Subject: Pole Creek C&H Allotment

To: Ronald H. Stellingwerf

I appreciate the opportunity to spend a short period of time (Sept. 26 & 27, 1988) on the Pole and Long Creek grazing allotments. To witness the results of a long term 4-pasture rest-rotation grazing strategy was interesting, as it gave me a chance to compare your results with our rest-rotation treatment findings on similar and dissimilar riverine-riparian habitats. My comments follow:

Riverine-Riparian Condition

The riverine-riparian systems within the Pole Creek allotment express the results of many years of poor livestock management and are in a badly degraded state. The streams have eroded and degraded most of their channel reach. Shear action on streambanks by livestock has been an annual event, and over the period of years, the banks have moved away from the water column and there is no longer synchronization between the two. This condition should be of no surprise to anyone, as our research has shown that the high utilization rates occurring on the Pole Creek allotment would break down most riverine-riparian habitat types and send the stream to aquatic collapse. This is what has happened on the Pole Creek allotment.

Channels have degraded and headcut, large segments of the riparian aquifer have been eroded out and transported down the valley as sediments. This could be a limiting situation for downstream fisheries and wildlife, because in July, August, and September, when these streams should be sending more and cooler water to the streams and rivers below, they have lost their ability to do so. This is also during a period when more water is needed for agricultural uses.

Much of the ability of the riparian habitat to act as a sponge for water storage retention has been taken away. This loss is not only due to the loss of valley soils, but also from the lowering of valley bottom water tables. The lowering of water tables has, in some areas, allowed encroachment, of the once riparian zone, by upland plants such as sagebrush. Most of the potential willow sites have been eliminated by the heavy livestock grazing.

The presently used grazing strategy (4-pasture rest-rotation), was developed for the uplands, where it has worked well when animal distribution could be controlled. This strategy was never intended to be used to rehabilitate riparian areas. Under high stocking rates, the strategy places too much stress on the bottoms and does an extremely poor job controlling animal distribution. Another item of concern is using rested pastures during drought seasons. It
has been shown that on well managed ranges in good condition and with proper
stocking rates and timing of forage use, that rested upland pastures can be
used on occasion during the rested phase without receiving unallowable damage.
This has not proven true for riparian systems, usually because they have not
had proper management during the period before the drought year. We must
remember that when the 4-pasture rest-rotation strategy was developed, the
allotment guidelines and our manuals were citing riparian systems as "sacrifice
areas"; there was no intention of managing at that time.

With the heavy annual streambank shear damage, water tables being driven and
held down (in some places over 6 feet), sagebrush intrusions into once riparian
zones, willow eliminated or now being driven out, old beaver meadows eroding
out, aspen groves degenerating, large organics drastically reduced in key
areas, stream morphology heavily altered, solar energy now having much more
direct access to aquatic systems and the cattle-beaver synergistic effects on
removal of tree and brushy species, I can only conclude that the present
stocking rates, utilization, and animal distribution under the past and present
grazing management, are not compatible with the riverine-riparian systems.

Bottomlands have and will continue to be badly degraded, and studies would
probably indicate fisheries and wildlife degradation.

Aspen-Willow Management

I do not claim to be a plant specialist, but I have observed enough
riverine-riparian systems to wonder whether, riparian vegetation wise, the Pole
Creek allotment couldn't be in better shape. I suggest you bring a plant
specialist in to evaluate this concern, as the fisheries could be heavily
influenced by the changes that have taken place in plant species composition,
vigor, and elimination. Those areas used in the past by both cattle and beaver
should have a critical look. There have been some large conversions in many
areas from a willow-sedge community to a blue grass - sagebrush community.

Grazing Strategies

My report to you has been quite negative because there has been heavy resource
damage which doesn't mesh well with multiple use objectives. There is a
positive side to this, however, as the allotment lends itself well to the
production of "red meat" while still being compatible with the many other
resources. One of the first things to consider is giving up the 4 pasture rest
rotation strategy for the riparian bottoms. We are having problems with the
3-pasture rest-rotation strategies on these same riparian types. I have always
felt that 3-pasture rest-rotation was better than the 4-pasture approach
because it provided for more rest. None of the rest-rotation strategies work
in riparian habitats, however, under heavy utilization. We discussed some
alternatives and they should be considered. Under the present strategy you
actually have large exclosures in the uplands that aren't being utilized
because of poor control of animal distribution.

I would suggest that the allotment become a "showcase" of how a badly managed
allotment can be changed into a well managed allotment; one that not only
benefits the permittee, but increases the value of other resources as well.
This would cost some money, but designing a compatible grazing strategy would
be fairly easy.
Summary

You are in a position similar to that of many other land managers in the west in that you have a problem allotment. I suggest you quickly convert this negative situation to a positive one for the benefit of all range users by moving to a compatible grazing strategy. So much of the west is in a poor condition that we need some "showplaces" of how historically poor range management can be turned around to gain optimum, balanced use of all the multiple resources. Such demonstration areas are badly needed at this time to prove we can do the job properly. I was greatly impressed with the knowledge and experience of your crew, and you are fortunate to have this type of expertise to help you move forward. I left the allotment knowing they had the understanding to meet this challenge for the benefit of all users, including the permittee in the long run.

If I can be of any other assistance, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

William S. Platts
RESEARCH FISHERY BIOLOGIST

This guy should stick to fishing.
October 26, 1988

Mr. A. L. Hormay
101 Acadia Street
San Francisco, California 94131

Dear Mr. Hormay:

I am a grazing enthusiast and saw your name mentioned in "Beef". I would like to know more about rest and deferred rotations. Please also explain your back ground and work.

I have just started and working with producers interested in controlled grazing, here in Wisconsin. Please find enclosed my resume.

I lived in New Zealand for 14 years developing different farms.

The potential for lowering the cost of production in America is unbelievable. I welcome your comments and ideas.

Thank you for your time and the information.

Good Grazing,

Alan D. Henning

3828 Pioneer Road
Verona, Wisconsin 53593
Phone: 608 833 7396
ALAN D. HENNING

P.O. Box 142
Tonica, IL 61370

Home Telephone
(815) 442-3138

OBJECTIVE

To utilize and to enhance skills and knowledge gained through agricultural development and management experience.

SUMMARY

Enjoy challenging opportunities for achievement; skilled in problem solving. Experienced in devising and implementing innovative improvements to significantly upgrade productivity and efficiency. Particularly knowledgeable in dairying, irrigation, and grassland farming. Talented at public speaking and instruction.

EDUCATION

Diploma in Agriculture with Dairy option, 1974
Completed intensive one-year program emphasizing grassland management
Massey University, Palmerston North, Manawatu, New Zealand

Bachelor of Science in Dairy Science, 1973
Concentration of courses in Architectural Drawing
Awarded Fulbright Foundation Award for study in New Zealand with travel grant
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL

AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Managing Partner/Director, July 1983-June 1988
Pentervin Farm Ltd., Culverden, North Canterbury, New Zealand

Responsibilities: Developed and managed New Zealand's first large-scale irrigated grassland dairy farm. Established financing for the purchase of farm's 330 acres and initial dairy herd of 120. Compiled budgets and analyzed cash flows. Hired, trained, and supervised 3 full-time and 5 temporary employees. Interacted with partners, lawyers, bankers, accountants, and governmental agencies to coordinate all phases of development.

Achievements: Within 5 years, accomplished all objectives of the 10-year business plan. Greatly upgraded herd health, increased herd to 417 cows, and raised butterfat production from 20,000 to 63,000 kilograms annually. Reached a production level among the country's top 5%. Tremendously improved soil fertility and tripled grass growth despite a very arid climate. Fully developed the property. Designed and built an innovative herringbone cowshed, a water supply system, a flood irrigation system, a staff cottage, and an efficient feeding system for 800 calves. Added a new enterprise to adapt to changing market conditions; began buying and rearing large numbers of calves for sale.
ALAN D. HENNING

AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Self-employed Farmer, June 1980-June 1983
Henning Partnership, Palmerston North, Manawatu, New Zealand

Developed and operated a 73-acre, 85-head grassland dairy farm. Within 3 years, significantly enhanced herd health, tripled milkfat production, drained and improved soil, and renovated and constructed buildings. Concurrently, active in research projects and instruction through Massey University.

Farm Manager, June 1977-June 1980
W & B Armstrong, Matamata, Waikato, New Zealand

Rented a 160-acre farm from landowner on a percentage basis, sharing a portion of gross milkfat production. Began with 160 cows; expanded dairy operation to 400 cows within 3 years. Initiated several improvements to property.

CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

Since 1980, have consulted with various farmers, schools, community groups, investors, businesses, and governmental agencies, providing information and assistance. Plan and conduct speeches and courses on a variety of agribusiness topics, such as finance, time management, irrigation, and production. Traveled to the United States and other countries to provide services to corporations.

WORLD TRAVEL

Over the years, have traveled extensively to farms in the United States, Europe, Russia, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. During 1974-1975, secured employment on various farms in several countries to learn about world farm practices and problems.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

References are available upon request. Willing to travel and/or relocate.
Dear Sir:

I would like to offer you an agricultural consulting service.

My name is Alan D. Henning, the President of Henning & Associates. We are located in Madison, Wisconsin. The areas of expertise include:

- Staff training and management
- Stockmanship
- Setting priorities
- Organizational abilities
- Time management
- Development projects
- Controlled grazing
- General farm management

The professional consulting charges are as follows:

Consulting on the farm $300/day plus travelling charges @ $0.30¢/mile. Hourly rate is $60/hour. All consulting includes a summary report.

Background: I am originally from Tonica, Illinois, in LaSalle County. I graduated from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale with a Bachelor of Science in Dairy. I did various feed research trials and was on their dairy cattle judging team. I received a Fulbright Award and Travel Grant to New Zealand to learn about grassland farming for 12 months. I completed the Diploma in Agriculture in Dairy from Massey University. During the next 14 years, I managed, owned and operated dairy and beef properties throughout New Zealand. August 1988 started full time consulting in the United States. Please refer to enclosed resume for additional information.

HENNING & ASSOCIATES
Alan D. Henning
Gerardine A. Henning

3828 Pioneer Road
Verona, Wisconsin 53593
October 31, 1988

Mr. Al Hormay  
101 Acadia Street  
San Francisco, CA  94131

Dear Mr. Hormay:

While rereading a past issue of "BEEF" magazine, I saw an interesting reference to your publication "Principles of Rest Rotation and Multiple Land Use Management".

I would like to order/purchase a sample issue of your publication.

Send to:  Ray West  
Bullhead Cattle Co.  
5621 N. 7th Street  
Phoenix, AZ  85014

Thank you,

Ray West  
Bullhead Cattle Co.

RW:bap