

GRAVES MOUNTAIN ALLOTMENT

MANAGEMENT PLAN

KETTLE FALLS RANGER DISTRICT
COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST

PLAN PREPARED BY: Allen N. Garr DATE: 9/17/85
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Resource Assistant

PLAN REVIEWED BY: Kelley M. Lister DATE: 9/19/85
Range Conservationist

PLAN REVIEWED WITH: By Emily Robert Jr DATE: 9/13/85
Permittee
Robert Bros. Land & Livestock

PLAN RECOMMENDED BY: Wendell R. Kimbrey DATE: 9/19/85
District Ranger

PLAN REVIEWED BY: Sam Olverson DATE: 9/25/85
Range, Wildlife, Soils & Watershed
Staff

PLAN APPROVED BY: William D. Shunk DATE: 9-26-85
Forest Supervisor

I. OBJECTIVES

The following management objectives have been identified for the Graves Mountain Allotment.

- A. Maintain vegetative condition and trend in all areas rated as excellent. In other areas, improve trend at least one condition class.
- B. Maintain or improve soil condition and trend.
- C. Provide direction and coordination for the protection of tree plantations.
- D. Restrict use of key deer winter range browse species to 15%.

II. ACTION

The following describes the management program necessary to meet the requirements as described in the objectives:

A. Permitted Use and Grazing Capacity

1375 ewes with lambs (4812 animal months or AM's) will graze the GRAVES MOUNTAIN SHEEP ALLOTMENT from approximately 6/1 to approximately 9/15 each year. The season of use may vary, depending on the vegetative condition but AM's will remain constant.

Grazing Capacity
(based on 1980 range analysis)
6077 AM's or 1,736 ewes and lambs

Permitted Use
4812 AM's or 1375 ewes and lambs

B. Management System

The present management system on the Graves Mountain Allotment is DEFERRED ROTATION GRAZING. This system combines the advantages of periodic deferment and complete rest from grazing of forage species. Because the present system of management is working effectively, a new system will not be implemented on the Graves Mountain Allotment. The following is a brief description of the present system:

1. The Graves Mountain Allotment is composed of two distinct areas divided by Highway 20 (Sherman Highway). For the purpose of this document these two areas will be called north half and south half.
2. 1375 sheep graze the allotment from approximately 6/1 to 9/15, and are divided into two distinct bands, one grazing the north half and one

- grazing the south half.
3. Bands are trailed across the allotment using predetermined routes, based on forage availability and campsite location. With each band is one herder and a dog. A camp-tender moves and sets up camps at campsites along the route, serving both bands.
 4. Prior to 1984 when only one band grazed the allotment, sheep would graze each half of the allotment in alternate years, resting one half of the allotment each year. Since 1984, when sheep were divided into two bands, both sides of the allotment could be grazed simultaneously allowing greater flexibility in grazing patterns each season. The following is a brief description of those patterns.
 - a. Graze both sides of the Highway, resting the Upper route of the North Half. (1985)
 - b. Graze the North Half with two parallel bands. Rest the South Half. (1986)
 - c. Graze both sides of the Highway, resting the Lower route of the North Half. (1987)

REPEAT CYCLE

5. Forage utilization is not to exceed 50%, by weight, on all grasses and forbs.

C. Livestock Management

1. Salting - Salt will be placed on rocks, or logs to avoid damage to vegetation and soil. Permanent salt grounds will not be used. Salt will not be placed within 1/4 mile of any stream, water source, maintained road or timber plantation with trees less than 5 feet tall.
2. Herding - Open herding should be used whenever possible. Trailing and bunching of sheep must be avoided where possible. Sheep are to be bedded out away from main camps and should not be bedded more than one night in the same place during the same season. Sheep should be bedded at the end of the day without being driven near camp, and not be bedded within 100 yards of water.
3. Camps - Before leaving camp, the herder or camp-tender should see that campfires are out. All garbage is to be packed out and disposed of off the Forest.
4. Deer Winter Range - The Lane Creek drainage contains a major deer winter range. Use in excess of 15% will not occur on key deer forage species. Sheep will be driven through this area so as to prevent use in excess of 15% on key species. Browse in Lane Creek should be monitored yearly in the spring, preferably in April, to judge its condition prior to the grazing season. Key species are serviceberry,

wild rose, bitterbrush, western chokecherry, mountain mahogany, cliffrose, curleaf mountain mahogany and willow.

5. Tree Plantations - Sheep will be kept away from tree plantations which have been indentified in the Annual Grazing Instructions. Sheep may be trailed through an identified plantation if they are moved through quickly (same day). Sheep should not be bedded down in a tree plantation, but may be bedded in adjacent timber stands. As a general rule, sheep will not graze in a plantation where the trees are less than 5 feet tall.
6. Steep Side Slopes and Road Cuts and Fills - Sheep will not be allowed to travel across steep side slopes and road cuts and fills, especially where soils are sandy and loose.

D. Range Improvements

1. Proposed Range Improvements - Proposed structural range improvements are not planned at this time.
2. Diffuse Knapweed is a problem on some portions of the Allotment, particularly along the powerline road and in the Coyote area. As funds become available, and administrative restrictions are lifted, these areas will be treated.
3. Existing Range Improvements - See allotment map and enclosed form (R6-2200-107) for existing range improvements.
4. Maintenance Program - Maintenance of range improvements is the responsibility of the permittee. The Forest Service will cooperate in the reconstruction of improvements when normal maintenance will no longer keep the improvements functioning, or if an improvement is destroyed as a result of a natural disaster. In cases where the permittee has failed to maintain an improvement and the improvement no longer funtions as it was intended to, the permittee may be required to reconstruct the improvement at his/her own expense.

III. MONITORING

A. Range Readiness

Livestock will not be turned onto the allotment until the range is ready for use, from the soils and vegetative resource standpoint. Criteria for range readiness is as follows:

1. Vegetation
 - a. Grasses
 - Bluebunch Wheatgrass - leaf length 6"
 - Pinegrass - leaf length 4"
 - Kentucky Bluegrass - boot stage

b. Forbs

Western Yarrow - Flower stalks showing
Arrowleaf Balsamroot - Leafage 1/2 developed
Geranium - Leafage 4" high, flower in bloom
Senecio - Leafage 3/4 mature
Dandelion - Leafage developed, full bloom

c. Shrubs

Serviceberry - Part of blossoms out
Bitterbrush - Flower buds conspicuously swollen
Snowberry - 7 to 8 pairs of leaves unfolded from each bud

2. Soils

Soils should be dry and firm enough to withstand compaction from trampling. Wet meadows, unless lightly stocked, should be dry enough to carry stock without breaking the sod and destroying the cover.

B. Production/Utilization

Production/Utilization surveys will be completed as needed to verify carrying capacity estimates, and will be geared to reflect use on the shrub component of the vegetation. Production and utilization estimates should be made on actual sheep forage species. Trailing and trampling intensity should also be monitored.

C. Inspections

Allotment inspections will be completed annually or as scheduling will permit.

RANGE IMPROVEMENT INVENTORY

Graves Mountain ALLOTMENT
(Existing)

Kettle Falls Dist-Colville National Forest

Imp. No.	Name & Kind of Project	Location	Units	Year & Kind of Construction	Condition	Maintenance	Ownership
1	Morris water development	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 6 T35N R36E	1	Dirt Tank		Permittee	USFS
<i>ok</i> 2	St. Mary's Water development	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 3 T36N R35E	1	Dirt Tank		Permittee	USFS
<i>ok</i> 3	Sheep water development	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 24 <i>by coral</i> T36N R35E	1	Dirt Tank		Permittee	USFS
4	Elbow water development	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 12 T36N R36E	1	Dirt Tank		Permittee	USFS
<i>Twin Sp ok</i> 5	Milk water development	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 7 T36N R36E	1	Dirt Tank		Permittee	USFS
6	Sheep corrals	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec 24 T36N R35E	1	Pole and Wire		Permittee	USFS