

INTERIM ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

McKinley Mountain Allotment

Prepared by: Doyleward Date 2/27/76

Reviewed by: Albert J Graeber Date Feb 27 1976

Carl A. ... Date 4/2/76

Approved By: [Signature] Date 4/7/76

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

HISTORY

The McKinley Mountain allotment boundaries and permitted use have been the same since 1967. At that time the boundary between it and the Hope Mountain allotment was finalized.

This allotment is used by two permittees who run in separate areas. Grub Brothers have an on-off permit for 20 head, 10% on National Forest, 6/1 - 10/31. They also have permits on the Churchill and Snowcap allotments. Albert Graeber holds a 22 head term, 5 head temporary, 6/1 - 10/31.

Because of the permits Grub Brothers hold on other allotments, management options for this allotment need to be looked at in relation to the Churchill and Snowcap allotments.

An allotment management plan was written in 1962 (copy attached). This plan was apparently based on range analysis, from which the allotment map was made. It called for season long use, roughly located key areas, and noted possibilities for development of secondary range areas.

There hasn't been any recorded management follow up since the 1962 plan was written. It has valuable information in it, and should be considered an integral part of this plan.

PRESENT MANAGEMENT

Albert Graeber's cattle are put in below the Kettle River Mine area and allowed to work out from there. How much riding and salt movement there is isn't known. On the Deep Creek side of the allotment, Grub Brother's cattle are put onto the private land meadows and allowed to work out from there.

Graeber's cattle tend to concentrate in the east half of Section 25 and in Section 30. Grub Brother's stock hold close to the private land homesteads. Both of these areas are "overused". The other portions of the allotment receive little use.

ALLOTMENT CAPACITY

The range analysis map shows about 2600 acres primary range, about half of which is classed transitory. Allowing 200#/acre, and 50% utilization, and 1000#/mo consumption per animal, the allotment has an apparent capacity of about 260 AUM. The present stocking level is 145 AUM. The 1962 management plan estimated capacity at 162 AUM. It appears the allotment can handle the present permitted level if managed properly.

About one-third of the capacity is on the north part of the allotment (Grub Brothers), and possibly two-thirds on the south part (Graeber).

PROPOSED INTERIM MANAGEMENT

There are a number of possible management alternatives for this allotment. Pending range analysis scheduled for this and the other Grub Brothers allotments in FY 78, the following system may be workable.

1. Grub Brothers and Albert Graeber could combine their herds and run together. This has been discussed with the permittees and although they haven't agreed to, it is a possibility.
2. Divide the allotment into three units as shown on the attached map. This should not take over two miles of fence. There are two possible fence locations, one does not require a cattleguard. Both will have to be evaluated.
3. It will be necessary to develop water in pasture number three. Refer to the 1962 management plan for possible locations.
4. Graze according to the following schedule. The pasture movement dates are only approximate.

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
YR 1	6/1-7/21 47 hd.	7/21-9/15 47 hd.	9/15-10/31 47 hd.
YR 2	7/21-9/15 47 hd.	9/15-10/31 47 hd.	6/1-7/21 47 hd.
YR 3	9/15-10/31 47 hd.	6/1-7/21 47 hd.	7/21-9/15 47 hd.

Depending on the grazing patterns, a fence and cattleguard may be needed on the north end of Summit Lake to protect recreation values. An alternative would be to fence around the campground using a lighter load cattleguard. The North McKinley timber sale may change distribution patterns, and some drift fence may be needed on the divide.

Other alternatives would involve some combination with other allotments, and need not be evaluated until range analysis is completed on them.

To put the above system in effect, will require permittee commitment, fence and water development location, and construction. Until this is underway, the allotment will continue to be on a season long basis, depending on herding and salting for livestock distribution.

Under season long management, and an allowable use of 50% of desirable species on key areas, it is anticipated range conditions will deteriorate, unless the permittees can properly distribute their cattle. This will have to be monitored. Key areas are yet to be located.

IMPROVEMENTS

The attached allotment map shows all the known existing improvements. As mentioned, additional water sources need to be located. There is a cattleguard shown that is planned to be put in with the North McKinley timber sale. This was planned as a condition of the right-of-way grant from Grub Brothers in an attempt to keep their stock from following the new road to the top and mixing with Graeber's cattle.

STUDIES

There are not any past utilization studies or observations. Key areas need to be located and utilization studies taken.