### Routing and Transmittal Slip

**To:**
- Gus Hormay  
- 101 Acadia Street  
- San Francisco, California

**Indicate Action by Number**

1. Necessary action  
2. Approval  
3. Signature  
4. Prepare reply  
5. Your comment and return  
6. Note and surname  
7. Note and return  
8. Your information  
9. See me  
10.  

**From:** Duane Whitmer  
**Date:** 6-3-81  
**Office:** Montana State Office  
**Phone:** 585-6474

**Remarks**

"Your copies, Gus. I have several other public information brochures that I am developing - similar to this one."

"Western and central Montana precipitation is above normal. Eastern Montana finally receiving good precipitation, but need much more."

In 1974, the Matador Allotment located 30 miles south of Dillon, Montana, was selected as a demonstration area for improved rangeland management. The area is predominantly sagebrush and grass foothills, dissected by several small creeks. The total allotment encompasses over 77,000 acres, 51 percent of which are public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, 33 percent State of Montana lands and 16 percent private deeded lands.

A series of planning meetings, led by Gus Hormay (Range Ecologist) were held to develop a plan of operation. Those most directly affected are the landowners: The Matador Cattle Company, Bureau of Land Management and State Lands Department. Other participants included the U.S. Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Extension Service, Montana State University, University of Montana, Western Montana College, Beaverhead Conservation District, and Sierra Club.
Under the allotment management plan, the better forage plants are maintained by periodically resting the range from use by livestock to:

1. Allow plants an opportunity to make and store food reserves in their roots.
2. Allow for natural seed production.
3. Allow for seedling establishment.

The allotment was cross-fenced into management pastures to provide rest periods necessary to maintain and improve the vegetation. Cattleguards were installed to allow public access through the area.
This is a 7-31-74 photo of an old saltground located in Pasture 2, before the improved grazing management program was implemented.

Six years later the saltground site shows marked improvement in increased vegetation cover.

A photo plot was located in Pasture 2 on 7-31-74 to monitor this deterioriated rabbitbrush site.

Increased vegetation cover and production is apparent in this repeat photo taken 4 years later.
Basin wildrye, a desirable native bunchgrass, is regaining possession of this site by outcompeting sagebrush and rabbitbrush. Note the dying canopy of rabbitbrush, through which a vigorous basin wildrye plant is flourishing. This process of plant replacement is a natural phenomenon in achieving a more productive vegetation community.

In 1977 approximately 150-225 elk found suitable habitat in the Matador Allotment which previously supported only 20 resident elk.

For more information on Allotment Management Plans, contact the nearest Bureau of Land Management office.

A robust stand of basin wildrye now occupies this site, formally used as a holding corral for sheep.

Monitoring stations are providing information concerning water quality, peak flows and aquatic habitat for cutthroat trout.