

A Story of Cooperation

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THIS is a story of cooperation—and the happy results.

In the Government Creek Grazing Unit of the Federal range—approximately 60 miles southwest of Murray, Utah—there was a real problem about a decade ago. Involved were some 38,000 acres of Federal range administered by the Bureau of Land Management, 3,520 acres of State land, and 5,480 acres of privately owned land. The range had progressively deteriorated as a result of excessive use and something had to be done.

A meeting was called of the Government Creek Cattle Association. BLM personnel and the 13 cattle operators who ran some 1,200 head of cattle in the area began to make plans.

The number of livestock run on the unit was reduced 45 percent and a uniform grazing season was established between the dates of May 16 and October 15 of each year. The unit was divided into four grazing pastures by building 32 miles of fence. Sagebrush, pinon, and juniper trees were removed and 5,485 acres were seeded to crested wheatgrass. Much of the area around waterholes was rated in "poor" condition so 10 more springs and waterholes were developed to provide better distribution of the livestock. Livestock trails were built to further aid in distribution of the cattle, and various other projects were done to facilitate operations within the unit, such as the installation of cattle guards.

The cost of all developments amounted to \$82,453, of which \$12,172 was contributed by the permittees who ran cattle in the unit.

All of the projects developed have proven beneficial and successful in bringing about better management and rehabilitation of the land within the Government Creek Unit.

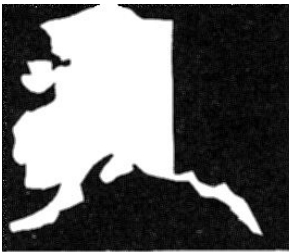
For the past 3 years, livestock have been grazing in the crested wheatgrass pastures at the rate of 3.5 acres per animal unit month whereas the same lands prior to the seeding were rated at 18 acres per AUM. (An AUM is an amount needed to feed one cow for 1 month.) Besides that, use of the crested wheatgrass pastures has lightened the grazing load on the native vegetation in other parts of the unit, particularly during spring use which is critical on native ranges. As a result, the native vegetation itself is responding to natural rehabilitation and the range has improved from "fair" to "good" condition.

Because of this recovery of the range as a result of management practices and range improvement projects started in 1953, the Bureau, starting with the 1964 grazing season, will restore to the permittees 7 percent of the adjustment made 10 years ago.

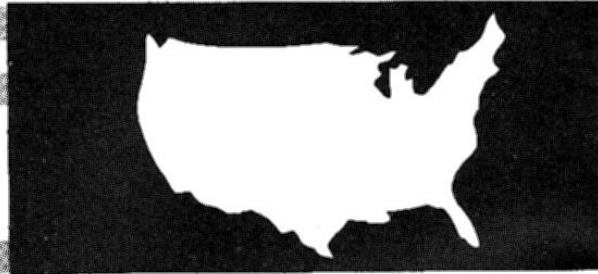
Another aspect of the management of Government Creek Unit has been the wildlife. The mule deer population now appears to be in line with the available browse plants and, furthermore, the numbers appear to be static so that proper use of the range prevails without conflict between wildlife and livestock.

The story of Government Creek Unit—where 3,500-foot Simpson Mountain rises as a landmark in the area—points out what can be accomplished from progressive thinking and through cooperative efforts of livestock men and the BLM. Graziers of the Government Creek reside in the vicinity of Delta, Vernon, and Grantsville in Western Utah.

As a result of their patience and willingness to cooperate, these livestockmen will benefit materially from the improvements made in the Government Creek Unit. They will have increased livestock production from the unit, both in numbers and in flesh condition.



active acres



Robert J. Smith Will Head Bureau's Wildlife Program

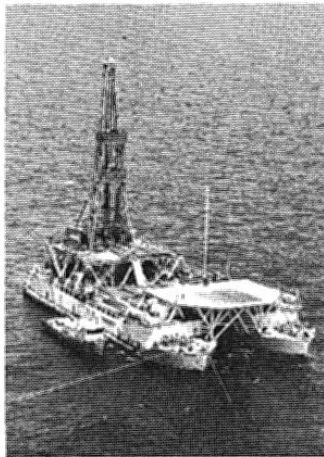
The Bureau of Land Management has appointed Robert J. Smith, 44, to head up its wildlife program on the Nation's public lands. Smith is the former director of Arizona's Game and Fish Department. Smith will coordinate BLM's cooperative efforts with State fish, game, and parks agencies.

Smith is a native of Chadron, Nebr. He served as an Air Force navigator in the Pacific during World War II. After his discharge he attended the University of California at Berkeley, where he received a degree in wildlife conservation in 1948. After graduation he went to work for Arizona's wildlife agency, rising to the directorship in 1958.

Smith joined the BLM, he said, because of the tremendous challenge of public land management. "With our population and our affluence growing rapidly," he commented, "there are more and more people who have the money and leisure time to spend on recreational activities—including those connected with wildlife. More and more of these people are coming to the public lands for outdoor recreation. We must be ready to meet their needs."

Interior Announces Offshore Oil and Gas Lease Sales

Interest is high in offshore oil and gas leasing off the West Coast. More than 1 million acres of submerged lands on the Outer Continental Shelf off Washington and Oregon will be offered for lease



An all-depth offshore drilling rig, complete with heliport.

sale on October 1, 1964, by the Bureau of Land Management. The offering will cover 254,000 acres off Washington, and 836,000 off Oregon.

This sale follows by about a year the first Interior Department offshore lease sale on the West Coast. A sale for lands off northern California was held in May 1963.

New drilling and production techniques have made oil operations possible off the West Coast, where greater depths are encountered than in the Gulf of Mexico. At the request of the oil industry, leasing maps of the entire Continental Shelf off Oregon and Washington have been extended from a water depth of 100 fathoms, to 500 fathoms (3,000 feet).

Another offshore area will be offered for lease sale on April 28, 1964. Twenty-eight tracts covering nearly 32,000 acres of submerged lands in Outer Continental Shelf Zone 2 off Louisiana will be available in this Gulf Coast sale.

The opening of the area for leasing is necessary because of drainage by oil and gas wells leased in adjacent zones. Monies collected from Zone 2 leasing go into an escrow fund pending settlement of the Federal-State boundary questions by the Supreme Court.

Interior Agencies Record Good Year for Fire Protection

About 376 million acres of land received fire protection from Interior agencies during 1963. Cost of damage and acreage of fire loss on these lands for the year were kept considerably below averages for the previous 3 years.

The Department's land managing agencies—Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Af-

fairs, National Park Service, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife—showed 279,211 acres of range, forest, and woodland were burned in 1963. Average annual burn on the same lands during the previous 3 years was 394,429 acres.

Interior agencies spent \$3,300,315 to fight fire between January 1 and October 15, 1963. This expenditure held total estimated fire damage on Interior-managed lands to \$672,921, as compared with an average damage cost of \$2,545,265 during the years 1960, 1961, and 1962.

Interior Department Issues Four in Series of State Resources Booklets

The Department of the Interior has issued four in a series of 50 State resources publications. Natural resources booklets of Arizona, Colorado, Ohio, and Washington are now available; the completed series will consist of a booklet for each of the 50 States.

Each booklet is richly illustrated with photographs showing the variety of the State's resources, which range from parks and recreational resources to lands, water and minerals, to the Indians and their resources.

In addition to the geography, physical features, and natural resources of the particular State, each booklet highlights the programs of Federal natural resource agencies that contribute to developing and conserving these resources.

The State resources booklets will inform and appeal to individual readers across the country. In addition, the series contains excellent material for elementary and high school classroom studies of history and geography.

Additions will be made periodically throughout the coming months until the 50 booklets are

available. The booklets published may be obtained for 50 cents per copy from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402.

Indian Allotment Application Rejected by the Secretary

An application for 160 acres of public grazing land near Craig, Colo., filed by Kiowa Indian Amos A. Hopkins-Dukes, has been rejected by the Secretary of the Interior on the grounds that the land cannot qualify for allotment under an 1887 act providing 160-acre allotments for Indians.

Long-established Interior rulings have held that allotted lands must be capable of supporting an Indian family. In his decision, Secretary Udall said that the land Hopkins-Dukes had applied for can support only two cows on a year-round basis, and that economic ranch operations in the area required 100 animals.

Before the Secretary's ruling, publicity concerning Hopkins-Dukes' applications stirred considerable interest among Indians in Colorado, Wyoming, and Oklahoma. Secretary Udall issued a strong note of caution to Indians, saying, "While the Indian Allotment Act is still open to bona fide applicants, there is very little likelihood that suitable land could be found on the public domain today."

He pointed out that the Indians' relation to the allotment law is the same as all citizens' relation to the homestead laws. All citizens are born with a homestead right, but only a handful will receive homesteads because of the lack of good agricultural lands in the public domain.

Action on an Idaho range fire during a recent fire season. Fire loss on Interior-managed lands during 1963 dropped dramatically.



Twenty-three States Share \$21 Million in Mineral Check for 6-Month Period

Twenty-three States received U.S. Treasury checks totaling \$21,097,453.52 as their share of \$50,641,741.15 in bonuses, royalties, and rentals from mineral leasing on Federal lands within their boundaries during the last 6 months of 1963.

All the States except Alaska receive 37.5 percent of the Federal Government's mineral revenues from lands within their borders.

Alaska receives 90 percent under terms of its Statehood Act. Federal mineral revenues in Alaska during the 6-month period totaled \$4,020,477.69, of which 90 percent

went to the State, and 10 percent to the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury.

The Reclamation Fund received 52.5 percent of \$46.6 million (the grand total less receipts from within Alaska), or nearly \$24.5 million. The Treasury's General Fund received 10 percent of the grand total, or slightly over \$5 million.

The payments were presented to State officials by field officials of the Bureau of Land Management, the Department of the Interior agency that administers the mineral leasing laws.

The July 1-December 31, 1963, distribution brought to \$46,500,926.34 the total payments made to the States from receipts received during calendar year 1963.

Lands leased under administration of the Bureau of Land Management include public lands, acquired lands, and certain privately owned lands containing minerals reserved to the Federal Government.

Minerals leased under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, which provides for the receipts distribution, are oil, gas, potash, sodium, sulphur, coal, and phosphate.

The largest individual check went to the State of Wyoming which received \$6,793,128.69. There followed: New Mexico, \$4,287,300.01; Alaska, \$3,618,429.92; Colorado, \$1,603,929.43; Utah, \$1,567,891.77; and California, \$1,311,260.99.

Semi-annual Mineral Payments to States

State	1963 (July 1 to Dec. 31)	1963 (Jan. 1 to June 30)	1962 (July 1 to Dec. 31)
Alabama.....	\$437.63	81,738.68	\$1,330.41
Alaska.....	3,618,429.92	5,028,806.14	3,417,321.42
Arizona.....	109,093.91	153,223.03	53,436.26
Arkansas.....	40,904.40	50,022.30	43,686.66
California.....	1,311,260.99	1,477,150.05	1,172,526.70
Colorado.....	1,603,929.43	1,873,075.05	1,448,090.51
Florida.....	47.81	76.22	33.37
Idaho.....	370,517.18	37,679.38	166,047.90
Kansas.....	73,802.12	93,323.32	64,351.61
Louisiana.....	123,355.64	60,268.62	54,640.08
Michigan.....	1,275.69	2,081.33	1,545.19
Mississippi.....	3,008.80	11,397.27
Montana.....	910,700.26	1,096,011.43	952,929.15
Nebraska.....	1,335.38	5,708.62	2,355.00
Nevada.....	86,529.94	91,990.75	54,685.13
New Mexico.....	4,287,300.01	5,335,897.26	4,117,493.75
North Dakota.....	92,875.40	95,948.32	303,335.82
Oklahoma.....	27,624.42	38,182.87	45,627.37
Oregon.....	970.13	1,960.89	202.52
South Dakota.....	72,833.00	43,897.54	61,562.00
Utah.....	1,567,891.77	2,270,898.48	1,499,932.96
Washington.....	201.00	264.75	978.81
Wyoming.....	6,793,128.69	7,633,870.52	6,432,142.64
Total.....	21,097,453.52	25,403,472.82	19,894,255.26



Reseeding of a pipeline lateral to crested wheat was one of the projects undertaken on the Huerfano Range Conservation Area. This is pinon-juniper type range, characteristic of millions of Western areas.

Bureau Reports Accomplishments and Plans for the Future

A report to the public on the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management accomplishments in fiscal year 1963 summarizes this conservation agency's programs and activities during the past year.

A complete revision of the rules governing the public's applications for public lands (Part 296, Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations) described in the report is expected to speed up handling of applications for land which must be

classified or otherwise made available for lease or sale.

According to the report, BLM received \$530 million from the sale and management of public lands and resources during the fiscal year. Principal sources of revenue were mineral leases and permits, timber sales, sales of public lands and materials, grazing leases and licenses, fees and commissions, and rights-of-way leases.

BLM's receipts, according to the report, placed \$468 million into the general fund of the U.S. Treasury; \$61 million went to 27 public land States; \$1.2 million was returned to grazing districts for range improvements; and \$4 million was transferred to other Federal agencies. Additional amounts went to Indian trust funds and to the Reclamation Fund.

Other major activities reported include 44 Accelerated Public Works projects in 10 States, and a gigantic timber salvage operation in western Oregon following the Columbus Day storm of 1962. Also reported were accomplishments in forest and range management, public land surveys, land inventories, protection, and mineral leasing. The report also outlines many of the Bureau's plans for further improvement of the public lands.

The Director's report is included in the 1963 annual report of the Secretary of the Interior, which can be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402. The price is \$1.75.

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