

ALLOTMENT PLAN

1. Middle Fork Mill Creek Allotment
Colville Ranger District
Colville National Forest
Prepared by Glenn A. Maryott--1963

2. Description -

- a. Beginning at junction of Aladdin road and forest boundary, thence northeast along Bon Ayre ridge to Bon Ayre Peak; thence easterly on the ridge between Rocky Creek and Middle Fork of Mill Creek to the Beastron road; thence westerly on the ridge between the Middle Fork and South Fork of Mill Creek to the three forks of Mill Creek; thence north and east along forest boundary to the point of beginning.

- b. The topography of this allotment varies from flat to very steep slopes. It is made up of old homestead meadows and some open timber sidehills. It is very difficult to manage this area as the cattle stay in the meadows as long as there is a bite to eat and will not go up on the sidehill range. Probably the only way to get adequate utilization is to fence the meadows.

3. Livestock Numbers & Season -

Season of use is from 5-16 to 10-15. In normal years this season is fairly accurate. A somewhat later opening date would be better for the range generally. Permitted stock number 54 head of which 50 are preference.

4. History of Past Use -

See Form 2210-11 attached. This allotment is at present under two permittees. Luiten has 42 head and Kirpes 12. The permit has been with these two ranches since 1947. Earlier when the area had many small homesteads the stock ran at will in this area. The area was burned in the late 20's and has a heavy stand of reproduction coming on it at present. In 1956 Kirpes permit on the area for 20 head was reduced to 10 and the other 10 head was changed to the S.F. Mill Creek. Generally the history of the area is the same, the meadows are overgrazed and the higher range is not utilized. In 1957 the permittees plowed up and reseeded about 20 acres of meadow. This increased production on this area a great deal for a short time.

The area has been heavily infested with goat weed for a number of years. However in 1961 the Goat weed beetles finally caught up with the weed and it is under control at present.

Big game use on the area is light. There is some mule deer winter in this area most winters and Whitetail use the lower part of the range. However to date there has been no conflict of use.

5. Correlation with Other Uses -

This area is primarily a timber producing area and range is generally secondary in nature. The meadows cleared by homesteaders are going back gradually to timber. The open hills caused by burns are becoming timbered again. Grazing will be restricted more and more as this takes place.

There is an increased recreational use but this has not conflicted with grazing yet. Fishing and camping are popular along the Middle fork of Mill Creek. Eventually a campground will be needed and this will take some area formerly used for grazing.

6. Estimated Grazing Capacities -

Generally the trend on this area is static. There has been a slightly upward trend with the control of goat weed beetle. However utilization on the meadows still approaches 100% and the present stocking should not be increased unless we go to much more intensified management than I believe is possible on this area.

7. Administrative Studies -

Last season a utilization cage was placed on the planted area on Mill Creek. No transects have been placed on the area.

8. System of Grazing Use -

This area was divided into two allotments, however a new road was built and we need a cattle guard to replace the one destroyed. The area is on a seasonal use basis. Cattle are turned out and little or no herding is done. This results in localized overuse and under use.

9. Counting Livestock -

Livestock are counted and marked with dye before being turned on the range.

10. Range Improvements -

There is a drift fence dividing the upper and lower range. However the cattle guard must be replaced to get much benefit from it.

11. Special Management Problems -

There is considerable conflict between permittees. Kirpes with only 12 head of cattle cannot afford to keep a bull with them at all times. He would take a five head cut to be able to move to the South Fork of Mill Creek. This would probably be beneficial as eventually we will need to reduce this range. There is still the problem of utilization. We could overcome this by fencing for control but this is not economically feasible. Therefore we will continue to do what we can to get the permittee to move his cattle and herd them some. This is also almost an impossibility.

MIDDLE FORK MILL CREEK ALLOTMENT

11. Special Management Problems

Intensive management of this area would require 6-8 miles of fencing, and would accomplish very little increase in grazing. Most of the timber is too thick and the ground too steep to contribute much to grazing range. This range has about all the cattle it can support.

Most of the meadows are temporary and productive capacity is now not high enough to justify trying to keep the timber out of them. However encroachment of timber will be slow and will have only a gradual effect on grazing.

ESTIMATED GRAZING CAPACITY SUMMARY SHEET
(Reference FSH 2213.22)

Forest Colville Ranger district Colville Allotment Middle Fk. Mill Creek

Date completed April 15, 1963 By _____

Kind and class of livestock cattle

1. Present Obligation and Stocking Rates

- a. Paid - Number ~~54~~ 42 Season 6/1-10/15 Animal months ~~243~~ 189
- Exempt - Number _____ Season _____ Animal months _____
- Total - Number ~~54~~ 42 Season 6/1-10/15 Animal months ~~243~~ 189
- b. Present rate of stocking, open for grazing ~~374~~ 8.7 acres per cow month.
- c. Present rate of stocking, primary range ~~174~~ 1.8 acres per cow month.

2. Revised Estimate of Grazing Capacity - Primary Range

- a. Indicated capacity - Animal months _____ Desired season _____
- b. Indicated proper rate of stocking, suitable for grazing _____ acres per cow month.
- c. Brief summary for basis of above estimates. (Allotment-analysis data, range-inventory data, actual-use records, range inspection, utilization, proper-use studies, etc. Use reverse side of form for summary statements and estimated grazing capacity calculations.)

3. Adjustments Needed to Balance Obligation With Estimated Grazing Capacity of Primary Range

- a. Number _____ Animal months _____
- and/or
- b. Seasonal change 0 Animal months _____

TREND IN SOIL AND VEGETATIVE CONDITION SUMMARY SHEET

Forest Colville Ranger district Colville Allotment Middle Fk. Mill Cr.Date completed February 14, 1963 By _____Kind of livestock cattlePrimary Range

Condition class	Vegetative trend (acres)				Soil trend (acres)			
	Up	Down	Static	Total	Up	Down	Static	Total
Excellent								
Good			120	120			291	291
Fair	60		171	231			60	60
Poor								
Very poor								
Total	60		291	351			351	351
Percent				xxxxx				xxxxx

Secondary Range

Condition class	Vegetative trend (acres)				Soil trend (acres)			
	Up	Down	Static	Total	Up	Down	Static	Total
Excellent								
Good			1295	1295			1295	1295
Fair								
Poor								
Very poor								
Total			1295	1295			1295	1295
Percent			100	xxxxx			100	xxxxx

VEGETATIVE CONDITION CLASSIFICATION BY RANGE TYPES SUMMARY SHEET
(Reference FSH 2213.21)

Forest Colville Ranger district Colville Allotment Middle Fk. Mill Cr.

Date completed February 14, 1963 By _____

Kind of livestock Cattle

- | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------|-------------------|
| 1. Suitable for grazing use | <u>1646</u> | acres | |
| 2. Open for grazing but should be closed | | acres | |
| 3. Total area open for grazing use | | | <u>1646</u> acres |
| 4. Unusable area | <u>5689</u> | acres | |
| 5. Closed to livestock use | | acres | |
| 6. Total area unusable | | | <u>5689</u> acres |
| 7. Net area of national-forest land | | | <u>7335</u> acres |
| 8. Alienated land | | | <u>1750</u> acres |
| 9. Gross area in allotment | | | <u>9085</u> acres |

Condition class	Vegetation types (acres) - primary range open for grazing						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Excellent							
Good						120	120
Fair	95					136	231
Poor							
Very poor							
Total	95					256	351

Condition class	Vegetation types (acres) - secondary range open for grazing						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Excellent							
Good						1295	1295
Fair							
Poor							
Very poor							
Total						1295	1295

MIDDLE FORK OF MILL CREEK

2220-3
Allotments

1-21-66

SPECIAL PROBLEMS FOR INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT

In 1965 the permit to Kirpes was transferred to South Fork of Mill Creek and reduced to 5 head at his request, this should eliminate some of the friction on the allotment. No additional allotment is planned to fill in behind these stock as the condition of the range does not warrant the additional stock.

There has been little or no management of stock on this allotment. As soon as possible we need to replace the cattle guard and re-establish use of the drift fence.

Distribution of cattle is the important factor missing in the use of this range under present management. I see no possibility of getting adequate management of stock.

Rustling is a big problem here as the owner lost 4 cows and 6-8 calves this season.

March 21, 1956

G
MANAGEMENT
Colville

MIDDLE FORK MILL CREEK MANAGEMENT UNIT

Season

June 1 to October 15

Class of Stock

Cattle and horses

Number of Stock

60 head - 270 animal months

Condition of Range and Utilization

Consistently through the years this area has had full utilization on the meadows and former fields, resulting in a somewhat weedy and sod bound condition. Feed production from these meadows and clearings is considerably less than desired. Goatweed has invaded a high percentage of the open type, resulting in a further loss of capacity.

The lower slopes which contain a fair stand of bunchgrass and pine grass are not used excessively. The upper slopes could stand heavier use.

See remarks under Special Management Problems and Recommendations below for a more complete explanation.

Salting

Salt has been put out in ample amounts at posted salt grounds. The grounds should be changed, and the permittees encouraged to use salt as a distribution control to a greater extent. For the next few years anyway, posted grounds should be used.

Rider

The permittees usually work with their stock about one day a week, with little effectiveness toward getting full utilization of the higher more scattered feed. More riding would be desirable.

Special Management Problems and Recommendations

1. Strive for control of goatweed.
2. Ranger and permittee together locate and followup on:
 - a. Better salting areas.
 - b. High water holes.
 - c. Trails to higher feed areas.

2-G-MANAGEMENT-Colville, Middle Fork Mill Creek Management Unit, 3/21/56

3. Fence out and establish better grass on selected areas of high potential productivity. Use controlled rotations to use this additional feed.
4. Rotate early season use above and below midway drift fence annually or biannually.
5. Install cattle guard on the South Fork Mill Creek road to control late season drift.

G
MANAGEMENT PLANS
Middle Fork Mill Creek

September 8, 1949

This allotment is at present and has been for the past six years handling 65 to 70 head of cattle. The permittees Dale Kitt and J. G. Lutien both have ranches on Mill Creek outside the forest boundary, and are commensurate for the number permitted.

The range is mostly clearing from previous homesteads along the lower portions of the valley and the feed is composed of mostly blue grass and red top in these old cleared areas. The most of the feed is on dry bench land above the level of the creeks and well grassed over except for a few portions which are quite weedy. All of these flats and benches are, and have been eaten off closely each year. Salt grounds are located on slopes (lower portion) considerably above the creek bottom, and there is abundant water over the area except for the fact that it is mostly confined to the creek bottoms. No spring has been developed which has been used, however, one was put in at a higher elevation (see map) in an attempt to get stock to stay and feed a fair sized bench carrying good forage at about 3,500 feet elevation. So far this has been unsuccessful and the feed goes un-utilized, big bunch and pine grass. Several attempts have been made to use this feed by pushing stock up the slope to the feed but without results.

In the north central portion of the allotment a fair size creek enters the Middle Fork from the north. To the east of this creek is a large ridge which has been burned over, probably about 1926, this carries considerable pine grass and some others intermingled with it. The ridge is not well supplied with stock water but stock work up the slope from the bottom.

It would seem that the lower flats and benches are not very productive, grass does not get started too well in the spring and growth is slow. The season opens June 1. Was used from May 1 prior to 1944 I understand. That is too early. From the time stock come in at beginning of the season the better more moist areas are fed as long as stock can get anything. They then take to the brush and out of the way corners until the end of the season. Cattle come off in pretty good shape but not in as good shape as some other areas (Smokeout and South Fork Mill Creek). It is my belief that the areas is carrying its maximum number of cattle for the productiveness of the soil, (dry bench lands). Such areas of moist feed as there are, seem to be fed over too constantly for the good of the cattle or the feed. When the dryer benches dry up grazing ends and the stock work from the more moist areas to feed not yet worked.

No increases should be allowed on this area unless some remedy can prevent too heavy use on the lower benches and slopes. The two permittees are not concerned about the close utilization, but chiefly interested in an earlier opening date which I believe should be considered out. If the permittee can provide themselves with pasture on their own land during June it might be possible to let this feed mature further, but then I believe considerable feed on the dryer areas would get to well cured for utilization.

I consider this somewhat of a problem area for the above reasons. It might be possible to disk and seed in another species of grass and get better yield. The existing blue grass and red top seem to be stagnated. The area carrying forage should be adequate for the number grazed.

It has been the custom to count stock on the Aladdin Road on the way in when the opening date has been decided and scheduled, or stock can be counted at the ranches previously. Stock is usually driven into the range by the two permittees together,

and driven back to the ranches as they are rounded up at the end of the season until all are out.

Salt grounds are posted and shown on the map in field note book, see salt schedules for those assigned to each permittee.

Lutien usually handles his cattle on the upper end of the area and Kitt uses the lower portion. Both have facilities for hauling saddle horse.