

INTERIM ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Jasper Mountain Allotment

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This is an interim plan.
It outlines the existing
situation and describes
possible management.
It is not intended to be
all inclusive or final.

HISTORY

The records show the present permittee, Milton Eslick was permitted 17 cattle as early as 1947 on what was then called the Little Boulder Allotment. The present Jasper Mountain allotment was part of that Little Boulder Allotment until 1959 when it was split out.

The permit has increased over the years to its present level of 40 term cattle, 6/1 - 10/31, 200 AUM. Mr. Eslick is also permitted 10 head, 6/1 - 10/31, for his State lease in Section 16, T39N, R36E.

One major change in the permit was in 1970 when the season was adjusted from 5/21 - 10/31 to 6/1 - 10/31. In the last two years, Mr. Eslick has taken some non-use for personal convenience.

There apparently never has been a management plan for this allotment, although some analysis mapping was done around 1970.

Cattle from the Little Boulder Allotment have been reported coming on this allotment, probably from the head of the South Fork of Little Boulder Creek.

There has been only one documented range inspection made, this in 1974.

PRESENT MANAGEMENT

Management is season long. How much salting and riding is done isn't known. The following considerations should be noted:

1. A cattleguard is planned for installation somewhere near the corner common to Sections 7, 12, 13, and 18. This is planned to control the drift from the Little Boulder Allotment. The cattleguard is part of the Martin Creek timber sale, the roads of which will aggravate the drift between the two allotments. This timber sale is presently in a state of limbo since it is in the East Deer Creek municipal watershed.
2. The bulk, if not all of the grazing occurs north of East Deer Creek. Any change in grazing patterns which would cause the cattle to water in East Deer Creek would have to be controlled to protect the watershed values. The area south of East Deer Creek is not in any allotment.
3. The most intense use occurs on State land in Section 16 and on the south face of Jasper Mountain down into Section 18.

4. Section 15 contains some early bunchgrass range which doesn't get fully utilized because the cattle drift on toward Jasper Mountain when put in that area. In addition, possibly the east 3/4 of Section 15 and the east 1/2 of Section 22 is deer winter range.
5. Little if any use is made of the north slopes of the allotment facing into Little Boulder Creek, but water development should make this area available.

ALLOTMENT CAPACITY

There has never been any capacity estimates made for this allotment. Recorded actual use has varied around 200 AUM, but there hasn't been any analysis made of the effects of this use.

Allowing 150#/acre dry weight consumption per acre on an estimated 2200 acres of primary range gives a capacity of around 350 AUMs. This plus the impressions from one inspection ride indicates the allotment should be able to safely carry the 200 AUMs permitted, with proper management.

PROBLEMS and MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Coordination of cattle grazing and municipal watershed values in East Deer Creek dictates the management options for this allotment. As it stands now, little if any watering is done in East Deer Creek proper. Most, if not all of the grazing takes place up slope of the stream, and although the cattle do water in Slide Creek it is assumed this does not contribute to the coliform count in East Deer Creek because of dilution. On-the-ground inspection has never confirmed this, however.

At this writing, the environmental impact statement and land use plan for the East Deer Creek drainage has not been finalized. This allotment management plan assumes the final land use plan will preclude activities that fail to protect the existing water quality in East Deer Creek, but will allow grazing as long as it does not lower water quality below that required by the State Class "AA" Raw Water Quality Criteria and Public Law 92-500 Non-Point Pollution Standards.

The Class "AA" standards for East Deer Creek have been met under existing grazing use. The inability of the water quality to meet the State standards for drinking water may or may not be due to cattle, and there is no requirement that open water on the Forest meet the State drinking water standards, only the "raw water quality criteria."

However, it seems realistic to assume that concentration of cattle in or nearer to East Deer Creek than at present should be avoided, and a change in the grazing system might require a specific water quality monitoring program to determine its effects on water quality.

At the present time, water quality samples are being taken above the municipal intake. This sampling station should detect any increase in coliform bacteria. The problem would be in identifying that portion of the contamination resulting from domestic grazing as opposed to natural sources.

If, at any time, it is felt domestic grazing may be effecting the water quality beyond an acceptable level, a more selective monitoring program will be set up. Depending on the results of the monitoring, an adjustment in the grazing program could be in order.

It should be born in mind that as long as Class AA standards are being met, any action along this line will be a matter of policy rather than strict legal responsibility.

As mentioned, increased use near East Deer Creek should be avoided. This narrows the land management options as follows:

1. A fenced pasture system could concentrate use and force the cattle into areas presently not being used. Specifically, watering in East Deer Creek. Additionally, the effects of concentrated use in tributary streams could have adverse effects.
2. Under existing season long use the cattle may change their grazing pattern and develop access to the creek on their own.
3. Timber sale activity could change distribution patterns and cause the cattle to start using the creek as a water source.

Before any pasture system requiring an investment in fencing is implemented, we should first be assured it won't force the cattle to East Deer Creek, or lower the water quality below an acceptable level. Since our present knowledge of the area is so scanty, this cannot be evaluated in this plan.

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT

Continue to graze season long and rely on herding and salting to avoid excessive use and cattle watering in East Deer Creek. Given permittee cooperation, a fence might be constructed along the west line of Section 15 to make better use of lands to the east of it.

All water sources which would help hold the cattle away from the creek should be developed. In this line, Martin water development should be replaced, and a trough should be put in at Lyle spring. There are other springs shown on the allotment map that should be looked at. Attention should be given to developing use on the north side of the allotment.

Essentially all of the District allotments need additional water developments for better distribution. Since this allotment is impacted by the municipal watershed considerations, development should receive priority to protect both the watershed values, and the permit itself.

Other development to be considered would be, blocking any access to the creek that might presently exist, and fencing across the head of the South Fork of Little Boulder Creek to prevent drift from the Little Boulder Allotment.

An allowable use of 50% dryweight of desirable grasses on key areas will be set. Key areas are yet to be selected.

Funding will be requested for FY 77 to begin the developments needed. The summer of 1976 should be spent identifying these. Range analysis originally planned for FY 78 should be rescheduled to the summer of 1976, if possible. If not, then FY 77 at the latest.

*Too many priority #1 allotments
? Plan to stay w/ Lake view @ 400
allts in 1977. Jm*