

RUBY CREEK C&H ALLOTMENT

NEWPORT RANGER DISTRICT

COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST

Plan prepared by David R Poacher March 14, 1980  
ORA Date

Plan accepted by Donald C. Norton April 7, 1980  
Donald Norton, Permittee Date

Plan recommended by George L. Lusk March 28, 1980  
District Ranger Date

Plan approved by Robert B. Lavoie 5/2/80  
Forest Supervisor Date

## I. INTRODUCTION

This is the management plan for Ruby Creek Allotment. The plan is based upon the management objectives and decision reached in the Environmental Assessment for the Ruby Creek Allotment. The field work was completed by Cindy Talbott Newport District Range Conservationist and Eric Colter a senior at Washington State University studying range management. This plan was written by David Poucher with cooperation from the permittee Donald and Gail Norton.

## II. OBJECTIVES

The following management objectives were developed by the District interdisciplinary team for the Environmental Assessment.

### A. Minimize damage to timber stand regeneration.

Grazing in plantations will be coordinated between the range conservationist and the silviculturist. Effects of seeding, fencing, and utilization will be monitored in order to gain enough information to set specific guidelines for use on this allotment. Until then, proper use in plantations will be utilization that can be obtained without unacceptable cattle damage to trees or soil.

### B. Maintain the stability of the ranches effected.

This system of deferred rotation will allow an increase in term numbers for the permittee. This is a stabilizing effect on the permittee.

### C. Maintain the environment consistent with other resource uses and values.

This grazing system is compatible with the other uses in the allotment area. A portion of the allotment is in the Air Force Survival School per-

mitted area. The Air Force states that this allotment neither aids or hinders their training activities.

In conjunction with the District's timber program, small sales to remove wolfy lodgepole and other deformed trees should be made. These sales will be around Squirrel Meadows and Macelroy Meadow. After logging and slash cleanup, the timbered area will be seeded to increase forage production, timber production will also continue.

- D. Obtain management level D (FRES) for the Ruby Creek Allotment by 1983.
- 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

Prior to 1976 the ten year average grazing numbers were 140 head and their natural offspring for a four month season on National Forest land.

In 1976 the allotment lost all of its permittees except for the Shield Z Ranch (owned by Sherman Zigler). At this time the total number of cattle on the allotment dropped to 88 head on lands 92 percent U.S. Government. The old homesteads have become sodded-in along with old camp and mill sites. In 1964 the Bonneville Power Administration cleared a 250 foot wide strip across the east side of the allotment. This was seeded and provides much additional forage. Principal forage species are blue grass, red top, timothy, and clover. Some of the natural meadows contain ripgut (*Bromus rigidus*) and canary grass. The open dry slopes are covered with pine grass.

Currently there is one permittee assigned to the allotment. He trucks his livestock to and from the range.

There are two major private landowners within the allotment that rent pastures to the permittee. Carl Donley has a fenced pasture and lets the Shield Z Ranch run 23 head for four months. Motts place is not fenced, he allows 20 head for four months. Mr. Mott has not given a long term lease to the Shield Z Ranch but does allow the grazing on a yearly basis.

Estimated Grazing Capacity

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Lb/Ac.</u>	<u>Proper Use</u>	<u>A.U.M.'s</u>
Reynolds	meadow	57	1500	.65	56
	powerline	36	3600	.70	91
Spur	meadow	83	1000	.65	54
	riparian	208	500	.70	73
	timbered	231	300	.50	35
	powerline	74	2500	.70	130
Rufus	meadow	83	1200	.65	65
	sedge meadow	61	500	.5	15
					<u>519</u>

10% for wildlife .90 x 519 = 458 A.U.M.'s are available or 115 head for a four month season on National Forest lands.

A 1000 lbs. of feed was used to estimate an A.U.M.

Ownership breakdown by A.U.M.'s. Only primary range was considered in determining this breakdown.

	<u>Total Acres</u>	<u>Suitable Range Ac.</u>	<u>A.U.M.'s*</u>
State of Washington	1291	19	4
Burlington Northern	3145	42	8
Other, private	426	0	0
Motts	160	130	80 <u>1/</u>
Donley	130	0	0 <u>2/</u>

1st allot ac 280  
28730  
1st P.S. 23578

\*Estimate, subject to change during monitoring period.

1/ At present time Mott will not waive management of land to U.S.F.S.

2/ His suitable range is fenced and cattle cannot get on or off. His pasture is leased to the Shield Z Ranch, this allotment's permittee.

B. Management System

Currently the allotment has one permittee with a term permit of 43.

The permittee has been running 88 head on lands 91% National Forest since 1976. Range analysis and range utilization indicates that this allotment is under used. It is recommended that this total number of cattle be increased to 103 head for a four month season.

Squirrel Meadow should be completely rested for the 1980 season to allow it to recuperate from overgrazing by trespass cattle and then returned for use to the allotment.

This management system to be used is a deferred rotation system. Rufus pasture is a high pasture and will have to be used late in the season.

There are two private landowners within the Spur allotment that rent pasture to the Shield Z Ranch. Donley rents approximately 130 acres of fenced pasture which will carry 23 head for four months. Motts rents approximately 130 acres to the Shield Z Ranch. The carrying capacity of this is 20 head for four months. This pasture is not fenced.

The following is the recommended pasture rotation:

Year 1

<u>Pasture</u>	<u># Head</u>	<u>Length of Time</u>
Spur	103	June 1 - July 1
Spur	52	July 2 - Sept 1
Rufus	51	July 2 - Sept 1
Reynolds	103	Sept 2 - Sept 30
Donley	23	June 1 - Sept 30
Mott	20	June 1 - Sept 30

Year 2

Reynolds	103	June 1 - July 1
Spur	103	July 2 - Aug 1
Spur	52	Aug 2 - Sept 30
Rufus	51	Aug 2 - Sept 30
Donley	23	June 1 - Sept 30
Mott	20	June 1 - Sept 30

C. Range Improvements

1. Existing Range Improvements

- a. A heavy duty steel cattle guard and 0.8 miles of drift fence located in SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 10, T35N, R43E.
- b. Heavy duty steel cattle guard and 0.5 miles of drift fence in NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Section 12, T35N, R42E.
- c. 0.1 mile drift fence on powerline between Cusick Creek and Ruby Creek Allotments in NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 27, T35N, R43E and a wooden cattle guard on road under powerline.
- d. 0.5 miles of drift fence starting at the SE corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 15, T35N, R43E and heading southward and 0.5 miles of drift fence starting at same point and heading westward.
- e. A wooden cattle guard in roadway under powerline in SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 15, T35N, R43E. This is on item 4 fence.
- f. 1.6 miles of stock driveway connection Rufus Meadow Section 26, T36N, R42E with meadow in Section 2, T35N, R42E.

2. Needed Range Improvements

- a. Spring development and metal trough under powerline NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 10, T35N, R43E.
- b. Spring development with wooden trough under powerline next to roadway SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 10, T35N, R43E.
- c. 0.2 miles of drift fence going in an easterly direction from existing fence corner located SE corner of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 15, T35N, R43E.
- d. 0.5 miles of drift fence added to existing fence that terminates in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 15, T35N, R43E.

See map for existing and needed improvement in appendix.

IV. MONITORING

A. Vegetation and Soil

1. Range Readiness

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

Kentucky Bluegrass	panicle partially opened
Redtop	in the boot
Dandelion	leafage developed, full bloom
Serviceberry	in bloom
Snowberry	fully leafed, budded

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 the cover.

2. Production Utilization Studies

The key areas that will be used for production utilization studies and range readiness determination are:

Reynolds pasture unit 3

Macelroy Meadows (NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23, T35N, R43E)

Bell-Boundary powerline (SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 15, T35N, R43E)

Spur pasture unit 2

N. Fork Ruby Creek (NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 8, T35N, R43E)

Johnson Meadow (NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 8, T35N, R43E)

Big Swamp (NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 21, T35N, R43E)

Rufus pasture unit 1

Lost Meadow (NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 3, T36N, R42E)

Ruby Creek (SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2, T35N, R42E)

Rufus Meadow (SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 26, T36N, R42E)

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

<u>Key Species</u>	<u>Proper Use</u>
Orchardgrass & palatable species in mix	50%
Kentucky Bluegrass	70% (moist meadow) 60% (dry meadow)
Redtop	70% (moist meadow) 60% (dry meadow)

3. Streambank Stabilization

Inspection of riparian zones of the North Fork and Ruby Creek will be made once a year during or after the time the cattle are in the pastures.

Through which the creek flows. Trampling damage to streambanks, overgrazing, or other detrimental impacts will be reported.



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 noxious weed control program. Areas with oxeye daisy problems will be fertilized with 85 lbs. of nitrogen per acre for control of this weed.

5. Condition/Trend Photo Transects

A three legged transect will be located and initial measurements taken in 1980; thereafter it will be measured and photographed every five years.

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 and the permittee.

2. Numbers and Distribution of Livestock.

Periodic checks will be made while cattle are on the range and the permittee will be notified if cattle are not in the designated pasture.

C. Structural Improvements

1. Proposed Location.

Prior to the 1980 grazing season, exact locations for the improvements to be installed will be determined. During the summer, location and need for additional improvements will be made.

2. 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. Let-down fences should be down.

ADDENDUM

RUBY CREEK MANAGEMENT PLAN

2. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

K. Other Impacts

There will be no significant effects on minority groups under any of the alternatives (F.S.M. 1730).

There will be no negative impact on the relationship between local, short term uses of mans environment.

There will be no negative effects upon prime farmland, range or forest lands.

There will be no increase in energy consumption.