

NELSON GRAZING DISTRICT REPORT

on the 1975 Inventory of the Gold Creek - Plumbob Creek Range Unit
within the boundaries of the
WALDO STOCK RANGE

Please refer to the Grazing Reconnaissance Report of 1951 for a general description of the area.

The boundaries of the Gold Creek - Plumbob Creek Range Unit are all useable range between Gold Creek and Plumbob Creek with the Kootenay River as the eastern boundary. Due to the creation of the Libby Reservoir and dense coniferous regrowth, the usable Crown range has shrunk from 71486 acres to 51682 acres. This decrease in acreage is also due to less area being inventoried than in 1951.

As a result of the flooding several ranchers who held permits on the Gold Creek - Plumbob Unit were displaced due to their arable lands being flooded, their permits have been retired and no increases have been allowed since the time of flooding.

The inventory data indicates that a realistic stocking figure under good range management would be 4706 '+A.U.M.'s, which is a sum of the primary and secondary range.

Utilization

Generally speaking most use is concentrated on the more open areas on the eastern edge of the range unit. This unit contains a good balance of spring/fall and summer range, under a good grazing system better use could be made of the whole area.

In 1951 where 6.8% of the area was open grassland, in 1975 only 4.8% was open grassland, this decline in open grassland is causing livestock to use a smaller area, in time this will cause all easily accessible areas to deteriorate in condition, unless management improves.

Suggestions

Since this area has a good balance of spring, summer, & fall ranges, a grazing system needs to be designed that will allow these areas to be grazed at the proper time of year.

A portion of the unit is already under a Co-ordinated Resource Management Plan, if the users are willing, this method of planning should be extended to the rest of the unit. No increases should be contemplated on this unit until a grazing system is devised. Large areas of decadent bitterbrush exist, once a grazing system was devised these areas could be burned.

C.N.I. is presently logging this area for a winter logging area, as part of their clean-up/management they should be required to do adequate clean-up and seed all landings and roads.

Thought should also be given to seeding reed canary grass on shallowly flooded areas of the Libby Pondage for spring range.

Appendix 1

Summary of Range Inventory Information

<u>Type Description</u>	1975		1951	
	<u>Acres of Crown</u>	<u>Carrying Capacity A.U.M.'s</u>	<u>Acres of Crown</u>	<u>Carrying Capacity A.U.M.'s</u>
1 Open Grassland	2495	388	4877	944
2 Meadows	204	25	-	-
5 Semi-open	3581	679	13474	2620
6 Timbered O	3817	637	3544	605
M	32390	4191	43092	6137
D	6780	567	5992	718
7 Browse	1039	140	507	67
9 Deciduous M	<u>1376</u>	<u>211</u>	-	-
	51682	6838	<u>71486</u>	<u>11091</u>
Primary	6262	979		
Secondary	23803	3727		
Tertiary	<u>21617</u>	<u>2132</u>		
	51682	6838		

Where Primary range is an area that cattle will naturally tend to use with minimum management, secondary range is an area that cattle will use with a moderate amount of management. Tertiary range is usually only usable under intensive management such as fences, trails, riding, good watering sources and proper salting.

Appendix 2

Stocking History

<u>Year</u>	<u>A.U.M.'s</u>	<u>Permittees</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Horses</u>
1953	3018			
1954	2770			
1955	3302			
1956	3743			
1957	3710			
1958	4661			
1959	2726			
1960	2615			
1961	3799			
1962	4581	15	742	24
1963	9246	22	1161	94
1964	8802	20	1235	56
1965	8204	19	1191	49
1966	8941	18	1326	40
1967	9061	18	1440	25
1968	8715	18	1486	28
1969	9470	17	1551	32
1970	7682	17	1214	34
1971	6766	14	1111	34
1972	5955	13	957	26
1973	3783	9	637	18
1974	3418	9	596	8
1975	3419	9	596	8
1976	3142	8	551	7

Appendix 3

Permittees in 1975

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cattle</u>
Goralski, J.	66
Jones, H. A.	35
Marcer Ranching Ltd.	78
McIntyre, L.	55
Sandberg, A. L.	58
Sharpe, L. F.	78
Smith, P. R.	50
Stone, J. W.	54
Totten, R. J.	125