

NELSON GRAZING DISTRICT REPORT

on the Range Inventory of the Waldo Range Unit
within the boundaries of the
WALDO STOCK RANGE

Please refer to the 1951 Grazing Reconnaissance Report of the Waldo Stock Range.

Since the first inventory there has been a considerable change in range conditions. Due to the Libby Dam, land alienations, parks, and road locations, etc. being changed or fenced both Crown acreage and carrying capacity have decreased. The predications about conifer regeneration made in the 1951 report have come true and there is less Open Grassland and Semi-Open Grassland than there was at that time.

Due to the Libby Dam several ranches were bought out and their grazing permits retired, this has caused a considerable loss in A.U.M.'s of use on Crown range. Continuation of stocking at the previous levels of use before buyout would have caused an overstocking situation which would have meant a reduction in A.U.M.'s.

The inventory crew found that the cattle were making the most use of the primary and secondary range areas and that little use was being made of the tertiary range areas. Consequently many of the primary and secondary areas are in poor - fair condition and are not getting a chance to recover in condition.

Since the carrying capacity of the primary and secondary areas is approx. 2600 A.U.M.'s and the present stocking rate is approx. 3000 A.U.M.'s, with little use being made of the tertiary areas no increase should be allowed on this unit. If management improves to allow use of the tertiary areas there could be moderate increases.

Suggestions

This range unit is not being efficiently used, most use is concentrated in the primary and secondary areas which is causing range abuse. What is needed is a grazing system which will allow use of the unused tertiary (forested) areas. If this is achieved there could be moderate increases. However it must be remembered as the forest canopy increases on this unit and reduces the forage values it is likely that in the future there may have to be a reduction in the stocking rate to allow for a safe level of use.

Stocking History

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. Permittees</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Horses</u>	<u>A.U.M.'s</u>
1953				5140
1954				4217
1955				5175
1956				5345
1957				5972
1958				6870
1959				6479
1960				6825
1961				7634
1962	27	1228	96	8689
1963	27	1197	80	7993
1964	26	1218	76	7876
1965	25	1300	66	8023
1966	25	1298	86	7977
1967	25	1355	95	7873
1968	26	1301	72	7480
1969	26	1217	78	6921
1970	24	950	84	6051
1971	22	894	67	4791
1972	17	698	35	3252
1973	16	724	30	3149
1974	16	720	22	3145
1975	15	666	25	3109
1976	15	670	24	2913

Summary of Range Inventory Data

<u>Type</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	1085	167	3565	632
2 Natural Meadow	240	-	-	-
5 Semi-open Grassland	9168	1607	14937	2895
6 Coniferous forest				
O-Open	12055	1993	8068	1351
M-Medium	6516	890	12825	1971
D-Dense	1075	107	2280	303
7 Browse	<u>656</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>5515</u>	<u>1002</u>
Total	30795	4871	47,190	8154
Primary	969	146		
Secondary	15278	2453		
Tertiary	12049	2266		
Transitory	<u>46</u>	<u>6</u>		
	30795	4871		

Permittees - 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Horses</u>
Beller, B.	55	
Cierny, J.	30	
Conrad, B.	38	
Costanzo, A & V	53	5
Cutts, J.	153	
Harbinson, F.		3
Kubinec, J. P.		2
Kubinec, P. F.	21	
Martin, A. V.	57	
Matson, E. H.	80	
Mawer, M & Hicks, J.		14
Palmer, Mrs. A.	62	
Reay, C. D.	103	
Sweet, W.	6	

TABLE IV

THEORETICAL COW-MONTHS CAPACITY OF EACH RANGE UNIT COMPARED TO

TOTAL COW-MONTHS USAGE UNDER PERMIT IN 1951

NOTE: Theoretical capacity assumes even distribution, complete and proper utilization of all available forage and reader should refer to parts (b) Utilisation, and (d) Recommendations, as discussed for each Unit in the body of this report.

All figures are "Animal-months - 1 Animal month equals 1 cow or its equivalent for one month
 (4 horses = 5 cows)
 (4 sheep = 1 cow)

Range Unit	Capacity of Crown Unfenced Range	Capacity of Alienated Unfenced Range	Capacity of All Unfenced Range	Permitted Range Use in 1951
Grasmere	5,626	2,070	7,696	3,738
Newgate (West of Kootenay River & south of Gold Creek)	3,202	101	3,303	819
Gold Creek-Plumbob Creek (West of Kootenay River & north of Gold Creek)	11,091	280	11,371	2,211
Waldo (Waldo Bull Control Area)	8,154	578	8,732	3,954
Sand Creek (Sand Creek Bull Control Area)	5,473	825	6,298	2,799

1,059 of 30,000
 4,414 w. of 18,000