

Allotment Name: Silver Creek Allotment Range Management Plan

Ranger District and Forest Colville Ranger District, Colville National Forest

Plan prepared by: Cindy Salbott, Date August 31, 1981
Range Conservationist

Plan prepared by: Larry McNeill, Date 10-27-81
Permittee

Plan recommended by: Fynn E. Andrews, Date 9-11-81
District Ranger

Plan approved by: William D. Shunk Date 11-6-81
Forest Supervisor

A. Objectives

1. Range condition will be maintained or improved.
2. Work toward improved distribution of cattle on transitory and secondary range.
3. Construct range improvements as needed to accomplish the above two objectives.

B. Action

1. Permitted Use and Grazing Capacity

40 cow/calf pairs July 1 through October 15, - 140 AUMs

Permitted use will not be changed until range improvements are completed and livestock management follows the schedule planned. As this is accomplished, livestock numbers will be increased according to the findings on production/utilization surveys.

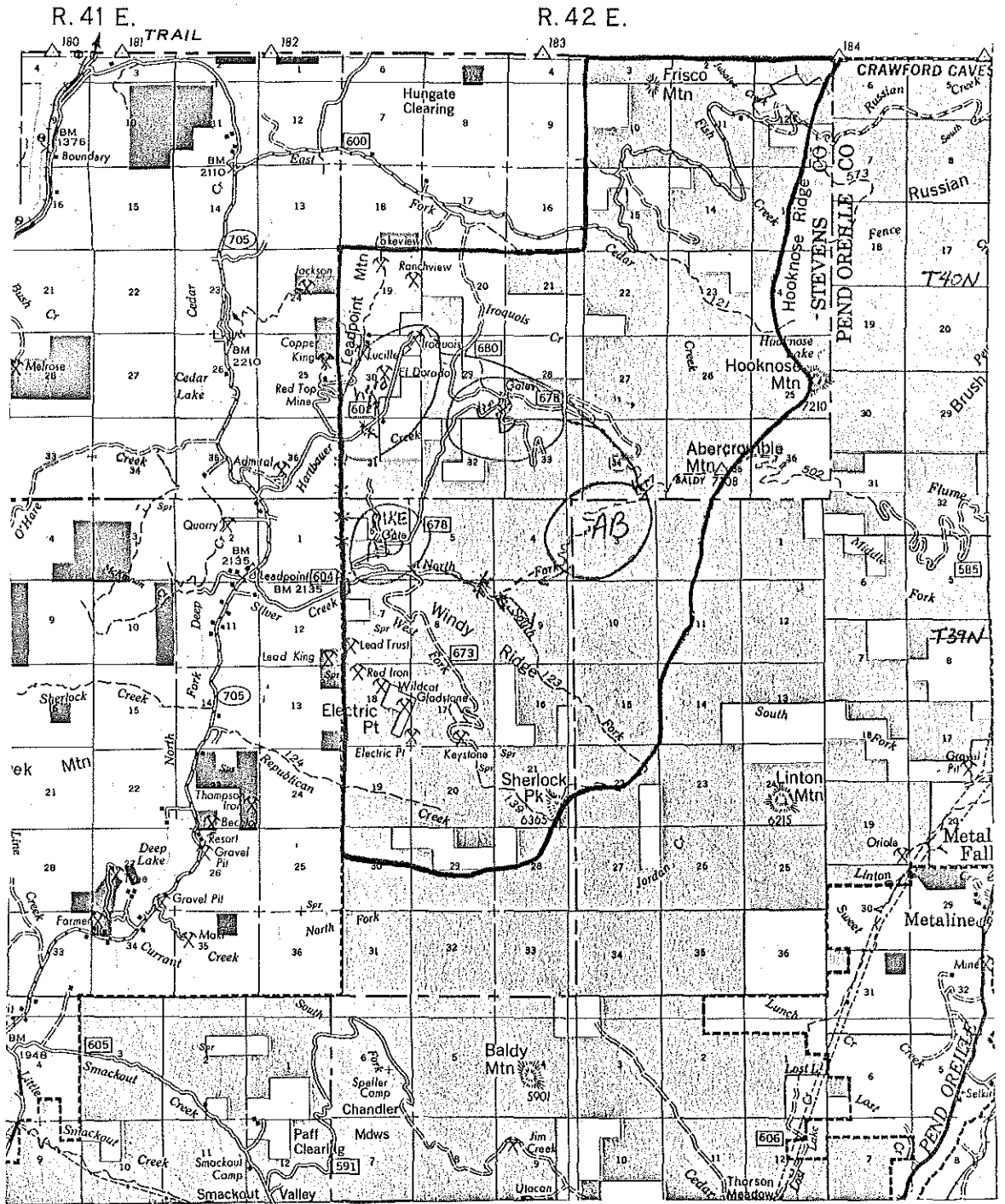
2. Management System

Half of the cattle begin grazing near Iroquois Mine, the other half higher up on Hartbauer Creek. When proper use is reached in these areas, the two herds are combined and moved up to Abercrombie Ridge to work their way across to the North Fork of Silver Creek and up the South Fork of Silver Creek. The Pike area is utilized at the end of the season before the cattle are moved home. Refer to the following map and schedule for a display of the grazing system. (Dates are approximate)

Iroquois (20 hd. ea.) Hartbauer	July 1 - July 15
North & South Forks Silver Creek (40 head)	July 15 - Sept. 15
Pike (40 head)	Sept. 15 - Oct. 15

3. Livestock Management

The cattle are moved onto the allotment in two herds about the first of July to facilitate the completion of the breeding. The herds are combined and driven up to Abercrombie after proper use is reached. Actual move dates will vary, some, from year to year.



Silver Creek Allotment

- Allotment Boundary
- trail
- ** fence
- ⊕ cattle guard

No permanent salt grounds will be permitted on National Forest lands. Salt is to be placed away from areas of concentrated use and moved to "fresh feed" areas as proper use is achieved near salt locations. Salt must not be placed adjacent to water, meadows or main roads unless for a specific management purpose and approved by a Forest Service representative. Salt should not be placed directly on the ground. Portable salt boxes of some kind should be used.

4. Range Improvements

Existing and proposed range improvements are shown on the following map and listed by priority. Construction of the Upper Silver Creek drift fence is scheduled for 1981. The boundary fence may be started in 1982 with construction spread over 3 to 4 years, as the permittee's time allows and if Forest Service materials are available. If the water developments are necessary for improvement of livestock distribution in the Pike area, construction will follow or be concurrent with the boundary fence.

5. Coordination With Other Resources

Wildlife

Livestock use of big game winter range areas will be monitored to identify competition for forage. Competition is not expected, as most of the grazing in the Pike area is expected to occur in the old roads and skid trails that have been seeded to grass.

Timber Management

Livestock grazing may have to be restricted in sale areas where erosion control seeding and/or reforestation practices are used. After this time, timber sales will increase the transitory range. Improved access and increased forage production in the Leadpoint and Hi-Lo Silver Timber Sales will replace areas in older sales lost to forage production by tree growth.

Noxious Weeds

Weeds are a problem along the roads and can be expected to spread to cutting units. Areas needing treatment will be included on the District plan for control of noxious weeds.

C. Monitoring

Range readiness inspections will be made prior to each grazing season to determine yearly turnout dates and establish long-term average range readiness dates. Range readiness criteria are the following:

Vegetation:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Minimum Stage of Development</u>
bluebunch wheatgrass	leaves 6-8" in height, seed stalk showing
orchardgrass	in the boot stage

Soils:

Normally dry sites should be fairly dry and firm. Wet meadows, unless lightly stocked, should have most of the area dry enough to carry stock without breaking the sod and destroying the cover.

Production and Utilization:

Plots will be measured in selected key areas, near the end of the use period, to verify allotment capacity.

Key areas are the following:

Pike

Iroquois Mine area

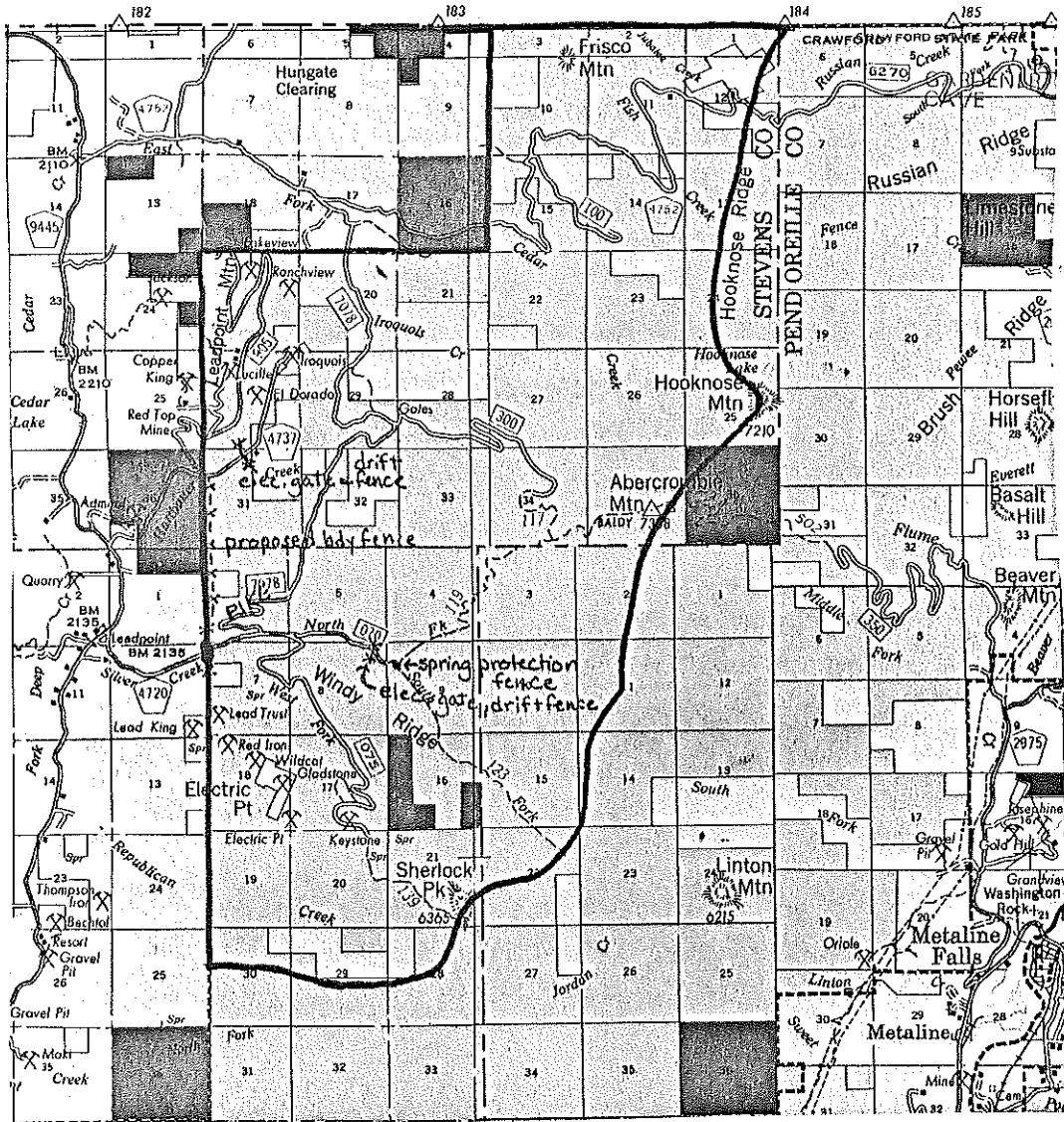
Clearcuts on Hartbauer Creek in Section 28,

Ridge above North Fork Silver Creek

<u>Key Species</u>	<u>Proper Use</u>
orchardgrass	50%
redtop	50%
bluebunch wheatgrass	40%
Idaho fescue	40%

Range improvements will be checked prior to turnout to assure that they are being maintained and to assess their effectiveness.

An annual plan of use will be prepared yearly by the Forest Service and permittee to determine how the range will be used for that year. Compliance with the annual plan, allotment management plan and the grazing permit will be mandatory and checked annually.



T40N

T39N

Silver Creek Allotment
Existing & Proposed Improvements

- x-x- Proposed fence
- ▭ Cattleguard
- X-X Existing fence
- Allotment boundary

Scale 1/2" = 1 mi.

North ↑

PROPOSED
RANGE IMPROVEMENT INVENTORY

Silver Creek

ALLOTMENT

Colville

National Forest

Imp. No.	Name & Kind of Project	Location	Units	Year & Kind of Construction	Priority Construction	Maintenance	Ownership
	Boundary fence	W $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec 6 T39N, R42E W $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec 31 T40N, R42E	1.5 mi.	3 strand barbed wire	2	Permittee	USFS
	Upper Silver drift fence & elec. gate	NE Sec 8 T39N, R42E	.5 mi.	3 strand barbed wire	1	Permittee	USFS
	Water developments	Sec 6 T39N, R42E	2	300 gallon metal trough	3	Permittee	USFS

*Materials to be provided by the Forest Service, Labor and transportation by the permittee.

RANGE IMPROVEMENT INVENTORY

Silver Creek

ALLOTMENT

Colville

National Forest

Imp. No.	Name & Kind of Project	Location	Units	Year & Kind of Construction	Condition	Maintenance	Ownership
	Silver Creek Rd. Cattleguard	NW Sec. 7 T39N,R42E	1	14' steel 1960	Good	Permittee	County
	Silver Creek Rd Driftfence	NW Sec. 7 T39N,R42E	.1	3 strand barbed wire 1960	Fair	Permittee	USFS
	Iroquois drift fence & elec. gate	NW Sec. 31, T40N, R42E	.3	3 strand barbed wire 1979	Good	Permittee	USFS
	Spring protection fence	NW Sec. 9 T39N,R42E	.1	Jack and pole	Good	USFS	USFS