

CAL TAC C&H ALLOTMENT

MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Other Resource Assistant Date

Accepted by Jerome M. Long 12-3-80  
Permittee Long Date

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Acting Forest Supervisor Date

## I. INTRODUCTION

The management plan for the Cal Tac C&H Allotment is based upon the objectives and decisions made in the environmental assessment prepared for the Cal Tac Allotment. Copies are on file at the Supervisor's Office, Colville National Forest and Newport Ranger Station, Newport, Washington. Field work was completed by Cindy Talbott, Newport Ranger District's Range Conservationist and Eric Colter, a seasonal employee studying range management in his senior year at Washington State University. The field work was completed during the summer of 1979. The management plan was written by David Poucher (Other Resource Assistant, Newport Ranger District) with cooperation given by the allotment permittees, Herb and Larry Cordes and Jerry Long.

## II. OBJECTIVES

The following management objectives were developed by the District interdisciplinary team for the environmental assessment.

- A. The Calcoma portion of the allotment will remain a portion of the Cal Tac allotment. This portion of the allotment will be used primarily when putting cattle on the range or removing them from the range.
- B. Both recreation and cattle grazing will go on within the allotment. One area (T34N, R43E E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 20 and SWNW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 21) will be recommended to be managed as an opportunity for motorcycles and other ORVs.
- C. By managing the cattle on-date, the high elevation meadows will continue to improve in vigor. Control of surface runoff will be controlled by allowing water to run off the road in frequent places.
- D. Obtain management level D (FRES) for the Cal Tac allotment by 1981.
- E. Grazing use will normally begin on June 1 and end September 30 based on range readiness and utilization.

## III. ACTION

### A. Permitted Use and Grazing Capacity

Sixty-four head of cattle will be grazed on this allotment from approximately June 1 to September 30.

The majority of the available range was created by man's activities. The Forest Service acquired the land during the 1930's under the resettlement act. Permittee Jerry Long has a permit with the DNR and Burlington Northern to graze the Calispell Peak area. Permittee Cordes does not but there are approximately 40 AUM's on government land within this pasture.

### Estimated Grazing Capacity

The Cal Tac allotment has only been used slightly during the 1979 and 1980 season. During this rest time there has been an increase in seedling numbers due to lack of grazing pressure.

There are approximately 200 AUM's available to cattle on the lower three pastures. In addition to these AUM's, there are a minimum of 40 AUM's of forage available to wildlife but not readily available to cattle; most of this was recorded as secondary range.

The following is the estimated grazing capacity by pasture and type available to cattle.

	<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Lb/Ac</u>	<u>Proper Use</u>	<u>AUM's</u>
Lower Elevation Units	Tacoma	dry mdw.	120	1150	.6	82
		moist mdw.	8	400	.4	1
	Conger	dry mdw.	64	1000	.5	32
		moist mdw.	17	500	.4	3
Upper Tacoma	riparian	100	800	.4	32	
	dry mdw.	52	1200	.6	37	
	High Peak	dry mdw.	400	700	.4	112
Elevation	Peak	dry mdw.	400	700	.4	112
		moist mdw.	226	340	.4	30

The Peak area is divided into two pastures that will be rested alternately, therefore, only half of the 142 AUM's is available in any one year. Total AUM's available on the allotment in any given year is 256 which will allow 64 head for a four month season.

One thousand pounds of feed was used to estimate an AUM.

Following is a breakdown of AUM's by land ownership. Only primary range was considered in determining this breakdown.

<u>Land Owner</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>	<u>Suitable Range Acres</u>	<u>AUM's Available/yr</u>
Burlington Northern	7,060	247	29
State of Washington	1,720	233	27
Other Private	360	0	0
U.S.F.S.	31,045	499	200
			<u>256</u>

\*Estimate subject to change during monitoring period.

## B. Management System

A three pasture deferred rotation system will be used on the lower pastures while Calispell Peak will be managed as a two pasture system with each pasture being rested alternate years.

Proposed grazing schedule:

1st Year	Tacoma	Upper Tacoma	
	Long 39 head 6/1-7/9	Long 39 head 7/10-8/11	
	Cordes 25 head 6/1-7/9	Cordes 25 head 7/10-8/11	
	Peak	Congers	
	Long 39 head 8/12-9/30	Cordes 20 head 8/12-9/30	
	Cordes 5 head 8/12-9/30		
2nd Year	Congers	Tacoma	
	Long 39 head 6/1-6/16	Long 39 head 6/17-7/26	
	Cordes 25 head 6/1-6/16	Cordes 25 head 6/17-7/26	
	Upper Tacoma	Peak	
	Long 39 head 7/27-8/11	Long 39 head 8/12-9/30	
	Cordes 25 head 7/27-8/11	Cordes 5 head 8/12-9/30	
	Cordes 20 head 8/12-9/30		
	3rd Year	Upper Tacoma	Congers
		Long 39 head 6/1-7/2	Long 39 head 7/3-7/19
Cordes 25 head 6/1-7/2		Cordes 25 head 7/3-7/19	
	Tacoma	Peak	
	Long 39 head 7/18-8/12	Long 39 head 8/12-9/30	
	Cordes 25 head 7/18-8/12	Cordes 5 head 8/12-9/30	
	Cordes 20 head 8/12-9/30		

## C. Range Improvements

### 1. Existing Range Improvements

- a. Heavy duty steel cattle guard on Trimble Creek Road 3116 at section line between Sections 9 and 10, T33N, R43E, 0.4 mile of drift fence.
- b. Drift fence NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 28, T34N, R43E, 0.2 mile. Also gate across roadway.
- c. Drift fence NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 21, T34N, R43E, 0.2 miles.
- d. Light duty steel cattle guard on Calispell Peak Road 629 and 0.2 miles of drift fence NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 13, T34N, R42E.
- e. Six-tenths (0.6) mile fence across road in NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 28, T34N, R43E connecting to a cattle guard on Road 26 SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 22, T34N, R43E.

- f. Drift fence NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 8<sup>9</sup>, T34N, R43E, 0.2 mile.
- g. Stock driveway commencing in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 10, and traversing through Section 10 to NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 10, T34N, R42E.
- h. Two-tenths (0.2) miles of wooden fence at start of driveway NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 10, T34N, R42E.

2. Needed Structural Range Improvements

- a. Cattle guard across Road 631 in SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 21, T34N, R43E.
- b. Replace wire gate with electric gate in NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 28, T34N, ~~R42E~~<sup>R43E</sup> or replace with cattle guard.

3. Needed Non-Structural Improvements

Soil fertility is the limiting factor on most of our ranges on this district. Production and plant vigor could be drastically improved through fertilization. The recommended application rate is 80 lbs. of nitrogen the first year and 50 lbs. of nitrogen every third year thereafter.

The following areas are recommended for fertilization:

<u>Compt.</u>	<u>Cell #</u>	<u>Legal Description</u>
3106	36D2	T34N, R43E, NWSW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 5
3109	33B2	T34N, R43E, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 20 & SWNW Sec. 21
3109	34B2	T34N, R43E, NENE Section 20
3109	35C2	T34N, R43E, SWNW Section 21
3109	36C2	T34N, R43E, NWNW Section 21
3109	38C3	T34N, R43E, NWNW Section 28
3109	28C2	T34N, R43E, NWNE Section 21
3107	66A5	T34N, R43E, SWSE Section 16
3107	64A5	T34N, R43E, NWSE Section 16

The following meadows shall be reseeded with timothy, brome, orchard grass and clover. Fertilization of nitrogen at the rate of 80 lbs. per acre would greatly improve the establishment of these species.

<u>Compts.</u>	<u>Cell #</u>	<u>Legal Description</u>
3109	37B2	T34N, R43E, SESE Section 20
3106	62A4	T34N, R43E, SWSW Section 9

The following meadows are being encroached upon by lodgepole pine. This encroachment shall be stopped using various methods such as YCC labor, permittee labor, and/or underburning in the spring.

<u>Compt.</u>	<u>Cell #</u>	<u>Legal Description</u>
3109	33B2	T34N, R43E, E $\frac{1}{4}$ NE Section 20 & SWNW Section 21
3107	62A4	T34N, R43E, SWSW Section 9

All meadows should be watched and treated as encroachment is an on-going problem.

#### IV. MONITORING

##### A. Vegetation and Soil

##### 1. Range Readiness

The range is generally expected to be ready around June 1. Indicators used in determining range readiness are:

Kentucky Bluegrass	panicle fully opened
Red Top	in the boot
Dandelion	leaf developed, full bloom
Serviceberry	in bloom
Snowberry	fully leafed, budded

##### 2. Soil Readiness

Sites that are normally dry should be fairly dry and firm. Wet meadows should have most of the area dry enough to carry stock without breaking the sod and destroying its cover.

##### 3. Production Utilization Studies

There are four (4) key areas that will be used for production utilization studies and range readiness. They are:

- Near Trimble Creek Road (T34N, R43E, SESE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 20)
- Tacoma Creek (T34N, R43E, NWNE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 8)
- (T35N, R43E, SWSE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 31)
- Fawn Ridge area (T34N, R43E, SWSE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 17)

Permanent transects C1-T1 and T2 located in T34N, R42E, SENE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 21 and C9-T1 located in T34N, R43E, SESE Section 9 will be read every five years. Last reading was in 1979.

Cattle will be moved when proper use on key species is reached.

<u>Key Species</u>	<u>Proper Use</u>
Orchardgrass	50%
Kentucky Bluegrass	70%, moist meadow 60%, dry meadow
Red Top	70%, moist meadow 60%, dry meadow

4. Noxious Weeds

Location of spotted and diffuse knapweed, Canadian thistle, dalmation toadflax, houndstongue, plumeless thistle, oxeye daisy, or other weeds that are a concern in the range management program will be noted on a District weed map. Areas which require herbicide treatment will be included in the Forest's noxious weed control program. Areas with oxeye daisy problems should be fertilized three consecutive years with 85 lbs. of nitrogen per acre for control.

B. Livestock Management

1. Salt and Supplement Locations

Salt will be placed in a box or other structure off the ground in locations agreed upon by the Forest Service prior to the on-date of cattle.

2. Identification of Cattle

Cattle will have ear tags that will have an identifying number printed on them.

3. Number and Distribution of Livestock

All livestock must be counted when entering the range unless such a count is waived by the District Ranger or Other Resource Assistant. The permittee will provide the Forest Service with at least five days advance notice of the date livestock will be moved on to the range.

Periodic checks will be made while the cattle are on the range. The permittee will be notified if the cattle need to be moved or scattered. The permittee, however, should not wait for such notification. If proper utilization has been met, then the permittee should move the cattle on his own accord.

4. Annual Management Plan

An annual management plan will be written yearly for this allotment. The Forest Service will prepare this document.

C. Structural Improvements

1. Condition and Maintenance

Twice yearly checks for condition and maintenance on structural improvements will be made prior to the cattle on-date and after the off-date to see that improvements are ready for winter.

D. Streambanks and Water Quality

Inspections of riparian zones will be made once a year during or after the time the cattle are on the allotment. Trampling damage to streambanks, over grazing, or other detrimental impacts will be reported.