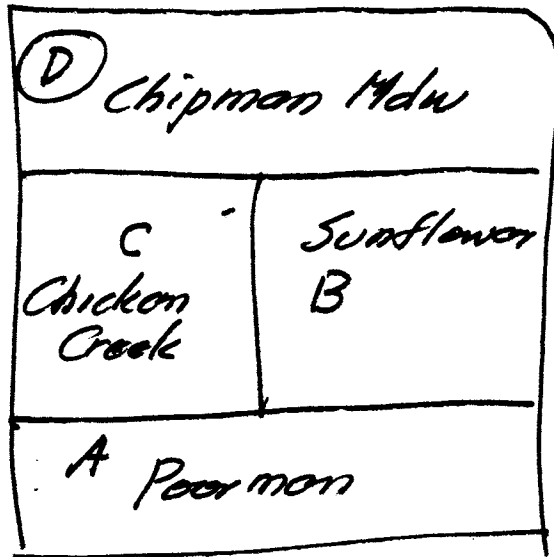
- 1 Poorman
- 2 Chicken Crk
- 3 Chipman Meadow
- 4 Sunflower

Humboldt N.F.

Sunflower Flat Allot

Aug 13/81

1981 grazing treatment plan ✓



✓ Treatments B & C applied ahead of schedule because of shortage state drinking water. This a very dry year

Note RR grazing initiated 1961