Fil 2210

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

LITTLE BOULDER ALLOTMENT

KETTLE FALLS RANGER DISTRICT
COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST

PLAN PREPARED BY: Diane L. Besand — DATE: 25 Aug 1982
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PLAN REVIEWED BY: Allen N. Garr — DATE: Oct. 5, 1982
Allen N. Garr, Resource Assistant

PLAN ACCEPTED BY: Douglas Noble — DATE: 3 Sept 1982
Douglas Noble, Permittee

PLAN RECOMMENDED BY: Larry Smith — DATE: Oct. 7, 1982
Larry L. Smith, District Ranger

PLAN APPROVED BY: William D. Shenk — DATE: 10-18-82
William D. Shenk, Forest Supervisor

I. OBJECTIVES

The following management objectives have been identified for the LITTLE BOULDER ALLOTMENT:

A. Improve livestock distribution

B. Maintain or improve the present vegetative and soil condition and trend.

C. Provide additional carrying capacity with improved management.

II. ACTION

The following describes the management program necessary to meet the requirements as described in the preferred alternatives.

A. Permitted Use and Grazing Capacity

125 cow/calf pairs (563 Aums) will graze the LITTLE BOULDER ALLOTMENT from 6/1 - 10/15.

Independent Pasture	313 AUMs
Grouse Pasture	250 AUMs
	563 AUMs

With improved management and subsequent production/utilization surveys to provide verification of capacity estimates, increases may be granted.

B. Management System

The alternative selected in the environmental assessment was a simple two-pasture DEFERRED GRAZING SYSTEM. This system provides periodic deferrment for each pasture in the same sequence each year. The deferred system is adapted to the physical characteristics of the allotment and is based on range readiness within each pasture. This may be shown graphically.

Pasture	Season	Animal Units	AUMs
Upper	8/1 - 10/15	125	313
Lower	6/1 - 7/31	125	250
			563

Cattle will graze the lower elevation pasture first, moving to the upper pasture when range readiness has been reached and proper use guidelines have been met in the lower pasture. When proper use has been reached in the upper pasture the gate will be opened and cattle will be allowed to drift back down through the lower pasture and home.

The above stocking rates and schedule are suggested as a foundation to begin with. They are meant to be flexible and should be changed when necessary to reflect the results of allotment inspections and production/utilization surveys.

C. Livestock Management

1. Salt

Salting should be done by the "drop salting" method. Posted salt grounds are not to be used. Salt should be placed away from areas of concentrated use and moved to "fresh feed" as proper use is approached adjacent to a salt ground. Salt should be used to the extent possible to achieve good livestock distribution. Salt should be distributed within a unit prior to moving stock in, and picked up before moving them out. Salt should not be placed within 1,000 feet of any water source, or on or adjacent to roads, unless for a specific management purpose such as to increase utilization in the area or to aid in gathering livestock at the end of the grazing season. Avoid placing salt directly on the ground, by placing it on stumps, rocks, downed trees or portable salt boxes.

Salt is not to be placed in an area that was used for a salt ground the previous season. It can be placed in the general vicinity, but it should not be placed in previous years' concentrated use area.

2. Movement and Distribution

The permittee should, without direction, insure that livestock are moved when utilization has reached prescribed levels. Livestock should be distributed over the pastures in small bunches. As proper use is approached in any one area, the permittee should, without direction, move the livestock to unused areas.

Proper use standards are based on vegetative conditions and are as follows:

Condition Class	Proper Use
Good	40-50%
Fair	25-40%
Poor	10-25%

D. Range Improvements

1. Proposed Range Improvements

a. *Fences - Other than the proposed pasture drift fence, only those fences needed to stop drift onto other allotments, or that are needed to plug pasture boundaries that may be broken by timber sales are planned. Fence will be constructed as needed.*

1) *Pasture Fence and Gate - A gate and short wing fence will be constructed in the SW¼NE¼, Section 13, T40N, R35E. This fence, along with natural barriers will effectively divide the allotment into pastures.*

b. *Spring Developments - Springs will be developed in areas of little or no use to lure animals into those areas, and to improve livestock distribution. Spring development will be built to Forest Service Specifications. Proposed springs will be developed as they are located and identified as needed.*

2. *Existing Range Improvements*

a. *See allotment map and enclosed form (R6-2200-107) for existing and proposed range improvements.*

b. *Spring developments that are no longer up to standards will be reconstructed.*

3. *Maintenance Program*

Maintenance of range improvements is the responsibility of the permittee. Regular light maintenance will keep the improvement in good condition and working order throughout its expected life. Heavy maintenance is necessary every five to ten years. The Forest Serivce will cooperate in the reconstruction of improvements when normal maintenance will no longer keep the improvement functioning or if an improvement is destroyed as a result of a natural disaster.

E. *Noxious Weed Control*

Knapweed is a problem on the Kerry Creek Road. As funds become available, these areas will be treated to control these noxious weeds.

III. MONITORING

A. *Range Readiness*

Livestock should not be turned onto the allotment until after range readiness. Criteria for range readiness is as follows:

1. *Vegetation*

Bluebunch Wheatgrass - leaf length 6"
Pinegrass - leaf length 4"
Kentucky Bluegrass - boot stage

2. *Soils*

Soils should be dry and firm enough to withstand compaction from trampling.

B. *Production/Utilization*

Production/Utilization surveys will be completed to verify carrying capacity estimates.

C. *Allotment inspections will be completed periodically or as needed.*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Range Improvement Summary
Existing - Proposed
(Strike out one)

Imp. No.	Improvement Name	Location	Units	Kind of Construction	year Comp.	Construction Maintenance Responsibility	Remarks
	Independent C.G. and Wing Fence	NE¼NE¼ Sec. 27 T40N R35E	1	7½' X 14' H-20		USFS	
	Middle Fork C.G. and Wing Fence	SW¼NE¼ Sec. 33 T40N R35E	1	7½' x 14' H-20		USFS	
	Little Boulder C.G. and	SE¼SW¼ Sec. 32 T40N R36E	1	7½' X 14' H-20		USFS	
	Noble C.G. and Wing	SW¼ SE¼ Sec. 32 T40N R36E	1	7½ x 14' H-20		USFS	
	Huckleberry Ridge Fence	NW¼ Sec. 19 T40N R35E	.3 miles	3-wire, Allot. Interior	1974	Noble	
	Middle Fork Drift Fence	E½ Sec. 33 T40N R35E	.3 miles	3-wire, Allot.Bdry		Noble	
	Noble W.D.	NW¼SW¼ Sec 19 T40N R36E	1	Wood Trough		Noble	
	Independent W.D.	NE¼SE¼ Sec. 23 T40N R35E	1	Metal Trough	1970	Noble	
	Table W.D.	NE¼SE¼ Sec. 26 T40N R35E	1	Wood Trough	1970	Noble	
	Pontifac W.D.	SE¼SE¼ Sec. 7 T40N R36E	1	Metal Trough	1971	Noble	
	Smith W.D.	NW¼NW¼ Sec. 32 T40N R36E	1	Wood Trough	1970	Noble	
PROPOSED ----	Canyon Fence	NW¼SW¼ Sec. 13 T40N R35E	1	3-Wire, Allot.Inter.	1983	Noble	

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Forest Service, Kettle Falls Ranger District, proposes to develop an intensive grazing system on the Little Boulder Allotment. The allotment is located south of the Canadian border, west of the Kettle River and is in the Kerry Creek, Jenny Creek and Little Boulder Creek drainages. (See Map LITTLE BOULDER ALLOTMENT on the next page.) The direction for this proposal is set forth by Region 6 Range Management policy, effective January 18, 1974, and revised July 1, 1980. (See FSM 2203.1, R-6 Supplement 38, 12/80.) The decision to be made is: What type of intensive grazing system will best suit the needs of the permittee, as well as meet management objectives for quality range management.

The present system of management on the allotment is season long. The objective of this proposal is to develop a grazing system that is practical and easily worked relative to the terrain, and also meets Forest Service range management policy and objectives.

This proposal was discussed by the District I.D. Team and the permittee, Doug Noble. Further scoping by the I.D. Team identified the following opportunities and concerns.

Opportunities

1) Enlarge allotment to include Manley and Togo Creeks.

2) Increase transitory range.

Concerns

1) Livestock distribution.

2) Tree regeneration.

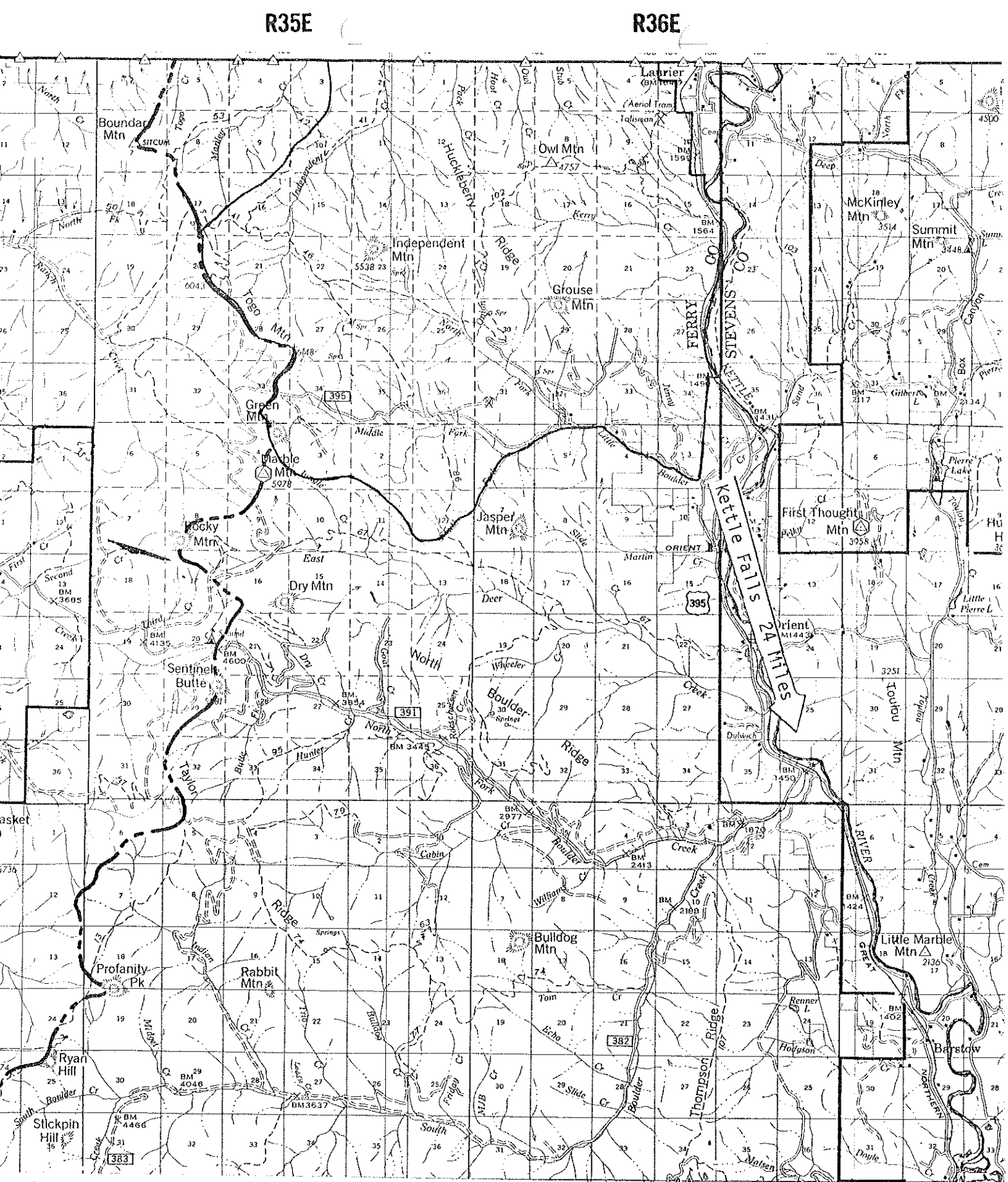
3) Domestic water supply.

4) Heavy cattle use along lower Little Boulder Road.

5) Deer Winter Range.

6) Proposed Management System would meet management objectives of the Forest Service, would be workable and fit the needs of the permittee as well.

7) Economic Efficiency for both the Forest Service and the permittee.



VICINITY MAP

LITTLE BOULDER ALLOTMENT

Scale: ½" = 1 mile

D.Besand
3/82

II. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The following section will discuss the components of the environment that would or could be affected by the alternative actions. It is divided into three parts, PHYSICAL, BIOLOGICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC.

PHYSICAL

Location - The Little Boulder Allotment is located on the Kettle Falls Ranger District, Ferry County, State of Washington. It is west of the Kettle River in townships 39 and 40 North, Ranges 35 and 36 East. The Canadian border is to the north, National Forest Boundary is to the east, the Jasper Allotment is to the south and the District Boundary is to the west. (See Map LITTLE BOULDER ALLOTMENT on the preceeding page.)

History - Prior to 1969, the present Little Boulder Allotment was included in a larger allotment that extended from the Canadian border to North Fork Boulder Creek road. The Jasper Allotment and portions of the Snowcap Allotment were also included in this larger allotment. Sheep used the allotment until about 1949. Cattle have grazed the range exclusively since that time. Five permittees were permitted 150 head of cattle each season 5/21 - 10/31.

Doug Noble has been permittee since 1969. Mr. Noble runs a cow-calf operation. Permitted and actual use have varied from 1969 to the present. This variation was due primarily to shortened seasons, subsequent extensions and non-use. (See Appendix A for detailed record of actual use.)

In May 1977, 17 cow-calf pairs and two bulls were observed on the National Forest prior to turn on. Because of drought conditions that spring and lack of sufficient water on the home ranch, Mr. Noble's cattle broke through the fences in search of water on National Forest range. Mr. Noble was asked to remove his livestock. He was cooperative and complied with the request. Because of lack of water on private land, he asked for relief.

Range analysis had not been completed on the allotment prior to 1980. Based on the 1976 Interim Allotment Management Plan, Little Boulder was considered one of the lighter stocked allotments on the District (Ward - 1976). An estimate of carrying capacity based on observation, was 800 AUMs or 160 head. Analysis was completed in July 1980. Capacity under the present system of management (season long) is estimated at 125 head, 131 head was estimated for a Deferred System and 148 head for Rest Rotation System. Production Utilization surveys will be conducted in 1982 to verify range capacity estimates.

The present range use is 125 cow-calf pairs from 6/1 - 10/15 or 562 AUMs. The present system of management is season long. Mr. Noble starts trucking his livestock from the Basin the last week in May.

Soils - The Soil Survey of North Ferry Area (USDA 1979) describes four soil subclasses that provide grazing for livestock and are found on the Little Boulder Allotment. They are described here from wettest to driest. The wettest subclass soils are the Shaskit-Sh and Tonata-Ts, they are excessively wet seasonally or year-round, have restricted drainage, high water table, and are subject to flooding. Generally located adjacent to streams and springs, they are fine textured with high potential for compaction and puddling. They are sensitive to grazing livestock.

The second subclass includes the Cobey-CoE, Edds-EdE, Gahee-GaC, Manley-McE, Merkel-MkE, Nevine-NiD, Torboy-TtD and Wapal-WgC. These soils have surface slopes of 30 percent or less. Runoff is medium to rapid and erosion is moderate to severe. These soils provide limited grazing.

The third soil subclass represented on the allotment includes Gahee-GaF, Togo-Tnf, and Torboy-TtF. These soils have a steeper surface slope than the second subclass, greater than 25 percent. These slopes and the high portion of unweathered, loose volcanic ash and sands, cause a moderate to very severe potential for surface erosion, displacement, and when adjacent to streams, sedimentation. This soil provides limited grazing and is sensitive to overgrazing by livestock.

The fourth, and driest subclass includes the Merkel Rockland Complex - Mme, the Oxerine Complex - OiE and OiF, Oxerine Pepoon - Pne, Pepoon-Edds Complex-PoE, Pepoon-Oxerine Complex - PpE, Oxerine Pepoon Complex - OpE and OpF, Rockland RW, and Pepoon-Togo Complex - PtE. These soils are shallow and rocky and have a compacted layer of bedrock. Vegetative cover on these soils provides grazing for livestock.

For more specific information on potential hazards and interpretations related to soils, see the Soil Interpretation Handbook (Laing 1981).

Visual - Landscape alteration has occurred in the past with construction of roads and timber harvest activities. The alterations are comparable to modification and maximum modification. The Visual Quality Objectives for the Little Boulder Allotment are modification and Partial Retention. "Under the Modification VQO, Management activities may visually dominate the original characteristic landscape." The Partial Retention VQO ensures that "management activities remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape". (USFS, National Forest Landscape Management, Volume 2 1977 and Blocker 1979.) See Appendix B for complete description of Visual Quality Objectives on the Little Boulder Allotment.

Cultural - Two potential historic sites were identified during a literature search by the Forest Archaeologist (Osborn 1981):

1) Burton A. Smith Homestead 1906 (Land Status Atlas).

2) Lone Ranch Creek Trail (follows the north fork of Little Boulder Creek according to Joseph Luther, Republic Historic Mining District 1895 - 1905, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, EWSC 198. (Heiken - Forks EA 1981)

The allotment was originally part of the North half of the Colville Indian Reservation, formed in 1872. In 1892, Congress passed a law allowing purchase of the North half, and in 1896, it was opened to mineral entry. The Colville Confederated Indian Tribes retain their hunting and fishing rights in the area.

Livestock ranching itself is an important part of the cultural heritage of the area. Livestock on the range and cowboys working their stock are reminiscent of the old west.

Water - Little Boulder Creek is classified 2 for fisheries. The South, Middle and North Forks of Little Boulder and an unnamed fork in Section 32 are classified 3 for quantity.

Kerry Creek is classified 2 for quantity from the center of Section 16 to the east and 3 for quantity to the west.

Independent Creek and Pack Creek are classified 3 for quantity.

Manley Creek is classified 3 for fisheries.

The allotment does not fall within a designated flood plain, nor does it support a recognized wetland.

Land Use - Forest Service Plans - The Little Boulder Allotment is under the direction of the Colville Multiple Use Plan and the Canadian Face Land Use Plan (Management Areas 1A, 2A and 5 and 8 of the Canadian Face Plan). Management guidance for 1A provides for the protection of the soil and watershed through a multi-disciplinary review prior to the construction of additional structural range improvements. Extra efforts would be taken to minimize cattle grazing or watering along streams used in Canada for domestic purposes.

Management guidance for Area 2A of the Canadian Face Plan is that top priority would be given to deer habitat considerations. Conflicts between cattle use and deer winter range use would be resolved in favor of the deer range.

The management guidance for Area 5 of the Canadian Face Plan is that additional structural range improvements would not be constructed without an environmental analysis to insure compatability with timber, soil/watershed and water quality objectives. Cattle should not be encouraged to graze northward toward Canada to prevent drift. Cattle would not be salted near perennial streams in Independent Creek or Pack Creek to minimize bacterial pollution of surface waters used in Canada for domestic purposes.

The management guidance for Area 8 of Canadian Face Plan provides for the protection of aesthetic and recreational values. Additional structural range improvements would not be constructed without an environmental analysis to insure compatability with recreational and soil/watershed objectives.

Prime farmlands do not exist within the allotment.

Range Improvements - Existing range improvements on the allotment include drift fences and spring developments. (For a complete list of existing and proposed structural range improvements see Appendix C.) Existing roads, jeep trails and trails can also be found on the allotment.

BIOLOGICAL

Vegetation - The forest vegetation is a mixture of coniferous species including lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, western larch, western red cedar, subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, grand fir, western hemlock, ponderosa pine, and a few hardwoods are generally found as scattered individuals or small groups on wetter sites. Habitat types include cedar/pachistima, alpine fir/pachistima, and Douglas-fir ninebark. The current successional stage is mostly seral with a few climax stage cedar/pachistima sites (Heiken 1981).

Timber harvest activities have occurred in the past from 1963 through 1981. 1690 acres have been opened to grazing as a result of these sales. 2349 acres are presently becoming available to grazing as a result of active timber harvest activities. Other sales are planned in the future on the Little Boulder Allotment. These sales will include regeneration harvest, with both natural and modified reforestation projects.

Primary and secondary rangeland occurs on cut over Douglas-fir types on Huckleberry Ridge, East Togo, Grouse Mountain, southeast of Manley Ridge and north of the Noble deeded land. Use occurs in these areas and along logging roads that have been seeded.

Principle forage species include pinegrass, Idaho fescue, Bluebunch Wheatgrass, Junegrass, bluegrass and Carex species. Shrubs that furnish significant browse for livestock and wildlife are serviceberry, snowberry, chokecherry, ceanothus and vaccinium.

Wildlife and Fisheries - Mule deer are the most numerous big game species on the allotment, but whitetail deer are also common. Elk use on the allotment is transitory. Principal habitat for whitetail and mule deer occurs mostly on or near logged over areas and along riparian areas. Logged over areas, that have become overgrown with brush provide forage and hiding cover during spring, summar, and fall months. Nearby uncut areas provide thermal cover during winter, and hiding places throughout the year. Management Area 2-A of the Canadian Face Plan, a small area on the south facing slopes near the mouth of Kerry Creek, has been identified as having vegetative characteristics that should create good deer winter range. Management guidance gives deer habitat top priority consideration in this area. Winter range is the major limiting factor governing big game populations on the allotments.

The Little Boulder Allotment provides food, water, and cover for a wide variety of wildlife, including blue grouse, ruffed grouse, Franklin grouse, black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, lynx, snowshoe hare, golden eagles and osprey. Goshawk nesting and plucking areas have been located and identified.

Little Boulder Creek and Manley Creek are classified 2 for fisheries.

Threatened or Endangered Species - Threatened or endangered plant or animal species were not found or identified during range analysis (Kreft and Smith - 1980). Two sensitive plant surveys were reviewed (Althauser and Basabe 1979 and Murray 1980), but threatened or endangered plant species were not identified.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Hunting and Recreation - The Colville Confederated Indian Tribes have the right to hunt without State restriction on the allotment. (U.S. Supreme Court decision - Antoine Case.)

Developed recreation sites are not located on the allotment. Hunting and recreational use is light. Firewood gathering is an increasing use throughout the Forest.

Private Ownership - Portions of Section 32 and 33, T40N, R36E, are private property (refer to Cultural (1) Burton A. Smith Homestead 1906).

Economics - The permittee is dependent on National Forest grazing for summer range to maintain the present livestock operation. Actions involving season of use and stocking rates on the National Forest will directly affect the permitted off-Forest operations and the financial stability of the family farm and ranch.

III. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The I.D. Team developed the following criteria in terms of the concerns and opportunities identified in the Introduction. Criteria that were considered unmeasurable were eliminated.

1) Economic and Operational Practicality

Compare each alternative relative to the amount of livestock handling by the permittee, its practicality and workability, and the costs and outputs necessary for implementation for both the Forest Service and the permittee. The desired result would be an alternative that requires minimal livestock handling, minimal moves between pastures, little or no additional fencing and minimal Forest Service administration.

2) Compatibility with Other Resources

Compare each alternative relative to its compatibility to each of the resources identified in the Affected Environment. The desired result would be the alternative that is most compatible with the other resources and would not result in significant adverse affects to the environment.

IV. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

This section describes the process used to formulate alternatives and a description of each alternative, along with mitigation measures, management constraints, and monitoring requirements for each alternative.

A. PROCESS

Formulation of alternatives began with the I.D. Team suggesting several alternatives. A set of three grazing systems for implementation on the Little Boulder Allotment was developed based upon opportunities and concerns identified in the introduction. Each of the three alternatives was required to meet the following process criteria to be viable: It must be discernibly different from the other alternatives, be responsive to concerns and opportunities, have the potential to meet plant physiology and soil stabilization requirements and to be coordinated with the needs of other uses and activities.

B. DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1 - No Action (Season Long Grazing

Season long grazing is the present system of management on the allotment. Livestock are placed on the range and allowed to remain throughout the grazing season. Provisions are not made for deferring and/or rotating livestock between grazing areas. Riding, salting and water developments are used to achieve distribution. Season long is the least intensive of the grazing systems considered. Implementation would not require fence construction.

Alternative 2 - Rest Rotation

Rest rotation grazing involves subdividing the range into pastures, usually three or more. Each pasture receives regular deferment and complete rest from grazing alternately. Rest rotation grazing has the potential for the fastest improvement in range condition by providing for more complete restoration of plant vigor, encouragement of plant reproduction and establishment of new plants. Rest rotation is considered the most intensive of the grazing systems.

Implementation of this alternative would require significant amounts of fence construction.

Alternative 3 - Deferred

Deferred grazing involves subdividing the range into two or more pastures. Each pasture receives periodic deferment in the same sequence each year. The deferred system is adapted to the physical characteristics of the allotment and is based on range readiness within each pasture. Lower pastures would be grazed early each season, while higher elevation pastures would be grazed late. The deferred system is designed to maintain or increase plant vigor and production through manipulation of utilization and deferment, and is considered an intensive grazing system. Implementation of this system would require some fence construction.

C. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS, MITIGATION MEASURES, AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

The following management requirements, mitigation measures, and monitoring requirments are incorporated here in order to identify coordination needs and specific measures that may be necessary to preclude or mitigate adverse affects of grazing on the resources.

Reforestation

Management Requirements (Apply to all alternatives)

1) Salt will not be placed within or adjacent to cutting units during the critical growth period following tree planting activities. This time period will be coordinated with the District Silviculturist.

2) Herding and distributing cattle by the permittee, away from reforestation areas, may be necessary should a problem of cattle "kegging up" in reforestation areas occur.

3) Temporary fences could be constructed for the protection of tree regeneration sites where the problem or the need has been identified in a multi-disciplinary review meeting. These fences would then be identified as "essential KV".

Protection of Cultural Resources

Management Requirements

1) A cultural survey would be completed prior to the construction of range improvements which would result in significant disturbance. If during construction or reconstruction of any range improvement, a site is located, work would cease and the proper personnel would be notified to ensure protection.

Compliance with Management Guidance of Canadian Face Plan

A. Range Improvements (Management Areas 1-A and 8)

Concern - The concern expressed for management areas 1-A and 8 is that the construction of additional range improvements (water developments, fences and stock trails) may not be compatible with soil, watershed and recreational objectives.

Management Requirements

1) Should the construction of additional water developments be required as part of an intensive management system, and where visual impact is a concern, visual impact would be minimized by using vegetation or land forms as screens.

2) Springs which may be located on ridgetops near Manley, Independent, and Pack Creeks, could be developed and used effectively to minimize livestock use of these streams.

3) In order to implement a management system that is workable for the permittee relative to the size of the allotment, terrain and shortage of manpower, it may be necessary to construct corrals at strategically located sites. Where visual quality is a concern and to minimize visual impact, existing land forms would be used for partial or total screening of view from most observation points. This would have to be within reason, since loading, unloading, access and workability are prime considerations.

4) Because of timber harvest activities, implementation of a pasture system, or prevention of livestock drift into Canada, it may be necessary to construct drift fence. Where visual impact is a consideration, impact would be reduced or minimized by limiting the amount of open space crossed, and by placing the fence slightly inside the vegetation that surrounds the opening, where possible. These constraints would have to be within reason, and be site specific since construction and maintenance access is a prime factor.

B. Cattle Use Along or Near the Canadian Border (Management Areas 1-A and 5)

Concern - The concern expressed for management areas 1-A and 5 relative to livestock use is that cattle may drift northward (downslope) into Canada, resulting in livestock trespass across the border.

Management Requirement

1) Because timber harvest activities have and will open up acreages of land near the Canadian Border (See maps for INDEPENDENT and MANLEY TIMBER SALES), drift fence could be necessary to prevent cattle drift across the border into Canada.

C. Placement of Salt (Management Areas 1-A and 5)

Concern - Cattle must not be encouraged to concentrate near perennial streams in Independent and Pack Creek drainages to minimize bacterial pollution in surface waters used in Canada for domestic purposes.

Management Requirement

Placement of salt will be at least 1/4 mile away from any stream, spring or other water source.

D. Deer Habitat Considerations (Management Area 2-A)

Concern - An area north of Kerry Creek in management area 2-A has been identified as having physical and vegetative characteristics of good deer winter range. The concern for this area is that if conflicts between deer and cattle use should occur, they would be resolved in favor of the deer range.

Management Requirements

1) Incorporate the need for winter wildlife browse within management area 2-A into proper use guidelines for that pasture or area.

2) Should deer winter range on the allotment become limiting due to climatic or other environmental conditions, deer habitat considerations will be given top priority, especially in management area 2-A.

Monitoring Requirements

1) Conduct production/utilization studies over the next three years (1982 through 1984) in verifying carrying capacity estimates.

2) Conduct browse transects in management area 2-A to monitor browse condition, trend and productivity.

D. Protection of Cutbanks on Lower Little Boulder Road

Management Requirements

1) Cutbanks on Lower Little Boulder Road that are in need of protection, would be fenced away from livestock.

V. EFFECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION

This section contains the scientific and analytical basis for comparing the environmental quality of alternatives. The consequences of implementing each alternative is described in terms of outputs, costs, and environmental changes. Several assumptions were made in determining these effects:

1. The permittee is dependent to a large extent on National Forest grazing for summer range to maintain the present livestock operation.

2. Actions involving season of use and stocking rates on the National Forest will directly affect the permitted off-Forest Operations.

3. Environmental responses on the LITTLE BOULDER ALLOTMENT will be similar to those observed on similar areas.

4. Many of the effects mentioned in this section will be mitigated by Forest Service management requirements and constraints listed in Alternatives Considered.

5. The demand for National Forest grazing as well as other Forest outputs, including timber and recreation, will increase.

TABLE 1 -- COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES BY EFFECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION

(Outputs, Costs, or Environmental Changes)

△ = Change in

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION (Season Long)	ALTERNATIVE 2 REST ROTATION	ALTERNATIVE 3 DEFERRED
Physical			
Soil - Problems			
- SMU	MINOR amounts of compaction and sedimentation.	MODERATE amounts of compaction and sedimentation because of increased utilization near streams. Periodic deferrment and rest would allow streams to flush themselves.	MINOR amounts of compaction and sedimentation would be expected around preferred areas such as water developments. Periodic deferrment would lessen impacts.
- Outside SMU	MINOR amounts of soil disturbance. Potential for cutbank sloughing and raveling LOW.	SIGNIFICANT amounts of soil disturbance in the pasture units grazed in any one year, because of more intensive stocking. Potential for cutbank sloughing and raveling HIGH. Rest periods would provide compacted soils a chance for recovery.	Soil conditions are expected to benefit because of improved vegetative condition and improved livestock distribution. MINOR amounts of soil disturbance is expected throughout the allotment each season, because of more intensive stocking. Potential for cutbank sloughing and raveling is LOW-MODERATE. Periodic deferrment would lessen impacts.
Visual			
- British Columbia Highway 3	No △ No pasture fencing.	No △ Pasture unit fences would not be visible from the Canadian highway.	No △ Pasture unit fence would not be visible from Canadian highway.
- Visual Quality Objective	Modification and Partial Retention	Modification and Partial Retention	Modification and Partial Retention
Result	Preservation	Partial Retention	Partial Retention
Cultural Resources	No △	No △	No △

TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION (Season Long)	ALTERNATIVE 2 REST ROTATION	ALTERNATIVE 3 DEFERRED
Water			
- Siltation	No △ MINOR amounts of siltation into streams.	Siltation into streams is expected to DECREASE. Short term effects HIGH due to increased livestock concentrations in pasture units grazed. Streams in rested portions would have a chance to flush themselves. Construction of water developments would lure cattle away from streams and lessen impacts.	Siltation into streams is expected to DECREASE. Short term effects LOW TO MODERATE due to heavier concentrations of livestock streams would be impacted every year. Periodic deferrment would allow streams to flush themselves. Construction of water developments would improve livestock information and lure cattle away from streams lessening impacts.
- Bacterial Pollution	No △ MINOR amounts of bacteria entering streams.	Short term effects HIGH due to heavier concentrations of livestock. Streams in rested portions would have a chance to flush themselves. Water quality would be expected to IMPROVE as range condition improves. Construction of water developments would lure cattle away from streams and lessen impacts.	Short term effects LOW to MODERATE. Periodic deferrment would allow streams to flush themselves, but streams would be impacted every year. Construction of water developments would improve livestock distribution and lure cattle away from streams, lessening impacts.
Land Use			
- Multiple Use Plan	Not Consistent	Consistent	Consistent
- Canadian Face Plan			
Area 1-A	Consistent	Consistent	Consistent
Area 2-A	Not Consistent	Consistent	Consistent
Area 5	Consistent	Consistent	Consistent
Area 8	Not Consistent	Consistent	Consistent
Coordinating Requirements	Not Consistent	Consistent	Consistent

TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION (Season Long)	ALTERNATIVE 2 REST ROTATION	ALTERNATIVE 3 DEFERRED
Biological			
Vegetation			
- Tree Regeneration	Protection not provided for and coordination is difficult.	Pastures provide opportunity to coordinate grazing with timber, for the tree protection and site preparation. Flexibility HIGH for coordination. GREATER impact on areas because of heavier livestock concentrations.	Pastures provide opportunity to coordinate grazing with timber for tree protection and site preparation. Flexibility slightly LESS for coordination, because all portions of range utilized every year. Lighter concentrations of livestock should impact areas LESS.
- Rangeland			
Distribution	Continue patchy and uneven.	IMPROVED distribution.	IMPROVED distribution.
Condition and Trend	No △	IMPROVED condition and trend.	IMPROVED condition and trend, but at a slower rate, because of shorter and less frequent rest periods.
Productivity	No △	INCREASED productivity.	INCREASED productivity, but slower.
*Carrying Capacity	No △ 125 head (562 AUMs)	148 head (590 AUMs)	131 head (666 AUMs)
Wildlife and Fisheries			
- Riparian Habitat	No △ Use around springs and streams would continue to be HEAVY. Reduction in value to both fish and wildlife.	Short term impact on fish life in streams within grazed units. Long term conditions would IMPROVE (streambank stability and protective shrub growth).	LIGHTER short term impact on fish and wildlife due to LIGHTER concentrations of cattle. Streamside vegetation would be subject to yearly grazing and would not be allowed to develop for maximum protection.

TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION (Season Long)	ALTERNATIVE 2 REST ROTATION	ALTERNATIVE 3 DEFERRED
- Competition for Forage and Browse	No Δ	SHORT TERM conflicts for forage may develop on grazed areas due to intensive stocking. This would be mitigated through proper use levels. Forage and browse in ungrazed areas would be totally available to wildlife. As forage condition improves, additional forage and browse will be available.	Competition for forage and browse would be LESS because of lighter concentrations of livestock. Because livestock grazing will take place yearly and over more of the allotment, fewer areas will be exclusively available for wildlife.
Socio-Economic			
Hunting and Recreation	No Δ	HEAVIER concentrations of livestock may create competition between recreationists and livestock for prime dispersed camping sites. Contacts between hikers and cattle will be GREATER.	LIGHTER concentrations of livestock will the impact on prime dispersed camping sites. Contacts between hikers and cattle would be LESS.
Economics			
-Permittee	No Δ	23 head INCREASE. SIGNIFICANT increase in time spent moving cattle from one pasture to another in steep, rough terrain. SIGNIFICANT increase in stress put on the livestock which results in weight loss. GREATER workload on permittee for construction and maintenance of range improvements.	13 head INCREASE. MINOR increase in time spent moving cattle. MINOR increase in workload on permittee for construction and maintenance of range improvements.
- Forest	No Δ	SIGNIFICANT increase in cost of administration. Construction costs for range materials would be SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER due to greater quantity of fence.	SLIGHT increase over present system in cost of administration. Construction costs for range improvement materials would be slightly more than presently, but significantly LESS than Alternative 2 because of LESS fence.

TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTOR	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION (Season Long)	ALTERNATIVE 2 REST ROTATION	ALTERNATIVE 3 DEFERRED
Range Improvement Construction			
- Quantity	Reconstruction of water developments only.	SIGNIFICANT amount of pasture fence construction, reconstruction and construction of water developments and corrals.	MINOR amount of pasture fence construction, reconstruction and construction of water developments and corrals.
- Affected Environment			
Soil	INSIGNIFICANT	INSIGNIFICANT	INSIGNIFICANT
Water	No Affect	IMPROVEMENT of stream quality.	IMPROVEMENT of stream quality.
Visual	INSIGNIFICANT	More fence to break up landscape.	INSIGNIFICANT
Cultural	No Affect	No Affect	No Affect
Land Use (Plans)	Consistent	Consistent	Consistent
Tree Regeneration	No Affect	Protection of reforestation areas.	Protection of reforestation areas.
Rangeland	IMPROVED distribution.	IMPROVED distribution and forage condition and productivity.	IMPROVED distribution and forage condition and productivity.
Wildlife and Fisheries	Provide watering areas	Provide watering areas and IMPROVED forage productivity.	Provide watering areas and IMPROVED range productivity.
T & E Species	No Affect	No Affect	No Affect
Recreation	INSIGNIFICANT	More gates.	One gate.
Economics	INSIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT increase in workload for permittee (cattle movement and maintenance). SIGNIFICANT increase in cost to government in administration.	MINOR increase in workload for permittee (cattle movement and maintenance). MINOR increase in cost to government in administration.

VI. EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES

This section discusses how the alternatives compared with each other in terms of the evaluation criteria. This provides the basis for identification of a preferred alternative.

Table 2 is a comparison of the alternatives and a comparable ranking relative to the evaluation criteria. The alternative(s) that has the highest quality for each criteria is listed as BEST and the alternative(s) that has the lowest quality for each evaluation criteria is listed as WORST. Remarks are used to describe relative standings of the other alternatives compared to the BEST and WORST alternatives.

Note: ( ) = encloses remarks

$<$ = less than

$>$ = more than

$\leq$ = less than or equal to

TABLE 2 - COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES RELATIVE TO THE EVALUATION CRITERIA

EVALUATION CRITERIA	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION (Season Long)	ALTERNATIVE 2 REST ROTATION	ALTERNATIVE 3 DEFERRED	BEST	WORST
Economic and Operational Practicality					
- Amount of Livestock Handling	Lowest	Highest	< Alternative 2	1 or 3	2
- Number of Moves Between Pastures	0 Moves	4 Moves	2 Moves	1 or 3	2
- Quantity of fence to Build and Maintain	Smallest	Greatest	< Alternative 2	1 or 3	2
- Cost to Permittee	Least	Most	< Alternative 2	1 or 3	2
- Cost to FS in Materials and Administration	Least	Most	< Alternative 2	1 or 3	2
Compatability with Other Resources					
Physical					
Soils					
- SMU	Least Compatible	≤ Alternative 3 (Note: Greater short term impact but longer rest.)	Most Compatible	3	1
- Outside SMU	Least Compatible	≤ Alternative 3	Most Compatible	3	1
Visual					
-British Columbia Highway 3	Most Compatible	Least	> Alternative 2	1	2
-Visual Quality Objective	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible		

TABLE 2 (CONTINUED)

EVALUATION CRITERIA	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION (Season Long)	ALTERNATIVE 2 REST ROTATION	ALTERNATIVE 3 DEFERRED	BEST	WORST
Cultural Resources	----------No Effect----------				
Water					
- Siltation	Least Compatible	≤ Alternative 3 (Note: Greater short term impact, but longer rest)	Most Compatible	3	1
- Bacterial Pollution	Least Compatible	≤ Alternative 3 (Note: Greater short term impact, but longer rest)	Most Compatible	3	1
Land Use					
- Multiple Use Plan	Not Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	2 or 3	1
- Canadian Face Plan					
Area 1-A	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible		
Area 2-A	Not Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	2 or 3	1
Area 5	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible		
Area 8	Not Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	2 or 3	1
Coordinating Requirements	Not Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	2 or 3	1
Range Improvement Construction					
- Affected Environment	Least Compatible (Note: No action would not reap the benefits of improved livestock distribution, and improved soil, water and vegetative productivity.)	< Alternative 3	Most Compatible	3	1

TABLE 2 (CONTINUED)

EVALUATION CRITERIA	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION (Season Long)	ALTERNATIVE 2 REST ROTATION	ALTERNATIVE 3 DEFERRED	BEST	WORST
Cultural Resources	---------- No Effect ----------				
Water					
- Siltation	Least Compatible	≦ Alternative 3 (Note: Greater short term impact, but longer rest)	Most Compatible	3	1
- Bacterial Pollution	Least Compatible	≦ Alternative 3 (Note: Greater short term impact, but longer rest)	Most Compatible	3	1
Land Use					
- Multiple Use Plan	Not Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	2 or 3	1
- Canadian Face Plan					
Area 1-A	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible		
Area 2-A	Not Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	2 or 3	1
Area 5	Compatible	Compatible	Compatible		
Area 8	Not Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	2 or 3	1
Coordinating Requirements	Not Compatible	Compatible	Compatible	2 or 3	1
Range Improvement Construction					
- Affected Environment	Least Compatible (Note: No action would not reap the benefits of improved livestock distribution, and improved soil, water and vegetative productivity.)	< Alternative 3	Most Compatible	3	1

TABLE 2 (CONTINUED)

EVALUATION CRITERIA	ALTERNATIVE 1 NO ACTION (Season Long)	ALTERNATIVE 2 REST ROTATION	ALTERNATIVE 3 DEFERRED	BEST	WORST
Biological					
etation					
- Tree Regeneration	Least Compatible	Most Compatible	≤ Alternative 2	2 or 3	1
- Rangeland	Least Compatible	Most Compatible	≤ Alternative 2	2 or 3	1
Wildlife and Fisheries	Least Compatible	Most Compatible	≤Alternative 2	2 or 3	1

VII. IDENTIFICATION OF THE FOREST SERVICE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Following is a brief description of the Forest Service preferred alternative and the reasons for its selection.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative is Alternative 3 - Deferred Grazing. This alternative would be a simple two-pasture deferred system. Because of elevational differences and steep rough terrain, the same general routing system would be used every year. Cattle would enter the allotment from private lands and graze the lower elevation pasture first, moving to the upper pasture when range readiness has been reached and proper use guidelines have been met in the lower pasture. The preferred alternative would require a minor amount of drift fence and possible a cattleguard to incorporate a two-pasture system. Construction and reconstruction of water developments and strategically located corrals could also be involved. Location and amount of fence, livestock move days, maintenance of range improvements, salting and other detailed particulars of the system will be worked out in consultation with the permittee. The result of this consultation will be the LITTEL BOULDER ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN.

REASONS FOR SELECTION

Alternative 3 was selected because it requires minimal livestock handling, minimal moves between pastures, a minor amount of drift fence to implement, and minimal Forest Service administration. The selected alternative is compatible with the other resources and meets management objectives for quality range management.

VIII. CONSULTATION WITH OTHERS

Interested Public

The permittee, Douglas Noble, was involved in this Environmental Assessment through personal contacts, meetings and correspondence. The permittee's son, John Noble, was also involved in the E.A.

During the Annual Meeting of the Kettle Falls District Grazing Association held February 9, 1982, comments were requested from the following people:

Clifford Carson, President
Jon Lakin
John Williams
Gene and Connie Cada
Steve Grub
Lewis Delp
Len McIrvin
Howard Kowitz
Mike Blackman, Ferry County Sheriff

No comments specific to the LITTLE BOULDER ALLOTMENT were received.

The Colville National Forest Wildlife Biologist, Thomas E. Burke, was consulted because Gashawk nesting areas have been located on the allotment.

The Colville National Forest Archaeologist, Jill Osborn, searched the historic and archaeologic literature to locate any known resources or previously recorded sites. (See Cultural Section of the Affected Environment.)

REFERENCES

NOTE: All references are available for inspection at the Kettle Falls Ranger Station in Kettle Falls, Washington, and the Colville National Forest Office, in Colville, Washington.

Althauser, Nick, et. al., 1980. A Summary of Widespread Searches for Rare Plants in the Colville National Forest, USDA, Forest Service, Contract Number 53-40HI-8-7029N.

Chicken, Robert B., Silviculturist, 1982. Personal communication about reforestation on the Little Boulder Allotment.

Heiken, William J., et. al., 1981. Forks Timber Sale Environmental Assessment. USFS, Colville National Forest, Kettle Falls Ranger District, Washington.

Horwitz, Elinor L., 1978. Our Nation's Wetlands. An Interagency Task Force Report. Coordinated by the Council on Environmental Quality.

Laing, Larry E., 1981. Soil Interpretation Handbook. USFS, Colville National Forest, Forest Soil Scientist, Colville, Washington.

Murray, Jerry L., 1980. Survey for Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Flora on the Colville National Forest. USDA Forest Service, Contract Number 43-05G1-0-772, 25 p.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1979. Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service in Cooperation with Washington Agricultural Experiment Station, Soil Survey of North Ferry Area, Washington, National Cooperative Soil Survey.

U.S. Forest Service, 1972. Colville National Forest Multiple Use Plan, Colville, Washington.

U.S. Forest Service, 1974. Final Environmental Statement - Canadian Face Planning Unit, Colville, Washington.

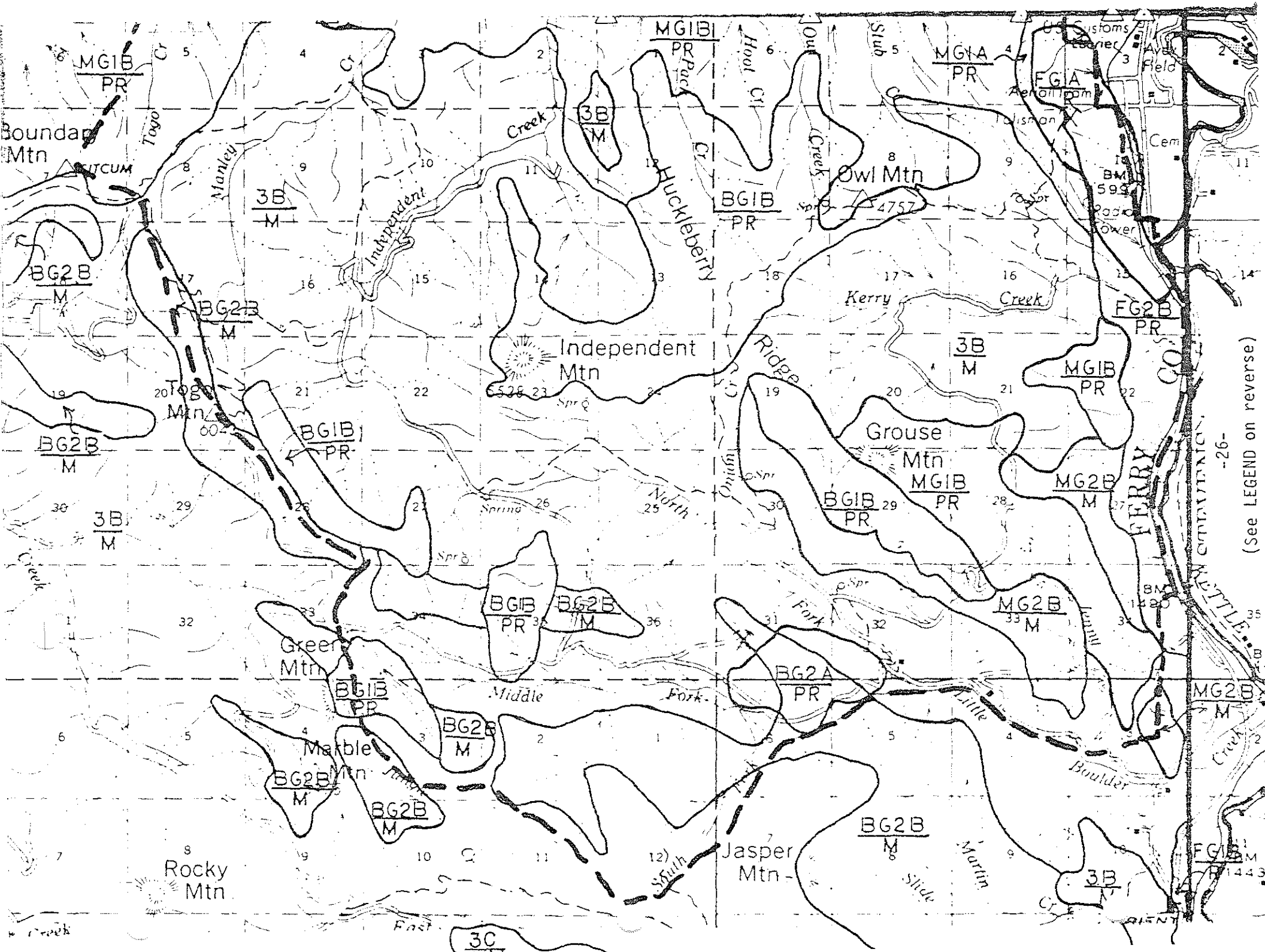
U.S. Forest Service, 1974. National Forest Landscape Management, Volume 2 USDA Agriculture Handbook Number 462.

U.S. Forest Service, 1979. Wildlife Habitats in Managed Forests, the Blue Mountains of Oregon and Washingotn, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, Portland, Oregon.

LITTLE BOULDER ALLOTMENT

ACTUAL USE RECORD

1949 - 1968	150 Term, 5/1-10/31	900 AUMs
1969 - 1971	50 Term, 6/1-10/31	250 AUMs
	25 Temporary, 6/1-10/31	125 AUMs
		375 AUMs
1972 - 1975	50 Term, 6/1-8/30	150 AUMs
	75 Temporary, 6/1-8/30	225 AUMs
	50 Term, 9/1-10/15 (Extension)	75 AUMs
	75 Temporary, 9/1-10/15 (Extension)	112 AUMs
		562 AUMs
1975	38 Term, 6/1-10/31 (Partial Non-Use)	
1976-1977	50 Term, 6/1-8/30	150 AUMs
	75 Temporary, 6/1-8/30	225 AUMs
	50 Term, 9/1-10/15 (Extension)	75 AUMs
	75 Temporary, 9/1-10/15 (Extension)	112 AUMs
		562 AUMs
1978-1979	92 Term, 6/1-10/15	414 AUMs
1980-Present	125 Term, 6/1-10/15	563 AUMs


MG1B PR
Boundary Mtn
Toyo Cr
Manley Creek
3B M
Independent Creek
MG1B1 PR
Huckleberry Cr
Hoot Cr
Owl Creek
MG1A PR
FG1A PR
Aerial Tram
Customs
Airport
Field
Cem
BM 599
Tower
Owl Mtn
4757
BG1B PR
BG2B M
BG2B1 M
Independent Mtn
5526
Kerry Creek
FG2B PR
Ridge Cr
Toyo Mtn
6027
Grouse Mtn
MG1B PR
MG2B M
BG1B PR
North Fork
Spring Creek
Onion Cr
FERRY CO
CONFLUENCE
KETTLE
Green Mtn
BG1B PR
BG2B M
Middle Fork
Little Fork
Jumbo Cr
BG2A PR
Marble Mtn
Rocky Mtn
Jasper Mtn
South Fork
Slide Cr
Martin Cr
Boulder Creek
3C
FG1B PR
1443
(See LEGEND on reverse)
-26-

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

APPENDIX C

Range Improvement Summary
Existing - ~~Proposed~~
(Strike out one)

Imp. No.	Improvement Name	Location	Units	Kind of Construction	year Comp.	Construction Maintenance Responsibility	Remarks
	Little Boulder C.G.	SW Sec. 32 T40N R36E	1	7½ x 14 H-20	1970	F.S.	
	Independent C.G.	NE¼NE¼ Sec 27 T40N R35E	1	7½ x 14 H-20		F.S.	
	Middle Fork C.G.	SW¼NE¼ Sec 33 T40N R35E	1	7½ x 14 H-20		F.S.	
	Frenchman W.D.	SE Sec 29 T40N R36E	1	Wood Tank	1970	Doug Noble	Replace w/ metal
	Little W.D.	NW Sec 30 T40N R36E	1	Wood Tank	1970	Doug Noble	Replace w/ metal
	Smith W.D.	NW Sec 32 T40N R36E	1	Wood Tank	1970	Doug Noble	Replace w/ metal
	Slide Creek W.D.	SE Sec 30 T40n R36E	1	Wood Tank	1950	Doug Noble	Replace w/ metal
	Table W.D.	SE Sec 26 T40N R35E	1	Wood Tank	1970	Doug Noble	Replace w/ metal
	Onion W.D.	SE Sec 19 T40N R36E	1	Wood Tank	1960	Doug Noble	Replace w/ metal
	Pontiac W.D.	SE Sec 7 T40N R36E	1	Metal Tank	1971	Doug Noble	Reconstruct
	Talisman W.D.	SE Sec 9 T40N R36E	1	Metal Tank	1971	Doug Noble	Reconstruct
	Independent	SW Sec 23 T40N R36E	1	Metal Tank	1970	Doug Noble	Reconstruct
	Noble W.D.	NW¼SW¼ Section 19 T40N R35E	1	Wood Tank		Doug Noble	Replace w/ metal

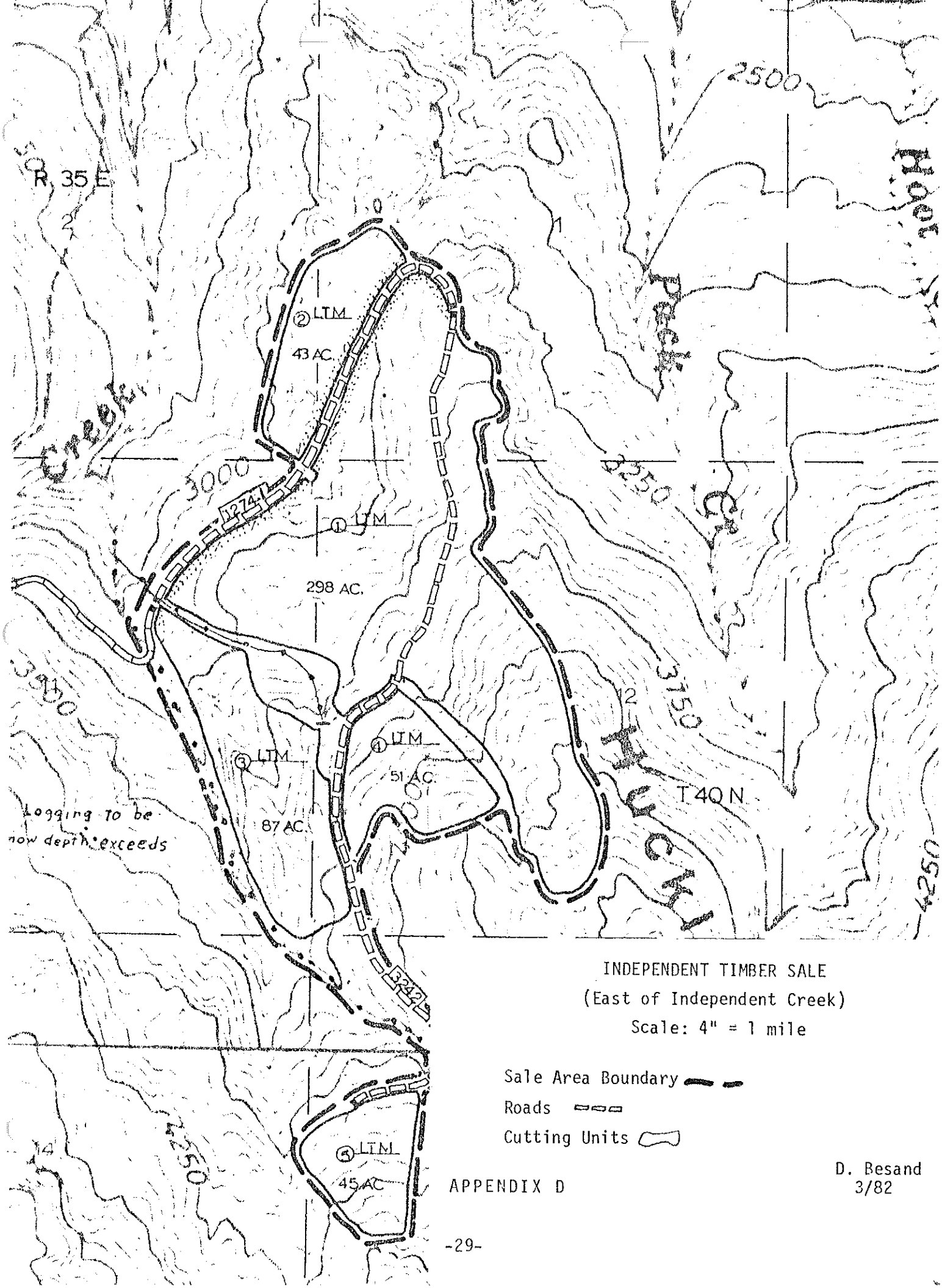
U.S. DEPARTMENT Or AGRICULTURE

Page 2 of 2

Forest Service

Range Improvement Summary
Existing - Proposed
(Strike out one)

Imp. No.	Improvement Name	Location	Units	Kind of Construction	year Comp.	Construction Maintenance Responsibility	Remarks
	Little Boulder Fence	NW Sec 32 T40N R36E	1 mile	3-wire barbed wire	1960	Doug Noble	
	Huckleberry Ridge Drift Fence	NW Sec 19 T40N R35E	.3 mi.	3-wire barbed wire	1974	Doug Noble	
	Middle Fork Drift Fence	E¼ Sec 33 T40N R35E	.3 mi.	3-wire barbed wire			

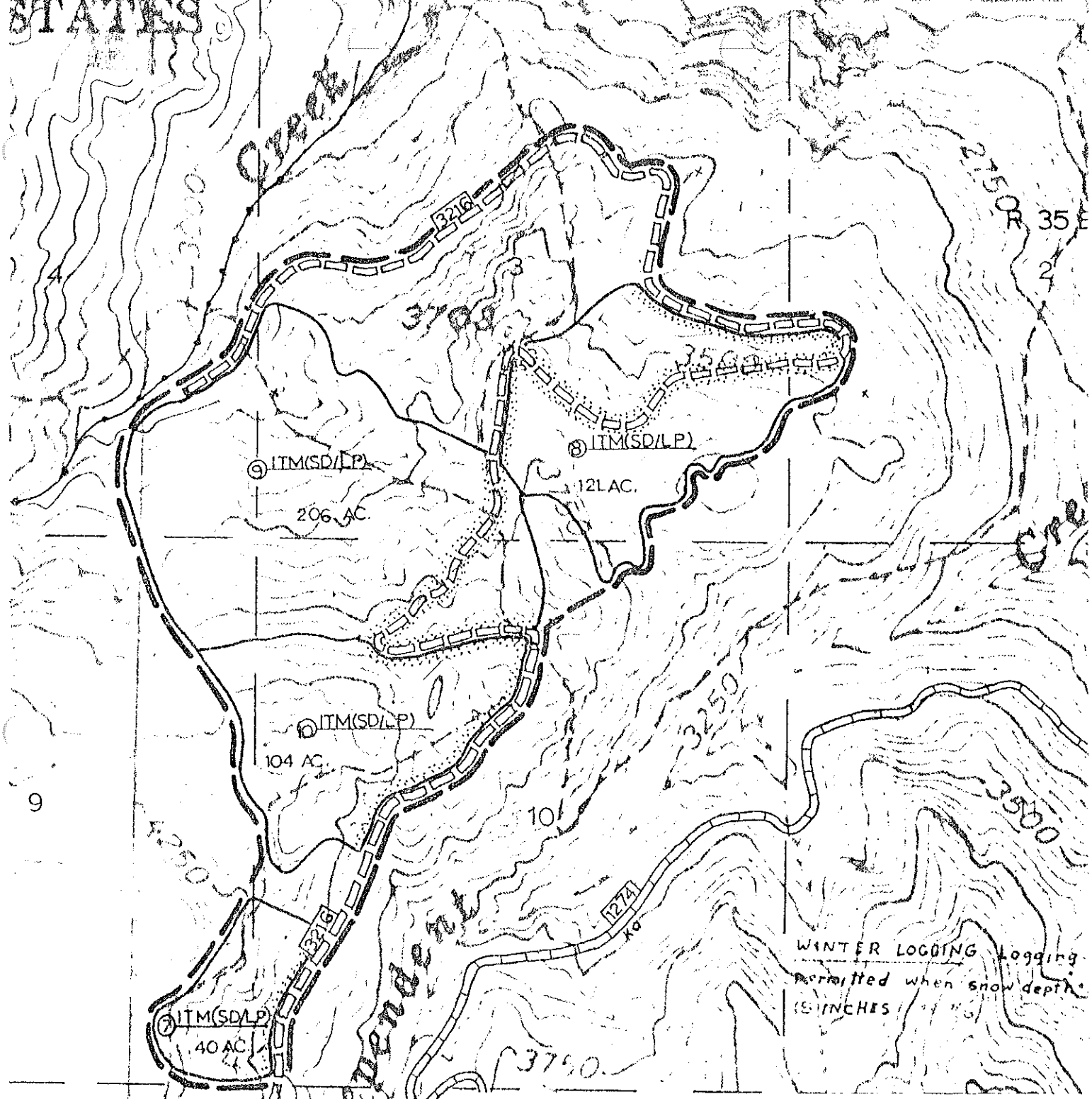


INDEPENDENT TIMBER SALE
(East of Independent Creek)
Scale: 4" = 1 mile

Sale Area Boundary
Roads
Cutting Units

D. Besand
3/82

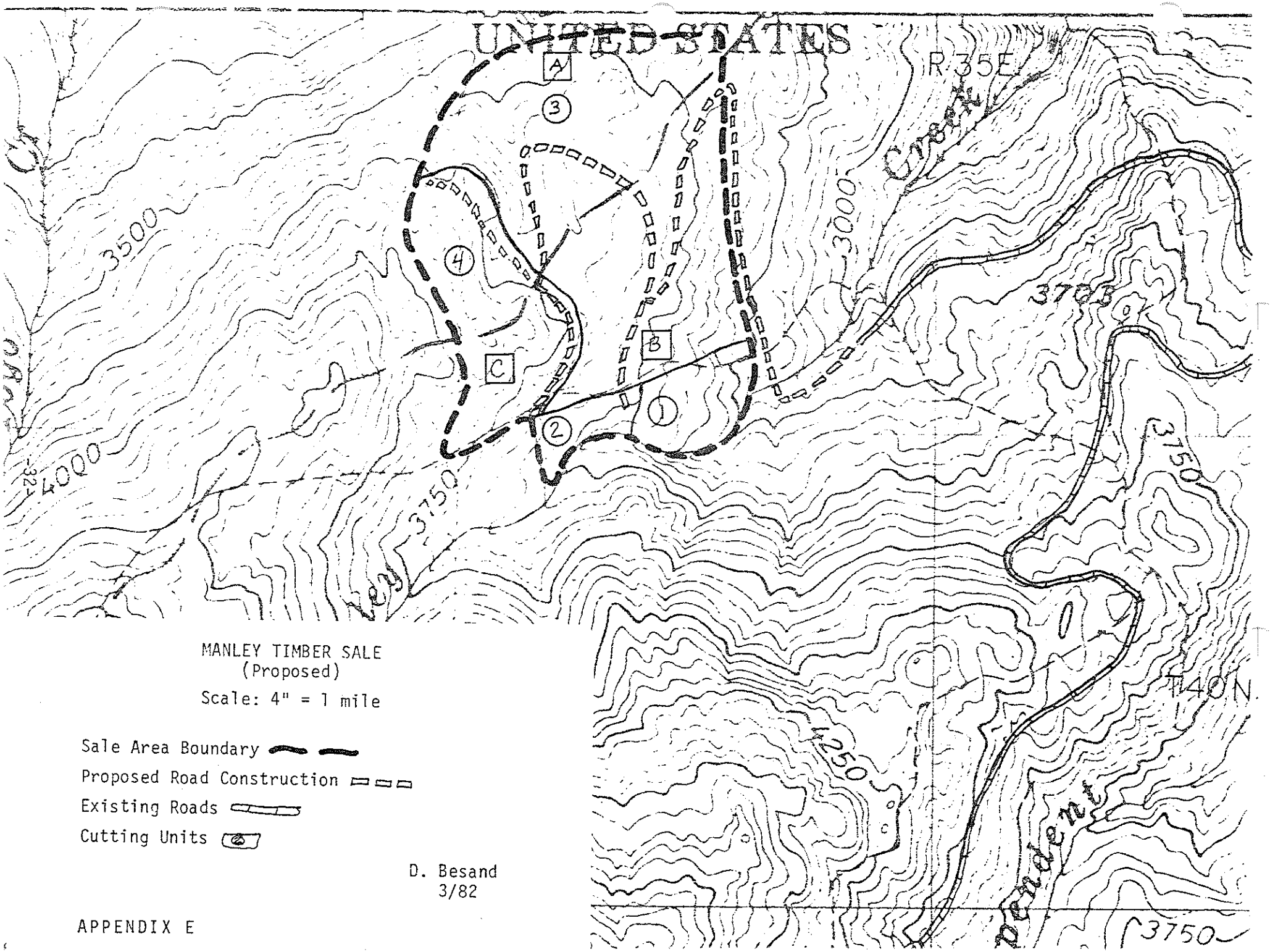
APPENDIX D



INDEPENDENT TIMBER SALE
(West of Independent Creek)
Scale: 4" = 1 mile

Sale Area Boundary
Roads
Cutting Units

D. Besand
3/82



MANLEY TIMBER SALE
(Proposed)

Scale: 4" = 1 mile

Sale Area Boundary

Proposed Road Construction

Existing Roads

Cutting Units

D. Besand
3/82

APPENDIX E

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
REVIEW AND APPROVAL RECORD

NAME OF PROJECT Little Boulder DATE:

TYPE OF PROJECT Intensive Grazing System DATE:

RANGER DISTRICT Kettle Falls DATE:

REPORT PREPARED BY Diane Lee Besand DATE: 26 March 1982
Range Conservationist

RANGER DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

Allen N. Harr DATE: 3/28/82
Other Resource Assistant

Larry Fortenberry DATE: 3/29/82
Fire Management Assistant

Jack L. Young DATE: 3/29/82
Engineering Assistant

John Zadel DATE: 3/30/82
Timber Management Assistant

Robert B. Chicken DATE: 26 March 1982
Silviculturist

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED BY:

Larry Smith DATE: March 29, 1982
District Ranger

SUPERVISOR'S REVIEW

Gary Oliveria DATE: 13 Apr 82
Range, Wildlife, Water and Soils Staff Officer

DATE:
Engineering, Lands and Minerals Staff Officer

DATE:
Fire and Recreation Staff Officer

Dennis J. Link DATE: 4/14/82
Timber Staff Officer

Stephen Fuller DATE: 4/1/82
Planning and Programming Staff Officer

DECISION NOTICE
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

LITTLE BOULDER ALLOTMENT
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON

USDA - FOREST SERVICE
COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST

An environmental assessment that discusses intensive range management on 28,735 acres of National Forest lands in Ferry County, Washington, is available for public review at the District Ranger's Office in Kettle Falls, Washington, and at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Colville, Washington.

Based on the analysis described in the environmental assessment, it is my decision to adopt Alternative 3 for range management on the Little Boulder Allotment. The alternative employs the use of a deferred grazing system, and calls for the construction of range improvements to help facilitate implementation of the system.

Alternative 3, in conjunction with the prescribed mitigation measures provides the best combination of physical, biological, social and economic benefits, and is considered to be the environmentally preferred alternative.

I have determined through the environmental assessment that this is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. This determination was made considering the following factors: a. Grazing will have only a slight effect on the ecosystem; b. There will be no long-term irretrievable or irreversible resource commitments; c. There are no apparent adverse cumulative or secondary effects; d. Physical and biological effects are limited to the area of planned development and use, and e. Threatened or endangered plants or animals are not known to exist within the affected areas.

Implementation of the project may take place immediately. This decision is subject to administrative review (appeal) pursuant to 36 CFR 211.9.

William D. Shenk — April 14, 1982

WILLIAM D. SHENK
Forest Supervisor

Date