

R A N G E   M A N A G E M E N T   P L A N

L A M B E R T   A L L O T M E N T

R E P U B L I C   A N D   K E T T L E   F A L L S   R A N G E R   D I S T R I C T S

C O L V I L L E   N A T I O N A L   F O R E S T

J A N U A R Y   1 9 7 9

I. IDENTIFICATION

A. Lambert Allotment

B. Republic and Kettle Falls Ranger Districts

C. Colville National Forest

D. Plan Prepared By:

W. Bradley Reed Date 1/26/79  
Range Conservationist

Len McDevin Date 6/13/79  
for Diamond M Ranch, Permittee

E. Plan Recommended By:

Larry Smith Date 6/15/79  
District Ranger - Kettle Falls Ranger District

Marion Gus Nichols Date 7-23-79  
District Ranger - Republic Ranger District

F. Plan Recommended By:

Sam Oliver Date 8/8/79  
Range, Wildlife, Watershed & Soils Staff Officer

G. Plan Approved By:

Bob Steneck Date 8/10/79  
Forest Supervisor

## II. OBJECTIVES

Objectives of range management on the Lambert Allotment have been defined in the Environmental Assessment Report. These include the following:

1. Obtain management strategy "C" within the Limited Access Strategy area as defined by the Kettle Range Land Management Plan, and management strategy "D" within the General Forest Strategy of the Kettle Range Land Management Plan, and the General Forest Zone of the Colville National Forest Multiple Use Plan.
2. Provide a system of practical livestock management of the Lambert Allotment which will insure efficient, optimum sustained use of the forage consistent with other uses and values.
3. Develop and utilize the Limited Access Strategy area only to a degree which will not impair the visual quality or primitive forest environment character of the area.
4. Allocate adequate amounts of forage for use by wildlife.
5. Reverse any downward trends in range condition and improve fair, poor, and very poor areas where possible by one condition class by 1984.
6. Place unused or underused suitable range into livestock production under proper management.
7. Maintain the stability of family ranches and farms affected.
8. Employ the most cost effective methods practical to achieve quality range management.

### III. ACTION

#### A. Permitted Use and Grazing Capacity

1. Number, kind and class of livestock
  - a. 210 cattle (cows and calves) on National Forest.
  - b. Up to 32 cattle (cows and calves) on BLM lands.
2. Season of Use will be approximately 6/1 - 9/30 yearly.  
Grazing will not be allowed to begin until after range readiness has been achieved. Indicators of range readiness to be used on the Lambert Allotment will be:

#### Indicators of Range Readiness

##### Grasses

Bluebunch wheatgrass	Agropyron Spicatum	Leaves about 8" in height, seed stalks showing.
Idaho Fescue	Festuca Idahoensis	Leaves 5" in height, seed heads present.
Pinegrass	Calamagrostis rubescens	Foliage 4-6 inches in height.

Leaf height is the average of all leaves, except the few longest, when held upright and measured from the center of the bunch. Disregard the relatively few longest leaves.

##### Forbes

Western Yarrow	Achillea millefolium var. lanulosa	Flower stalks beginning to show.
Arrowleaf Balsamroot	Balsamorhiza sagittata	Leafage about 3/4 developed, beginning to bloom.
Dandelion	Taraxacum officinale	Leafage developed, full bloom.

Shrubs

Serviceberry	Amalanchier alnifolia	Part of blooms out.
Snowberry	Symphoricarpos albus	7 to 8 pairs of leaves unfolded from each bud.

Soils

Normally dry sites should be fairly dry and firm. Moist areas should have most of the area dry enough to carry stock without breaking the sod and destroying the cover. Both soil and forage indicators must be considered in determining range readiness.

3. Implementation of stocking rates

The allotment will be stocked to the indicated capacity within two (2) years after implementing this plan, or by the 1981 grazing season. The permittee may stock to the recommended rate beginning in the 1979 grazing season if cattle are available to do so, since the basic improvements are in place at this time. Stocking on the associated BLM lands will be dependent on compliance by BLM and issuance of an adjusted grazing lease by them.

Stocking at the recommended rates will result in an "on-off" permit for 242 cattle, 87% on National Forest.

4. Grazing Capacity by Units (See Environmental Assessment Report for calculations of grazing capacity.)

a. Lambert Creek Unit - 300 AUMs

1. USFS - 170 AUMs

2. BLM - 130 AUMs

b. Midnight Unit - 260 AUMs

c. U.S. Unit - 410 AUMs

B. Management System

A three pasture rotational grazing system of livestock management will be used on the Lambert Allotment. A map showing the pasture unit boundaries is found in the graphics section of this plan.

The same general routing system is to be used every year.

This is:

Lambert Unit - 242 head 6/1-7/7

Midnight Unit - 242 head 7/8 - 8/9

U.S. Unit - 242 head 8/10 - 9/30

C. Livestock Management

Cattle entering the allotment from private or leased lands will be trucked to the corral on Lambert Creek. Cattle will be distributed over the Lambert Creek Unit from there.

Livestock move dates between pasture units may vary somewhat from year to year depending on actual utilization within the pastures. Moves between pastures will be made when, or before, forage utilization reaches the prescribed proper use level, but not significantly after the indicated move dates. The move between the Lambert Creek Unit and the Midnight Unit will not be made before the soil in the bluegrass area on the lower slopes of Lambert Mountain are sufficiently dried to carry stock without significant soil displacement which would cause destruction of the vegetative cover.

Moves between pasture units should be accomplished within four days after the date agreed upon between the permittee and the Forest Officer in charge. Moves should begin about three days prior to the move date. Under the rotational system of grazing, it is very important that pastures are cleared of cattle as near to 100 percent as possible. This is to prevent missed cattle from concentrating on the most preferred area and creating "sore" spots through overgrazing.

Permittees should watch for overgrazing and soil damage throughout the grazing season and take appropriate action if problems should develop.

Riding will be necessary to assure proper livestock distribution and movement, and to assure that livestock have a continual supply of salt and water.

An effort should be made to achieve as uniform distribution within units as possible. Midnight Ridge and Belcher Mountain in the vicinity of the upper water trough (Lust Spring) within the Lambert Creek Unit, and the vicinity around Morgan Spring in the U.S. Unit could use more utilization.

Livestock salting will be done by the "drop salting" method. That is, no permanent salt grounds will be used. Salt will be placed away from areas of concentrated use and moved to "fresh feed" areas as proper use is approached adjacent to salt locations. Salt will be used to the extent practicable to affect good livestock distribution. Salt should be distributed within a pasture unit prior to moving stock in, and picked up before moving them out, to enhance movement. As a general rule, salt should not be placed within 1,000 feet of any water source, or on or immediately adjacent to a road, unless for a specific management purpose, such as to increase utilization in the area or to aid in gathering stock at the end of the grazing season. Salt should not be placed directly on the ground. Stumps, rocks, downed trees, or portable salt boxes should be utilized where practical.

The corral at the head of the U.S. Mountain trail is necessary for livestock handling and picking up bulls when moving between the Midnight and U.S. Units. Its use will be continued as necessary.

Roundup in the fall is to be completed in a timely manner. All cattle are to be off of the allotment by September 30 unless otherwise authorized in writing by the District Ranger or the Forest Supervisor.



D. Range Improvements

A description of existing and proposed range improvements is found in the Range Improvement Summary on the following pages. All range improvements on the allotment are owned by the Forest Service. Proposed range improvements will be constructed according to standards detailed in the Structural Improvement Handbook. FSH 2209.22, R6.

PRODUCTION UTILIZATION STUDY

LAMBERT ALLOTMENT

REPUBLIC AND KETTLE FALLS RANGER DISTRICTS

COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST

Adjusted stocking rates on the Lambert Allotment are to be implemented in 1979. A production and utilization study will be necessary to verify the estimated grazing capacity and to determine if changes in management are necessary to adequately maintain the grazing and other related resources.

This allotment is operated under a three pasture rotational system of grazing management. All three pastures are used each year. Therefore, studies will need to be done in all three pastures every year over the life of the study.

The study is expected to last for three years. However, adjustments in grazing system or numbers may be recommended following the first year's study or at any time during the study. This would give at least one year to evaluate the changes made.

The "Ocular Estimate by Plot" method will be used for data collection during this study. This method is discussed in Chapter 500 of the Region 6 Range Analysis and Management Handbook. Field methods used will be according to this discussion.

A summary of allowable use by pasture unit is as follows:

- A. Lambert Creek Unit. Allowable use 35-40% on bluebunch wheatgrass and 40-45% on pinegrass. Desired average utilization on this unit is 30%.

This pasture is generally in fair condition. However, poor conditions exist on significant areas. On the other hand, Midnight Ridge is in good condition. It is anticipated that the current system is adequate as long as the use level remains at or below those specified and adequate cattle distribution is achieved.

- B. Midnight Unit. Allowable use 50-55% on Kentucky bluegrass and 35-40% on Idaho Fescue and rough fescue. Desired average utilization on this unit is 35%.

The bluegrass area in this unit is in fair condition with evidence of improving conditions. The bunchgrass area is in good condition and maintaining itself adequately. Allowable use in this unit is 90% of proper use in order to meet the Limited Access objectives.

- C. U.S. Unit. Allowable use 45% on bluebunch, wheatgrass and Idaho fescue. Desired average utilization on this unit is 40%.

This unit is generally in good condition due to continuous deferrment for at least the past eight years. It is anticipated that the current system is adequate at the specified levels of utilization.

Allowable use standards as used here are tentative, contingent on those levels of use providing sufficient plant needs for plant cover to maintain or improve, and for desirable species to maintain or improve themselves at the expense of desirable species. Allowable use standards will be adjusted if these conditions are not being met.

At the end of each grazing season during the production/utilization study, data will be summarized and an evaluation prepared of live-stock distribution, needs for water, fences, salt, or herding.

At the end of the study period, a final report will be prepared of findings and management recommendations. This data will then be used for further Allotment Planning if needed.

W. Bradley Reed  
Range Conservationist

1/25/79