"Pretty Rough Country"

A HISTORICAL RESEARCH AND ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY OF THE JOHN WESLEY POWELL NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah Bureau of Land Management
Cultural Resource Series No. 31

Page intentionally left blank

"PRETTY ROUGH COUNTRY":

A HISTORICAL RESEARCH AND ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY OF THE JOHN WESLEY POWELL NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Contract Number 140L3520P0031

LG²ES Project Number 312022001

Report Submitted to:

Bureau of Land Management
Green River District
Vernal Field Office
170 South 500 East
Vernal, UT 84078

LG² Environmental Solutions, Inc.
10475 Fortune Parkway, Suite 201
Jacksonville, Florida 32256
www.lg2es.com

and

Suzanne Griset, Ph.D., RPA
Principal Investigator/Co-Author

Joseph Paul Maggioni, MHP
Author

With Contributions by
Kaitlin Hovanes, MS
Kathryn Lombardi, RPA
Tiara Nestel

August 10, 2022

Page intentionally left blank

ABSTRACT

This ethnographic study of the John Wesley Powell National Conservation Area (JWPNCA) was undertaken to provide ethnographic documentation and a history of Euro-American settlement and ranching activities within the JWPNCA and vicinity, to collect GIS data on ranching-related structures and other resources within the area, and to identify areas with an elevated potential for archaeological deposits or places that may meet eligibility requirements for Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs).

The JWPNCA was designated within the Vernal BLM District by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act of 2019. It consists of the southeast slopes of Diamond Mountain, northwest of the Green River, and northeast of Vernal, Utah. Historical investigation indicates Euro-American ranchers began using the area for grazing cattle by the mid-1870s after settlement of the Ashley Valley. The JWPNCA is closely connected to the historic Island Park ranch, now in Dinosaur National Monument. The Ruple family acquired Island Park in 1883 and owned property in the area up until this year (2022), when they finally conveyed their last remaining tract to the National Park Service (NPS).

Beginning in the 1890s, sheepmen such as the Siddoways, Readers, Kabells, and Hatches began squeezing out the cattlemen associated with the earliest use of the land, and by the 1910s, sheep grazed on much of the northern and western portions of what is now designated as the JWPNCA. Sheepmen came to dominate the pastureland of Diamond Mountain up through the 1960s, when economic demand, imported lamb and wool, labor problems, and increasing environmental regulations slowly strangled the sheep industry and forced a return of the area to cattle. In 2003, the last sheep herd stopped grazing on Diamond Mountain.

Interviewees and historical research identified multiple cabin sites adjacent to the JWPNCA, as well as a bootleggers' camp, two still sites, a graveyard, a copper mine, and a potential rock art location within the JWPNCA. In addition, one interviewee stated that Native American campsites are distributed throughout the area on east-facing slopes, though these have been heavily surface collected.

Based on historical evidence and interviews, the area that has been designated as the JWPNCA was mostly a "pass through" area for driving livestock to better grazing areas. The exception is the northern-most parts of the JWPNCA around Diamond Gulch. Historic period archaeological sites within the JWPNCA are likely limited to trails, sheep beddown areas, and historic trash deposits in the area.

Additional investigation of what is identified as the Gurr Cabin site is recommended, as well as additional research and field investigation of other sites identified in the vicinity of the JWPNCA if located within BLM property.

Page intentionally left blank

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF FIGURES

TABLES

1. INTRODUCTION

On March 12, 2019, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act created the John Wesley Powell National Conservation Area (JWPNCA or NCA). The Vernal Field Office (VFO) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) now manages the newly created 29,868-acre JWPNCA in eastern Uintah County, Utah. Located between Island Park and Jones Hole along the Green River and directly north of Dinosaur National Monument, the JWPNCA will protect and enhance significant historic, cultural, natural, scientific, scenic, recreational, archaeological, educational, and wildlife resources. In accordance with the Act, the BLM and VFO are entering into a collaborative partnership with the Utah Division of State History to promote the understanding of the JWPNCA and enhance all the identified resources in the Dingell Act.

To fulfill requirements of the Dingell Act BLM has contracted this Historic Research and Ethnographic Study focuses on the European American ranchers and other local individuals that have lived or worked in or are knowledgeable about the history of the JWPNCA and surrounding area. The BLM will use the information from the completed study to assist with management of the NCA; identify historic sites and areas of traditional importance; understand the context of such sites within the larger cultural landscape; assist with the evaluations of eligibility for such sites; and assist with evaluations of effects for future undertakings. Specific goals include the following:

- Provide baseline ethnographic documentation in a manner that is accessible to ranching families with a history of livestock grazing in the area, local communities, BLM staff and visitors, and researchers and managers.
- In partnership with the distinct cultural ranching community in Uintah County, Utah, identify and provide descriptions of resources and sites of cultural importance, within and adjacent to JWPNCA, from the perspective of the ranching community.
- Collect GIS data for relevant structures and resources associated with grazing and ranching in the JWPNCA.
- Identify locations within the JWPNCA for which comprehensive archeological surveys are desirable, and that may meet eligibility requirements to be listed with the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs).

This report consists of the following chapters:

- **Chapter 1 Introductio**n explains the purpose and goals of this report;
- **Chapter 2 Project Methods** discusses the research methodology for the report;
- **Chapter 3 Environmental Context** examines the geology, soils, topography, and vegetation of the JWPNCA;
- **Chapter 4 Previous Cultural Resource Investigations** describes results of prior cultural resource investigations;
- **Chapter 5 Historic Context of Uintah County and its Livestock Industry** presents an overview of the history and economic development of Uintah County and its vicinity beginning in the 1820s. The context concentrates specifically on both the regional and local livestock industry from the initial Mormon settlement to the present day;

- **Chapter 6 Historical Study of the JWPNCA** presents the local history of the JWPNCA, in particular the different livestock operations that have utilized the range for grazing since the 1870s;
- **Chapter 7 A Summary of Oral History Interviews with Uintah County Ranching Families** presents the information derived from the oral histories conducted as part of this project, and presents general themes touched upon by all interviewees during the project; and

This report would not have been possible without the assistance of multiple individuals. Dusty Carpenter, Range Officer for the BLM VFO, explained the ins and outs of sheep and cattle to the authors of this report, provided invaluable background information on the cattle industry, allotment system, and the BLM's relationship with ranchers, suggested interviewee subjects and made introductions with interviewees, and even located old U.S. Grazing Service and BLM files from the 1930s through the 1960s in a storage shed. BLM archaeologist and project manager Bill Reitze provided invaluable support and guidance throughout the project. Numerous other BLM VFO employees assisted with the project in ways both large and small, from printing out a large-scale reference map to making available to us historic Grazing Service records.

Archival research at the Regional History Center (RHC) in Vernal proved extremely fruitful and provided much of the historical information in this report. For this we thank Elaine Carr, Michelle Filler, and Ellen Kiever. Staff at the Museum of Northwest Colorado and the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers (DUP) Museum in Vernal also provided much assistance in gathering information relevant to the study area. The authors of this report are also heavily indebted to a number of excellent local avocational and professional historians, both living and deceased, to include Doris Karren Burton, George Long, Raymond Searle, Ellen Kiever, John Barton, and many others—this report simply trails in their footsteps.

Finally, we wish to express our deepest appreciation to the ranchers and members of ranching families who participated in this project. This study is really the story of their families, heritage, and a way of life increasingly endangered by climate change, government regulation, and our country's integration into the world economy.

2. PROJECT METHODS

2.1 OFF-SITE RESEARCH

At project outset the researchers requested copies of previous cultural resource reports for the area and GIS files from the BLM VFO. The researchers also requested GIS data from the Utah Division for State History for archaeological sites, historic buildings and structures, and linear resources both inside the project area and a distance of 0.8 km (half a mile) around the project area. Other online sources included GLO maps and records of the area, historic USGS maps, and various online primary and secondary sources, including census records (including agricultural census records), county histories, online scans of the entire library of the *Vernal Express* up through 2008, and journal articles. Many historical photographs of the area were also accessed online at the J. Willard Marriott Digital Library, University of Utah.

In addition to gathering electronic copies of relevant data, the researchers identified multiple libraries, archives, and museums in Salt Lake City and in the vicinity of Vernal that held potentially relevant historical material. If online catalogues were available, searches were conducted, and manuscript collections identified for research. Some collections had no online catalogues, in these cases the researchers contacted archives via email or phone to inquire about their manuscripts.

2.2 ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

On-site archival research was conducted in three stages from November 2020 to May 2021. A historian visited the Vernal area the first week of November 2020 conducting research at the BLM VFO, the RHC in Vernal, the DUP Museum in Vernal, and the Museum of Northwest Colorado in Craig, Colorado. Most of the time that week was spent looking through historic allotment and allottee records in the BLM office. These records date from 1935 to the present. Access to most of these older records must be credited to BLM range officer Dusty Carpenter, who located about a dozen boxes of files primarily dating from the 1930s to the 1980s. These older Grazing Service and BLM records, although not complete, gave sufficient information to piece together much of the early allotment history of the project area from the 1930s to the 1960s.

The second stage of research occurred in December 2020 with visits to the University of Utah Special Collections Library and the Utah State Historical Society, both in Salt Lake City. During these visits researchers scanned copies of secondary sources, historical photographs, oral history interviews, and the Uintah Sheep Grazers' Association records.

The final stage of research occurred in May 2021 with a revisit of both the BLM office and the RHC in Vernal to gather additional historical research missed during the November 2020 site visit. Data gathered during this final research stage included RHC historical research folders, historical maps, and secondary sources.

2.3 INTERVIEWS

As a first step in identifying potential interviewees Dusty Carpenter provided the names and contact information for current grazing permit holders in and around the JWPNCA. The historian's archival research also sought to identify additional families that were prior allotees in and adjacent to the JWPNCA area. The

contractors, in coordination with BLM, developed a list of interview questions and a letter sent to potential interviewees introducing ourselves and the project, and inviting their participation:

> …we will conduct interviews with the families that have (or previously had) grazing allotments in the area, or are familiar with the landscape, features, and history of the locality. The intent of this BLM project is to discover interesting stories and history that can be shared with future visitors to JWPNCA. (February 20, 2021 letter to potential participants)

We asked the letter recipients to contact us by mail or telephone by March 5, 2021 as we hoped to conduct the first interviews in April 2021 after the snow melts and before ranch activities gear up. No responses were received, so we followed up with telephone calls and emails throughout April to each of the individuals on our list and added others as they were identified in discussions with potential interviewees Dusty Carpenter assisted with contacting three of the interviewees (Billy Cook, Ilene McLean, and Smokey Rasmussen), while an employee of the Uintah County Library's Regional History Center, Ellen Kiever, helped us contact Pudge Merkley and Gayle McKeachnie.

In-person interviews with eight individuals were conducted by the project team, Paul Maggioni and Suzanne Griset, in Vernal, May 10–14, 2021; two virtual interviews were conducted on May 14 and August 23, 2021, with non-resident elders who have extensive personal information about the area. The morning of May 10 was spent meeting with BLM Archaeologists Bill Reitze, Patricia Stavish, and Jaymee Hasty; Range Officer Dusty Carpenter; and Wildlife Biologist Iain Emmons. After the meeting, the Team completed the review of BLM archives, then spent the afternoon driving the project area for orientation.

The ten interviews (Table 1) were conducted at various locations at the interviewees' requests: one at the individual's business office, three (including one virtual interview) at the BLM Vernal office, four at the Uintah County Library conference room, one virtual interview occurred at the interviewee's home, and Utah State Representative Scott Chew met us at the Jensen separating corral on the east bank of the Green River one mile south of Hwy. 50, where he was preparing his 1950s-era towable sheep camp to help in moving his flock.

Table 1. Interviews Conducted for the JWP-NCA Ethnography

INTERVIEWEE	DATE	LOCATION
David Chivers	May 11, 2021	Office of G & H Garbage Services, 331 N. Vernal Avenue, Vernal, UT
Scott Chew	May 11, 2021	BLM separating corrals in Jensen, east terrace of Green River, one mile south of Highway 40
Lorin "Pudge" Merkley	May 11, 2021	Uintah County Library
Mr. X (anonymous)	May 12, 2021	BLM VFO
Mitch Hacking	May 12, 2021	BLM VFO
Gayle McKeachnie	May 13, 2021	Uintah County Library
Smokey Rasmussen	May 13, 2021	BLM VFO
Dwayne Holmes	May 14, 2021	Uintah County Library

INTERVIEWEE	DATE	LOCATION
William (Bill) Siddoway	May 14, 2021	Virtual online from his home
Ilene McLean (Ruple family)	August 23, 2021	Virtual online from BLM VFO (with William Reitze and Dusty Carpenter)
Ilene McLean, Lori Martin, and Brandi Moore (Ruple family)	May 24, 2022	Field Trip to Island Park, Utah

At the beginning of each interview, the team went over the objectives of the project, the terms and conditions of the interview and provided the opportunity for each interviewee to concur or reserve approval of the types of information recording (written notes, audio recording, virtual meeting recording) and retention and summary of permissions granted. Interviewees were offered a consultation fee for their participation, and a form to fill out to invoice LG2ES. They were also asked if they had any photographs they could contribute to the report, and how these should be credited.

After completing the required forms, and with the interviewees consent, the Team began recording with a digital voice recorder and also took written notes. The conversations were structured around the interview questionnaire developed for this project, and also followed other themes raised by the interviewees. For nine of the interviews, a 32 in x 36 in printed map of the NCA was provided so that each interviewee could be oriented to the project area. We asked each individual to show the location(s) of their holdings and to discuss the history and use of features within the NCA. As locations were mentioned in the interview, we annotated the large map with information or locations identified by the interviewees. Both members of the Team took notes during the interviews, and these were compiled immediately afterward to guide additional research until the more than 12 hours of audio files could be transcribed.

The transcriptions were provided to each interviewee in November and December 2021 so they could review them, fix errors or add clarification, or omit sections they did not wish to be public. Seven of the transcripts have been corrected and returned (Chew, Hacking, Holmes, McKeachnie, McLean, Merkley, and Siddoway); Chivers and Rasmussen said they were satisfied with their draft interviews and suggested no changes.

At the end of each interview, the Team asked if the interviewee would be interested in participating in a field visit to the NCA to identify specific locations recorded in the interviews and hopefully identify additional locations or clarify questions remaining from the initial interviews.

This second round of in-person interviews was slated to be conducted during a drive into the NCA. We also hoped to scan family photos mentioned during the original interviews. The field trip was originally scheduled for October or November 2021, but another surge of Covid infections as well as a desire to accommodate additional interviewees caused a change of schedule to May 24, 2022. Initially multiple individuals planned to attend the field trip. Because of a series of last-minute cancellations, however, only Ruple descendants

Ilene McLean, her daughter Lori Martin, and niece Brandi Moore were able to attend. This interview was not recorded, but notes were taken on identified historic points on the landscape.

Admittedly the Team had a steep learning curve as both members are not local to the area, nor are they ranchers. Unfailingly, the participants answered our questions and shared their histories, their love of the Uinta Basin and the surrounding country, as well as their love of ranching as a lifeway. We were fortunate in that much of the NCA is currently permitted to four individuals whom we interviewed for the project: Dave Chivers and Mr. X share the Shiner and Diamond Mountain Allotments; Mitch Hacking has the Ruple Cabin Allotment; Dwayne Holmes and his brothers have the Cooper Draw Allotment; and Island Park is allotted to the Wanda (Ruple) Staley Trust, of which Ilene Staley McLean is a member.

We attempted to contact descendants of previous allotees in the NCA area but were largely unsuccessful. We filled out the story by interviewing families that reside, resided, or used the adjacent areas on Diamond Mountain, Wild Mountain, and the Jensen area, and many had passed through the NCA area or were familiar with the families that used the area. Chapter 7 discusses the results of the interviews.

2.4 DATA ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

The project team drafted two historical studies, the first addressed the overall history of Uintah County and vicinity as well as the history of livestock in the area, and the second study was focused on the JWPNCA. The interview transcripts were thoroughly examined and analyzed, and common themes identified within the interviews. Finally, results of both the interviews and historical research were analyzed to identify sites of historical significance or areas that would potentially require archaeological investigation.

2.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

This study concludes with recommendations for additional investigations of identified and likely cultural resources within the JWPNCA.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

3.1 JWPNCA BOUNDARIES

The JWPNCA consists of two areas, the larger western area 117 km^2 (28,830 acres) in size, and a smaller eastern area consisting of 4 km^2 (992 acres) (Figure 1). The larger western area is bordered to the south and southeast by Dinosaur National Monument. The eastern boundary of this area continues north, with Jones' Hole to the east, until it crosses Diamond Gulch. The boundary then follows the rim of Diamond Mountain west to the south boundary of two private tracts (formerly part of the John Lambert homestead). The main JWPNCA boundary then goes north along the west boundary of the private tracts, then west bordering another private tract (formerly part of the Cooper homestead), then west and north along the north crest of Diamond Gulch. The boundary then proceeds south, crossing Diamond Gulch along the east edge of a private tract historically owned by the Reader Livestock Company. The JWPNCA boundary then proceeds southwest until its intersection with Rough McKee Bench Road, which forms its western boundary.

The smaller, eastern section of the JWPNCA is bordered to the east by the Utah-Colorado state line. Starting at its southeast corner, this section's boundary proceeds northwest until it reaches a hiking trail. The boundary then proceeds along this hiking trail to the north until it reaches another trail, which connects back to the state boundary line.

3.2 GEOGRAPHY OF THE JWPNCA

The JWPNCA straddles two geographic areas. The JWPNCA's northernmost areas are within the Diamond Mountain plateau of the eastern Uinta Mountains. The greater portion of the JWPNCA to the south consists of the northernmost part of the Uinta Basin (Hanson 1983:8-9). Elevations within the JWPNCA range from 1560 m (about 5120 ft) above sea level (asl) in the southwest corner of the JWPNCA to 2290 m (about 7520 ft) asl at its northwest corner on Wild Mountain. The JWPNCA is well below the timberline (3353 m or about 11,000 ft asl) (Hanson 1983:13).

The eastern Uinta Mountains, which the Diamond Mountain plateau is part of, are divided into four large highland blocks separated by the Green and Yampa River canyons and Brown's Park. The Diamond Mountain highlands (which includes the Diamond Mountain plateau) is, according to a US Geological Survey publication, "a dissected upland along the main divide of the Uinta Mountains. As seen from the south near Vernal, it presents an even skyline that belies a more rugged interior… It is almost completely enclosed by deep canyons and steep escarpments." (Hanson 1983:33) The so-called rim of Diamond Mountain is a broad and almost flat upland, which directly borders the JWPNCA to the north (Hanson 1983:34). Just south of the plateau, its rounded lip "drops steeply for a few hundred feet. Below that, slopes become less steep and a nearly uniform ramp downward to the edge of the… Eastern Uinta Basin." (BLM 1990:3–18).

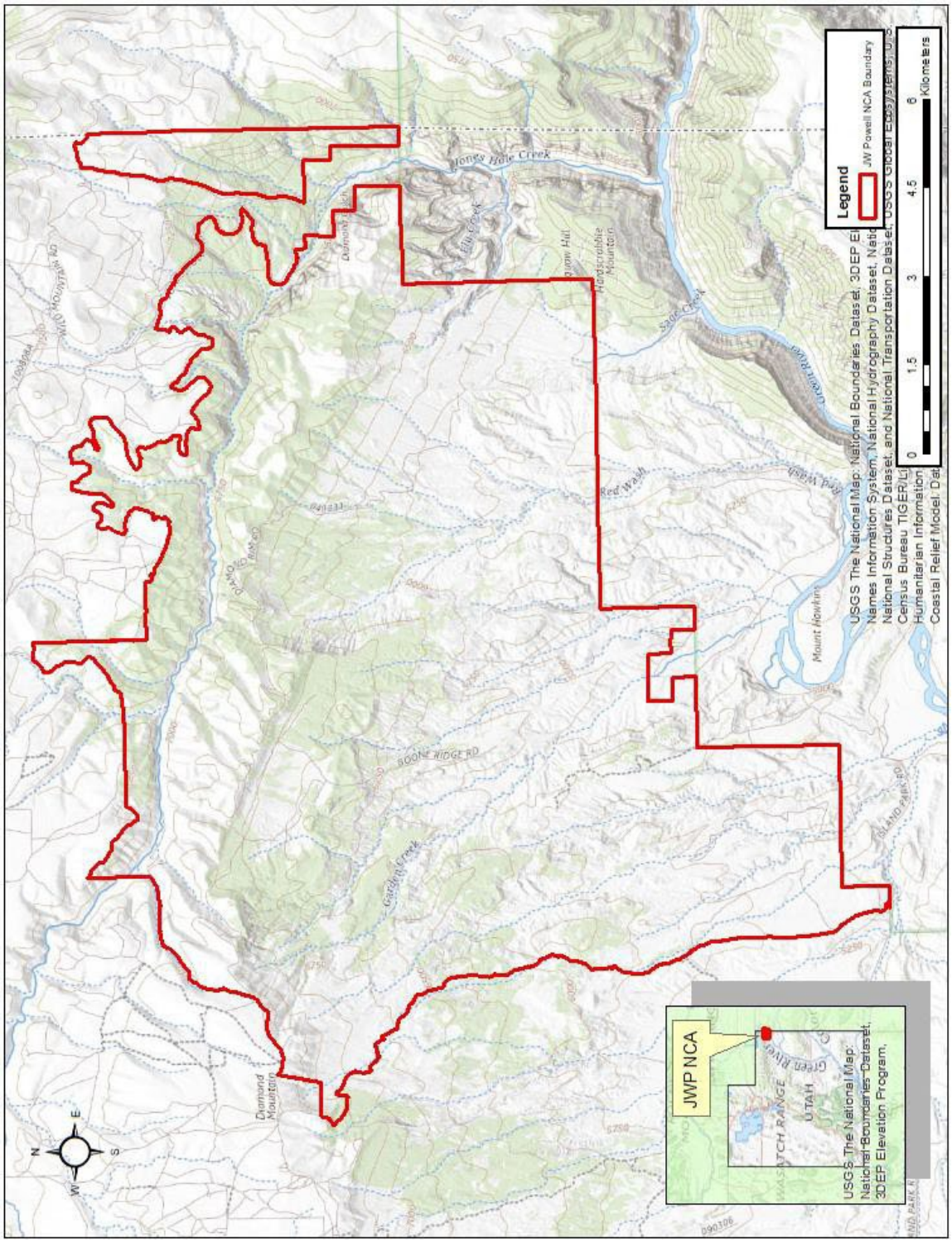

Figure 1 Map of the JWPNCA

The JWPNCA is divided into two ecological zones, upland and semi-desert. According to the 1990 *Diamond Mountain Resource Management Plan*, the area just to the south of Diamond Gulch and north to the Diamond Mountain rim is classified as Upland, with normal annual precipitation of between 12.0 in (30.5 cm) to 16.0 in (40, while the rest of the JWPNCA south of this area is semi-desert with an annual precipitation rate of between 8.0 in (20.3 cm) and 12.0 in (30.5 cm) (BLM 1990). The semidesert area consists of a "landscape… typical of the desert southwest. Hogback ridges, composed of sedimentary beds of alternating color and form… provide a pleasing contrast to the drab grey shales in the valley center. The belt of hogbacks extends from Mosby Mountain in the west, to Island Park in the east. At Jones Hole the belt disappears." (BLM 1990:3–18)

The primary body of water within the NCA is Jones' Hole Creek, which carries water eastward from the southern half of the Diamond Mountain highland and runs southeast through Diamond Gulch, draining into the Green River at Jones Hole, which is located between the two JWPNCA areas (BLM 1990:3–18).

3.3 VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE WITHIN THE JWPNCA

The Uinta Basin is divided between four general vegetation zones. The majority of the JWPNCA is within two of these zones, the Pinyon-Juniper Woodland vegetation zone or the Sagebrush vegetation zone. The Pinyon-Juniper Woodland vegetation zone is at an elevational band of between 6000 ft and 7503 ft (1829 m and 2287 m), with thermal variations affecting the proportion of pinyon (*Pinus edulis*) to juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*), with pinyon increasing within areas of higher elevation or more northern aspects. The Sagebrush vegetation zone generally falls within an elevation range of between 1,524 and 3,049 m (5000 and 10,003 ft). Vegetation within this zone includes big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata* var. *tridentata*), big sagebrush-bunchgrass, Wyoming sagebrush (*A. tridentata* var. *wyomingensis*), mountain big sagebrush (*A. tridentata* var. *vaseyana*), and black sagebrush (*A. nova*) (BLM 1990:3–21).

Wildlife in the JWPNCA include elk, deer, sage grouse, forest grouse, cougar, bear, coyote, bobcat, jack rabbit, cottontail, mountain hare, a wide variety of raptors, small mammals, and songbirds. Elk, deer, and sage grouse are present in the area year-round, except during severe winters (O'Brian 1982).

3.4 ALLOTMENTS – BOUNDARIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Within the JWPNCA are portions of five BLM livestock grazing allotments (Figure 2), see Table 2 for a listing of the allotments and the current allottees. Clockwise from the southwest, these allotments are the Shiner Allotment (the eastern portion of this allotment), the Diamond Mountain Allotment (the eastern portion of this allotment), the Cooper Draw Allotment (the southern portion of this allotment), the Ruple Cabin Allotment (parts of the southern and eastern portions of this allotment), and the entire Island Park Allotment. Within these allotments, individual livestock owners have grazing privileges for their cattle, and assist BLM in making range improvements.

The Ruple family's grazing privileges in the Island Park area dates to 1935 and in fact, the family has used this range since 1883, prior to establishment of the U.S. Grazing Service and the BLM. The other current allottees have held grazing privileges within the present-day JWPNCA since the 1970s and 1980s.

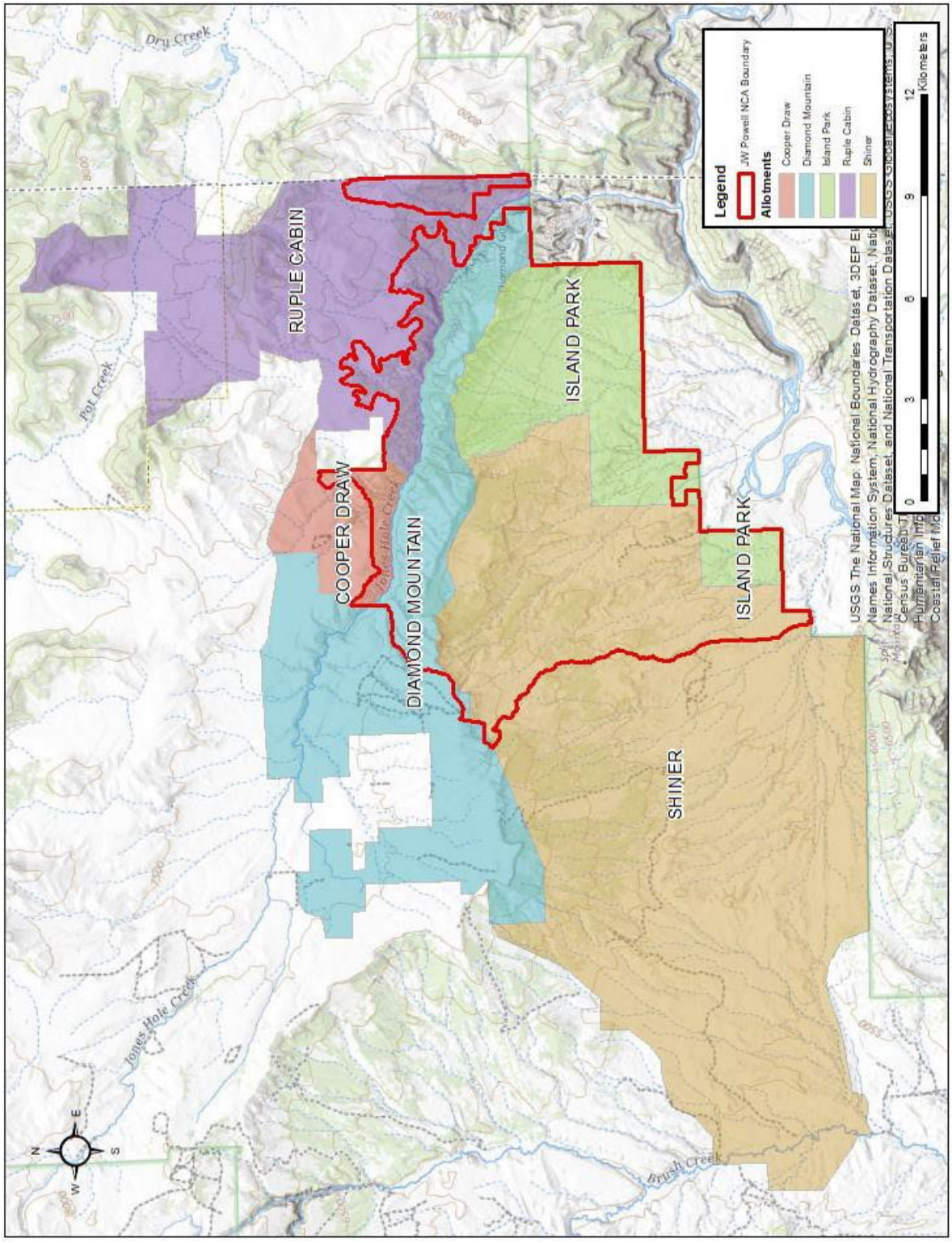

Figure 2 Grazing allotments within the JWPNCA

Table 2. Present-Day Grazing Allotments and Allottees of the JWPNCA

Allotment	Modern Allotment Date Established	Allottee(s)	Year Allotment Assigned to Current Allottee
Cooper Draw	1973 (BLM 1974)	Holmes Bar NE Ranch	ca 1980
Diamond Mountain	1987, assembled from portions of Diamond Spring, Diamond Gulch, Bowery Spring, and Highway allotments (BLM 1987b)	Chivers and Cook	1981 (Cook) 1987 (Chivers and Cook)
Island Park	1953 (Colton 1953)	Wanda Staley Trust (Ruple family)	ca 1951
Ruple Cabin	ca. 1966 (BLM 1966; BLM 1984; Tolman 1976)	Uintah Basin Grazing Association and Hacking Land and Livestock Company	1975-1976
Shiner	1969 (BLM 1979a; BLM 1981; BLM 1987b)	Chivers and Cook	1981 (Cook) 1987 (Chivers and Cook)

3.4.1 Cooper Draw Allotment Description

The Cooper Draw Allotment includes a small area in the northern portion of the JWPNCA. Within the JWPNCA, it is bounded on the south by Jones Hole Creek, on the west by the Diamond Mountain Allotment, on the north by the NCA boundary, and on the east by the NCA boundary and the Ruple Cabin Allotment. The allotment measures approximately 12 km^2 (2965 acres), about 3.6 km^2 (886.3) acres within the boundary of the NCA. The portion within the JWPNCA is mountainous and ranges in elevation from 2068 m (6785 ft) asl in the valleys to 2244 m (7362 ft) asl at the western boundary of the NCA. The Cooper Draw Allotment is bounded on the south by Jones Hole Creek, which is fed by several unnamed, intermittent streams flowing south out of the Diamond Gulch. The allotment is situated entirely in the upland area north of Jones Hole Creek.

Soils within the Cooper Draw Allotment include, in order of acreage, Wildmount-Whitesage association, 8-50 percent slopes; Cortyzack-Diagulch complex, 3–25 percent slopes; Clyl-Pinerid association, 8–40 percent slopes; Ironco-Emlin association, 3–50 percent slopes; and Ironco extremely cobbly sandy loam, 50–70 percent slopes. All of these soils are described as well drained with no evidence of flooding. Vegetation within the Allotment includes herbaceous species such as bluebunch wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, and needle and tread grass; shrub species such as bitterbrush; and riparian species such as Nebraska sedge and Baltic rush. As described in the *Grazing Management Agreement for McCoy*

Flat/Holmes-Palmer, East Huber, Rich and Stetson, and Cooper Draw Allotments (BLM 2007), the riparian area within the allotment is rated as a marginal riparian site with its extent "being limited to the amount of water present." (BLM 2007:2) It does contain riparian vegetation, however, the area "generally dries up by fall limiting regrowth and vigor of riparian species." (BLM 2007:2) Based on the limited water in the riparian area of the allotment, use levels are limited to no more than 40 percent during year.

3.4.2 Diamond Mountain Allotment Description

The Diamond Mountain Allotment includes a portion of the north central JWPNCA. Within the JWPNCA, it is bounded on the north by Jones Hole Creek, on the west by the NCA boundary, on the south by the Island Park and Shiner allotments, and on the east by the NCA boundary. The allotment measures approximately 66 km (16,309 acres), with about 20 km (4942 acres) within the boundary of the NCA. The portion within the JWPNCA consists of both upland and semi-desert and the terrain includes high mountains, high mountain plateau, and rolling hills with elevations ranging from 1981 m (6499 ft) asl in the southern portion to 2334 m (7657 ft) asl at the western boundary of the NCA. Several unnamed, intermittent streams flow south out of the mountains into Diamond Gulch and into Jones Hole Creek, and several springs exist within the allotment; however, the area is dry and adequate water is a problem in the summer months (O'Brian 1982).

Eight soil classifications have been identified within the Diamond Mountain Allotment. The soils are generally classified as gravelly sandy loam and are underlain with a fractured quartz bedrock. The majority of the allotment within the NCA contains Ironco-Emlin association, 3–50 percent slopes and Wildmount-Whitesage association, 8–50 percent slopes. Both of these soils are described as well drained with no evidence of flooding. Other soils within the allotment include Ironco extremely cobbly sandy loam, 50–70 percent slopes, Tyzut-Rock outcrop association, 15–50 percent slopes, Tridell-Waterhill association, 3–25 percent slopes, Rock Outcrop, Splimo very gravelly loam, 8–25 percent slopes, and Honlu-Abracon association, 25–40 percent slopes. All of these soils are described as well-drained with no evidence of flooding. Vegetation within the allotment is primarily big sagebrush with a grass understory. In addition to the sagebrush, needle-n-thread, western wheatgrass, and poa are found in the bottom lands and rolling side hills. The allotment contains limited pinyon-juniper areas, where, in addition to pinyon and juniper birchleaf mountain mahogany, serviceberry, and Indian ricegrass are found. At higher elevations, Douglas fir and Ponderosa pine are found (O'Brian 1982).

3.4.3 Island Park Allotment Description

The Island Park Allotment is semidesert and located in the southeast portion of the JWPNCA. The allotment comprises two separate areas. The 34.9 km^2 (8614.1 acre) allotment is situated within the JWPNCA, bounded on the north by Diamond Mountain, on the east and south by Dinosaur National Monument, and on the west by the Shiner Allotment. The allotment is within semi-desert and the terrain includes high mountains, high mountain plateau, and rolling hills with elevations ranging from 1576 m (5171 ft) asl at Rough Gorge Draw in the southwestern corner to 2000 m (6562 ft) asl at the northern border. Permanent and intermittent streams flow south through the allotment into the Green River, including Rough Gorge Draw, Garden Creek, and Red Wash.

Nineteen separate soils have been identified within the Island Park Allotment (Table 3). The soils vary from loam to silty clay loam in the lower elevations and gravelly loam to rock outcrops on the steep slopes and higher elevations. Based on its soil types, common vegetation includes Utah juniper pinyon, Wyoming big sagebrush, and four-wing saltbush (USDA-ARS Jornada Experimental Range, et al. 2022).

Table 3. Soils within the Island Park Allotment (Leishman et al. 2003)

Soil Identification Number	Soil	Percent Slope
2	Abracon loam	3-8
4	Arches-Mespun-Rock Outcrop	4-40
10	Badland-Polychrome-Rock Outcrop complex	50-75
12	Badland-Rock Outcrop complex	1-100
19	Begay sandy loam	2-15
26	Bodry silty clay loam	10-40
50	Clapper-Abracon complex	8-50
97	Hankville silty clay loam	25-50
110	Honlu-Abracon association	25-40
143	Milok-Strych complex, very stony	3-25
170	Paradox loam	8-25
183	Polychgrome-Milok complex	8-50
184	Polychrome-Paradox association	8-40
193	Rock Outcrop	
194	Rock Outcrop, Torriorthents, and Ustorthents soils	25-75
218	Splimo very gravelly loam, extremely flaggy	8-25
256	Walknolls extremely channery sandy loam	4-25
273	Windcomb-Badland-Rock Outcrop complex, extremely flaggy	8-25
281	Yarts fine sandy loam	4-8

3.4.4 Ruple Cabin Allotment Description

The Ruple Cabin Allotment includes a portion of the northeastern JWPNCA. Within the JWPNCA, the allotment is bounded on the north by the plateau portion of the Ruple Cabin Allotment, on the west by the Cooper Draw Allotment, on the south by Diamond Gulch, and on the east by the Utah-Colorado state line. The smaller eastern portion of the NCA is entirely within the allotment. This eastern portion, measuring approximately 4 km^2 (about 992 acres), is bounded on the east by the Utah-Colorado border, on the south by Diamond Gulch on the west by the allotment, and on the north by a hiking trail. The Ruple Cabin Allotment measures approximately 66.3 km^2 (16,382.4 acres), 13 km^2 (3228 acres) within the boundary of the NCA. The portion within the JWPNCA is primarily situated in high mountains with elevations ranging from 1829 m to 2314 m (6000 ft to 7592 ft) asl. The Ruple Cabin Allotment is bounded on the south by Jones Hole Creek, which is fed by several unnamed, intermittent streams flowing south out of the mountains into Diamond Gulch. Annual precipitation is approximately 15 in (38 cm). Numerous springs and seeps are in the bottoms of many of the drainages. Most of these springs and seeps have been developed for livestock water (BLM 1975).

Eight soil classifications have been identified within the Ruple Cabin Allotment, varying from coarse rocky soils on the ridges and steep hillsides to deep, well-drained alluvial soils in the valley bottoms and benches. More specifically, five soil classifications have been identified within the allotment: Wildmount-Whitesage association, 8-50 percent slopes, Rock Outcrop, Cortyzack-Diagulch complex, 3-25 percent slopes, Clyl-Pinerid association, 8-40 percent slopes, Lakebench-Yampa complex, 5-30 percent slopes, very stony. Vegetation within the allotment "consists of a sagebrush-grass composition". In the upper reaches, mountain mahogany is found and in the lower slopes, a juniper-pinyon composition grows (BLM 1975).

3.4.5 Shiner Allotment Description

The Shiner Allotment includes the southwestern portion of the JWPNCA. Within the JWPNCA, the allotment is bounded on the north by the Diamond Mountain Allotment, on the east by the Island Park Allotment, on the south by Dinosaur National Monument, and on the west by the NCA boundary and Rough McKee Branch Road. The Shiner Allotment measures approximately 180.1 km^2 (44,498.0 acres) in total, 49.4 km^2 (12,204.0 acres) within the boundary of the NCA. The portion within the JWPNCA is situated on the southern slopes of Diamond Mountain with elevations ranging from 1585 to 2378 m (5200 to 7802 ft) asl. Several drainages flow south out of Diamond Mountain through the allotment, including Garden Creek. Annual precipitation is approximately 10 inches (BLM 1979a).

Soils in the Shiner Allotment are described as deep, well drained loams with cobbles under the Diamond Rim to heavy clay, derived from the Mancos and Morrison formations at lower elevations (Table 4). Erosion in the allotment is described as moderate to severe but is improving with an improvement in vegetative cover. Vegetation within the allotment includes juniper, desert shrub, sagebrush, and crested wheat (BLM 1979a).

Table 4. Soils within the Shiner Allotment (Leishman et al. 2003)

Soil Identification Number	Soil	Percent Slope
2	Abracon loam	3-8
3	Abracon-Solirec Complex	3-8
4	Arches-Mespun-Rock Outcrop	4-40
10	Badland-Polychrome-Rock Outcrop complex	50-75
32	Bullpen-Polychrome complex	2-50
45	Clapper gravelly loam	25-50
46	Clapper very cobbly loam	4-25
47	Clapper very cobbly loam	25-50
49	Clapper-Abracon complex	3-25
133	Mespun fine sand	4-25
170	Paradox loam	8-25
184	Polychrome-Paradox association	8-40
186	Reepo-Rock Outcrop complex	4-25
193	Rock Outcrop	
239	Tridell-Waterhill association	3-25
247	Tyzut-Rock Outcrop association	15-50
256	Walknolls extremely channery sandy loam	4-25
265	Walknolls-Rock Outcrop complex	50-70

4. PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

A search of the Utah Division of State History files was conducted to identify previously recorded archaeological sites, historic buildings, and previously conducted cultural resources investigations within the JWPNCA (Figure 3). Previous cultural resource investigations include a 1995 investigation of the Jones Hole Power Facility and two cultural resources inventories (Table 5). The Jones Hole Power Facility investigation was conducted prior to the proposed installation of a power pole and buried line approximately two miles north of the Jones Hole Fish Hatchery (Moncrief 1995). The pedestrian survey resulted in the recordation of a prehistoric site consisting of a large lithic scatter and an archaeological monitor was recommended during excavation for the power pole installation.

In 2014, William Self Associates, Inc. conducted a cultural resources inventory for the Diamond Rim Bullhog project, a pinyon and juniper removal project on 613 acres within the NCA (Bernatchez 2014). The inventory consisted of an intensive pedestrian survey and resulted in the recordation of seven new archaeological sites and 16 isolated occurrences (IOs). All of the sites and the IOs were recommended not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and no additional cultural resources work was recommended.

In 2016, Desert West Environmental, LLC conducted a Class III cultural resources inventory of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) Diamond Mountain Sale Parcels, portions of which are within or adjacent to the NCA (Nash and Cunningham 2016). The inventory resulted in the recordation of 14 new archaeological sites and one IO. As with the 2014 inventory, none of these sites was recommended eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

In addition to these earlier archaeological investigations, in 2021-2022 Espinoza Cultural Services conducted a Class II probabilistic field survey of selected portions of the NCA (Ward et al. 2022). Espinoza found multiple sites but the report is not yet finalized.

Nine archaeological sites have been recorded within the JWPNCA. The sites consist of two prehistoric lithic scatters and seven historic sites. The historic sites are identified as four segments of mid-twentieth century dirt roads, nineteenth-twentieth century corrals and artifact scatter, a twentieth century corral and artifact scatter, and an artifact scatter. None of these sites are recommended as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

Five archaeological sites have been recorded within 0.8 km (0.5 miles) of the NCA and include two historic sites and three multicomponent sites. The historic sites consist of a historic road and a twentieth century bottle scatter. The multicomponent sites are comprised of prehistoric lithic scatters combined with a twentieth century campsite, a late 1950s campsite, and a historic dump (ca. 1900–1950). Two historic buildings have been recorded within the JWPNCA (Table 6). The buildings consist of a ca. 1900 log cabin located on Diamond Rim Road, near the northwest corner of the NCA, and a ca. 1900 agricultural storage shed, located approximately 1.2 km (0.8 miles) north of Diamond Rim Road at Ruple Cabin. Both buildings have been recommended eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

Table 5. Cultural Resources Surveys Conducted within the JWPNCA

State Project Number	Report Title	Year	Author(s)/Firm	Sites Identified
U95BL318b	Jones Hole Power Facility	1995	Moncrief/BLM	42UN2235
U14SQ0482bs	Cultural Resources Inventory for the Diamond Rim Bullhog Project, Uintah County, Utah	2014	Bernatchez/William Self Associates, Inc.	42UN8385 42UN8386 42UN8387 42UN8388 42UN8389 42UN8390 42UN8391 16 Isolated Occurrences
U16DV637s	Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, Diamond Mountain Sale Parcels, Uintah County, Utah	2016	Nash and Cunningham/Desert West Environmental, LLC	42UN8621 42UN8622 42UN8623 42UN8624 42UN8625 42UN8626 42UN8627 42UN8628 42UN8629 42UN8630 42UN8631 42UN8632 42UN8633 42UN8634 1 Isolated Occurrence 11 historic linear features

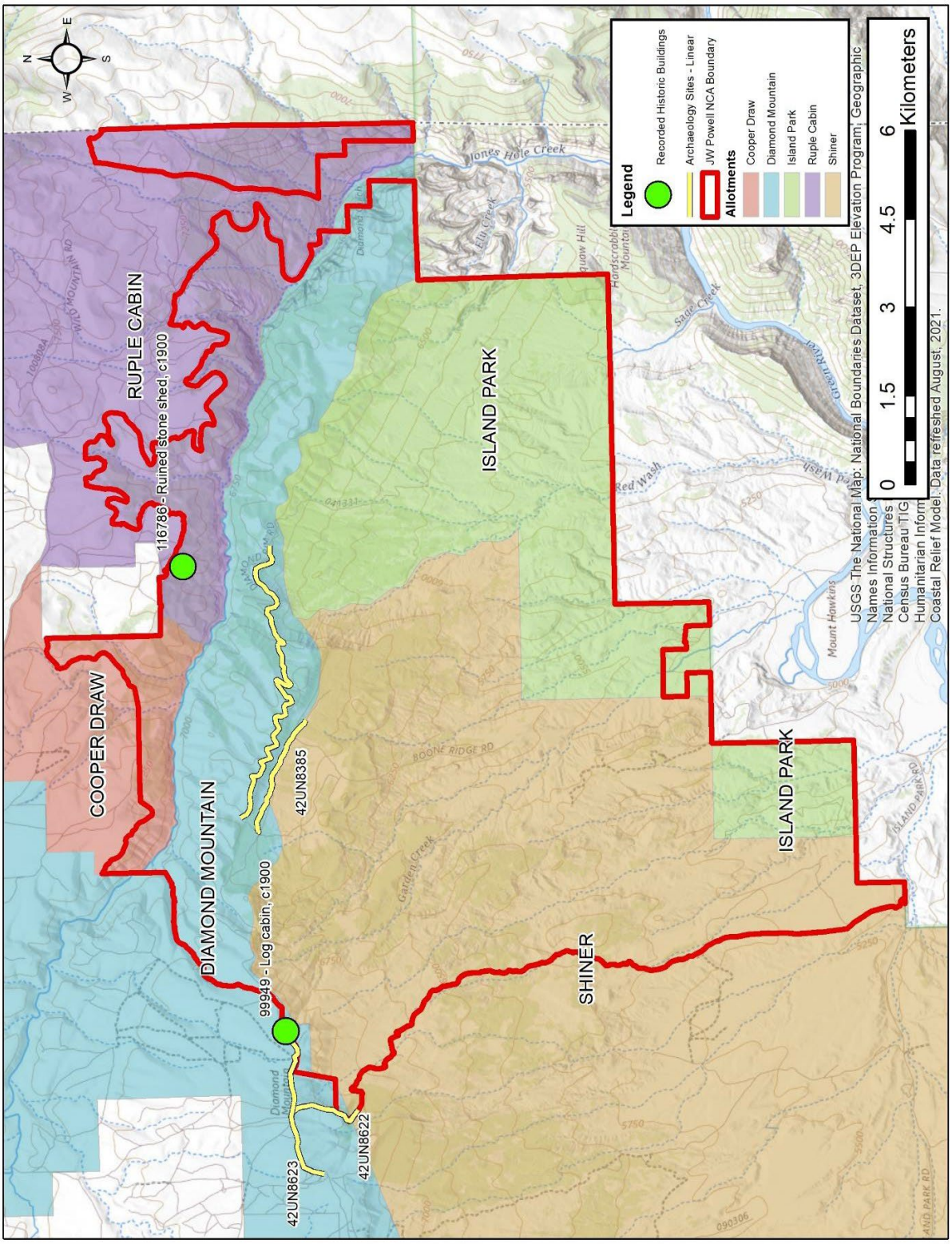

Figure 3 Recorded historic buildings and roads within the JWPNCA (archaeological sites not shown)

5. HISTORIC OVERVIEW OF UINTAH COUNTY AND ITS LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

This chapter provides a larger regional historic context for a better understanding of the history specific to the JWPNCA presented in Chapter 6. This section does not address the prehistoric Native American past within the region and the NCA, as that is being investigated in a separate project contracted by the VFO.

5.1 EARLY EURO-AMERICAN EXPLORATION OF THE UINTA BASIN, 1776–1844

The first documented European explorers in the Uinta Basin were part of the Dominguez-Escalante expedition, a party of Spanish Catholic monks and Indians. This expedition arrived in the area during the fall of 1776 while attempting to chart a course from Santa Fe, New Mexico to Monterey, California. They traveled roughly along the route of present-day US-40 south of the JWPNCA. The party did not linger in the Basin, moving on to Utah Valley, and ultimately turning back to Santa Fe not long after (Burton 1996:4).

Fur trappers searching for beaver came to the Uinta Basin beginning in the 1820s with the arrival of William Ashley of the Ashley-Henry Company, Etienne Provost, Antoine Robidoux, William Becknell, and William Heddest. The trappers established forts for trade and defense, selling goods and animals to Native Americans and other European-American explorers. Three men, French trapper Denis Julien, and Kentucky traders William and Jimmy Reed, established the first permanent trading post in 1824. Antoine Robidoux, however, became the most successful of the Uinta Basin trappers, eventually establishing several forts for trade, including one known as Fort Robidoux in the Whiterocks area, about 60 km (37 miles) west of the present-day NCA (Burton 1996:7). Beginning in 1832 other trappers set up trading posts 35 km (22 miles) north of the NCA at Brown's Hole (later Brown's Park), an isolated mountain valley separated from the Uinta Basin by the Uinta Mountains. Fort Crockett, established in Brown's Hole in 1836, continued as a trading hub until 1842 (Burton 1996:69-70). However, by the early 1840s the fur trade had declined due to changes in fashion. In August 1844 the Ute, frustrated over the trappers' unfair trade practices, attacked and burned Robidoux's trading posts. This, as well as the unfair treatment of the Native Americans and the over-exploitation of animal populations, ended the era of the fur trade in the Uinta Basin (Burton 1996:67, 70; Oliver et al. 2017a:8).

The Uinta Basin was first formally mapped by John C. Fremont during his 1843-44 exploration of the interior of the Rockies and the Pacific Coast. Fremont was one of the most celebrated western explorers of the mid-nineteenth century, personally leading five western expeditions from 1842 to 1854. Fremont's expedition, marching east from the Great Salt Lake, spent two days at Fort Robidoux months prior to its destruction by the Ute, then camped just west of the present-day NCA on Ashley Creek on June 6, 1844. The expedition then skirted the northwest boundary of the NCA as it proceeded northeast to Brown's Hole, where it camped the next day (Figure 4).

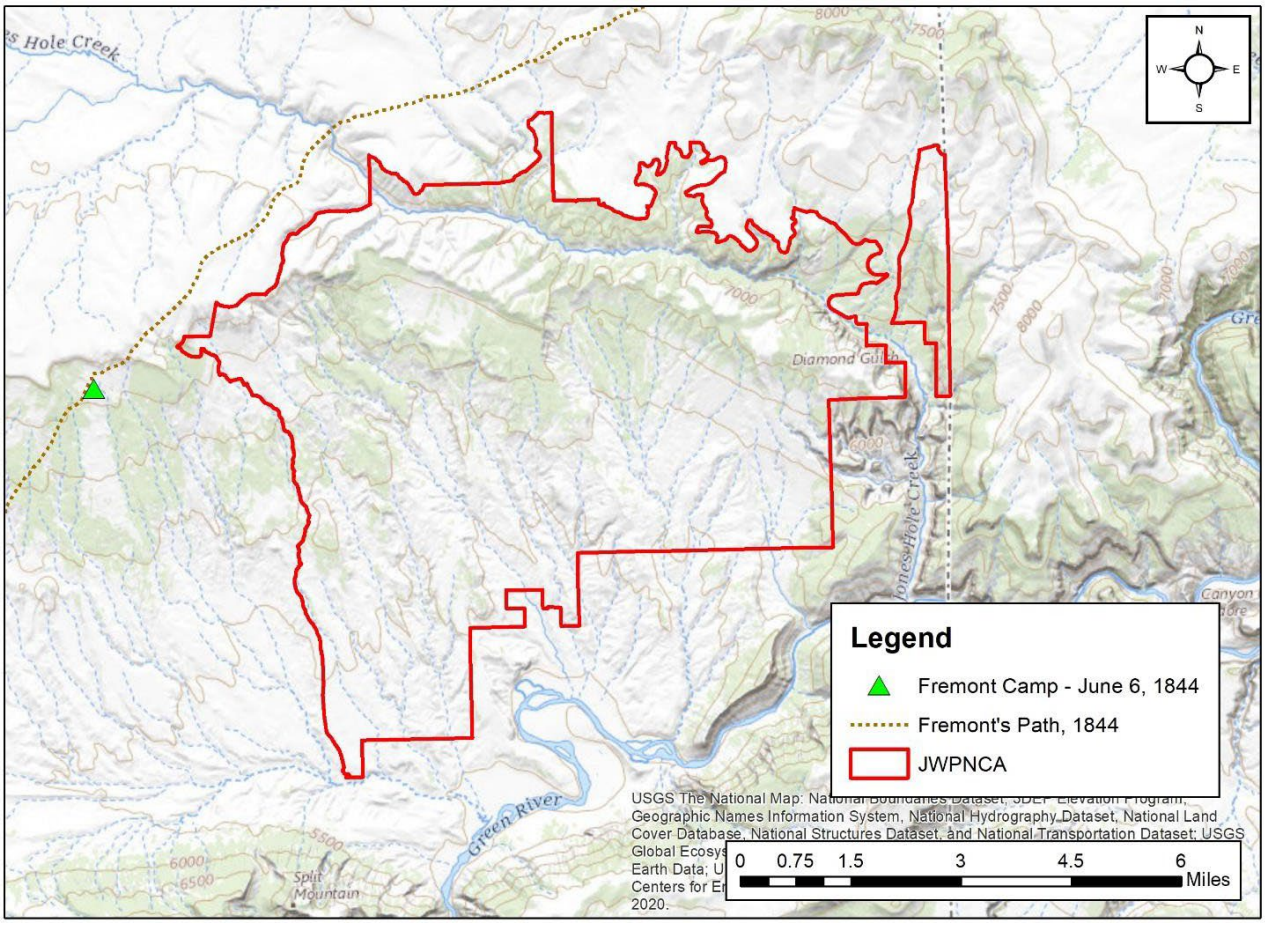

Figure 4 Fremont's route in relation to the JWPNCA

5.2 THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS AND UTAH'S EARLY LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

The published account of Fremont's expedition, with its descriptions of the Bear River region and the Salt Lake Valley "had a profound influence" on the leadership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS, the Church), and their decision to settle in the Wasatch region of northern Utah (Baugh 2015:25, 32–35). The LDS members, or Mormons, had suffered years of persecution east of the Mississippi River from non-Mormons, called "gentiles" by the LDS. The Mormons crossed the plains and mountains well north of the Uinta Basin and arrived in the Salt Lake Valley in 1847, settling Salt Lake City and numerous smaller settlements across Utah (Lechert and Michalczuk 2018:13–14). In 1850, the Utah Territory was established by Congress, with Church president Brigham Young initially acting as territorial governor.

From the beginning of Utah's settlement, the livestock industry played an important role in the life and economy of the territory. The original Mormon settlers brought cattle and sheep to supply their families and communities with meat, milk, and wool. In addition to serving their own needs, the Mormons prospered by supplying mostly gentile settlers and prospectors heading west to California with cattle and oxen to replenish animals worn out on the trek from the east. They also drove large herds to California to supply the new settlers with beef. In addition, Utah cattle breeders supplied starting herds to other territories, such as Nevada. From 1850 to 1860 the number of cattle in Utah grew from 12,000 to 34,000 head (Walker 1964:183).

By nature of both its original settlement by the Mormons and its geography, which lay to north of the primary wagon routes to California, Utah's cattle livestock bloodlines were isolated from Hispanic and Texas influence. For these reasons early Utah livestock descended from herds from the Northeast and Midwest rather than the Southwest, particularly the cattle in the Wasatch Front (Peterson 1989:300–301). Regarding sheep herds, in the 1850s Mormons improved their stock by introducing quality breeds such as Merinos, Southdowns, Cotswolds, and Leicesters (Sypolt 1974:46–55).

The Utah Territory livestock industry from the 1850s to the 1870s was patterned not on a traditional southwestern Hispanic ranch culture but the culture of the Church and its adherents. Instead of a large-scale cattle owner such as might be found in Texas, the Mormons of Utah were farm-based, with each family owning a small number of animals grouped together in a common cooperative herd (Peterson 1989:202-203). Individuals would own a share of the herd and a centralized board managed the flock (Sypolt 1974:51–53).

The first livestock herds entering the area predated permanent Euro-American settlement in the project area by nearly twenty years. A herd owned by a band of Cherokee Indians moved north across Diamond Mountain and wintered in Brown's Hole in 1849 (Tennent 1980:22). Commercial herds heading to the California gold fields from Texas quickly followed, trailed through the area over the rim in Diamond Mountain in the early 1850s to winter in Brown's Hole (Beckstead 1991:27). These Texas herds continued trailing up into Brown's Hole throughout the 1850s (Mehls 1985:62).

The Civil War diverted the flow of Texas cattle from the Brown's Hole trail, and the herds ceased coming through until the late 1860s. In June and July 1869, the explorer John Wesley Powell surveyed the area as part of his exploration of the Green and Colorado Rivers. Powell visited the Uinta Indian agency briefly to obtain much-needed supplies. Powell's group travelled less than 2.0 km (1.2 miles) southeast of the present-day NCA now bearing his name and assigned place names to prominent locations along the river, including Island Park (Burton 1996:73–74). Powell also was the first to refer to Brown's Hole as Brown's Park (Wilder 1994).

Construction of the Union Pacific Railroad through southern Wyoming meant railroad construction crews hungry for beef on the hoof, and Texas cattle once again began trailing through the area shortly after Powell's visit. In 1871 George Baggs successfully wintered 900 Texas cattle in Brown's Park without the loss of a single head. Other stockmen heard of Baggs' success and in the winter of 1872–1873, 5,000 head of Texas cattle under Hugh and Asa Adair and a herd owned by a pair of Texans (Dr. Keiser and a Mr. Gilson) wintered there, shortly before the first Euro-American settlement in the Ashley Valley (Beckstead 1991:89; Mehls 1985:63).

5.3 UINTA BASIN SETTLEMENT BEGINS: THE UTE INDIAN RESERVATION

In April 1860, a decade after the Federal government established Utah as a territory, the Pony Express route from Missouri to Sacramento began operations. During planning, company officials wanted to explore a route from Denver to Salt Lake City through the Uinta Basin. An exploration and survey party led by Captain E.L. Berthoud and his guide, the mountain man Jim Bridger, set out from Denver in July 1861 to find a feasible path through the Rocky Mountains. Berthoud's effort was the first major road survey through

the Uinta Basin, and the present-day U.S. Highway 40 marks his trail. However, due to difficulties, the party took longer than expected and the hypothetical Uinta route for the Pony Express was abandoned (Burton 1996:190–191).

Brigham Young, spurred in part by this rumored Pony Express route, sent scouts in September 1861 to the Basin to explore its potential for additional Mormon settlements (Lechert and Michalczuk 2018:9). However, the exploring party found the Basin to be "one vast contiguity of waste, and measurably valueless, excepting for nomadic purposes, hunting grounds for Indians and to hold the world together," leading the Church to plan settlements elsewhere (Burton 1996:83).

Around this time Indian agent Henry Martin learned of the proposed Uinta Basin Mormon settlement inspired by the proposed Pony Express Route. The Church and the U.S. Government were mutually suspicious of each other, and agent Martin suggested that the Uinta Basin be set aside for an Indian reservation to prevent Church influence of the Ute Indians. In October 1861, the Lincoln Administration established the Uinta Valley Reservation for the Utes (Burton 1996:7, 24; Lechert and Michalczuk 2018:14). The Reservation originally contained 2,039,400 acres of land, primarily in what is now Duchesne County, although the east end of the Reservation extended into present-day Uintah County (Figure 5).

The government selected Whiterocks (the former site of Fort Robidoux) as the location of the United States Indian Agency and assigned Captain Pardon Dodds as its first Indian Agent in 1868. Dodds and seven other Indian Agency employees arrived at Whiterocks in December of that year. Most of the Uinta Utes were removed to the Reservation shortly thereafter, where they were encouraged to adopt Euro-American farming practices (Burton 1996:84). The reservation system forced the Ute off lands attractive to white settlers and devastated the traditional lifestyle of the Ute, forcing them to surrender long-established hunting and gathering practices (Lechert and Michalczuk 2018:15; Oliver et al. 2017). The first years on the Reservation were particularly harsh for the Ute, as the government did not fulfill its promises to supply the Utes, and Dodds and the other original Indian agency employees proved themselves incompetent or indifferent to the Indians. The situation did not improve until Agent John Critchlow appeared on the scene in 1871 (O'Neil and MacKay 1979:8).

Dodds realized the ranching and agricultural potential of the Uinta Basin and started his own personal cattle herd while still an Indian Agent. In 1873, Dodds and two other Uinta Reservation employees located their homesteads and personal cattle herds near the reservation, at a settlement called Ashley on Ashley Creek just north of present day Vernal. Dodds opened a trading post for trappers and Indians. Ashley was the first truly permanent Euro-American settlement in the Basin (Burton 1996:6−7), located about 30 km (19 miles) west of the NCA (Burton 1996:85).

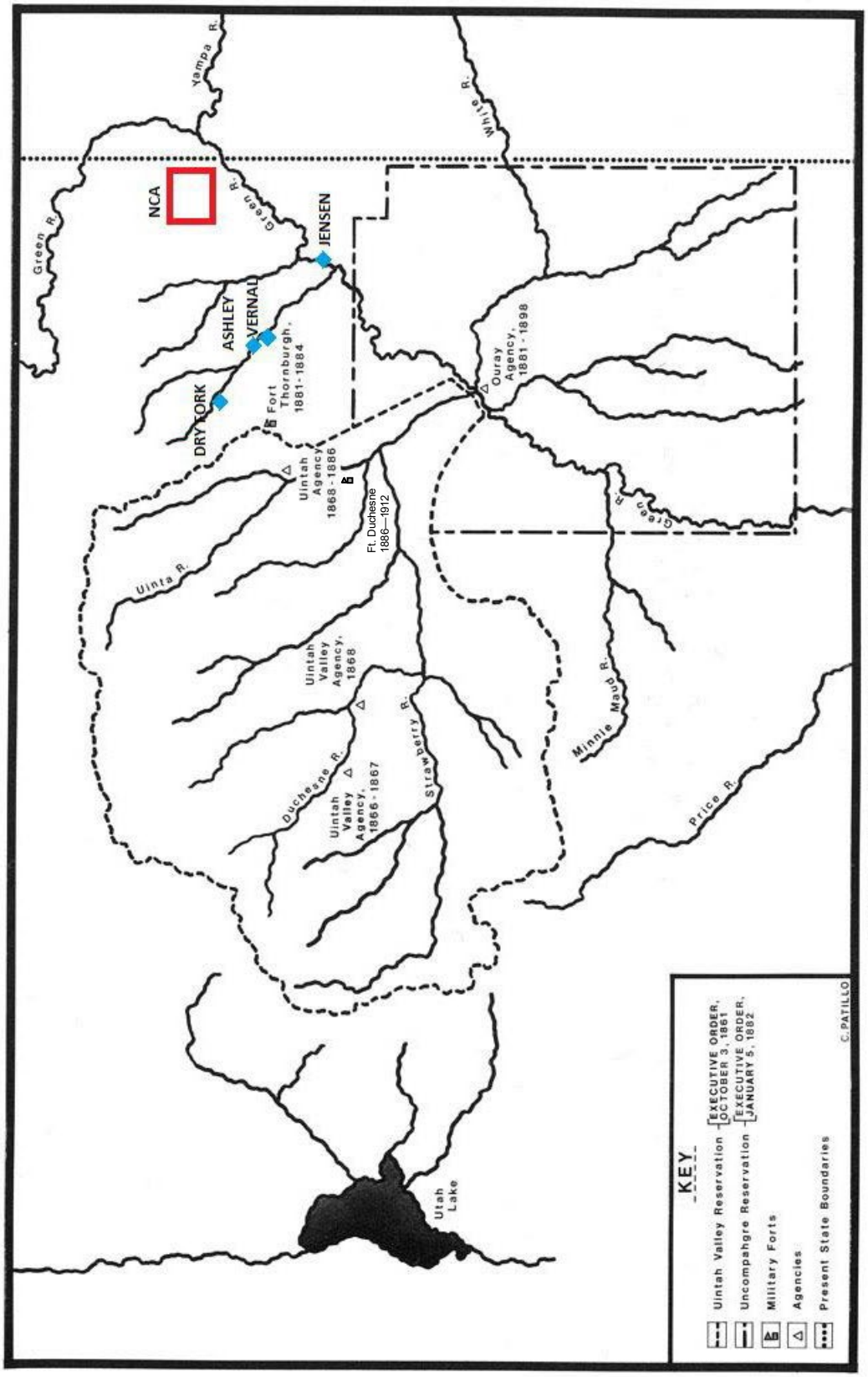

Figure 5 Ute Reservations and the JWPNCA (Conetah 1982)

5.4 ASHLEY VALLEY SETTLEMENTS AND THE UTAH LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY OF THE 1870S

After Dodds established his homestead and trading post in 1873 (Figure 6), other Euro-Americans, mostly single men and former employees of the Indian agency, drifters, and cowboys, settled throughout the Basin in the mid to late 1870s. Unlike most settled areas in Utah, these early settlers were primarily gentiles (Burton 1996:86).

Figure 6 Pardon and Minnie Dodds at their residence, the oldest in Ashley Valley

The Mormons got wind of this initial gentile settlement and began encouraging Mormon settlement soon thereafter. The first LDS families in the Ashley Valley, led by polygamist Teancum Taylor, arrived in 1877 and settled the area now known as Dry Fork, just northwest of the Ashley settlement. Dry Fork soon boasted 27 LDS families, a school, and a post office (Burton 1996:86). Mormons also began the settlement that came to be known as Jensen, about 18 km southwest of the present-day NCA on the Green River. A year later, in 1878, David Johnson and the Hatch family established an LDS settlement on the site of present-day Vernal, originally named Jerico, 30 km west of the NCA. Mormons also settled what became Maeser (the Mill Ward) and Naples (Merrill Ward) (Burton 1996:90–91). Most of these early Euro-American settlements clustered around Ashley Creek (Figure 7).

Whether LDS or gentile, due to the remote nature of the Uinta Basin, settlers had to be self-reliant to survive. The early Ashley Valley settlers persisted through subsistence farming and animal husbandry. The area fortunately possessed plentiful rangeland for livestock, with various streams and rivers crossing the Basin and Brown's Hole area, allowing for easy watering of animals (although much of the water in the Basin technically belonged to the Ute) (Lechert and Michalczuk 2018:16).

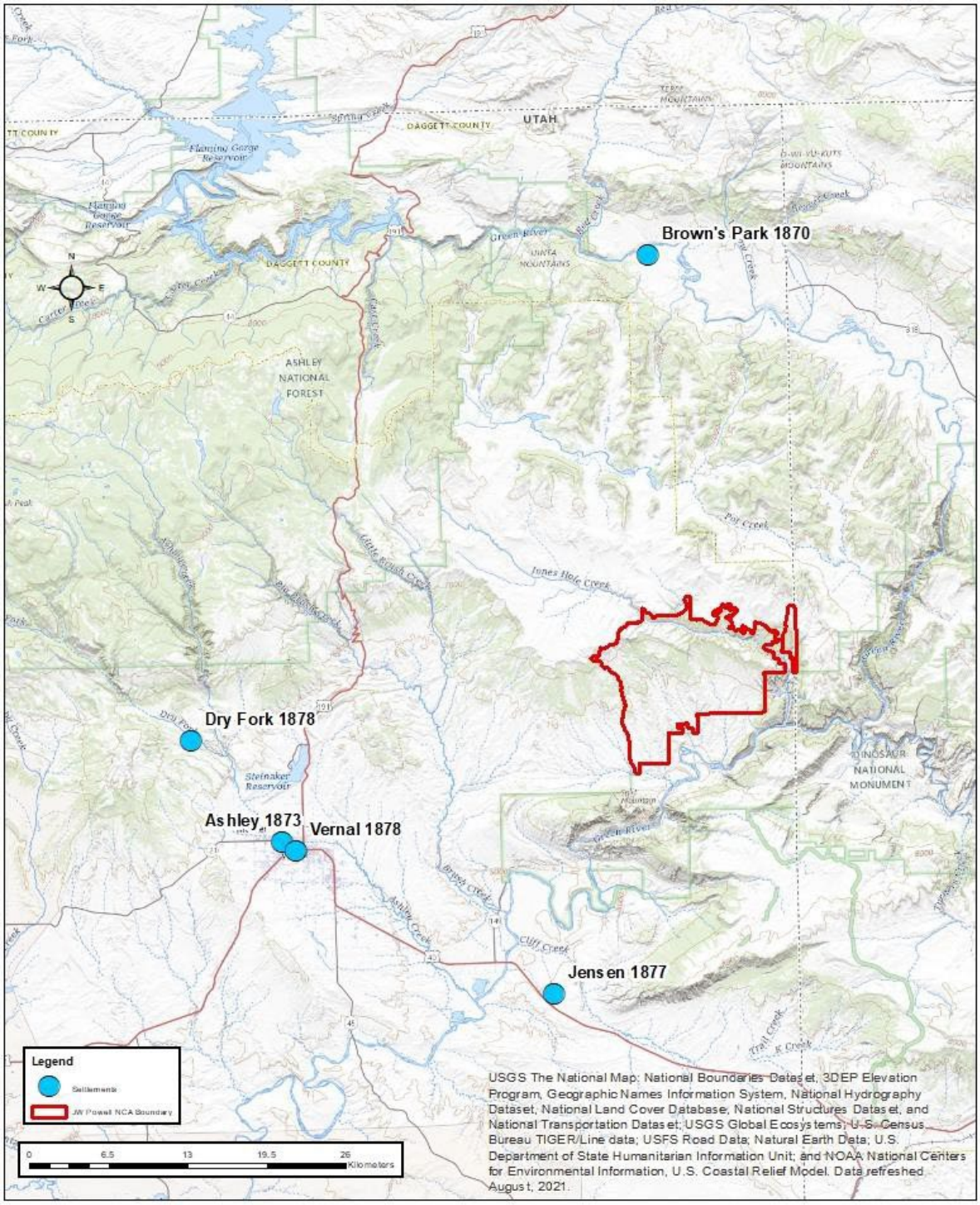

Figure 7 Late nineteenth century settlements in the vicinity of the JWPNCA

One of the earlier stockmen who scouted out the area in 1879, Sterling Colton, "was amazed at the amount of range and the grass growing on… Dry Fork, Brush Creek, Taylor, and Diamond Mountains." (A Brief History of Sterling Driggs Colton n.d.:3) By 1880, the agricultural census shows Uintah County settlers owning nearly 300 cattle and two oxen.

While settlement in Ashley Valley began, Utah's cattle industry experienced an invasion of herds from Colorado and Texas. This influx resulted from a population swelling from miners and railroad workers coming from outside the territory, increasing demand for beef. Thanks to this so-called "Texas invasion," by the late 1870s Utah had enough cattle to start exporting beef. From 1877 to 1880 Utah exported 180,000 cattle to market, many of them driven north to Wyoming or east into Colorado (Walker 1964:184–186).

The territory's sheep industry began changing as well during the 1870s as the physical practice of sheepherding changed. Prior to the 1870s the Mormon cooperatives kept flocks close to towns and settlements, which resulted in heavy overuse of the range around these population centers. During the 1870s, however, cooperatives and owners discovered that sheep could survive the winters in the lowlands by consuming snow instead of water for hydration. In a practice known as "transhumance," herders began moving flocks from high mountain regions in the summer to lower altitude desert areas in the winter, where the sheep could survive on snow. This practice continues to a limited extent in Utah to the present day (Sims Sheep Company 2019; Sypolt 1974:66).

Completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 and subsequent construction of branch railroad lines also positively affected the sheep and cattle industry with better access to markets east and west. Operators began importing high-quality sheep to stock herds that greatly increased in size. By the end of the 1870s, the small, localized village flocks had been largely replaced by large-scale commercial cooperative and single-owner operations (Sypolt 1974:59-65,73–74). The Utah Territory's revolution in transportation did not affect the Uinta Basin, which remained isolated and far from the railroad lines. The changes in the livestock industry would impact the Ashley Valley settlements, however, specifically the abandonment of Mormon cooperative herds in favor of ownership and management of herds by individual operators.

5.5 UINTAH COUNTY: 1879–1900

The sparse Euro-American settlements of the Uinta Basin suffered through two crises in 1879–1880. In 1879, White River Utes east of the Uinta Basin in Colorado killed their Indian agents in the "Meeker Massacre," and ambushed and besieged an Army column, killing its commander, Major Thornburgh. Local Utes warned the settlers to move their cabins and "fort up" at a central site located at Jerico, the location of the Johnson and Hatch family homesteads. The settlers began to construct a fort, but the troubles were over before the fort could be completed. The incident, however, spurred further development in the Jerico settlement, which eventually became Vernal.

As the danger of an Indian massacre passed, the community soon faced an even greater crisis, one of the most severe winters on record. Cold temperatures and deep snow across the west in the winter of 1879–1880 killed of much of the livestock. The Uinta Basin proved no exception—snow covered the feed for five

months and killed an estimated 75% of the cattle. Some settlers lacked flour and nearly starved, while many others died during a diphtheria outbreak (Burton 1996:88,109; Walker 1964:186).

The area's isolation proved a large factor in making the winter of 1879–1880 so dangerous for the settlers. The Uinta Basin was surrounded by mountains and far from any railroad lines. At that time, the area remained part of Wasatch County, formed in 1862. Its only means of communication to the outside world were rough trails west to the Wasatch County seat of Heber City (200 km or 124 miles in a direct line), and north 100 km (62 miles) to Green River, Wyoming.

Because of the great distance between the Uinta settlements and Heber, the Wasatch County seat, in 1880 the territorial legislature created Uintah County with its county seat in Ashley (Burton 1996:8). The (primarily) Mormon settlement of Jerico, however, quickly outstripped Ashley, settled by gentiles, as a population center. The fear of a Ute attack in 1879 had concentrated many people in the Jerico area and many stayed after the crisis passed. In 1885, the town site was formally surveyed. Residents wanted the town to be called "Ashley Center," but post office officials decided on "Vernal" since "Ashley Center" was too similar to the existing Ashley settlement post office. In 1893, the county seat moved to Vernal (Burton 1996:8, 89; Burton 1998).

While Euro-American settlement began to take root in the valley, the U.S. government established the Uncompahgre (or Ouray) Reservation in 1882 to accommodate Uncompahgre Utes removed from Colorado in the aftermath of the Meeker Massacre (see Figure 5). The Uncompahgre Reservation covered the southern half of present-day Uintah County and consisted mostly of harsh desert country. The Ouray and Uintah Valley Reservations were consolidated in 1886, taking up much of the arable land in the Uinta Basin and in Uintah County, restricting Euro-American settlement of the area in the late 1800s to the far northeast corner of Uintah County (see Figure 5) (Barton 1998; Burton 1996:84; Duncan 2000; Utah American Indian Digital Archive 2008). Meanwhile the Indian Agency compelled the Ute to attempt Euro-American type agriculture on the Reservation, with mixed results (Burton 1996:84–85). Utes also had to face Euro-American encroachment on Indian lands, with whites diverting water from the reservation, and livestock herds owned by whites grazing illegally on the Indian reservation and competing with Indian livestock. Relocation of the Uncompahgre Ute to the Ute reservation in 1881 only increased pressure on the reservation's resources, causing further conflict (Burton 1996:28; Cornia 1998:13–14). To curtail hostilities the U.S. Army established a garrison at Fort Thornburgh on the Indian Agency at Ouray in 1881. The Army soon moved the fort approximately 45 km (28 miles) north to the mouth of Ashley Creek and then abandoned it in 1884. After additional disturbances amongst the Utes and between Utes and whites, the Army re-established a garrison in the Uinta Basin in 1886 with a new installation, Fort Duchesne, located on both the Uncompahgre and Uinta Reservations (Burton 1996:39–40).

In addition to livestock, mining also contributed to the early local economy and was a factor in the steady growth of the population. Copper and gold mining camps prospered from the 1880s to about 1900 in the mountains north of Vernal. Around the early 1880s, Gilsonite and additional hydrocarbons were found on the Uintah Valley Reservation and would directly impact the Reservation lands. The U.S. Congress stripped 7,040 acres from the Reservation in 1888 to facilitate mining efforts, creating "The Strip" that later became the area around Moffat (now the community of Gusher, 30 km or about 19 miles west of Vernal). Numerous mines soon began operation in the Uinta Basin, including mines north of Vernal, and the area around

Dragon, Utah (now abandoned) about 105 km (65 miles) southeast of Vernal close to the Colorado state line. These mining activities spurred further resource development of the Uintah Basin, paired with the construction of the Uintah Railway (Burton 1996:8−9, 96). Additional mining efforts for copper, gold, helium, carbon dioxide, asphalt, oil shale, and phosphate were underway during this time, though in a more limited capacity (Burton 1996; Spangler 2002; Lechert and Michalczuk 2018:9).

From the 1880s to 1900 the Euro-American population of the Uinta Basin grew exponentially. From 1890 to 1900 the number of farms increased from 186 to 559. The average farm size was 160 acres, suggesting that many of the farms were obtained through the Homestead Act, which granted 160 acres of public land to homesteaders (U.S. Agricultural Census 1890 and 1900). Agriculture, timber, mining, bee keeping, and freighting provided for much of the basic economy for the county. Within 20 years of Pardon Dodds' first settlement at Ashley, the Uinta Basin had blacksmiths, sawmills, flour mills, shingle mills, livery stables, general stores, saloons, stone quarries, dairies, an ice cream factory, and many other commercial enterprises (Burton 1996:107). Livestock, however (both sheep and cattle), continued to be the primary economic driver in the area (Burton 1996:112).

5.6 UINTAH COUNTY AND THE UTAH LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY: 1879–1900

The harsh winter of 1879-1880 that wreaked destruction on most of the cattle in the Uinta Basin also saw the introduction of the first commercial sheep herd in the area, when Robert Bodily drove a herd of sixty head to the Ashley Valley. Sheep survived the winter in better shape than the cattle and Uinta Basin settlers soon began to raise sheep for additional income. Tom Caldwell brought a small herd of sheep into the area, located them in Naples Ward, and sold some sheep to Isaac Burton, Sr. and his son-in-law, Ben Chestnut. Burton and Chestnut took the sheep onto Diamond Mountain just north of the NCA. George Young and C.S. Carter were the first to bring big herds of sheep into the valley (Burton 1996:111).

The early livestock men of Uintah County in the 1870s and 1880s started as sole proprietors. There appears to be only limited evidence in Uintah County of cooperative herds, either of sheep or cattle, that were the norm for the earlier LDS Utah settlements. This reflects a territory-wide shift in the sheep industry between 1870 to 1890 away from the cooperative herds customary for the original Mormon settlers to privately owned operations (Sypolt 1974:71–73). Some exceptions to this include the local Sheep Association in the late 1890s, which had a common buck herd, and small-scale sheep owners apparently banded together to form a co-op during the mid-1920s (*Vernal Express* December 12,1924).

The cattle industry also prospered in Utah and the Uinta Basin in the 1880s, although by the 1890s sheep came to dominate the local livestock industry. Prior to the Civil War, California represented the primary market for western cattle. After the Civil War, the cattlemen's primary market shifted east to the great population centers in the Midwest and East Coast. Cattle outfits came to look on the northern plains as a vast grazing ground for their herds, including Wyoming, the Brown's Park area, and northeastern Utah (Mehls 1985:62). In the early 1880s, the Texas cattle operations invaded the Utah canyonlands, mostly at the corners of the territory (Peterson 1989:310). This so-called Texas cattle invasion of the Utah Territory helped superimpose more traditional Euro-American and Hispanic ranching patterns on top of the Mormon custom of the village-based grazing system (because Uintah County was settled so late by the Mormons, their traditional cooperative grazing system was never really established in the area). The movement

towards larger commercial herds in Utah was reflected in the growing number of cattle, numbering 200,000 by 1885, and increasing to more than 350,000 in 1895 (Peterson 1989:303).

From early in its history to the present-day, Uintah County featured larger cattle operations, matching the territory-wide trend towards larger commercial herds. Most of these larger cattle ranches centered around the Blue Mountain area, about 20 km (12 miles) south of the NCA across the Green River, straddling the Colorado-Utah border. The first large-scale cattle operation in the area, the K Ranch in the vicinity of Blue Mountain, exemplified the "Texas invasion" of Utah. Doctor Keiser, and his partner, Gilson, had driven their 1300 head of cattle from Texas and wintered them in Brown's Park in 1872–1873. The following spring the partners moved the herd south to Blue Mountain and established the K Ranch at about the same time Pardon Dodds settled in the Ashley Valley. Keiser and Gilson, probably owning the largest herds in the area, sold the K Ranch in 1880 to Charles Popper (Figure 8), a Jewish businessman from New York City (Beckstead 1991:89; Mehls 1985:68).

Figure 8 Charles Popper ca1890s (Special Collections, J. Willard Marriott Library, University of Utah)

Another cattle operation in the area was the Red Butte Ranch, established by New York businessmen in the 1880s. The company summered on Blue Mountain with their winter range stretching southwest to Ouray and the Uintah Indian Reservation. Abram Hatch, an early Mormon settler of the area, established in 1875 what was likely the largest locally owned cattle operation at the time, the Bar A H Cattle Company. Hatch

hired the gentile and former Indian agent Pardon Dodds as foreman. At one time the company ran 3,000 head of cattle, summering them on Blue Mountain and wintering them at the junction of the White and Green Rivers, south of the project area. In the 1910s, the Bar A H was subsumed into the Lazy Y Cattle Company out of Rangely, Colorado. Straddling the Colorado-Utah border, at one time this operation ran 20,000 head of cattle and was owned by a trio of Vernal bankers (Beckstead 1991:91).

The Luxen-Brown cattle operation originated with two saloon keepers and business partners residing in Vernal, Joe Luxen and Sam Brown. Former Army mule skinners that came into the area with the construction of Fort Thornburgh, Luxen and Brown used their income from the saloon business to buy several thousand cattle that ranged from the Ashley Valley to Blue Mountain, eventually establishing a ranch across the border in Rangely, Colorado. Three massive cattle companies running between 15,000 and 25,000 head of cattle operated on the Colorado side of the border in the 1890s, the Two-Bar owned by Ora Haley, the Two-Circle Bar owned by Sam Cary, and the Sevens operated by the Pierce brothers. Although primarily based out of Colorado, the ranges of these large cattle operations extended west into Utah (Beckstead 1991:92).

Other cattle simply passed through the area. Stockmen had trailed cattle through present-day Uintah County long before Euro-American settlement. The Brown's Park Trail, a major trail in use by the 1850s, originated in Texas, entered Utah from the southeast, and went over Diamond Mountain to Brown's Park. Another trail commonly used in the late 1800s originated with the large cattle herds of the Wasatch settlements and went through Strawberry Valley to Vernal. From Vernal the trail went over Diamond Mountain and into Brown's Park, where it merged with the old Oregon Trail in Wyoming (Beckstead 1991:117).

The decade of the 1880s would prove to be one of the easiest times to run cattle and sheep in Utah. With herds and flocks not as plentiful and grazing land abundant, public land was freely available (Sypolt 1974:238). The rangelands in the Uinta Basin were well-suited to raising stock. Local stockmen turned cattle loose onto the free summer range or, after it was established in the 1890s, the National Forest reserve. The stockmen would round up the cattle in the spring and fall to brand new calves, cut out animals ready for market, and trail their marketable cattle east to the railroad in Craig, Colorado, or north to Green River, Wyoming (Burton 1996:110; Mehls 1985:65).

Nevertheless, numerous problems confronted cattlemen of the area. Cattle rustling proved to be a persistent challenge, largely originating in the 1880s in the Brown's Park area, where the boundary lines for Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah meet. In this area, north and east of present-day Uintah County, large cattle operations owned by big eastern corporations attempted to squeeze out smaller cattle operators (Beckstead 1991:72). Cattle owned by the large corporations became fair game for cattle rustlers, many of whom were smaller cattle ranchers themselves. The smaller ranchers in the area, if not actively involved in rustling, often aided and abetted rustlers out of their dislike for the large corporate ranches. Rustlers would sometimes steal hundreds of animals from the range and hole up in Brown's Park or on Diamond Mountain until they could slip off and sell the herds to the military or mining camps in California, Nevada, or Colorado (Beckstead 1991:135). In the words of one source, "a defiant half-outlaw, small-rancher spin-off of Wyoming's corporate ranches penetrated through Brown's Park and the Uinta Basin, making a congenial milieu for the rise of Utah's Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch lore" (Peterson 1989:310). Up to about the

turn of the twentieth century, Brown's Park continued to be a haven for various outlaws who spent lots of time in Ashley and Vernal.

The entire area earned a reputation for outlawry during this time period, when "Robberies, hold-ups of travelers, and murders kept Uintah County law officers busy" (Burton 1996:374). From 1882 until 1893, the only telegraph station in Uintah County was located at Fort Duchesne, many miles west of Vernal (Burton 1996:213). The isolation of the area in terms of roads and communication made it difficult to enforce the law and rustling would impact both large and small ranchers throughout the 1880s and 1890s.

Besides cattle rustlers, larger economic trends also worked against the cattlemen. Overproduction of cattle frequently caused plummets in market prices, driving many stockmen in Uintah County from cattle to sheep (DeJournette 1996:75). Finally, the cattlemen faced increasing competition from the sheep herds that became more numerous in Uintah County through the 1880s and 1890s. In the non-regulated open range environment of the late 1800s, sheep competed much more efficiently than cattle and represented a threat to cattle interests (Peterson 1989:314). Sheep, if not grazed properly, could also adversely impact the range through consumption of all available feed and trampling the ground so heavily plants often would not come back for years (Georgetta 1972:114).

Sheep soon squeezed out cattle from the Uinta Basin grazing lands. The Uinta Basin seemed uniquely suited to sheep:

> The country was almost perfect as it contained those seasonal ranges that were just right for year around [sic] sheep needs. The badlands southerly and to the west provided excellent winter feed and Diamond Mountain was certainly ideal for spring and fall range. Last but not least by any means was the fine summer range that the mountains north and northwest of here yielded (Long 1986:219).

By 1890, a decade after the introduction of sheep to the Ashley Valley, sheepherding had completely overtaken cattle ranching in the area, with sheep outnumbering cattle by more than 12 to 1, compared to a Utah-wide 3 to 1 sheep-to-cattle ratio in 1892. Some cattle ranchers began running sheep exclusively while many of the larger gentile outfits sold out and mostly quit the area (Burton 1996:111; Peterson 1989:313; Willison [1940]; Sypolt 1974:71–73).

By 1893 the number of head in Uintah flocks totaled more than 33,000 (Burton 1996:111). The increase in sheep in the Uinta Basin mirrored the fortunes of the sheep industry in Utah. Between 1870 and 1890 the number of sheep in Utah jumped from 60,000 head to nearly two million, and by 1900 the state supported over 3.8 million head (Peterson 1989:305; Sypolt 1974:72–73). In 1899 the county shipped out 500,000 pounds of wool (Burton 1996:111).

The early Mormon co-op system grazed both sheep and cattle on the same range. Sheep prefer shrub and brush to grass, while cattle prefer grass to shrub and brush. Sheep, however, crop grass much closer to the ground than cattle can reach, and their hooves tear up and compact turf, leading to severe range degradation if a herder does not move sheep constantly over the range. By the 1880s, many cattlemen felt that sheep ruined grazing lands for cattle (Beckstead 1991:207). Competition between sheepmen and

cattlemen for free range land exploded into range wars across the west. These range wars began in the mid-1870s in the Rockies, but the influx of eastern capital into the cattle industry in the 1880s and expansion of cattle on range exacerbated the issue throughout the west (Sypolt 1974:232).

For the most part, Utah's cultural history helped defuse these conflicts more common in neighboring Colorado and Wyoming. Many of the individuals were of the LDS faith, and Ward bishops had authority to settle civil disputes (Willison [1940]). Range war incidents did not often happen within Uintah County itself, but when local sheepmen took flocks east into Colorado conflicts did occur with the Colorado ranch outfits. The usual pattern for this conflict involved cattlemen unilaterally dividing grazing lands and delineating a deadline across which flocks could not pass. If flocks crossed the deadline cowboys would attack camps, destroy equipment and sheep, and sometimes wound or kill shepherds (Sypolt 1974:232). This friction between Uintah County sheepmen and Colorado cattlemen lasted into the 1920s.

The close of the nineteenth century saw sheep as the dominant livestock in Uintah County. Stockmen and farmers still ran and owned cattle, however. In 1902, county residents owned nearly 9,600 head of cattle valued at $155,828, and 87,000 head of sheep in the area valued at over $196,000 (Burton 1996:112).

5.7 RANGE DEGRADATION AND EARLY CONSERVATION EFFORTS: 1891–1908

Throughout the 1880s and 1890s, the number of animals increased steadily on the range. Public range rights held only by customary usage incentivized overgrazing, as stockmen felt they had to get as much as they could out of the range for their own herds. This led to maximum stocking of the range, causing further degradation (Peterson 1989:314). So-called "tramp herders" aggravated the situation. Tramp herders had no home range, but instead moved their stock all over the country, degraded local ranges, and moved on (Sypolt 1974:238). One observer noted of this period that "Not only had grass been taken, but weeds and browse, and the whole range was a veritable dust heap" (Willison [1940]).

By the turn of the century, concerns over conservation were beginning to change America's relationship with its public lands. Patterns of open-range ranching, homesteading, and resource extraction began to threaten the natural environment, resulting in an increasing focus at the federal level on balancing conservation with the use of public lands (Muhn and Stuart 1988). The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) originated as the Bureau of Forestry with the passage of the Forest Reserve Act in 1891, which allowed the President to designate protected Forest Reserves. Initially administered by the Department of the Interior; it was intended to help conserve forest land from over-use and exploitation. The Forest Service Organic Administration Act was passed in 1897, clarifying administrative policies for the new bureaucracy. That year, over ranchers' protests, the Bureau of Forestry established the massive Uinta Forest Reserve, which included the Uinta Mountains 20 km northwest of the present-day NCA (Burton 1996:113; Wilson 2004:7). The Act was in fact a radical break from the past as it allowed the government to regulate usage of the forest (Muhn and Stuart 1988:28).

In 1905 the Bureau of Forestry, under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), merged with the General Land Office's Forestry Division to create the USFS within the USDA. In 1906, as part of the division of the Uintah Indian Reservation, President Theodore Roosevelt removed 1.1 million acres from the Duchesne River drainage portion of the Reservation to become part of the Uinta National Forest (Burton 1996:95;

McRae 2000). On July 1, 1908, the USFS created the Ashley National Forest from the east portion of Uinta National Forest. The Ashley National Forest had several districts, each with a ranger, who had authority to sell timber, create grazing allotments, and manage the forest district (Burton 1996:113).

The USFS instituted the issue of permits to stockmen to graze on the reservation based on the number of stock owned, prior use, and commensurate ranch property (Burton 1996:110). Forest Rangers had the legal authority to move herds away from overgrazed areas to other parts of the Reserve (Willison [1940]). Usage limitations imposed by this system caused the *Vernal Express* to fume that "This is another proof that the Forest reserve is a detriment to the people of this country and an abominable farce" (*Vernal Express* April 12, 1902).

Nevertheless, many in the industry saw the wisdom of summer range preservation. The Utah Woolgrowers Association, a private organization of sheepmen, cooperated closely with the Forest Service for use of the Uinta Forest Reserve. The Association met in Salt Lake City in early April 1902 to set grazing rules for the Uinta Forest. The Association required every person applying for a permit to be an Association member, and each applicant was allowed to pasture only one herd at no more than 3000 sheep (*Vernal Express,* April 12, 1902).

In 1905, a visiting Forest Service official noted the continued poor condition of Forest pastures and recommended no sheep be allowed to graze on the National Forest. Threatened with financial ruin for lack of summer range, the sheepmen threatened to take their herds onto the Forest Range regardless of what the government said. Ranger Bill Anderson was sent to Vernal and the Uinta Forest to straighten things out. Anderson recalled how he handled the situation, and how the forest allotment system in the Uinta Forest—possibly the basis for the entire system of individual range allotments for federal land—was established:

> I felt that the [Forest] Service didn't intend to be so radical… since I didn't know where to begin, I decided to use the stockmen's opinions in as far as I could. Prior to this time, there never had been any allotments for sheep, and the practice was to race for the best, thereby trampling a large amount of feed and therefore, too, was the reason that it had been that the range was ruined… [T]here never had been any counting of sheep, so I proposed to the sheepmen that if they would honestly cooperate with us, I would take it upon myself to allow them to go on. We didn't have maps at all, so I suggested that each man tell what country he felt he was entitled to, being honest and considerate of his neighbor and we would make individual allotments if possible. I cleared off a large space on the ground. We all got sticks and started in to mark. Wish I could tell how many times I wiped all the marks off and started over, but finally, we agreed and the thing worked out fine. I, too, think that possibly this was the first individual allotments made on the forest range in this country (Fazio 1967:43–44).

This allotment system, worked out at the last minute in a forest clearing in 1905, withstood the test of time. By the 1920s the local attitude to the Forest Service permit system had completely changed, as represented by a *Vernal Express* story from 1926: "Under the regulations of the national forest service the owners of

flocks are assured that their interests are well guarded and that overgrazing of any given area is not tolerated. Compared to the benefits thus received the nominal fee for grazing in national forests is a negligible consideration" (*Vernal Express*, May 28, 1926). Although USFS grazing permits curtailed freedom on public lands, these same regulations resulted in better range conditions and protected the local sheep and cattle industry from tramp herders. With these successes, over time some stockmen began advocating in favor of greater USFS protection of the range (Willison [1940]). From the 1910s to 1929, about 100,000 head of sheep and 10,000 cattle were permitted for grazing annually in the Ashley Forest (Burton 1996:112).

5.8 UINTAH COUNTY, 1900–1920

In 1900 Uintah County had a population of 6,458 individuals spread over 5,222 square miles. Population centers included Vernal and the Ashley Valley; Moffatt, a lawless gilsonite mining settlement carved out of the Reservation, 30 km (19 miles) southwest of Vernal; a cluster of gilsonite mining towns about 60 km southeast of Vernal (Bonanza, Dragon, Watson, and Rainbow); and the agricultural community of Dry Fork, 15 km (9 miles) northwest of Vernal on Little Mountain. The U.S. Army maintained Fort Duchesne, a holdover from the days of the Indian Wars, about 35 km (22 miles) southwest of Vernal, while the Indian Agency continued operations at Whiterocks.

Uintah County's primary economic drivers included gilsonite mines located west and southeast of Vernal, timber cutting in the mountains to the north, and agriculture centered along and irrigated by Ashley Creek. Rumors of railroads planned for the Basin had circulated for years, but the area remained relatively isolated. Two very distant railheads supplied the Uinta Basin: the first was located at Green River, Wyoming, 100 km (62 miles) north of Vernal; and Price, Utah, 190 km (118 miles) southwest of Fort Duchesne. Supplies had to be freighted from these two railheads or from Heber City to the west, while any agricultural products had to travel the same route (Burton 1996). This made transportation of agricultural products from the area difficult.

In 1904 the Uintah Railway, a narrow-gauge line originating in Mack, Colorado and terminating at the gilsonite mining town of Dragon (extended ten miles north to Watson in 1911), improved the shipping situation. The railway company also built out roads connecting to county roads heading to Fort Duchesne, Whiterocks, and Vernal. The narrow-gauge railway was only 60 km (37 miles) south of Ashley Valley, and most of the shipping to and from Uintah County used this route in the 1900s and 1910s (Burton 1996:201–202).

One year after construction of the Uintah Railway, in 1905, the U.S. government opened up unallotted lands on the Uintah Indian Reservation in Uintah and Wasatch Counties west of Vernal to Euro-American homesteaders under the aegis of the 1887 Dawes Act. The Dawes Act split up traditionally communal land into allotments for private ownership and attempted to force Native Americans into a Euro-American lifestyle and open unallotted land to non-Native ownership. Over 37,657 people applied for the Uintah Reservation land lottery for 160-acre Homesteading tracts, with a total of 5,772 names drawn for parcels of newly opened Reservation land (Burton 1996:91-94). Overall, approximately one million acres of the original three million-acre Uintah Reservation were given to Euro-American homesteaders.

The Uncompahgre Reservation south of Vernal had already been opened for settlement under the Dawes Act in 1898, but the area had proved mostly too much of a desert for agricultural pursuits and the whole endeavor had been considered a bust. The 1905 opening of the Uintah Reservation yielded more fertile and irrigatable soil. By 1910, the population of Uintah County had increased by 592 people to 7,050 (U.S. Census 1910). Permanent Euro-American towns were being surveyed and established across the Uinta Basin, leading to a continued pattern of white population growth in the region. Several newly surveyed towns across the Uinta Basin were established in the wake of the allotment of the Uintah Reservation. The towns of Roosevelt, Myton, and Duchesne west of the Ashley Valley prospered. All three of these communities became part of the newly established Duchesne County in 1914, carved out of Wasatch County (Barton 1998). Three years later the state legislature created Daggett County out of Uintah County in the far northeast corner of the state, which encompassed the Brown's Park area.

The economy of the region diversified as the population expanded. The timber industry, mining ore, and transportation of goods and people became more important (Lechert and Michalczuk 2018:10). The oil and natural gas industries began in the Uinta Basin in 1900, with the drilling of its first oil well. Most of the wells produced very little oil, however, until after World War II (Spangler 2002).

Agriculture remained the primary way of life in Uintah County during the first two decades of the twentieth century. Between 1890 and 1910 the number of farms in Uintah County increased from 186 to 675. Of the farms extant in 1910, 43 percent were large farms of between 100 and 500 acres (Oliver et al. 2017:36). By 1920 Uintah County had 899 farms, the majority of which were between 20 and 100 acres, with only 36 percent measuring between 100 and 500 acres. It is possible that ranchers in Uintah County had smaller holdings than ranchers in other counties and took greater advantage of public lands even during winter. The agricultural statistics for Uintah County between 1910 and 1920 mirror the agricultural economy at the national level and indicate a profitable decade for farming and ranching in Uintah County. Farmers and stockmen likely owed much of this apparent prosperity to the economic and industrial boom during World War I (Oliver et al. 2017:39). In particular, the sheep industry was a great beneficiary, with wool being required for uniforms and blankets (Willison [1940]).

State-wide, Forest Service grazing policies partially offset the advantages of sheep herding. In Utah cattle increased from about 350,000 to over 412,000 in 1910, with a post- World War I peak of 505,000 (Peterson 1989:305). In 1912, the Uintah Cattle and Horse Growers Association was organized to protect the livestock industry from thieves and to issue an authorized brand book (Burton 1996:112). Sheepmen in turn organized the Uintah Sheep Shearing Association and the Uintah Woolgrowers Association in 1914 (Burton 1996:111). The sheep industry continued to dominate the local agricultural economy (Figure 9). In 1900 Uintah County counted over 70,000 head of sheep and nearly 18,000 cattle. By 1920, Uinta County had nearly 128,500 head of sheep and nearly 30,500 cattle (Burton 1996:112).

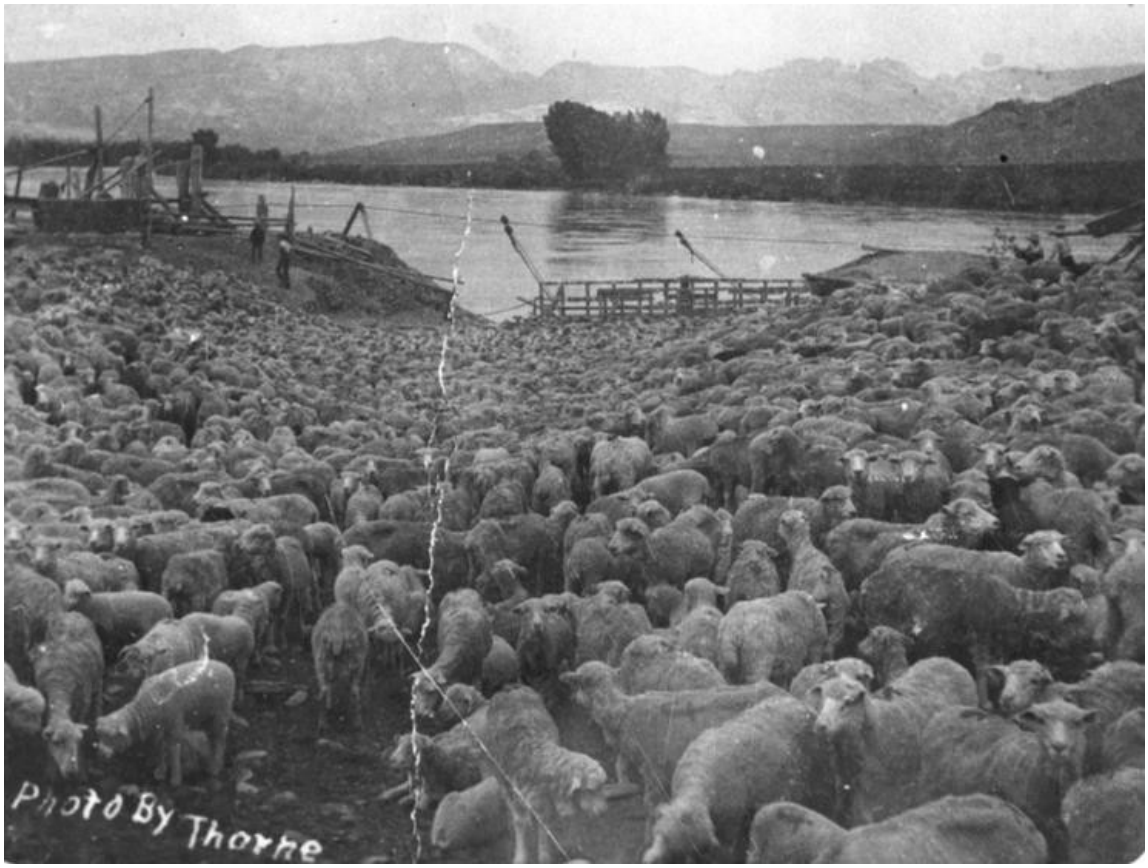

Figure 9 Sheep crossing the Green River ca 1910 (RHC)

Congress authorized two new types of land patents in 1909 and 1916. Previous land patents for farms had been issued by the government under the 1862 Homestead Act, which gave tracts of 160 acres to settlers. The 160-acre grant, however, was found impractical for farming in arid areas of the West (Young and Sparks 2002:94). A number of the farms and ranches in established in the 1910s in Uintah County were the products of the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909, which allowed 320-acre grants of non-irrigable, nonmineral lands having no merchantable timber (Layton 1988:21). The Act was sparked by the so-called "dry land" farm movement of the 1900s. Dry land farming used advanced techniques to conserve moisture, and supposedly helped farmers work previously un-arable land into viable farms. Dry land farming caused a tremendous increase in homesteading prior to World War I in Uintah County and across the West (Muhn and Stuart 1988:34–35). The Enlarged Homestead Act failed in its objective, however, as even with enlarged tracts there was very little arable land that remained to be settled, homesteaders would often end up with just twice as much poor land (Munn and Stuart 1988:35). The ease of dryland farming turned out to be greatly exaggerated as well, although some farmers did prove successful at it on the Diamond Mountain plateau, just north of the NCA (Layton 1988: 21, 61–62; Oliver et al. 2017:32). Homesteading in the area slowed considerably shortly after World War I, although some individuals in the project area would acquire homesteads as late as the 1930s.

The second type of new patent was a 640-acre homestead established by the Stockraising Homestead Act of 1916. Passed by Congress to address range degradation in the West, this Act provided for 640-acre homesteads for livestock grazing and production of forage crops (Layton 1988:60). Like the Enlarged

Homestead Act, the Stockraising Homestead Act was intended to make allowances for claims that would be otherwise uneconomical and intended to mitigate for overgrazing on public lands by giving a prospective stockman sufficient private land to graze cattle (Oliver et al. 2017:32). The 640 acres provided by the Stockraising Homestead Act was still far from sufficient in most areas of the West and did nothing to help with overgrazing on public rangelands (Layton 1988: 21, 61–62; Oliver et al. 2017:32)

Perhaps the most revolutionary development for the area was the advent of the automobile in the Uintah Basin. The first automobile arrived in Dragon in 1905 via the railroad. By 1917 county residents owned over 180 automobiles and pickup trucks (Burton 1996:208). In 1910 the state legislature passed a law to link all counties in the state with state roads. In 1920, as ownership and personal and economic dependence on the automobile increased, the U.S. Congress introduced a federal aid system to link the states with national highways. U.S. Highway 40, called the “Victory Highway” as it was built shortly after World War I, was the spoke of this system that went through Uintah County. The establishment of a modern road network in the 1920s and 1930s would connect the county as never before with markets in the outside world (Burton 1996:209-210).

5.9 LIFE ON THE RANGE, 1880–1920

During the late 1800s two factors—free grass and the availability of water—influenced cattlemen to move their herds to Uintah County. Most of the land in the region was in the public domain, and open to anyone to use. As it was federal property, the Territory (and later the State) of Utah could not tax it.

No attempt was made to fatten cattle in the Uinta Basin as the distance to railroads was too far to market grain fed stock. The early Ashley Valley settlers and cattlemen took advantage of the free range and allowed their herds to roam at will wherever the feed was best, as the land was nearly all public domain. During the summer cowboys would take the herds up into the Uinta Mountains. Roundups were held in the fall, with all cattlemen working together to bring the cattle off the mountains (Burton 1996:108–112; DeJournette 1996:75). During these open range roundups cowboys branded cattle with a stamp brand, with calves branded based on the brand of the cow nursing them (Beckstead 1991:134).

After the roundup cowboys culled cattle for market and trailed them to railheads north to Green River, Wyoming, or by the 1900s, east to Craig, Colorado where they were shipped to Kansas or other points east. When the Uintah Railway came to Dragon in the early 1900s, cattle were shipped from the county to market by rail, which ended the long drives. Later, when trucking became available, stockmen trucked cattle to Craig. In the winter, particularly in the twentieth century, stockmen kept cattle in the lowlands or back on the home ranch and fed them on hay (Burton 1996:108–112; DeJournette 1996:75).

Sheep herds, although usually more profitable, required more labor. In contrast to the small village flocks of the mid-nineteenth century, 1920s commercial sheep herds were quite large, ranging from between 2,500 and 3,500 head in the winter and between 1,200 and 2,000 in the summer (Esplin et al. 1928:18). Sheep in the Uinta Basin used summer ranges in the mountains to the west and north, while they wintered east and south in the Green River basin and in the deserts to the west and south (Esplin et al. 1928:17).

Unlike cattle, which could be let go on the free range, sheep required constant attention and supervision. Shepherds stayed with the sheep year-round, living out of small wagon sheep camps. Prior to the 1920s, sheep herders had a main camp within established sheep bedgrounds. Sheep were driven back to the established bedground each night without attention until the morning (Fleming 1922:7). As the ranges became increasingly degraded through the 1910s and 1920s many sheepmen preferred one-night camps to prevent the ranges from being grazed out. Under this system, the shepherd and sheep would establish a new camp and bedground each night, so the camp and bedground area would not be completely grazed off (Fleming 1922:7).

Beginning in November, flocks moved off their summer and fall ranges to low-lying winter ranges or desert to avoid the harsher winter weather and lack of forage at higher elevations. By December, enough snow had fallen at lower elevations to provide water for sheep (Smith 1918:10–11). The selection of a winter range was important as a flock would often be left in the same place for at least a month (Smith 1918:40).

By March, snow began to melt with increased daylight and warmer weather (Smith 1918:24). In many cases melting snow resulted in a shortage of water for sheep. This was a delicate balance as sheep had to be trailed up to hills still having snow, but plants useful for feed had not begun to grow (Smith 1918:25).

The sheepmen kept flocks stationary for at least two weeks in April for lambing season. At this point the average sheep bands usually numbered from between 1,000 and 3,000 head (Smith 1918:30). Shearing occurred from April to June, but mostly in May. Shearing was done on privately owned shearing stations on individual ranches, or cooperative or company plants located between winter and summer ranges (Esplin et al. 1928:19). The Uintah Railway Company built shearing pens on the Green River just south of the project area to encourage stockmen to drive their sheep to the Uintah railroad to take to market. Other shearing stations were set up even further south, closer to the Uintah railroad in Watson, Bonanza, and Dragon (Burton 1996:111) (Figure 10).

After shearing, in May and June, shepherds slowly increased altitude at which flocks grazed, from about 1,829 m (6000 ft) asl in early May to 2,439 m (8000 ft) asl in early July (Smith 1918:27). By July, sheep were able to use the full summer range area but had to be kept adjacent to water (Smith 1918:39). At the end of summer, shepherds culled sheep and trailed them to railheads for market (Smith 1918:40-–41). By the 1920s, after widespread adoption of the automobile and construction of good roads, sheep and wool products would be sent to market via truck (DeJournette 1996) (Figure 11).

Sheep herds continued to graze on high altitude summer ranges up through early October as long as the summer range had not been heavily used and the weather remained fair. To prepare for winter the sheep were sorted and branded (Smith 1918:42).

Figure 10 Bonanza sheep shearing plant ca 1914 (RHC)

Figure 11 Truck in Vernal loaded with wool, ca 1945 (RHC)

5.10 UINTAH COUNTY, 1920–1940

The two decades between the Wars saw boom and bust for Uintah County and the rest of the country. The 1920s saw the beginning of development of the area's oil shale and perhaps the high point of the local sheep industry, with Uintah County sheepmen producing about a million pounds of wool annually. With more automobiles came a more extensive network of roads across the county, and the Victory Highway connecting Vernal and Salt Lake City was paved. The town of Vernal expanded, with the city paving its streets and building out paved sidewalks (Burton 1996:10).

In the early 1920s ranchers suffered through an economic slump caused by the conclusion of World War I. This was exacerbated by federal policy. The federal government stockpiled wool reserves during the war. With the conclusion of hostilities, however, the government dumped all of its wool reserves on the common market which severely depressed the domestic sheep industry during the very early 1920s (Sawyer 1971:185). Increased U.S. lending to Europe, recovering from World War I, stimulated domestic agricultural prices, and profits rose for local ranchers beginning in 1924.

In the 1920s most farms in Uintah County consisted of 100 to 500 acres of land, and in the 1920s the number of farms increased by over 25 percent. The size of farms increased as well. Farms of between 100 and 500 acres increased 43 percent between 1920 and 1925, while the number of farms with an acreage of over a thousand acres doubled. This might have been a function of some farmers and ranchers acquiring additional land through the Enlarged Homestead or Stockraising Homestead Acts. This increase in farm numbers and sizes may also correspond with the increasing number of livestock in the county. From 1920 to 1925, the number of cattle in Uintah County increased from 9,891 to 23,972, nearly a 150 percent increase. No sheep data are available for 1920, but by 1925 sheep numbered 119,256 (Oliver et al. 2017:46–47). During this period Uintah County was known for its fine, high-quality wool (Vernal Express, May 28, 1926).

Multiple problems cropped up for the livestock industry by the mid-1920s. Natural disasters such as floods and recurring droughts became more frequent, drying up water sources for livestock (Cannon 1986:309). Other environmental issues included increased growth of noxious weeds on rangelands and a booming rodent population that destroyed feed (Willison n.d. [1940]:41–42). Most ominously range conditions grew increasingly worse. John Bennion observed at the end of the decade that

> Within the past forty years I have not seen the range in such a depleted condition as it is today. There are sheep being fed hay and corn because of the shortage of winter range. Some of our best winter range is being summered by sheepmen who are coming into our county and who have no interest, property, or residence here. If this condition continues a good many of the sheepmen of our county will be forced to go out of business or go to other ranges (*Vernal Express* February 21,1929)

Economic headwinds caused by competition from abroad and the U.S. Midwest also put strain on the livestock industry. Ranchers began to borrow money to buy stock and farm equipment, so the stock market crash of 1929 and subsequent Depression hit stock raisers particularly hard (Willison n.d. [1940]: 65). Banks foreclosed on many of the area ranches, ruining many ranchers. According to N.J. Meagher, Junior:

> No one had any money during the Depression. All the sheepmen lost… for about four years in a row… They all had Packards, and Chryslers, and Chandlers, and Buicks in 1928 and 1929. In 1931 after the Depression started, well, they lost "to beat the band", and 1931, 32, 33, and 34. That liquidated down quite a few of the sheep herds. There's people that just went broke. Uinta Basin wouldn't have had it so tough, if we didn't have a three, or four year drought right at the same time the Depression was on. There were bank failures [all over Utah] but in the Depression the Eastern Utah Banks were much stronger, and stayed "above board"… Finally, well, we got a little more moisture, and when you get a little more moisture you got bigger lambs. You got bigger calves. Little by little you started not making a lot of money, but you were able to pay your bills. The deposits here shrunk, oh, I'd say… about 70% (Meagher 1978:7).

With the advent of the Depression the price of wool dropped from 75 cents to 10 cents a pound. The drought of the early 1930s compounded problems (Long 1986:227). Many ranchers and farmers lost their land and livelihood when banks foreclosed on them, while others had their property seized by the county for failure to pay taxes. Most families lived with very little.

The election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1932 brought a new era of massive federal government expansion to ameliorate the effects of the Great Depression. The county benefited from New Deal programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The CCC employed young men in military-style camps across the country working on public works projects of all kinds. The youth of the Vernal CCC camp constructed reservoirs, roads, fences, corrals, and helped eradicate agricultural pests (Burton 1996:11–12). In a 1937 letter from sheepman Briant Stringham to Senator Elbert Thomas, Stringham wrote:

> Without question, the most helpful governmental agency that has come to the range livestock men in this part of Utah has been the local C.C.C. Camp. Particularly during the past year has this camp… done range improvement work, that is exceptionally beneficial to the livestock industry in this section in the way of truck trails, water improvements, drift fences, corrals, etc. (Stringham 1937)

Other federal programs helped pave roads, install sidewalks, build schools, and work on other projects across the county. Many rural areas received electricity service for the first time when the Rural Electrification Administration came to the area in 1939 (Burton 1996:11–12). Despite the Depression, Uintah County's population increased by 863 to 9,898 between 1930 and 1940 (Forstall 1996).

The effects of the Great Depression are detailed in 1930 federal agricultural statistics. The number of farms decreased between 1925 and 1930, from 1132 to 1076 farms, while the overall size of farms dropped as well, which may reflect individuals with excess land selling this property for additional revenue. Paradoxically, statistics show a slight increase in the number of farms in Uintah County from 1930 to 1935, although farm size continued to decrease (Oliver et al. 2017:54).

In 1930 in Uintah County, sheep massively outnumbered cattle by a 7.5 to 1 ratio. From 1930 to 1935 the number of sheep in the county increased by nearly 60,000 head (42 percent). It is unclear as to what caused

this increase, but it resulted in ever-increasing stress on an already overused public range that had been continuously overgrazed from the late 1800s to 1930. This overuse resulted in loss of almost all prime forage plants from Utah's rangeland, destruction of water sources from trampling, erosion, and severe flooding (Oliver et al. 2017:53; Willison n.d. [1940]:38–39).

Range degradation grew increasingly acute in the years prior to the 1929 stock market crash. By 1923 the GLO acknowledged the Stockraising Homestead Act, which sought to address range degradation by increasing the amount of private range ownership, had failed. The Act did not grant enough land to permit economically viable stock operations that grazed only on Stockraising Homestead tracts of 640 acres (Muhn and Stuart 1988:36). Ranchers continued to overuse the public range. There was no formal range allocation, so they had no guarantee of being able to use same section of range from year to year. For this reason, both cattle and sheep stockmen used the range for all it was worth. In this manner the range became crowded and overgrazed as economic pressures caused the stockmen to destroy the foundation on which ranches were built (Muhn and Stuart 1988:35). In the words of Clyde Bennion, a contemporary LDS historian, "If a range be privately owned, the stockman in nearly every case paid too much for it. In trying to get returns on the investment he stocks it too heavily. If he uses the open range, he must keep all the grass eaten off or someone else will crowd in and take it away." (Willison n.d. [1940]:39–40).

Tramp stockmen, with no roots or home ranches in the locality and no incentive to conserve the range, continued their depredations and sparked conflicts with local sheepman. Regardless of their presence, however, one agricultural scientist employed by the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station wrote in 1940 that the real issue was rancher culture around range use, as it was accepted practice to use all available browse. A study from the early 1940s concluded that ranchers in the 1930s had massively overstocked Uinta Basin ranges to a degree absolutely unsupportable in the long term (Blanch and Stewart 1943:37–38). Only a change in this standard would solve overgrazing problems (Willison n.d. [1940]:39–40). Glynn Bennion, LDS historian, noted Utah range conditions in 1932: "There is practically no grass on the range, the cattle having become brush eaters through necessity… the arid ranges of the west… were once covered with highly nutritious forage plants, which were killed out by overgrazing. Plants less palatable were able to take the place of these climax types, but livestock in the meantime succeeded in lowering their stands of living and 'took' the poorer forms…" (Willison n.d. [1940]:38–39).

In 1930, at the beginning of the Depression, President Hoover proposed to give all vacant unappropriated unreserved public lands to the states. Congressional opposition prevented the plan from moving forward. Because of this failure, ranchers in the West petitioned Congress to create grazing reserves for lease, while other suggestions included a more direct federal role in managing the range. This debate culminated in 1934 with the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act (Muhn and Stuart 1988:37).

5.11 THE TAYLOR GRAZING ACT, THE CCC, AND THE JWPNCA

The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 created the Division of Grazing under the Department of Interior's General Land Office (GLO) (in 1939 the Division of Grazing was renamed the U.S. Grazing Service and will be referred to as the Grazing Service hereafter in this document). The Grazing Service worked closely with ranchers and state officials from across the west to determine the best policies and administration for the new grazing system. As a result of this consultation with the individuals and groups closest to the issue, the

Grazing Service established and managed 50 grazing districts covering 142 million acres of land (Muhn and Stuart 1988).

Under this Act, any rancher wishing to use public range for grazing would have to obtain permits for limited numbers of stock to graze within designated tracts of land in a grazing district (Hoffman 2009:251; Muhn and Stuart 1988:37–38). Unlike previous federal attempts to counter range degradation such as the Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916, the Taylor Grazing Act did not center on dispersal of public lands into private ownership, but instead used direct federal administration of public lands (Layton 1988:87–88). The Taylor Grazing Act allowed those lands to be leased to landowners and homesteaders in the reserve areas preferentially, while closing areas to homesteading that were not valuable for agricultural development. The law allowed for land exchange for landowners possessing property falling within grazing districts (Muhn and Stuart 1988:37). The 1936 grazing regulations also required ranchers to have an established "base property" determined either by land or water and usually acquired through one of the homestead acts, to be eligible to graze animals on public land (Hoffman 2009:254; Kilker and Koch 1978:128). Base properties ensured ranchers would no longer have to fight with transient tramp herders for rights to particular sections of range and would not have to overstock the range in order to retain access.

The Taylor Grazing Act had tremendous impact on ranching in the Uinta Basin. Local stockmen already had some experience with grazing controls through their use of the Ashley National Forest. Unlike the regulations governing the USFS, however, the Taylor Grazing Act provided for significant local authority through locally elected advisory boards in the administration of the new grazing districts. Permit holders elected advisory board members. In August 1934, 150 cattlemen, sheepmen, and farmers met at the county courthouse in Vernal and formed the local Act's advisory board called the Vernal Grazing Association (Burton 1996:115). Local livestock associations had existed since the early 1900s and worked to limit overgrazing, but until passage of the Taylor Grazing Act, had no power to enforce rules or regulations.

A high degree of cooperation among sheep and cattle ranchers prevailed at the establishment of the Association, with agreement that the chairman role would alternate annually between a sheep and cattle rancher (Johnson 1998:183). Five cattlemen (Don Hill, Henry Slaugh, Elmer Snow, H.E. Seeley, and Frank Slaugh), five sheepmen (W.A. Banks, J.P. Hacking, Wallace Siddoway, Clyde Hatch, and John McKeachnie), and five farmers (Marvin Broome, Joseph S. Dudley, Moroni Moon, Mark M. Cook, and John C. Hacking) were elected as the first Vernal Grazing Association board members (Chew 2022; *Vernal Express* August 30, 1934). The Department of Interior established the U.S. Grazing Service office in Vernal.

The Taylor Grazing Act took effect in Uintah County in 1935. The Grazing Service, in consultation with the local advisory board, determined who would get a grazing permit, where they were permitted to go, when they were permitted to go, and how much to graze. The location and time of grazing were "based almost entirely on the traditional and customary practices of the area" (Bass 2018).

Pursuant to the Act and its implementing regulations, the Grazing Service had to undertake the difficult task of adjudicating grazing privileges associated with every applicant's base property. Prior to the Grazing Service establishing forage levels and allotment acreage in each grazing district, it issued temporary licenses authorizing grazing. Early grazing regulations ensured that these first grazing permits were issued to stockmen who by local custom were already in operation and grazing within a particular area (Hoffman

2009:254–256). Based on an examination of BLM files located within the VFO, the adjudication process in Uintah County concluded at some point in the late 1960s.

When the Grazing Service issued its first permits in 1935, William Siddoway became one of the first allottees with a permit for 9,000 sheep. The Act by necessity reduced livestock in Uintah County to prevent overgrazing. Between 1930 and 1940, with the introduction of the grazing system, sheep numbers fell from 175,492 to 102,272 in Uintah County, although cattle numbers increased slightly from 13,492 to 14,406 head (Burton 1996:112–116). Each permit holder had to pay five cents per Animal Unit Month (AUM). An AUM is the amount of forage needed to feed one cow and her calf, one bull, one horse, or five sheep for one month (McGinty et al. 2009:4).

In addition to the Taylor Grazing Act, other national programs offered loans to livestock operators or purchased sheep from operators to decrease livestock and increase low market prices (Burton 1996; *Roosevelt Standard* July 19, 1934; *Vernal Express* August 26, 1937). Between passage of the Taylor Grazing Act, which addressed overuse of the public range, and a multitude of federal assistance programs, the Uinta Basin had mostly recovered from the Depression by the late 1930s. Overall, federal assistance had improved the lives of the Basin's residents (Johnson 1998:183).

5.12 UINTAH COUNTY LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY IN WORLD WAR II: 1940–1945

The U.S. preparation for and entry into World War II marked an economic rebound for the State of Utah, including the Uinta Basin. To fulfill the needs of the war effort Uinta Basin farmers and ranchers had to produce more food and fiber and increase their sheep and milk cow herds, and chickens (Barton 1998, Burton 1996). The war also brought another round of agricultural consolidation, as the number of farms and ranches decreased. The Basin experienced a manpower shortage as the government inducted many of its young men into the armed forces. This caused an increasing reliance on tractors and other machinery to keep pace with farming and ranching requirements. Between 1940 and 1945, the number of farms decreased by 15 percent in Uintah County, but overall, there was an increase in the acreage of the average farm. Although fewer in number, the remaining ranchers and farmers in the Uinta Basin grew more prosperous. During this same period the number of cattle in Uintah County increased by 53 percent while the number of sheep increased by only a little over one percent. Nearly every farm had some cattle; on the other hand, sheep remained a specialized industry, with only 33 percent of farms raising sheep (Johnson 1998:186; Oliver et al. 2017).

The stockmen had also learned their lessons from World War I, with its government-induced boom during the war years of 1917–18 followed by a deep economic drop-off at the end of the war when the government stopped acquiring materials for the war effort. To prepare for this eventuality, Uintah stockmen used much of their wealth to reduce debt and make required repairs and replacements on their property and equipment. This care extended to utilization of the public range, where they worked with the Grazing Service to increase the range at its highest carrying capacity, supplemented by feeds raised on farms (Willison [1940]).

At the same time, the long-term effects of the war years would have serious adverse consequences to the sheep industry. Stockmen, encouraged by the government to produce meat, raised fewer replacement ewes. Herders and ranchers had to serve in the military, putting a strain on the shepherds and stockmen

that remained. Depressing the demand side, the government discouraged civilians from using wool and eating lamb. In addition, after the war, fewer men returned to agriculture, preferring easier work and higher wages in the cities. This draining of the labor pool would have serious consequences for the sheep industry in later decades (Kilker and Koch 1978:129).

5.13 UINTAH COUNTY LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY AND THE POSTWAR YEARS: 1946–1960

During the post-war years the region saw economic gains. Although agriculture remained the keystone of the economy, the oil industry in the Uinta Basin truly came into its own after 1945 with a major oil discovery near Roosevelt in Duchesne County in 1949. By the end of the 1950s, the area was in the midst of its first oil boom. Farmers and ranchers often leased part of their land for oil drilling, greatly increasing their incomes and allowing them to purchase additional land (Barton 1998; Burton 1996; Spangler 2002).

Although the total number of farms dropped, farm size increased. Agricultural productivity rose with increased use of mechanized equipment, a trend probably dating to the 1920s (Barton 1998). The fortunes of the local livestock industry began to dip towards the end of the 1950s. During World War II through 1947, the sheep industry remained the most important industry in the Uinta Basin (*Vernal Express*, January 2, 1947). However, sheep prices slumped in the latter part of the decade. The outbreak of the Korean War raised prices, but this was offset by decreased tariffs on foreign meat and wool imports from Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. The industry continued to decline, and by the early 1950s it was calculated that sheep in Utah had sustained a net loss of $4.16 per head. The National Wool Act of 1954 established a minimum price for wool and offered wool growers, compensation if their prices could not be met because of foreign competition (Kilker and Koch 1978:129–131). Although this Act shored up the industry nation-wide, sheep numbers in Uintah County posted a decline from 102,000 head in 1940 to 77,000 head in 1960 (Burton 1996:112) In 1960, 29 sheepmen ran a total of 44,500 head of sheep in the Uinta Basin, with 22 possessing herds of over 1,000 head. The balance was owned by farmers or small ranchers of 100–300 head (Burton 1996:116).

In contrast to the declining fortunes of the sheep industry, cattle and dairy cows became an increasingly important part of the livestock industry in the Uinta Basin's post-war economy (Barton 1998). Cattle numbers increased from 14,500 to 17,800 head between 1940 and 1960 (Burton 1996:112).

The U.S. Grazing Service managed its duties well in 1930s. During World War II, however, the Grazing Service did not have sufficient personnel for its mission and struggled to fulfill its administrative and conservation objectives. The Service's post-war attempt to raise fees to counter budgetary shortfalls angered ranchers and Congress, which slashed its budget (Muhn and Stuart 1988:45–48).

In 1946, Congress merged the GLO with the Grazing Service, creating the BLM. In the 1950s, the BLM began a program of land inventory and classification and practicing multiple-use management, meaning the land would be managed for multiple complementary or competitive uses. AUM fees rose steadily during the decade as the agency expanded to better fulfill its regulatory goals. With increased funding, the BLM began range inventories to assess the condition of ranges and take steps to prevent further degradation. To assist ranchers the BLM began implementing improvement and rehabilitation plans that included

assistance with fencing and water source development to better distribute livestock around the range, and grass reseeding to renew depleted ranges.

5.14 DECLINE OF THE SHEEP INDUSTRY IN UINTAH COUNTY, 1961–1980

The oil and natural gas boom of the 1950s significantly increased the population of the Uinta Basin. Several massive federal reclamation projects along the upper Colorado River also contributed to this increase (Barton 1998; Burton 1996). With the additional population came a housing boom. Municipalities in the area upgraded public services, including construction of new schools, and the improvement and expansion of road systems. The net effect of this growth in the 1960s was economic development and economic diversity to the Uinta Basin (Oliver et al. 2017:62).

Although in the late 1930s and 1940s the ranchers supported of government efforts to conserve the range, by the 1950s and 1960s sheep ranchers felt that increasing government regulations made grazing on public lands prohibitive (Kilker and Koch 1978:131–132). Because the allotments were set to strict timetables, if an early snow or dry winter left an allotment unusable herders could not move flocks to a better location. The BLM also prioritized range rights by operation size. This benefited larger operations but shuttered many of the smaller operators with only 200–400 head in their herds (Nicholes 1974:74) In addition to regulations, many resented the increase of grazing fees by the BLM and USFS in the 1950s and 1960s. This increase was necessitated by the need to cover costs for the government as well as to make the fees commensurate with the fair market value of forage. In addition to the increase in friction with the government, by the 1970s ranchers were involved in increasing conflicts with conservationists because of the growing environmental movement (Kilker and Koch 1978:131–132).

Economic and labor shortages had a much greater negative impact on the sheep industry. To begin with, the business was—and still is—very capital heavy (although this is also true for cattlemen). By the late 1960s, the average amount of investment in a sheep operation in the West totaled $215,000 (Goodsell 1971:26). The problem was the return on the investment steadily shrunk for sheepmen. Labor problems exacerbated sheepmen's cash flow problems. With the booming economy, salaries in the livestock industry increased by a third between 1960 and 1970. In addition to having to keep pace with salaries, sheepmen found it difficult to even find shepherds after World War II. Many of the younger shepherds left the industry to get better paying and less strenuous factory jobs (DeHart and Metzler 1955:3). Utah sheep operations began hiring mostly Hispanic, Basque, and Indian shepherds (DeHart and Metzler 1955:3–4). Local rancher Cliff McCoy, whose base property was on Diamond Mountain north of the NCA, remembered that by 1963 "[Y]ou couldn't get good labor and the poisoning of predators was stopped… you could not find an American who would work sheep. No one wanted to live in the mountains for long periods of time. You had to bring your laborers in from foreign countries" (*Vernal Express*, February 26, 1981).

Other efforts to attract herders included mechanizing more aspects of sheep ranching, improving facilities, and improving road access to ranges (DeHart and Metzler 1955:4). Roads and widespread use of pickup trucks made moving sheep easier, and sheep camps were manufactured with insulated aluminum walls, towed by truck instead of the traditional horse or mule teams (DeHart and Metzler 1955:15–17).

Sheepmen also faced a decline in demand for their products. In the 1950s and 1960s, the increased use of synthetic fibers in clothing decreased wool demand. Consumption of mutton also slumped during this time, while U.S. sheep producers faced stiff competition from Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. Market price for both wool and mutton declined. The sheep industry nation-wide and in the Uinta Basin continued to decline through the 1970s, although the introduction of new breeding and marketing techniques did help increase sales (Kilker and Koch 1978:131–136) The number of sheep dwindled throughout the West in the 1960s, with many states having only a fifth of their number of sheep from their peak (Goodsell 1971:1). Tom Anderson, a sheepman who had permits within the NCA in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, listed the problems facing his sheep business in 1981: "There's just no one to do the work. Unless the government is willing to help us out with the coyotes and the environmentalists, the sheep business is a thing of the past. There are very few young people taking over and learning the business. For the price of the market on wool and we can't compete with, say, the oil field prices. We are fighting depression prices right now for wool and lambs. (*Vernal Express*, March 5, 1981).

At the end of the 1970s, the number of sheep in Uintah County had plummeted to 27,335. Cattle numbers, however, had increased to 20,430 (Burton 1996:112). Demand for beef continued to be strong in the United States during this time, and although cattlemen had to weather similar problems such as having to pay higher wages, their labor problems were not as acute as the sheepmen's (cowboys did not have to spend most of their time out on the range with their charges, unlike shepherds). Cattle prices, while cyclical, at least showed dynamism and were not as exposed to overseas competition. Cattle prices started low at the beginning of the 1960s but continued trending upward from the start of the Vietnam War in 1964 to the 1973 oil shock, at which time cattle had tripled in value since the mid-1960s. The late 1970s again saw an increase in cattle prices until 1979 (Holechek et al. 1994:118). Although subject to the same macroeconomic cycles, the cattle industry during the later twentieth century proved less susceptible to changes in domestic tastes and competition from foreign markets than the sheep industry, which continued its steady decline through 2000.

5.15 THE MODERN LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY IN UINTAH COUNTY: 1980–PRESENT

Throughout the latter part of the twentieth century the oil industry became an increasingly vital part of the Uinta Basin's economy. Currently, half of the Vernal economy is centered around the oil and gas industry. This dependence on oil extraction has made the area vulnerable to the frequent fluctuations in the world energy economy, and the population has suffered through many volatile business swings over the past forty years. During the energy crisis in the early 1980s the population of Uintah County plummeted (Kinder 2017).

Tourism also has played an increasingly important role in the regional economy, with nearby attractions such as Dinosaur National Monument and the Uinta-Wasatch Cache National Forest attracting tourists from around the country (Kinder 2017). By the 2010s, 12 percent of the jobs in Uintah County represented people who worked in the travel and tourism industry. Construction, transportation, and real estate sectors also employed many people in the area (Uintah County 2021:10).

In comparison, the importance of agriculture in terms of the general economy of Uintah County shrunk throughout the late twentieth century. The amount of direct employment in the agricultural sector has been

declining steadily and by 2016 represented only 6.4 percent of total employment. Agricultural earnings represent less than one percent of earnings in the county (Uintah County 2021:5).

The sheep industry continued to decline in the 1980s and 1990s. By 1993 there were 18,200 head of sheep and 48,000 head of cattle in Uintah County (Burton 1996:112). In 2003 the last herd of sheep, owned by Lynn Siddoway, left Diamond Mountain because of changes in BLM management policy. For the first time in well over a hundred years there were no sheep on the Mountain (Spencer 2003). The closing of the Siddoway sheep business symbolized the passing of an economic and cultural era in the Uinta Basin. Sheep numbers in Uintah County continued their decline in the 2010s, from about 13,000 to 6,000 head between 2012 and 2017 (U.S. Agricultural Census 2017).

Since 1996, cattle demand has grown due to rising national and global population. From between 1992 and 2006 domestic beef consumption rose 14 percent (McGinty 2009:8). The cattle industry remains a dominant sector of Utah agriculture. The 2008 livestock inventory in Utah consisted of 850,000 cattle and 275,000 sheep (McGinty 2009:6). Profitability, however, has steadily declined due to rising production costs, which include insurance, taxes, veterinary care, and transportation. As of 2009, extended drought in the Intermountain West and failure of cattle prices to keep up with the cost of production have depressed profitability. Western livestock production had not offered a competitive return on investment for decades, with the average producer yielding about 2 percent annually on capital investment (McGinty 2009:8). Between 2012 and 2017, the numbers of cattle in Uintah County held steady at between 35,000 to 36,000 head (U.S. Agricultural Census 2017).

Despite these considerable economic challenges there are opportunities to create cost-effective ranches through more efficient and stable management practices, through diversifying into other natural resource industries, and shifting from capital intensive to low-risk practices like improved breeding, more strategic placement of water points, and livestock behavioral modification. Some ranches have explored fee hunting, fee fishing, and dude ranching offerings to appeal to tourists, while others have expanded into niche-marketing products such as organic natural beef. Organizational options to increase profitability include the development of partnerships or cooperatives between smaller ranches, which can utilize economies of scale that larger ranches enjoy (McGinty et al. 2008:9). The Uintah Basin Grazing Association, which began in the 1970s and holds allotments within the NCA, takes this approach, reminiscent of the early Utah livestock industry's co-operative herds.

Although facing very different challenges than their grandfathers or great-grandfathers, the problems facing today's Uinta Basin ranchers are at the same time very similar. Like the stockmen of the late 1800s and 1900s, the Uinta ranchers today are heavily dependent on environmental conditions and the vagaries of the market, and like their forebears they will continue to struggle, adapt, and survive.

6. HISTORICAL STUDY OF THE JWPNCA

The JWPNCA essentially consists of the southern slopes of Diamond Mountain extending to the Green River. For the most part its geography is mostly rugged, barren, and possessing little water. Historically no one settled the area, instead ranchers used the NCA primarily for grazing (however sparse) or transit.

Conversely, many of the areas adjacent to the JWPNCA, particularly north on the Diamond Mountain plateau and south within Rainbow and Island Park, feature good pastureland, plentiful water, and some flat terrain. Historically ranchers and farmers established homesteads and base properties in these locations for operations that extended into the NCA. The history of the NCA must therefore encompass these more fertile areas outside of the NCA, particularly the history of Diamond Mountain to the north, Island Park to the south, and to a lesser extent Brush Creek to the west. Livestock based out of these three locations used the NCA for both transit and forage as early as the mid-1870s. Euro-American trappers and explorers, however, probably visited the area earlier in the nineteenth century.

6.1 TRAPPERS AND EXPLORERS: 1820–1844

The first Euro-Americans who may have visited the NCA were French Canadian and American fur trappers, who trapped, and traded with Indians for valuable beaver pelts. The trappers' forts in the area included Fort Robidoux in present-day Whiterocks, 60 km (37 miles) to the west of the NCA, and outposts in Brown's Park (then known as Brown's Hole), 25 km (15 miles) north of the NCA. With only one perennial water course, Jones' Hole Creek, it is unlikely the NCA had much beaver or visitation by trappers.

The first record of Euro-American presence in the vicinity of the NCA dates to 1844 when Fremont's Rocky Mountain expedition traveled east through the area. Staying briefly at Fort Robidoux, Fremont's men then traveled about 25 km (15 miles) northeast and camped at a point just northwest of the NCA (see Figure 4), on the rim of what came to be known as Diamond Mountain. Fremont's report describes the spot as "high up on the mountain side, where we found excellent and abundant grass, which we had not hitherto seen…" (Fremont 1845:279) Within the next half century, Ashley Valley cattlemen and sheepmen would also come to appreciate the "abundant grass" of the Diamond Mountain plateau just north of the JWPNCA.

6.2 TRAILS TO BROWN'S PARK: 1849–1873

The first livestock in the vicinity of the present-day NCA likely dates to 1849, over twenty years before permanent Euro-American settlement of the Uinta Basin. In 1849, a band of Cherokee Indians on the way to the California gold fields wintered at Brown's Hole and apparently trailed their cattle over Diamond Mountain.

Beginning with W. H. Snyder in the early 1850s and continuing until the onset of the Civil War in 1861, Texas cattlemen used the Brown's Hole Trail, which originated in Texas, entered Utah from the southeast, and crossed Diamond Mountain to Brown's Hole (Tennent 1980:22). Another trail commonly used in the late 1800s originated with the large cattle herds of the Wasatch settlements and proceeded east through

Strawberry Valley to Vernal. From Vernal the trail went northeast over Diamond Mountain and into Brown's Hole, where it merged with the old Oregon Trail in Wyoming (Beckstead 1991:117). Because of its rough terrain, these trails likely ran west of the JWPNCA as they crossed Diamond Mountain, but no doubt strays had to be wrangled out of the project area during these long drives.

In 1861 the Lincoln administration established the Ute Indian Reservation in what would become Duchesne and Uintah Counties. The Reservation was located about 45 km (28 miles) west of the NCA. The government sent its first Indian agent, Pardon Dodds, and other agency employees to the Ute Reservation in Whiterocks in 1869, which became the first Euro-American settlement in the basin. Dodds and his men brought their own small herds of cattle with them to the Reservation. In 1873, Dodds and some of the other men resigned from the agency and started the Ashley settlement in the Ashley Valley. Mormon settlers soon followed (Burton 1996). These early settlers turned their cattle loose on the free range to graze, likely in the vicinity of the Ashley Valley, 17 km (11 miles) southeast of the JWPNCA.

In addition to settlers with small herds, some large-scale cattle operations also began in the area in the 1870s and 1880s. These operations centered on Blue Mountain, about 8 km (5 miles) south of the JWPNCA (Beckstead 1991:89; Mehls 1985:68). It is unlikely that cattle from these larger Blue Mountain operations grazed within the project area, as the Blue Mountain area possessed plentiful forage and was located south of the Green River. The range in and around the JWPNCA north of the Green River had also already been claimed by an individual stockman by the mid-1870s, Duncan Blair.

6.3 DIAMOND SPRING AND ISLAND PARK: 1876-1890

Euro-American use of the JWPNCA began in the 1870s with the cattle operation of Duncan Blair. Blair squatted on the range from Island Park northwest to Diamond and Blair Springs, well to the northwest of present-day JWPNCA. He had cabins in Rainbow Park and Island Park within the present-day boundaries of Dinosaur National Monument, and grazed cattle on the range both within and north of the present-day JWPNCA.

Later the Burton and Ruple families would acquire squatters' rights from Blair in the early 1880s. With the home ranch of the Burtons at Diamond Spring, 6.5 km (4 miles) northwest of the JWPNCA and the Ruples' Island Park Ranch just to the south, the JWPNCA and the surrounding area would continue as cattle country for more than two decades. Times began to change in the 1890s as sheepmen became more numerous and more assertive. These sheepmen, with names such as Kabell, Reader, Siddoway, Hacking, and McCoy, would come to dominate much of the area just north and west of the JWPNCA. For all of these stockmen, Diamond Mountain and its pastureland just north of the NCA would loom large in their lives and businesses.

6.3.1 Diamond Mountain: What's in a Name

Diamond Mountain appears to have been named early during the first Euro-American settlement of the area. There are three versions of how Diamond Mountain got its name. The commonly accepted version of the story is that Diamond Mountain was named for a massive hoax perpetrated on New York and San Francisco bankers who really should have known better. In 1872 two miners in San Francisco claimed to have found an incredibly rich diamond field. An initial investigation by one prominent California geologist determined the find as genuine, and the men were given $600,000 by investors to become part of a new corporation, the New York and San Francisco Mining and Commercial Company. However, when other surveyors and geologists investigated the find in November 1872, which was located a few miles north of Brown's Park within Colorado, they found the supposed diamond field had been seeded, and the entire affair proved to be a colossal fraud (Jessen 1993).

There are two additional and more prosaic stories about the origins of the Diamond Mountain name, both asserting that Diamond Mountain derived its name from Diamond Spring. One story claims that Diamond Spring originally flowed from a Diamond-shaped rock, and that the name of Diamond Spring transferred to the entire mountain. The third story also claims that the mountain's name comes from Diamond Spring, and appeared in a 1929 letter to the *Vernal Express* from old-timer Charley Hill:

> I came across Diamond Mountain in the fall of 1877, about the time that Dunk Blair moved his cattle in there from Rock Springs, Wyoming. I stopped over night with Mr. Blair at a spring that had been dug out and walled up with rock. There was a flat rock by the Spring, with the name "Diamond Spring" cut in it… I asked Mr. Blair how the spring got its name, and he said that three or four years prior to this, two men from Rock Springs were out there, trapping, and made their camp at the spring… One of these men was named Jack Diamond, and that is probably the way that the spring and the mountain got the name. (*Vernal Express* January 17, 1929)

6.3.2 Duncan Blair

Duncan (Dunk) Blair, born in Scotland in 1835, became the first Euro-American settler in the vicinity of the JWPNCA in the mid-1870s. Blair and his brother, Archibald, originally settled in Rock Springs, Wyoming in 1862, about 160 km (about 100 miles) north of Vernal. Here Duncan settled with a common-law Indian wife. Both Blair brothers mined coal and raised sheep and cattle, with Duncan elected to the Wyoming Territory's House of Representatives in 1871. At some point in the mid-1870s Blair, a non-Mormon, moved south and squatted on the range in the area. He claimed at least three sites with water: Diamond Spring (5.5 km or about 3.5 miles northwest of the NCA), Island Park, and Rainbow Park, the latter two sites located just to the south of the NCA (DeJournette 1996:74; DeRoy 2008; and Staley n.d.:2). Based on its name he almost certainly used Blair Spring, 3 km (about 2 miles) west of the NCA (Figure 12).

Blair established the area's first livestock operation in about 1876 at Diamond Spring, now owned by the Siddoway family. Diamond Spring proved to be prime ranch property with the best spring water and best pasture on Diamond Mountain (Brown 1979:4; DeJournette 1996). According to one account, Blair ran about a thousand head of cattle in the area (Searle n.d.:4). Blair wintered his cattle in the vicinity of Jones

Hole at the lower east end of the mountain and built a one-room cabin at the far east corner of Rainbow Park and another cabin within nearby Island Park (DeJournette 1996:74; Island Park Homestead n.d.; Staley n.d.:2). Blair probably grazed cattle within, west, and north of the JWPNCA up until the early 1880s (Figure 12).

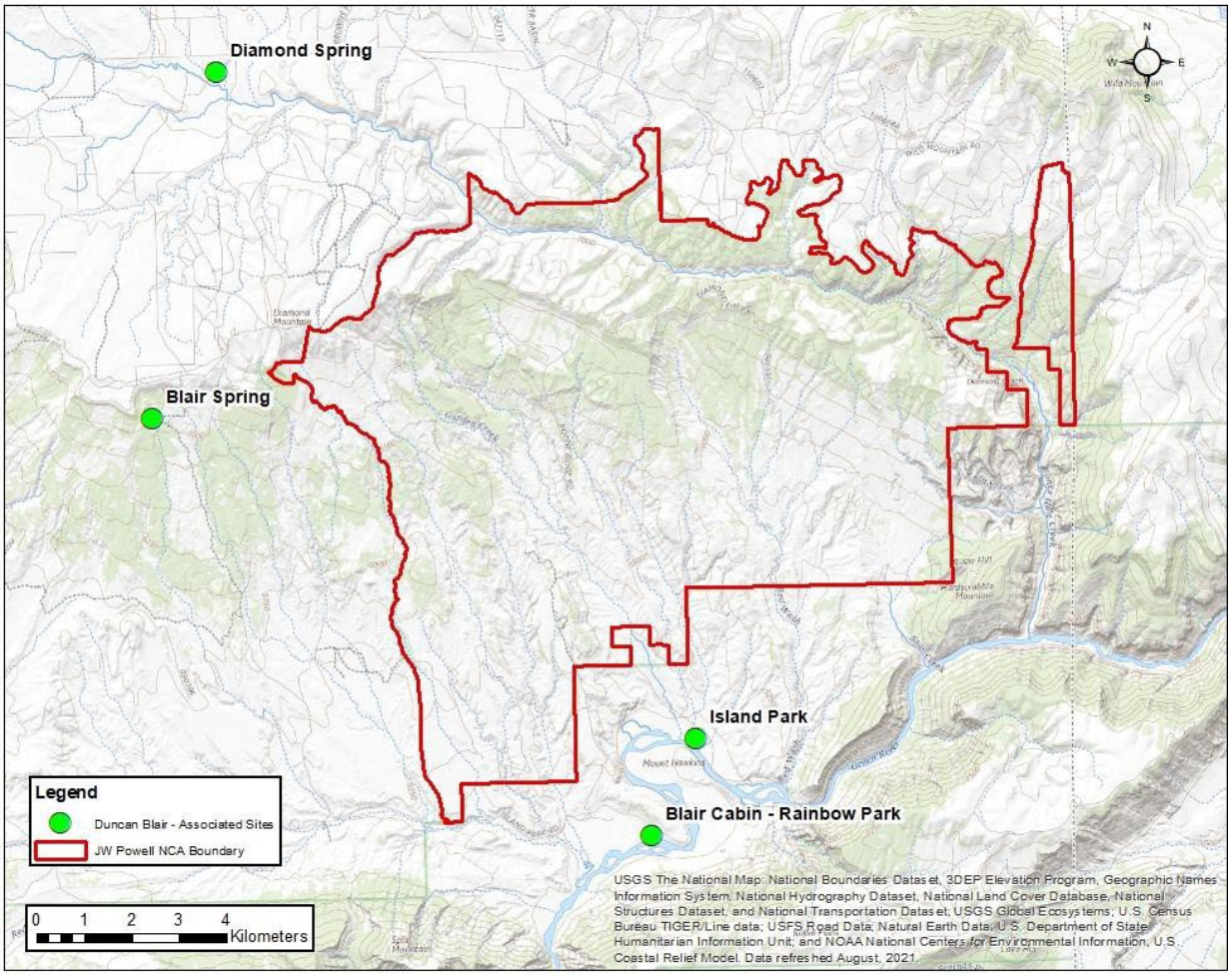

Figure 12 Sites associated with Duncan Blair, first Euro-American stockman to settle in the vicinity of the JWPNCA

Like other settlers in the area at this time, Blair never acquired a patent for this land from the federal government but simply claimed squatter's rights to the properties. To get a patent for federal land in the late 1800s a settler had to apply for a 160-acre tract through the 1862 Homestead Act. However, with major rivers and multiple springs and creeks in the area, early settlers simply took up residency on a parcel instead of applying for a patent. In the words of one historian, "This led to a greater spatial mobility for many of the families as they moved from water source to water source in the region. Apparently, what evolved in the… area was a recognition of a family's traditional lands…" (Mehls 1985:66) Hank Ruple's daughter, Sue Watson (Figure 13) gave another good reason for squatter's rights, recalling, "Well, nearly everybody squatted in those days because if you homesteaded you had to pay taxes. On squatted land you didn't have to pay taxes except you had to pay taxes on your cattle." (Watson 1971) Based on the research conducted for this report, most homestead patents in the vicinity of the NCA date from after 1910, indicating

early ranchers in the late 1800s simply squatted on the land, with patents taken out much later in the 1910s and 1920s, "after threats from an outside force… impinged on a given individual's traditional lands." (Mehls 1985:66)

In the early 1880s, with the opening of the White River Ute Reservation to white settlement in response to the Meeker Massacre, Blair moved on to western Colorado. There he settled in the vicinity of present-day Meeker in about 1883 (Hall 1895:286). When he moved Blair sold his squatters rights for the Island Park property to Henry Case (Hank) Ruple and the Diamond Springs property to Isaac (Ike) Burton.

6.3.3 The Ruples and Island Park

The JWPNCA has strong historical connections to the Island Park ranch (now within Dinosaur National Monument), and therefore a strong connection to the Ruple family. Hank Ruple (see Figure 13, born 1846 in New Jersey), headed west after taking a job as a mechanic on the Union Pacific railroad. Arriving in Wyoming, he met and married his wife, Olive Ann Mahitable "Mae" Ruple (see Figure 13, born 1858 in Salt Lake City) and they both arrived in the Ashley Valley in 1877 to work at the Indian Agency in Whiterocks (Watson n.d.a:1). Hank operated the Reservation sawmill and Mae taught school to the Indians and operated a boarding house. After the Meeker Massacre in Colorado in 1879 and Indian unrest on the Ute Reservation, in 1881 the U.S. Army established Fort Thornburgh to protect the Ashley settlement and police the Indians on the Reservation. The Army hired Hank Ruple to operate a sawmill at the new fort and assist with constructing the fort's buildings.

At this point Hank Ruple had acquired a cattle herd and was looking for better range. One day while hunting on Diamond Mountain Hank noticed Island Park along the Green River, according to this account from one of Hank's daughters, Sue Watson:

> [Hank Ruple] was going hell for leather after this deer and finally the deer came to the edge of some place where there were a lot of loose rocks… So he pulled the horse up suddenly and was just annoyed as he could be that he had lost this deer when he really looked up; there right before him lay this beautiful Island Park.
>
> There was grasslands on each side of the river and the beautiful mountains and here was a big stream of water coming out of the canyon. It was a paradise… and dad sat, he always said, he sat there at least half an hour just looking at that beautiful land and he felt like very much a tremendous miracle had happened to him (Watson 1977).

Hank knew Island Park would be his home. Ruple traded Blair a horse saddle for squatter's rights to the place (Untermann 2003:6). Hank sent his father and brother to the Park initially with a wagon. Although there was no real trail at the time, this wagon route became the origin of the current road to Island Park (Figure 14) (Watson 1977). The Ruples moved to Island Park in 1883 and built a two-story log home north of the river (Untermann 2003:6).

Figure 13 Ruple family ca 1930, back row (l-r): Sue Watson, Art, Martha; front row: Hod, Mae, and Hank (RHC)

The Irishman Pat Lynch came with the Ruples and worked for them at Island Park for several years. Pat Lynch would become a famous local character in his own right, a hermit who claimed land in Echo Park 12 km (about 7.5 miles) east of Island Park.

Many of the placename origins in the vicinity of the JWPNCA relate directly or indirectly to the Ruples. The geographical feature "Wagon Road Bench," marked on the topographical map as the bench on the west side of Island Park, may derive its name from the present-day Island Park Road that crosses the bench and ridge that divide Island Park from Rainbow Park. According to Ilene McLean, this is not to be confused with the Wagon Road, which is a trail that currently runs just west of Red Wash on the east end of Island Park, connecting to the Jones Hole Trail (McLean 2022).

Graveyard Draw within the JWPNCA is named after a small cemetery started by the Ruples in May 1889. Hank and Mae's little son, Jody, died and was buried at the point of a ridge at the mouth of a draw. The next year Wilson Boan's baby daughter was buried next to Jody. Another baby from the Brown family, who worked for the Ruples and lived next to their orchard, is also buried here (Staley n.d.c; Untermann 2003:6). The origin of the name of Jones' Hole is indirectly associated with the Ruples. In the early 1880s, the Ruples visited the Fairchild homestead in the Ashley Valley to help them with harvesting crops. While there, Charley Jones, an estranged son-in-law of the Fairchilds', slashed up a farmworker and tried to carry off the Ruples'

baby, thinking it was his own. Charley gave the Ruples back their infant and thinking he had killed the Fairchilds' laborer, hid out in a canyon east of Island Park for over a year, mistakenly thinking the law was after him. Jones gave his name to the gorge's current name, Jones' Hole, which forms part of the eastern boundary of the current NCA (Kiever 2015:27–28).

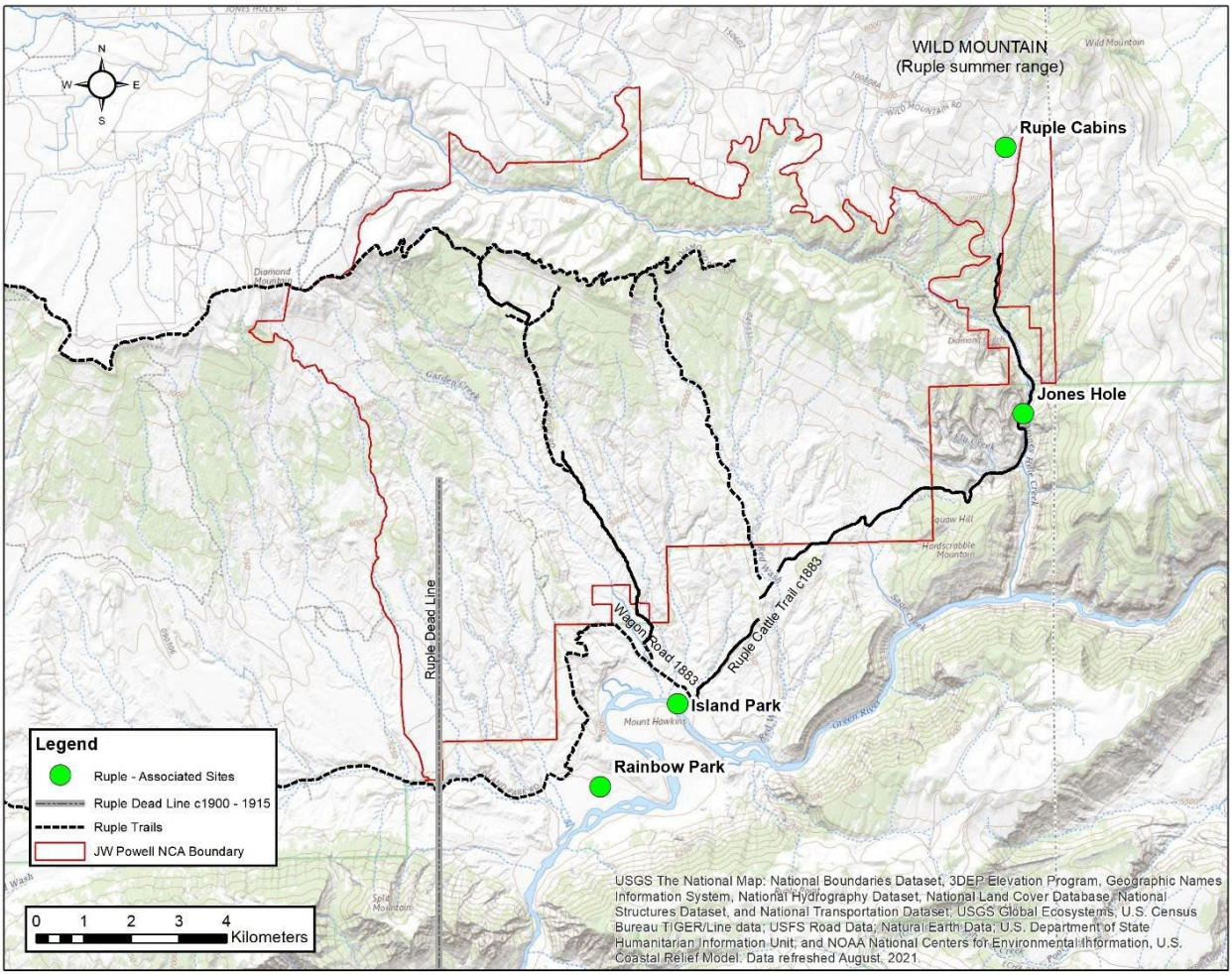

Figure 14 The Ruples and Island Park, 1883 - 1910

Garden Creek is likely named for Ruple farming efforts in Island Park. The Ruples planted a peach orchard at another cabin they built at the mouth of Garden Creek and built a stockade fence of cedar posts around it. The orchard just started bearing fruit when the Ruples' neighbor south of the Green River, Jack Chew, corralled a herd of horses in it overnight. Hungry, the horses ate the young trees, killing them. Sue Watson remembered that because of this incident, "[W]e always hated the Chew outfit… [T]hey're such sweet people. I don't see how we could have hated them so but we did hate them, over that one incident." (Watson 1971:14–15)

Jack Chew, born in England in 1852, immigrated to Utah after his mother converted to the LDS church. Chew, living in the vicinity of Nephi, almost immediately gravitated towards the cowboy life and the cattle business. In 1881, Jack married Eliza Metcalfe and the couple would eventually have 14 children, whom

Jack dubbed the "Chew Bunch" (Beeler 1984:10; *Craig Empire-Courier* December 27, 1950). By the mid-1890s, the range around Nephi began to give out and Jack started searching for better cattle lands. He also got mixed up with some bad company and did some time in the penitentiary before receiving a pardon from the governor of Utah. In 1901, Chew decided to settle his family at Brown's Park (Beeler 1984:10; *Craig Empire-Courier* December 27, 1950). Jack used Brown's Park as his winter range and Diamond Mountain and Wild Mountain as his summer range, so Chew cattle in the 1900s may have ranged as far south as the present-day Ruple Cabin allotment within the NCA (Beeler 1984:10). Sue Watson recalled, "Dad [Hank Ruple] had to chase [the Chews] off his range two or three times up there, but that wasn't hard to do." (Watson 1971:14–15) In 1912, the Chews moved their ranch to Pool Creek in Echo Park, southeast of the NCA and in Colorado. Jack Chew's Echo Park ranch was eventually bought by the Park Service in 1967 and subsumed into Dinosaur National Monument (Burdick 1997).

Other Ruple farming improvements proved longer lasting than their ill-fated Garden Creek orchard. Hank Ruple drilled a 300-foot tunnel through a sandstone ridge to bring Green River water to a hay meadow south of the river. Here Ruples could feed up to a thousand head of cows during the winter (Watson n.d.a:2–3). A copper mine was also dug on Sage Creek east of Island Park. Sources conflict as to whether this mine was within the JWPNCA or in present-day Dinosaur National Monument, or whether this mine was associated with the Hatch family as well. According to an oral history from 1978 and this project's interview with Ilene McLean, the mine at Sage Creek "was right on the river [and in the National Monument]… They hauled ore out… with four-horse teams until they came to these steep ridges, and then they would have to use an eight-horse team to pull it out… It was a very good grade of copper, but the expense of getting it out was just too great." (Richardson and Watson 1978)

The Ruples' primary source of income was cattle. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Ruples herded their cattle south across the Green River to graze in this meadow during the winter, with no fences necessary because of the high mountains to the south and the icy Green River to the north. Sue Watson remembered, "It'd take a couple of days to get them all across and they hated to get in the river, it would take all the hands and the cook, just about everybody on the ranch to get them across." (Watson 1971:8) In the spring they herded their cattle north to Wild Mountain through Jones Hole. Watson recalled,

> In April, weather permitting, the cattle were rounded up again and started back toward the summer range. This was a time when all hands and the cook were needed to help and any unlucky visitor or company who happened to be around were expected to be right in there pitching along with the paid help. The noise of the slowly moving cattle was incessant music… There was the high falsetto bleats of the very young, the anxious or reassuring mothers… the deep Wagnerian baritones of the old bulls as they bragged and boasted to any listening heifers of their prowess… I asked my mother one time what the bulls were saying when they talked like that. She smacked me a good one, and said, 'When you are old enough to know, I'll tell you.' Huh!!! As if I didn't already. I was five years old. I asked my Dad and he put his arm around me and told me a beautiful story about love and the facts of life. GOD BLESS MY DAD! (Watson n.d.a:3)

The trail to the Ruples' summer range, identified by Ilene McLean as the "Jones Hole Trail" (labeled "Indian Trail" on some modern maps) proceeds northeast from Island Park, cutting across the southeast corner of the JWPNCA and going north into Jones Hole (see Figure 14). Hank acquired his summer range in the same way as his homestead, squatter's rights to graze his cattle on Wild Mountain (Figure 15), in the area of the present-day Ruple Cabin Allotment (Staley n.d.c:2–3; Watson n.d.a:2–3). Sue Watson explained in one interview that "[A] man could have any range he could grab and hang on to. My dad grabbed Jones Hole, Island Park, and Wild Mountain, with Wild Mountain as his summer range. Jones Hole was… where they could get them from one place to the other and then Island Park was the winter place, the home ranch." (Watson n.d.b:9) Watson later recalled, "This was a cattleman's paradise, and we loved it like Adam and Eve must have loved the Garden of Eden." (Watson n.d.a:3) Hank also operated a sawmill on Pot Creek, about 20 km (about 12.5 miles) north-northeast of his Island Park ranch (DeJournette 1996).

In 1885, Hank took on Tom Lyons as a partner, with Lyons supplying capital and Hank with the land. Lyons operated the cattle and Hank managed the home ranch. Lyons lived with the Ruples until his death in 1910 (Untermann 2003:7). As Hank's sons Art and Hod grew up, much of their time was spent on Wild Mountain with the herds. The Ruples built two log cabins up there adjacent to a spring, probably circa 1900. These were of course called the Ruple Cabins, from which the BLM allotment name is derived (Figure 16). There, Hod and Art broke horses and conducted the other manifold tasks required in keeping up a cattle ranch (Staley n.d.b:2–3).

The Ruples were not LDS, but of the Congregational Church. Every fall some itinerant preachers would visit the area and stay at Island Park with the Ruples for the winter (Watson 1971:13–14).

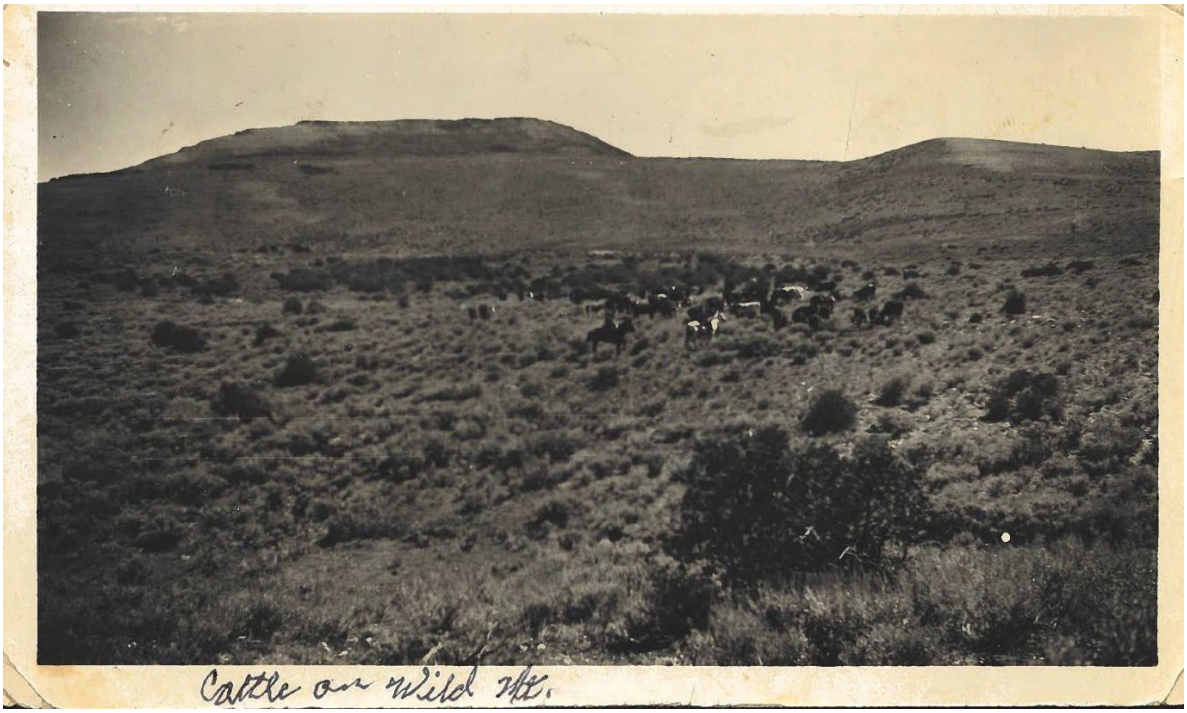

Figure 15 Ruple cattle operation on Wild Mountain (Wanda Staley)

Figure 16 Ruple cabins on Wild Mountain (Wanda Staley)

6.3.4 The Burtons and Diamond Spring

Isaac (Ike) Burton, Junior (Figure 17) arrived in Ashley Valley in 1877. One of eleven children in the family of Isaac Burton, Senior (see Figure 17), he settled with the rest of his family in the vicinity of present-day Jensen. Isaac Senior was a gentile, although his wife was Mormon. At the end of the starvation winter of 1879–1880, Ike Junior and two brothers took two wagons over Diamond Mountain in the snow and into Wyoming to get supplies for the beleaguered Ashley settlement. Their arduous but successful mission helped rescue the Ashley settlement from starvation (Burton 1979:2–3; Burton 1998:12).

At some point between 1880 and 1884, Dunk Blair sold his squatter's rights to Diamond Spring to Ike Burton, Junior. Ike and his wife, Anne, operated the ranch from the early 1880s to about 1890, living there and raising cattle from spring through fall, while spending winter back in the Jensen area. In 1882, Joe Perkins in Colorado subcontracted Ike to carry mail from Brown's Park in the north to Whiterocks. Either Ike or his brother Ira made this trip twice a week. In addition, during the early days of settlement in the Ashley Valley, all travelers from Wyoming stopped at Diamond Springs ranch and roadhouse overnight (DeJournette 1996:74; Diamond Mountain and Brown's Park Country n.d.; *John Nightingale Davis* 1998:2).

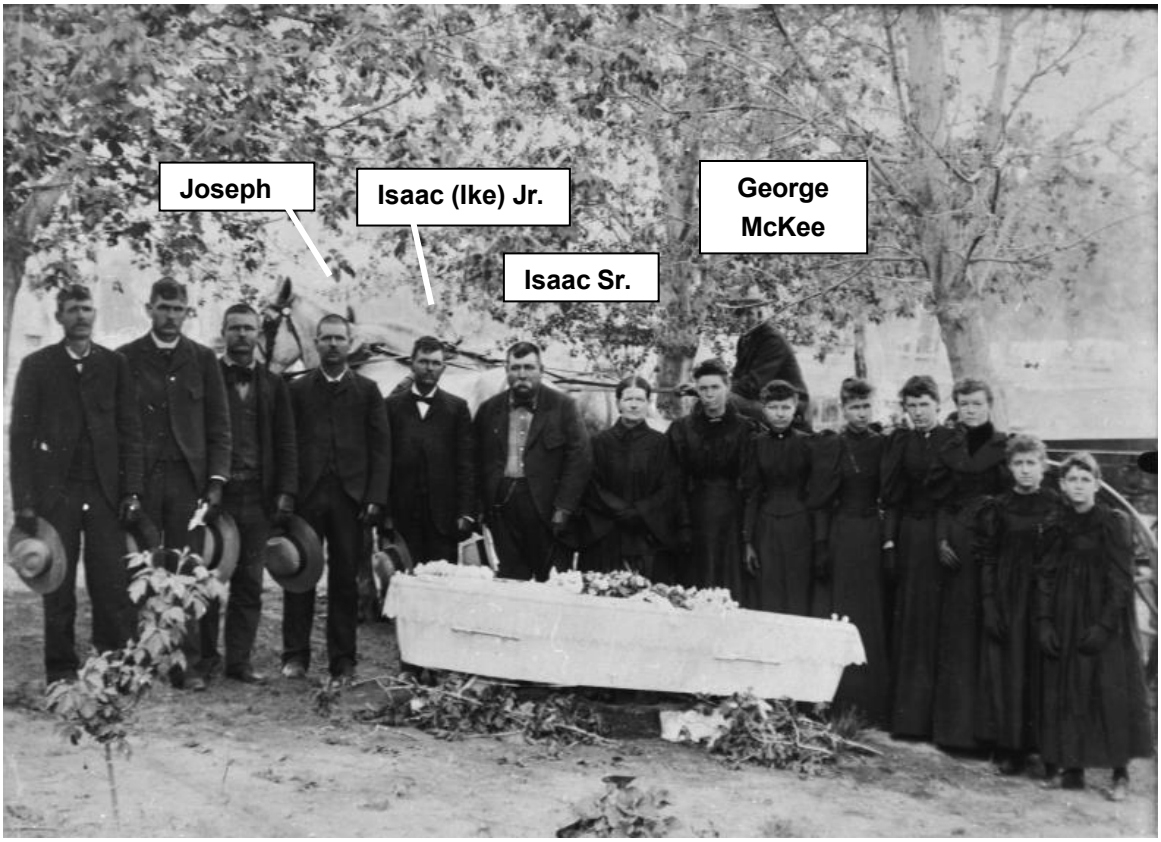

Figure 17 The Burton family in 1895, Joseph, Isaac Jr. (Ike), Isaac Sr. with George McKee on wagon (RHC)

In about 1890, Ike's brothers Joe and Ira Burton acquired Diamond Springs. In 1899 Ira sold out all his interest to Joseph (Joe) (see Figure 17). At this point, the Diamond Spring ranch had grown into a highly successful ranch, 480 acres in area, that ran thousands of cattle in addition to some sheep, with operations likely within and in the vicinity of the present-day JWPNCA (DeJournette 1996:74; *John Nightingale Davis* 1998:2). The Burtons likely claimed the rim of Diamond Mountain east to the Ruples' claim on Wild Mountain. The Burtons and Ruples were friendly neighbors, and probably looked upon themselves as allies against the slowly encroaching sheepmen. In the 1890s and early 1900s, the Ruple and Burton outfits held roundups both in the Burton territory in the vicinity of Diamond Springs and the Ruples' summer range on Wild Mountain. Sue Watson remembered,

> Well we used to go up in the Burton territory for roundups. We would roundup a lot of cattle, cut our cattle out from the Burton's because the cattle would mix… [E]verybody camped out and we had a cook and a horse wrangler…. We would get our cattle and then they would come down in our territory on Wild Mountain. They might have a roundup at any time and cut their cattle out. Old Burton would come down to Island Park and dad branded with a 'Q' and Burton branded with a Buckle. Well if Burton come down to our place down to Island Park and when they would pass the meat, dad would always say, 'Here eat some Buckle beef, its good beef. You never eat Buckle beef at home, do you?' […] We would go to their place and they would pass the plate and say, 'Here eat some Q Beef, this is good Q Beef," and so on. Well Q was dad's brand (Watson 1977).

6.3.5 The McKees

Other men established homesteads in the Diamond Mountain area north of the NCA and almost certainly ran cattle into the NCA. Perhaps most notable of these families was the gentile McKee family, who operated a ranch out of McKee Draw on Diamond Mountain. James McKee, Senior was born in Ireland in about 1831. James McKee, Senior, along with wife Bridget, sons Edward, George, James Junior, Thomas, and Joseph emigrated to Uintah County from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas probably in the early 1880s (the U.S. Census lists them in southeast Wyoming in 1880). The McKees established their ranch in the vicinity of present-day Red Fleet State Park, about 17 km (10.5 miles) west of the NCA and ran cattle on Diamond Mountain and north into McKee Draw, about 30 km (about 18.5 miles) northwest of the present-day NCA and said to be some of the finest pasture on Diamond Mountain.

Jim Jr. and George McKee married two of Isaac Burton's daughters, Hattie and Nellie. Isaac sealed this personal relationship with a business relationship and began running his cattle with the McKees. According to historian Doris Burton, "Between [the Burtons and the McKees] they controlled all the land from Vernal to Green River over Brush Creek Mountain," which likely included at least part of the present-day NCA (Burton 2003b:40; FamilySearch.org 2007). There is no textual evidence directly linking McKee cattle operations to the NCA, however, according to local historians Ray Searle and Ellen S. Kiever, "It is interesting as we read of the early settlers on Diamond Mountain to note that many of their names still remain on the places where they settled or roamed with their herds." (Searle n.d.) In other words, local geographical features are often named with individuals or families originally associated with those points. Rough McKee Bench marks the western boundary of the NCA, with McKee Spring located just south of the southwestern tip of the NCA. These place names strongly suggest that the McKees had part of their cattle range along the west edge of the NCA in the 1880s and 1890s.

6.4 THE OUTLAWS

The Uinta Basin became a haven for outlaws and cattle rustlers in the 1880s and 1890s. The Basin, surrounded by mountains, did not even have a civilian-operated telegraph line to the outside world until 1894 (Burton 1996:213). The area of the JWPNCA was even more remote being some distance from Vernal and any other settlement. In addition, the Outlaw Trail, a loose collection of trails beginning in Mexico and ending in Canada, passed along the southeast boundary of the present-day JWPNCA and proceeded north into Brown's Park (Ross and DeJournette 2016).

Because of the distance from any kind of law, ranchers had to come to an accommodation with the outlaws in the area. Some ranchers, like the brothers Albert and Hugh Snow, may not have had any kind of relations with rustlers and paid a price. The Snows had a ranch in the vicinity of Jensen south of the Green River and began moving their cattle herds onto Diamond Mountain in the summer of 1888. In 1898, the Snows reportedly lost nearly all their cattle to rustlers, although the Burtons, McKees, and Ruples evidently suffered no such equivalent loss. This mass theft, in addition to the increasing number of sheep herds on Diamond Mountain, forced the Snows to shift their operations to Blue Mountain, south of the Green River (Snow 1977:4).

Not asking any questions, Hank Ruple periodically employed unfamiliar young men on his range where they proved themselves "good workers." Sue Watson recalled one incident that occurred in the late 1890s:

> One fellow who came there one time, he really seemed like he was a really nice guy… Of course any stranger that came along was welcome to stay at the ranch house and eat his meals… Well this nice guy had on a pair of beautiful spurs… there were designs in there of this different colored gold. And my brother just couldn't take his eyes off of those spurs… this guy said, "You really like these spurs, don't you?"… and he very slowly unbuckled the spurs [and] he threw them across the floor, and he said, "You have them, kid." […] [And] he gave the cook five or six dollars to have his breakfast ready at three o'clock in the morning… So, when he was on his horse and Dad was telling him good-bye… he said to my dad, "Do you know who I am?" And who do you guess he was? Butch Cassidy… (Watson 2001b)

After Cassidy (Figure 18) left, however, Ruple's cowboys discovered that Butch had made off with two of the ranch's best horses. Ruple's men wanted to immediately chase Cassidy down, but Hank said, "Now listen. You are much more valuable to me than a couple of horses are… Just forget all about it, and let it go" (Watson 2001a).

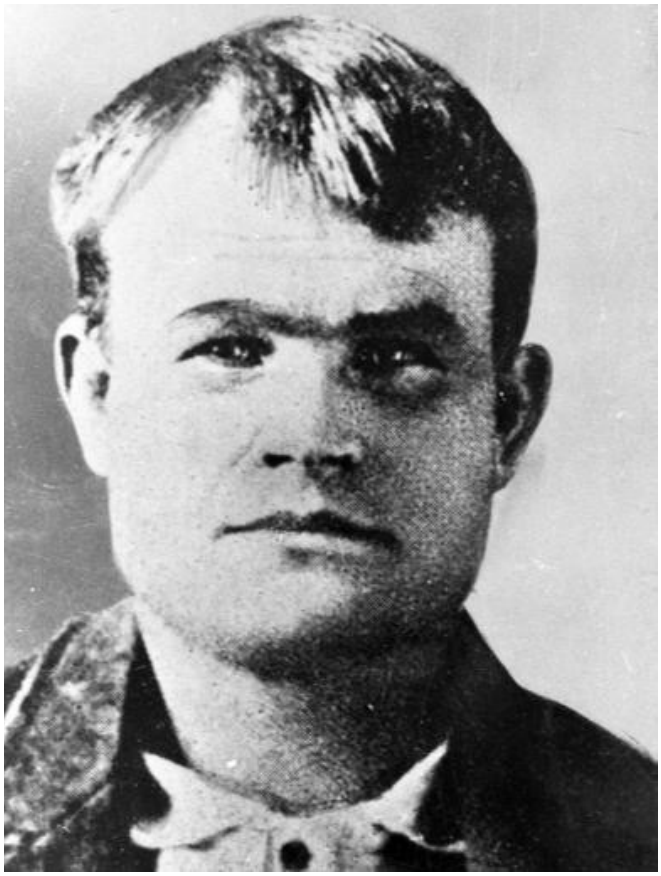

Figure 18 Butch Cassidy in 1894 (RHC)

Several days after Butch's visit, a sheriff and posse rode up to the ranch and threatened to arrest Hank for harboring criminals. Hank told the sheriff that being alone with his family he had no choice but to comply with their requests, which satisfied the lawman (Staley n.d.a). Hank tried to keep a distance between his ranch and the outlaws. According to Sue Watson:

> These men who had been coming to Island Park and wanting a job and then only staying only a week… and then they would say they better move on or something, and they'd get up and go. Well, Dad finally caught on that they were just over there to avoid the sheriff and so he immediately got on his horse and came to [Vernal] and alerted [Sheriff] Billie Preece to what they were up to and thereafter when he knew that any of them had gotten into trouble in town like starting a fight in a saloon or something, and the sheriff would be after them, why the sheriff would send a man over to Island Park to see if they had come over there… However, I don't remember of hearing anyone say that they caught any of them over there… [T]here were lots of places in Island Park where a man could get behind a rock and sit there a week and nobody would locate him (Watson n.d.c).

The Burtons evidently cultivated a more friendly relationship with the outlaws. Matt Warner (Figure 19), a rustler along the Utah-Wyoming border, had established a horse ranch on Pot Creek on Diamond Mountain in the 1880s, north of the NCA (Beckstead 1991:158). In a 1977 interview, cowboy Joe Haslem recalled:

> [Matt Warner] was a damn horseback bum. He had a horse ranch there [at Pot Creek], he was just a damn horse thief… You can't blame those kids. They were there, the same with Cassidy and all of them to lay out. They had a little more intelligence then the average kid and were a little wilder… [Y]ou see kids break away, they want a little more excitement. They grew up with those Mormon families… They got out and started doing a little hell roaring… When my dad came to this country, he was running cattle on Diamond Mountain with Bill Ainge and the Burton boys. He had heard about [the outlaw Matt] Warner. There was no cabin there, they just had a greasy shake outfit there, camp by campfire. They made one big ride a day and they get in long before evening. They had a fire there a-cooking and here this Warner rode in. Joe Burton introduced my dad to Warner. (Haslem 1977)

The family most connected with the outlaws in the vicinity of the JWPNCA were the McKees. This criminal involvement may have led to a break between the elder McKee and his sons, as evidenced by this 1891 notice he placed in the *Uintah Papoose:* "Take notice that after this date I will not be responsible for or pay any debts contracted in my name, no matter by whom contracted. And I warn everyone not to buy any stock from my sons, as I shall reclaim all such stock sold by them, as they have no authority to sell or dispose of such stock" (McKee 1891). In 1892, Jim McKee Sr. died but the sons continued the family cattle business.

Figure 19 Matt Warner (left) and Jim Peterson in the 1880s (Utah State Historical Society)

The McKee brothers took up with the outlaws and apparently rustled cattle to augment their herds, as George was described by the *Vernal Express* in 1898 as "George McKee, the Uintah County cattle thief" (*Vernal Express* September 29, 1898). The McKees spent much of their time in Ashley and Vernal saloons. One Fourth of July evening in 1891, hot-tempered Jim McKee stood on a street corner in Vernal giving impolitic opinions on the law and lawmen and punctuating those opinions with shots from a revolver. Sheriff John Pope strode up to arrest the young man, and when he turned to shoot the sheriff, Pope's brother Dick buffaloed Jim, knocking him senseless to the ground and the Pope brothers took him off to jail. Later that year when Sheriff Pope walked his beat in Vernal one dark evening, a hidden assailant took a shot at him from behind as he went by. The would-be assassin missed his mark, and Pope turned and chased the perpetrator into a nearby saloon. The sheriff confronted a visibly out of breath McKee at the bar, but McKee and the other patrons insisted he had been in the saloon the entire evening. With no evidence, Pope backed off (Burton 2003b:40).

6.5 EARLY SHEEP OPERATIONS ON DIAMOND MOUNTAIN AND VICINITY: 1886–1900

The first two large sheep herds to come into the Ashley Valley arrived in 1886 and were owned by Charles Smith Carter and Ed and LeGrande Young (cousins of Brigham Young). Carter, the Young brothers, and John Bates ran their flocks on Diamond Gulch, part of which runs through the NCA, and on Pot Creek, which runs roughly parallel to Diamond Gulch and 4 miles north of the NCA (DeJournette 1996:78). These sheep herds may have ventured into the present-day NCA in the late 1880s, making incursion into the cattle range of the Burtons, McKees, and Ruples. By about the 1890s, the sheepmen Louis Kabell and possibly John Reader began grazing within the present-day Shiner allotment and on Diamond Mountain. Kabell's

sheep outfit pushed east into the Ruple grazing grounds at Island Park. Kabell, who came to the county in 1879, was described by the *Vernal Express* in 1899 as "one of the largest owners of sheep, as well as one of the most successful in the county, [for] a number of years." (*Vernal Express* August 24, 1899)

Another important figure to the local sheep industry, William Henry Siddoway (1868–1950) (Figure 20), arrived in the area in 1890, originally intending to start a mill business at Taylor Mountain, about 30 km (18.5 miles) west of the present-day NCA. Cash money proved scarce in the remote Uinta Basin; the lumber Siddoway sold was traded for flour, vegetables, cows, sheep, and hay, but not money. In the words of one account, "After considering his circumstances for three years, Will decided the only cash brought into the valley came from cattle, sheep, and alcohol. Not being interested in the last one, he decided that sheep would bring in two cash crops per year. So it was that Will became a sheep man and a wool grower." (Siddoway n.d.) Siddoway started in the sheep business in 1895 (Siddoway 2021b). William Siddoway, his sons, and then his grandsons would be in the sheep business for over a hundred years, using Diamond Mountain as their spring range.

The Bennion family were also early arrivals on Diamond Mountain. The first Bennions included Enos and S.R. Bennion in the late 1880s, when they based a cattle operation out of the Warren Draw, about 12 km (7.5 miles) north of the project area. The Bennions would eventually convert their operations from cattle to sheep (DeJournette 1996). Walt McCoy (Figure 21) and his family would also become prominent Diamond Mountain sheepmen, with most of their spring range further north away from the JWPNCA. Most of the sheepmen were Mormons, but not all. John H. Reader (Figure 22), a Congregationalist, was another early sheepman on Diamond Mountain who came to the Vernal area in 1886, and eventually grazed his sheep in the northwest and western portions of the NCA (DeJournette 1996:91).

These and other early sheepmen found wonderful spring and summer grazing up on Diamond Mountain, north of the NCA with plenty of water, in contrast to the slopes of the mountain in the NCA, which were rough and dry. Unlike some of the cattlemen (such as the Snow brothers) who suffered from the forays of cattle rustlers, the sheepmen had no problems with outlaws. According to John Hacking, a sheepman who ran his livestock well north of the present-day NCA at the turn of the century, the outlaws "never did give the sheepmen any trouble. John claimed they were friendly with all of the livestock men on Diamond Mountain. They would drop in for sour dough biscuits and fried mutton at the sheep camps and then be on their way." (DeJournette 1996:82)

Sheep owned by Siddoways, Kabells, Hackings, McCoys, and other stockmen began crowding out the Burton, McKee, and Ruple cattle already established on Diamond Mountain and vicinity. Tensions built in the 1890s between sheepmen and cattlemen as the number of sheep continued to increase. To counter the pressure from increasing sheep herds, the Ruples built a cabin in the early 1880s for their cowhands on Wild Mountain. The structure measured about 12' x 18' with a door facing east and a small window to the west. According to Sue Watson, this cabin was built not only to shelter Hank's employees but also to stake squatter's rights to the Wild Mountain range. According to Watson, "[Hank] had to have some evidence that he was using a certain range or the doggoned sheep might come in. Of course, my dad couldn't have the sheep on his cattle range. You know how that went." (Watson n.d.b:9)

Figure 20 William Siddoway ca 1945 (RHC)

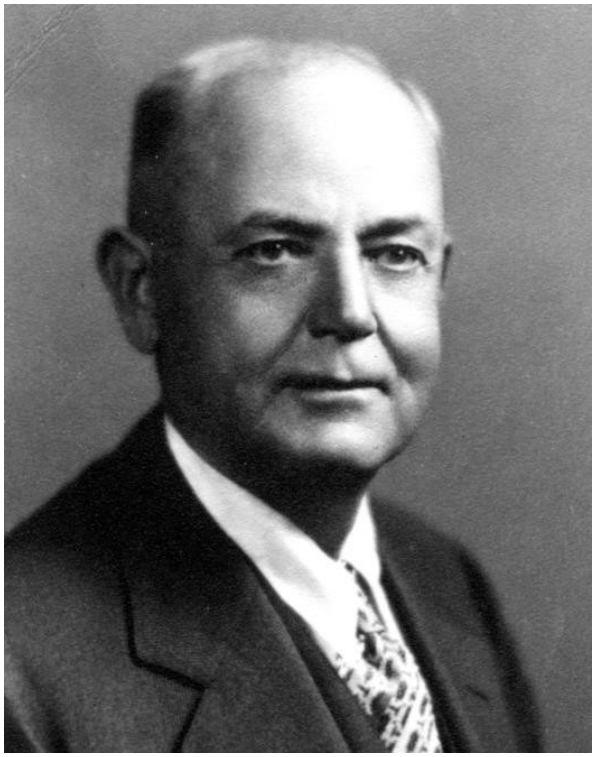

Figure 21 Walt McCoy ca 1950 (RHC)

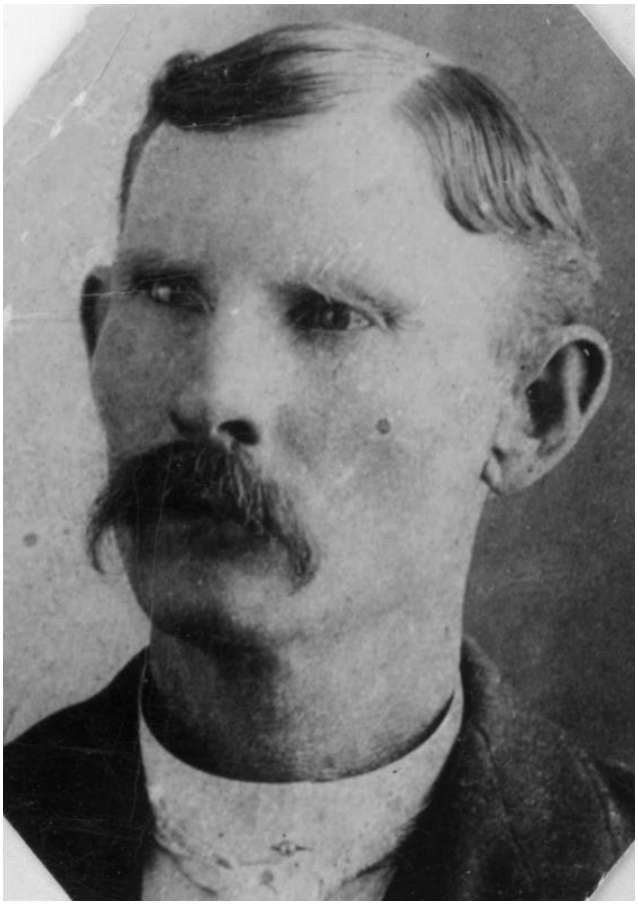

Figure 22 John Reader ca 1890 (RHC)

McKee Spring marked the deadline between Ruple's range and Louis Kabell's sheep outfit (see Figure 14). Hank Ruple himself was never a friend to sheepmen and Sue Watson recalled her father's typical encounters with them:

> [A]s soon as dad began even to talk about selling Island Park and getting out [about 1900 – 1910], then they began to have sheepmen… he would tell them [the sheepmen], "Now if you let your sheep in my territory and by God your sheep and your herder will float down the Green River." So the herders were very, very careful never to let the sheep go beyond [McKee Spring]… [McKee Spring] was the deadline for Louis Cabell's [sic] sheep and anything east of that was dad's territory and anything west of that was Cabell's territory. I have seen my dad many's the time get off his horse and slam his hat down on the ground… Then by gosh he was ready for anything that came. He's backed up many a sheepherder who would get Cabell's sheep a little too far over there… Dad was a very peaceable man, but he could run a damn good bluff. He depended on the bluff. Most men carried a gun in those days. Dad might carry a rifle but never a handgun… He said that he had more faith in his fellow man than to have to carry a handgun (Watson 1977).

Another cattle family in the area had no reservations concerning handguns, however. In July 1897, about 30 km (or about 18.5 miles) north of the NCA, in the vicinity of Flaming Gorge, four masked men rode up to a thousand-head "buck herd" of sheep, with bucks owned by nearly all sheepmen then operating in Uintah County. The men tied up sheepman George Ericson and a young boy at gunpoint and proceeded to kill and maim about a hundred sheep. The next day sheepmen John Reader (who had been appointed a special deputy), Walt McCoy, and Isaac Lee tracked the perpetrators to McKee Draw. There the posse confronted and captured the McKee brothers, hauling them back to Vernal for trial. Prior to the trial, rumors swirled that Butch Cassidy and his gang out of Brown's Park planned to break their friends the McKees out of the Vernal jail, although this threat did not materialize (Burton 2003b:41-45; Carr 2014:8).

The incident led directly to the downfall of the McKees and symbolized the triumph of the sheepmen in the area. The court sentenced all four brothers to prison terms. To pay legal fees the McKees had to sell their cattle outfit, which included about 2000 head of cattle and the McKee brand. Lastly the McKee range was taken over almost entirely by sheepmen (Carr 2014:8; Searle n.d.:5-6). The McKees appear to have drifted from the area sometime in the 1910s or 1920s (Burton 2003b:41-45).

George McKee later moved back to Vernal. In 1898 the local newspaper had identified him as a rustler. When he passed away over thirty years later, however, the same newspaper described him as a "pioneer stockman of Ashley Valley… He and his father were the first stockmen to run cattle on Diamond Mountain [sic]. McKee draw, one of the most favored regions on the mountain for grazing and scenic beauty, derives its name from the deceased." (*Vernal Express* May 26, 1932)

By the early 1900s increasingly reliable telegraph communication, a growing population in the area, and better coordination between lawmen in Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado brought the area under increasing control of the law. With the unsolved 1912 murder of known rustler Mike Flynn on Diamond Mountain, which occurred a few miles north of the NCA, the outlaw era in Brown's Park and the Uinta Basin drew to a close (DeJournette 1996:383-387).

6.6 KINGS OF THE MOUNTAIN: SHEEP OPERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH DIAMOND MOUNTAIN AND THE JWPNCA: 1900 – 1940

With the demise of the McKee operation the cattlemen's days in the area were numbered. The country, according to local historian George Long, "was almost perfect" for raising sheep, with spring, summer, and winter ranges within easy distances (Long 1986:219). Sheep during the turn of the century were also quite profitable, with operators deriving two products from their livestock, meat and wool. The early twentieth century would be the high point of the sheep industry in Uintah County, with operators grazing tens of thousands of sheep on Diamond Mountain. Most of these operations originated in the 1880s and 1890s, although some began later in the 1910s and 1920s. Sheepmen such as these propelled the industry into a prime economic driver for the area in the early to mid-twentieth century. According to Long, "[It has] been said that there were as many as seventy herds of sheep from the Ashley valley area alone at one time of which most of them had range on Diamond Mountain. In the spring and fall it seemed like there was a sheep camp on nearly every ridge this mountain." (Long 1986:220)

6.6.1 Diamond Spring Ranch: The Burtons Succeeded by John Davis and Sons

At the close of the first decade of the twentieth century, the last of the cattle families in the JWPNCA vicinity, the Burtons and the Ruples, sold their property and moved closer to Vernal. One of the long-time sheep operators, Louis Kabell, also sold his outfit at this time. The first to sell out, however, were the Burtons to the sheepman John Nightingale Davis.

Although sheep had taken over much of the range in the vicinity of the NCA by 1900, the Burtons continued their cattle operations at the Diamond Spring Ranch. Under the Burtons, the Diamond Spring Ranch also became a roadhouse for mail and other travel coming from Wyoming south. In 1903 Joe Burton, using dry farming techniques, successfully planted and harvested four acres of winter wheat on the property, perhaps the first successful attempt at dry farming on the mountain. Over the next three decades many homesteaders would follow Burton's pioneering dry farming efforts with at best mixed results (DeJournette 1997:74). Burton also began raising sheep at the Diamond Spring ranch.

Joe Burton sold the Diamond Spring ranch to John Nightingale Davis (Figure 23) on September 7, 1909 (DeJournette 1996:74; *John Nightingale Davis* 1998:2). At the conclusion of Burton ownership Diamond Spring ranch consisted of 480 acres and was one of the oldest landmarks in Uintah County (Diamond Mountain and Brown's Park Country n.d.). The *Vernal Express* noted upon reporting the sale on July 9, 1909 that "…hereafter nothing but sheep will feed… This was about the last cattle ranch on Diamond Mountain…" (Diamond Mountain and Brown's Park Country n.d.)

John N. Davis had come to the Uinta Basin in 1887 from Salt Lake City. The 22-year-old herded sheep for George Nailor and within the space of a year Nailor promoted him to foreman and put him in charge of all 6000 head of sheep. In 1888 he leased Nailor's sheep outfit and became one of the most prominent sheepmen in the area (*Vernal Express,* February 4, 1933).

Davis' primary properties were a "first farm" 1.5 miles south of Vernal and a "second farm" three miles south of the city. Here Davis grew alfalfa and oats to feed his livestock (*John N. Davis* 1998:2). In addition to the Diamond Spring Ranch, Davis acquired grazing rights to McKee Draw, said to be the best sheep range on the mountain, and Iron Springs, also deep within the National Forest (*John N. Davis* 1998:2). Davis would usually trail his sheep south to Dragon and ship them out through the railroad located there (Davis 1974:4). In 1919, Davis purchased the Adams sheep outfit, which doubled the Davis livestock holdings (Davis 1974:4). At its height, John N. Davis and Sons ran herds totaling more than 4000 head during the early twentieth century (*John N. Davis* 1998:2). During his long career, in addition to his agricultural activities, Davis helped organize both the Uintah State Bank and the Bank of Vernal (*Vernal Express* February 4, 1933)

Figure 23 John N. Davis, ca 1900 (presumably not in his work clothes) from John Nightingale Davis 1998 (RHC)

The original Davis range likely extended into the far northwest portion of the present-day JWPNCA, although most of it was just west of the area. Davis bred his sons to be sheepmen and to take over the family business. Harold Davis recalled,

> My dad (John N. Davis) left me at age 14 with the sheep. I herded all summer. I went with the men for two or three summers before, so I had pretty good experience. I killed a coyote. I shot him in the head. I was proud of that. I skinned him and kept the skin. I used the hide just to look at. I trailed that herd myself from Diamond Mountain. It only took us two days… We had McKee Draw that summer I herded. It was a coveted piece of land (John Nightingale Davis 1998).

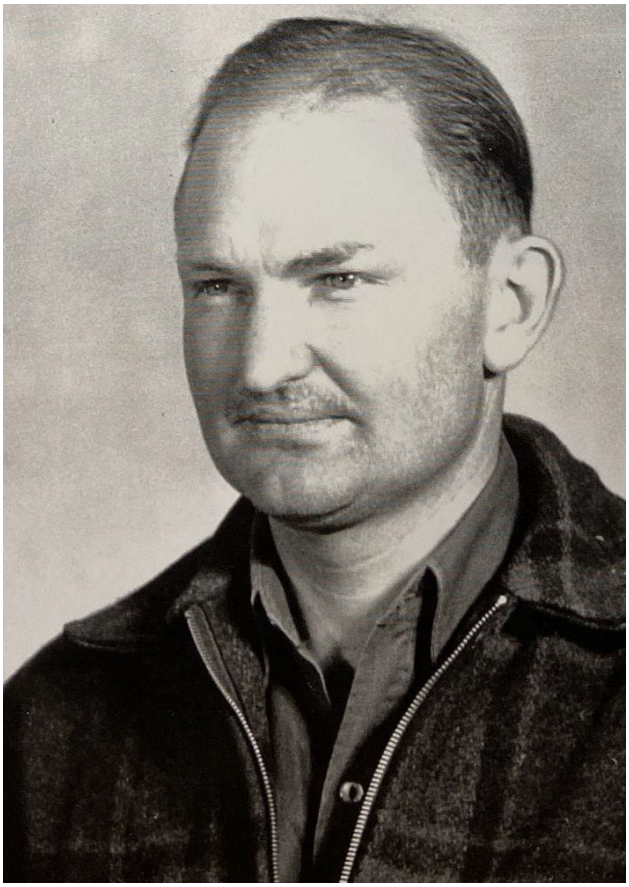

Figure 24 George C. Davis ca 1945 (John Nightingale Davis 1998)

Harold E. Davis took the grazing land and corral east of Diamond Springs, closer to the NCA. Harold recalled in a 1977 interview, “After father died, we divided up the sheep. He put Adams outfit in Clive’s and my name to keep taxes from being too high and when they divided up, I insisted on having McKee Draw. George [Figure 24] and Cal got the Baldies and Clive got Iron Springs [Forest allotments]. I worked in McKee Draw so much, I couldn’t give it up.” (*John Nightingale Davis* 1998). According to one account, Harold Davis’ pasture “was fenced with the aid of nephews during the 1940’s. It was *very hard* work, and all done by hand… Several Indian artifacts were found throughout the area as late as the 1980’s.” This same account notes that the Davis family enjoyed the wild game that “abounded on ‘Diamond Mountain’: deer, sage grouse, and even prairie dogs… Boys loved to catch frogs and salamanders here too.” (*John Nightingale Davis* 1998:3)

6.6.2 John Reader and Hod Ruple

John H. Reader brought his herd of sheep from Sanpete County to Uintah County in 1887 and quickly established his range on Diamond Mountain (Hall 2003:28). Reader became wealthy through both his sheep business and his ownership in numerous business establishments (DeJournette 1996:91). In 1916, Reader purchased 2500 head of sheep and Diamond Mountain rangeland from Ruple’s rival Kabell (*Vernal Express* July 7, 1916 and September 22, 1916).

The rangeland Reader acquired from Kabell also probably included the privately owned land depicted on a ca 1940 U.S. Grazing Service map. Based on a 1942 description of Diamond Mountain allotments in Township 2 North 24 East, the Reader operation likely acquired grazing rights through Kabell in the northern portion of the NCA bordered on the north by Diamond Gulch, within the present-day Diamond Mountain Allotment.

However, by the time John Reader passed away in 1930, the Depression had mostly ruined his sheep operations. Reader's son, J. Harold Reader (Figure 25) and his wife Ella received a small flock from John's estate in the 1930s. For a time, Harold Reader ran his sheep with a relative, Haller Witbeck. Their flocks had summer permits from Little Hole to Meadow Park in the National Forest (DeJournette 1996:91). A 1940s U.S. Grazing Service map shows multiple Reader properties adjacent to and northwest of the NCA, indicating Reader flocks likely used the area (U.S. Grazing Service n.d.).

East of the Kabell/Reader rangeland, in Island Park, a new generation of Ruples took over the family ranch. In 1910 Hank sold the Island Park and Rainbow Park ranch to Pat Whaland, Joseph Hay, and Walter Hanks for $5000 (one source states Hank only leased Island Park). Whaland, Hay, and Banks formed the Park Livestock Company.

Figure 25 J. Harold Reader stands at left in this 1952 photograph (RHC)

By the early 1910s, Hank Ruple's son Hod (Figure 26) began building his own cattle herd (Staley n.d.b:2). In 1915 Hod and his wife Lilly (see Figure 26, daughter of original Mormon settler Teancum Taylor) acquired Island Park. According to Sue Watson, "Hod was very pleased to have the place of his birth back in the Ruple family," and by 1923 had built a new house adjacent to the Ruples' first log home (DeJournette 1996:115; Staley 2004:2; Staley History of Island Park n.d.:2; Untermann 2003:7-8).

Under Hod the Ruple cattle herd grew to over 500 head. Hod continued to run the Ruple cattle on Wild Mountain and the part of Diamond Mountain connected to Wild Mountain. Hod's daughter Billie recalled that with the cattle they "often rode through Jones Hole, we'd go through that way and other times we would go up trails that led up to the mountain that led in different directions." (Untermann 1971:14) Sometimes, however, Hod would drive the cattle from Island Park across Diamond Gulch at the Lambert homestead instead of Jones Hole. This new Ruple trail was probably the White Sage Flats Road crossing the JWPNCA north to south. In the fall, Hod gathered the cattle and drove them back to the winter range near the ranch (Staley n.d.b).

In 1926 Hod and Lilly decided to switch from cows to sheep, perhaps displeasing his old cattleman father, Hank (see Figure 26) who passed away in 1930. The Ruples drove most of their cattle north over Diamond Mountain, through Brown's Park to Rock Springs, Wyoming where they sold their cattle. That fall, the Ruples purchased sheep and took them to Island Park, where Horace Taylor, Lilly's nephew, became their first sheepherder. The transition from cattle to sheep also entailed a transition of work cycles and seasons. Starting in 1927, in late April each year, the family moved to Rainbow Park six miles west of the ranch to help with lambing and sheep shearing, living in a sheep camp (see Figure 26) and tent (Staley n.d.b). At least two other stockmen had claim on Rainbow Park as well, Ford DeJournette (sheep) and Francis A. Middleton (cattle) (U.S. Grazing Service n.d.).

Based on 1942 U.S. Grazing Service allotment records and subsequent BLM allotment assignments, Hod Ruple's spring range within the area covered most of the JWPNCA, including the present-day Island Park Allotment, Hank's old range on Wild Mountain in the present-day Ruple Cabin Allotment, and the present-day Diamond Mountain Allotment south of Diamond Gulch. Lambing and shearing for Hod's operation occurred in Rainbow Park. On one occasion Hod made a deal with sheepherder Sherm Davis who worked for the Readers. Hod told Sherm the Reader sheep could graze on the Rainbow Park property in exchange for the bum lambs that would be extra at lambing time:

> When lambing was finished, Hod sent his hired hand, Lloyd Taylor to pick up the bum lambs. Sherm told Lloyd he was going to keep the lambs. Hod was quite upset. He, Lloyd, and the wagon went to Sherm's camp. Sherm's hired hand walked out with a gun. Hod shot at him, knocking the heel off his shoe. The hired hand retreated and Hod proceeded to knock the hell out of Sherm. Hod and Lloyd loaded the bum lambs into the wagon and headed home. Hod told Sherm that the next morning he and the [Reader] sheep had better be gone. The next morning the herd of sheep were being herded out of the Park. (Island Park Homestead n.d.)

Figure 26 Left to right, Lilly, Hod, Wanda, Hank, and Mae Ruple with sheep camp in Rainbow Park, late 1920s (RHC)

Lilly Ruple possessed a passion for archaeology. Her daughter, Billie Untermann recalled the Ruples finding an Indian burial site in Jones Hole:

> She had a very good eye for it and she would find scrapers and knives and points and the different kinds of artifacts. Then of course in Jones Hole there were some burials there in one of the caves and we used to go up there and look at them… they were in small graves that were wound around inside with willows to form the part of the grave and the coffin. And of course the bodies had been put in there with flexed knees so they were just small… you could see it in the small fingerprints in the clay that they used around the willows, too, to make it solid. We didn't find any artifacts there, just the open graves… But someone came in later years and opened them up and took the bodies out. Then, when we would go over there all we would find would be just the inside of the grave… But there was quite a lot of interesting material around the Island Park area (Untermann 1971:14).

In May 1937, Hod's horse stumbled while he was driving sheep to a shearing corral in Rainbow Park. The fall drove his saddle horn into his right side and damaged his appendix. Before he made up his mind to go to Vernal to the doctor, the appendix ruptured and Hod died. This left Lilly to raise a teenage daughter (Wanda) on her own, in addition to managing the ranch and livestock operation. With her health already failing, Lilly pitched right in. In the summer of 1937 Lilly sold the sheep to Briant Stringham and switched back to cattle. Wanda observed, however, that "Nothing was the same after [Hod's] passing" (Staley n.d.c; *Vernal Express* June 3, 1937).

6.6.3 Sheepmen on the West End of the JWPNCA: Ford DeJournette and the Shiners

In the 1910s and 1920s other sheepmen besides the Readers and the Davis family started working on the west end of the present-day JWPNCA. Ford DeJournette (Figure 27) left home in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina at age 19 and road the rails as a hobo to Wyoming in 1895. Many southerners like him had carved out a living in the west herding sheep, and in the late 1890s DeJournette started out as a shepherd in Brown's Park. During this time Ford became well acquainted with the many outlaws inhabiting this remote area, including Butch Cassidy and Cassidy's comrade, Elzy Lay. Ford began slowly acquiring his own sheep while working as a shepherd for other owners and was soon in business on his own as a sheepman (DeJournette 1996:1–3).

Figure 27 Ford DeJournette in 1930 (RHC)

By the mid-1910s DeJournette had acquired land and range at Pot Creek and Hoy Mountain north of the JWPNCA. DeJournette's sheep operations, however, included many of the southern portions of the NCA. At the time, Ford was in partnership with the Park Livestock Company with Walter Hanks and Pat Whaland as his business partners. They purchased Rainbow Park and took out a lease on the Island Park property from the Ruples. Ford also purchased a ranch on Brush Creek from the Richardsons (DeJournette 1996:115). With these acquisitions, DeJournette's winter range stretched from Brush Creek, 15 km (about 9 miles) west of the NCA, to Rainbow Park, so apparently took in probably the southern portion of the present-day Shiner allotment, including the portion within the present-day JWPNCA. Ford lambed his sheep further north at Crouse Creek and summered them in the National Forest. According to his son, Dick DeJournette, "The range was crowded and he had trouble with [Hod Ruple] over the ownership of the Rainbow Park property. This was finally settled in the Supreme Court in 1925, in Ford DeJournette's favor."

(DeJournette 1996:116) Based on later U.S. Grazing Service records, the Ruples and DeJournettes shared Rainbow Park, with DeJournette owning property there and the Ruples leasing their land from the State of Utah (U.S. Grazing Service n.d.). In the late 1970s, Ford's wife Rosalie remembered the DeJournette sheep operation in the 1920s and 1930s:

> We bought a ranch on Brush Creek where we wintered [the sheep]. We brought about 6000 head of ewes when we came at that time. There was no Taylor Grazing, we had open range, our spring permit was on Diamond Mountain, where we homesteaded every summer, and our winter range was, summer range was Meadow Lane Park. As I think back over the years, I recall my happy times and hard work. I can see two small boys under big cowboy hats riding their ponies, I remember driving a team and wagon with supplies and pack outfits. At first there was no roads, later we had trucking roads. In those days a good horse was pretty important. (Burton 1978:5)

In the 1920s another sheepherding family came on the scene, Robert Shiner (Figure 28) and his brothers, who worked together as a family partnership. Desperately poor at first, they managed to save $1500 and purchase the old Evans Ranch on Brush Creek northeast of Vernal. Like other local families in the area, the Shiners manufactured and sold illegal liquor, but also forged ahead at a more legitimate enterprise, raising sheep. In the 1930s, the Shiners also purchased multiple additional properties, including the Charles Miles Homestead on Pot Creek (DeJournette 1996:130). Soon the Shiners' herds amounted to 4000 sheep, with their winter range between Brush Creek and Island Park. This range consisted roughly of the current Shiner Allotment.

Figure 28 Harold Davis on the right and Robert Shiner second from right, sheep shearing in 1958 (RHC)

6.6.4 Stockmen on the Northern JWPNCA Range

The Siddoways, with one of the first sheep operations on Diamond Mountain, extended their range by the early twentieth century into the present-day Ruple Cabin Allotment, and their southern-most spring range may have extended into the northeast corner of the JWPNCA. The Hatches also had range along the north edges of the NCA. These Hatches were descendants of Jeremiah Hatch, who was the first settler in what became the city of Vernal. Brothers Alva, Samuel J., Loran, and Clyde Hatch all went into the sheep business. Probably as early as the 1920s, the Hatches were grazing sheep on the southern slopes of Diamond Mountain. Clyde Hatch had claimed a 640-acre livestock homestead just north of the NCA which he had proved up by 1946, while S.J. and Loran Hatch held property further north on Pot Creek. The Hatches' spring range on Diamond Mountain included the central northern section of the JWPNCA north of Diamond Gulch and included portions of both the present-day Ruple Cabin and Diamond Mountain Allotments (DeJournette 1996:121; U.S. Grazing Service 1938; U.S. Grazing Service n.d.; *Vernal Express* July 5, 1956).

Nicholas J. (N.J.) Meagher (Figure 29) was likely the owner of the most sheep on Diamond Mountain by the 1930s, but by profession was a banker. Meagher, a Roman Catholic, immigrated to the U.S. from Ireland in 1891, and by 1898 worked in a bank in Salt Lake City. He moved to Vernal around 1900 and helped open the Bank of Vernal in December 1903, the first bank in the Uinta Basin. The bank helped stockmen and farmers in the Basin with crucial loans. Meagher's business interests soon branched out from banking to livestock and he went into partnership with John H. Reader at the Sunshine Ranch in Jensen (DeJournette 1996:99). By 1910, Meagher also had sheep operations on Diamond Mountain, along with Reader (DeJournette 1996:100). U.S. Grazing Service records from the 1940s indicate Meagher owned property just west of the NCA and north of Blair Spring, with their spring grazing land on lower Diamond Mountain taking in much of the present-day Cooper Draw Allotment within the northern section of the JWPNCA, indicating Meagher livestock likely used the NCA for grazing (U.S. Grazing Service n.d.).

Figure 29 Nicholas J. Meagher and family ca 1920 (RHC)

Under the leadership of Meagher, in 1916, the Bank of Vernal decided to move to a new location and planned for a large new structure faced with 80,000 bricks (Burton 1998:99). This became the famous "parcel post bank." Freighting costs were so expensive shipping goods to the Basin that it was cheaper to have the bricks mailed via parcel post a few at a time, and so the bricks were individually wrapped and shipped to Vernal in boxes of ten bricks a piece. This amusing incident led to a change in parcel post regulations. Meagher, while a creative businessman, also had no compunction against foreclosing on clients, and in fact foreclosed on his own son at one time. According to one local historian:

> Meagher was noted for his extreme thrift. Kate 'Mother' Adams once said, 'N.J. came to Vernal with a nickel in his pocket and he'll go to the grave with the same nickel.' Someone else added, 'Plus everyone else's nickels.' During the Depression, Meagher foreclosed on most of the livestock owners in the valley and became, himself, the largest sheep owner in the county. Ralph Siddoway said that during the Depression Hen Lee—Vernal's one-time outlaw, and later entrepreneur—came to his office cursing Meagher, who had foreclosed on him… Ralph recalled Lee saying, 'I chased N.J. around the director's room, but I couldn't catch the @#$!. Every time I got close, he would jump over the table. My legs was too gad damn short. If I could have caught him, I'd have thumped him good!" (Burton 1998:100)

According to other accounts, Meagher was very generous however, both with loaning people money and warning them about excessive debt and spending. According to Ford DeJournette's wife, during the Great Depression:

> [T]he bank and Mr. Meagher carried us, and each fall when we'd ship our lambs we'd pay our bill out and Ray Ashton remarked later… that he never had better customers than Ford DeJournette and me, and I went into the bank to borrow and borrowed some money through Mr. Meagher and all he said to me was Mrs. DeJournette, go easy on the pencil, not to write too many checks, and that's how we got through that bad depression (Burton 1978:5–6).

In 1931, Meagher offered his foreman, Louis Roberts, a long-term confidential lease agreement. Roberts therefore managed the Meagher operation, with Meagher as an absentee owner. Meagher's agreement with Roberts lasted forty years until Meagher sold out in the early 1970s. Every summer Roberts moved his family to Diamond Mountain, setting up in the old George Slaugh cabin about half a mile west of the present-day NCA, raising a garden and bum lambs. Roberts, who could speak fluent Spanish, imported Mexican shearers to the area, after being frustrated with how roughly local Anglo shearers treated the sheep (DeJournette 1996:103,125–126).

The Bennions also held property directly adjacent to the JWPNCA within the present-day Diamond Mountain Allotment. In the early 1900s, Ashley and Johnny Bennion homesteaded at Gadsen Draw, north of the NCA, and soon each had their own sheep outfit. Ashley was on the north end of Gadsden Draw and Johnny and Roland Bennion (Ashley's son) took the south end of the Draw. In the 1930s, Ashley purchased some of the Blair Basin (about 20 km or 12.5 miles northwest of the NCA) from the Searles, and what is known as the Gerber Place on lower Diamond Gulch (DeJournette 1996:123-124). U.S. Grazing Service records from the 1940s indicate Ashley owned property adjacent to the present-day NCA on the north,

straddling the present-day Diamond Mountain and Cooper Draw Allotments (U.S. Grazing Service n.d.). Based on 1942 U.S. Grazing Service records the Bennions historically grazed their herds north of the JWPNCA.

Charles Rich (Figure 30), a descendant of one of the first Mormon settlers of Utah, attempted a homestead just north of the NCA and apparently grazed sheep for fourteen years in the vicinity. Rich, who also owned the Cottage Hotel in Vernal, was known as a very religious, kind, and generous man (*Vernal Express* February 25, 1954). U.S. Grazing Service records indicate he had a herd of over 800 sheep in 1938 (U.S. Grazing Service 1938), but a paucity of records concerning his operation indicates he probably sold his sheep in the 1940s. The BLM rejected Rich's homestead claim north of the NCA in 1952 (U.S. Grazing Service n.d.). Rich likely utilized the northern portion of the NCA as part of his spring range from the 1920s to about 1940.

Francis S. Middleton and his son Francis A. "Doc" Middleton (who also worked as a city deputy) (Figure 31) established a small cattle operation based out of Brush Creek in 1907. Based on 1930s U.S. Grazing Service documents, the Middletons usually ran 125 head at Jones Hole, Wild Mountain, and the surrounding vicinity from March to November, evidently sharing the range with the Ruples. By the 1940s, the Middletons also grazed their cattle alongside both the Ruple livestock and the Reader operation in the northern portion of the JWPNCA, encompassing the present-day Ruple Cabin and Diamond Mountain Allotments (U.S. Grazing Service 1935; *Vernal Express* March 6, 1947).

Figure 30 Charles Rich (right) with wife Theodocia (left) and a son (center), 1948 (RHC)

Figure 31 Francis "Doc" Middleton in 1940 (RHC)

6.7 THE SHEEP CYCLE ON DIAMOND MOUNTAIN AND THE JWPNCA

Most stockmen who grazed Diamond Mountain and the JWPNCA in the early twentieth century had their farms and home bases miles away. The DeJournettes, Middletons, and Shiners had their ranches on Brush Creek. The Davis family's home farm and secondary farms were at Vernal and the Ashley Valley. Louis Kabell's home ranch was also located in the Ashley Valley. The closest home ranch was the Ruples' Island Park, just south of the JWPNCA on the Green River. Diamond Spring ranch was apparently only in seasonal use by the Davis family. Most of the stockmen, such as William Siddoway, had homes in Vernal.

Sheep were herded onto their winter range in November. For the DeJournettes, Shiners, and Ruples this winter range included the southern portions of the JWPNCA just south of Diamond Gulch. For other stockmen in the area, such as the Davis family and the Siddoways, their winter range was in desert country far to the south or west of the NCA.

In the spring, the stockmen trailed their sheep to the spring range on Diamond Mountain. The Siddoways trailed sheep from their winter range in the south, crossed the Jensen bridge, and traveled north roughly following the route of the present-day Diamond Mountain highway to their base property for spring operations on Diamond Mountain (Siddoway 2021b).

The coming of the automobile and improved roads in the 1910s and 1920s also eased trailing to a certain extent (Siddoway 2021b). Early roads and trails in the area could be rough to non-existent. According to the recollections of Karl Goodrich, a trip to and from a Diamond Mountain homestead in the 1910s could be "a long, difficult task [from Ashley Valley] in one day. A sack of grain and two bales of hay and a grub box was about all one team of horses could pull with a wagon stripped down to the running gears (that is without a box on the wagon)." (Goodrich and Jacobson 1975:369) In the summer of 1918, Uintah County appropriated $500 and sheepmen owning property on Diamond Mountain donated $825 for the construction of a road between Vernal and Rock Springs specifically for automobiles (*Vernal Express* July 12,1918). By the 1920s, Goodrich remembered that the roads to Diamond Mountain had been improved for automobile accessibility (Goodrich and Jacobson 1975:383–384).

By the early and mid-twentieth century the county designated many of the county roads as so-called "stock highways" where sheep were trailed along both sides of the highway. On roads with heavier traffic, the "stock highway" was designated for only one side of the road. The law required stockmen to notify the highway patrol to coordinate herds crossing bridges, while also providing riders in advance of the herd to notify motorists (Siddoway 2021b).

The stockmen held homesteads as base property on the mountain for seasonal occupation during spring grazing. Based on later U.S. Grazing Service documentation, the Reader, Hatch, Siddoway, and Meagher-Roberts operations all had part of their spring range along the northern portion of the NCA in the vicinity and north of Diamond Gulch. Spring range for Hod Ruples' sheep operation consisted of much of the NCA, particularly the northern portion of the NCA in present-day Diamond Mountain and Ruple Cabin Allotments, which Hod shared with the other sheepmen and the Middletons' cattle.

In early spring, sheep would be sheared and dipped for scabies prevention. JWPNCA sheepmen had their lambs sheared at a variety of locations. DeJournette would often take his sheep to Jensen for shearing. However, many of the sheepmen with spring range in the area probably took their sheep to John Davis' Diamond Mountain shearing corral east of Diamond Spring (DeJournette 1996:134–135). In the late 1920s, the Wardle Sheep Shearers, a local mobile shearing outfit, began shearing at the Diamond Mountain corral. Owned by George Wardle and consisting of between three and eleven individuals, the Wardle outfit used a gasoline-powered shearing unit. The men were paid 8 cents per head and would shear about a hundred head of sheep per day. During shearing season, Wardle began southwest of Ouray, and then moved north to shear sheep on Diamond Mountain, shearing the Reader, Bennion, and Davis herds (Overall n.d.). The shearing corral also featured a dipping vat. Sears Canyon, further north, also hosted a shearing camp used by Diamond Mountain stockmen (DeJournette 1996:134–135). DeJournette's lambing grounds were further north on the mountain at Crouse Creek. Hod Ruple lambed and sheared his herd in Rainbow Park.

Lambing usually occurred in April. Beginning in June, the sheepmen trailed their herds to the summer range in the High Uinta Mountains in the National Forest, northwest of the JWPNCA. To access the Uinta Forest range, in June stockmen took their sheep to the Forest Reserve counting corral located 18 km (11 miles) northwest of the JWPNCA (Siddoway 2021b). There the sheepmen would count up sheep prior to admittance to the Uinta Forest Reserve. Shepherds spent the summers living in tents on the mountain,

moving the herds once a week to adjacent fresh pastures, and trying their hand at fly fishing in the mountain lakes and streams (*John N. Davis* 1998:3).

At the end of summer, it took about three days to trail the lambs from the high Uintas to the Davis' Diamond Mountain base in the fall (*John N. Davis* 1998:4). In the fall the stockmen would trail their sheep to market. For the early sheepmen on Diamond Mountain and the JWPNCA, including the DeJournettes, Siddoways, and Shiners, this meant trailing sheep across Diamond Mountain, crossing the Green River at Brown's Park ferry, and on to the railroad siding at Bitter Creek or Rock Springs, Wyoming. With widespread use of automobiles and trucks and improved roads, by the 1930s many of these sheepmen began hauling lambs by truck to the railhead at Craig, Colorado (DeJournette 1996:141-142).

6.8 HOMESTEADING AND HOMESTEADERS

Up through the 1910s, the Ruples and stockmen based in the Ashley Valley had used Diamond Mountain as a common pasture. Sheepmen had acquired most of the water rights by the 1900s. Up to 1909 the federal government had only given out 160-acre tracts, and the Diamond Mountain range was too rough and dry for anyone to successfully farm that acreage. By the 1900s, with increasing settlement and range crowding, sheepmen could no longer rely on squatting and customary usage of land, so they began filing and acquiring formal title to customary water rights and ranch land for their spring operations. Homesteading required an applicant to make certain improvements, like fencing and constructing a cabin, and living a certain amount of time out of the year on the property before the government formally conveyed the land to the applicant. Sheepmen used homestead applications to file formal claims on base properties for spring operations.

Stockmen sometimes misused homesteading laws. Raymond Searle recalled that "[M]any of the stockmen who had a herder working for them could have him file on a 640-acre piece of ground, pay the $40 fee and as soon as it was allowed the stockmen could use it for three years then get an extension for two years, and if he relinquished before that time expired he could get his $40 back." Stockmen also often avoided paying taxes by changing their filing, which could give them up to three years of avoiding taxes while proving up their revised claim (Searle n.d.:7).

In 1909 the federal government began granting 320-acre homesteads, and in 1916, 640-acre homesteads became available. The larger homestead acreage, combined with the development of dry farming methods that theoretically enabled farmers to get a sufficient crop yield from previously unproductive conditions, inspired many would-be farmers to start claiming homesteads on the slopes of Diamond Mountain beginning in the 1910s. Homesteaders began flocking to Diamond Mountain. A 1923 meeting of Diamond Mountain dry farm homesteaders was reported in the *Vernal Express*, with the meeting calling for "Encouragement of all farmers to make permanent homes and farm according to scientific dry farm methods… Designation of roads across the mountain. Improvement to the present road to Vernal, and the connection of a road to Rock Springs, Wyoming." George Slaugh "said that the opportunities are surely marvelous. 'Never before have I seen land produce as well with so little effort as has been given in the crops here.'" (*Vernal Express* March 18, 1923)

The Diamond Mountain homesteaders consisted primarily of people living in Vernal, many working in non-agricultural careers. These part-time farmers lived on and farmed their Diamond Mountain land from spring or summer to the fall and moved back to Vernal for the winter and for schooling of their children. Wheat was a prime crop, while homesteaders also attempted to raise livestock although not at the same scale as the established ranchers.

At the height of the homesteading movement on Diamond Mountain tensions rose between some of the homesteaders and the long-time stockmen of the mountain. From the livestock owner's point of view, homesteaders fenced in much of the formerly open Diamond Mountain pastureland. Stockmen could no longer let their herds loose on the pastures as they formerly could because of fenced fields. Conversely homesteaders often looked upon the massive and numerous bands of sheep on Diamond Mountain as nuisances with the livestock posing an immediate threat to their crops. In 1924, George Slaugh began running a stray pen on the Leonard Slaugh homestead. Stockmen that didn't have land usually found their sheep in the Slaugh stray pen, where they had to pay to get them released. The closing off of much of the Diamond Mountain pastureland in the 1920s caused problems for stockmen with no formal claims on grazing land. According to one source "[F]riction began to occur between those who had and those who didn't have a place to put them, not even a place to drop a block of salt. Agitation grew and those who had been using the ground without owning any began selling their stock." (Searle n.d.:7)

Most of the homesteaders attempted to dry farm, but the equipment for this type of farming had not been satisfactorily developed. A plague of crickets in the late 1920s dealt a severe blow to the homesteaders, followed by the Great Depression and drought of the 1930s (Searle n.d.:7–8). In the words of local historian Raymond Searle, "their life was not easy, times were hard and even after making the struggle to prove up on their land they were unable to make a living there." (Searle n.d.:7)

A few examples of the homesteading experience will suffice. In 1917 or 1918 Albert Goodrich, wanting a ranch, filed on 320 acres on Diamond Mountain near the Diamond Spring ranch, "all sagebrush" as his brother Karl Ivor remembered it (Goodrich and Jacobson 1975:369). This land was about 6 km (about 4 miles) northwest of the JWPNCA. Albert, recently married and teaching school nine months out of the year, proposed to his brother Karl that "[I]f I would get out the logs to build the house, cut the juniper for posts, dig the post holes, build the fence, and plow up 40 acres of land for wheat, he would give me one-fourth of the land when it was proved up on." Karl spent most of this time on Diamond Mountain from about 1918 to 1923 doing this work (Goodrich and Jacobson 1975:369). The Goodrich Ranch remained active for a number of years. Albert's son, Kenneth, remembers working on the ranch during the summer of 1935:

> [We worked at] clearing sagebrush, plowing, and planting wheat. Also, I helped harvest some in the fall with our little five-foot Alis Chalmers combine… Living on Diamond was rather interesting as well as sometimes dull. We removed the sagebrush off from the better part of eighty acres… Then we plowed and planted a hundred and fifty acres to wheat… We put up a barbed-wire fence around the hundred and sixty acres to try to protect the wheat from the donkeys and [burros] that were running free on the mountain… To have grain on Diamond Mountain escape the hail and mature to harvest is practically a miracle.

> We did harvest some that fall…I believe this was the first wheat to come off the mountain since the old timers had tried to farm there years before, with horses. (Goodrich and Jacobson 1975:201–202)

Kenneth also remembered the primitive living conditions in the Goodrich homestead cabin: "Dad's old cabin was made of round logs with space between the walls and ceiling… This old cabin had chinking between the logs but each spring the cracks had to be plastered with mud. Even so, the breeze blew right through" (Goodrich and Jacobson 1975:203).

Franklin "George" Slaugh, a neighbor of the Goodriches, lasted only a few years as a dry farmer, in spite of his enthusiasm noted earlier in a 1923 meeting of dry farmers in Vernal. Slaugh proved up land in 1922–1923 in Section 31 of Township 2 South Range 24 East 1.5 km (about 1 mile) west of the JPWNCA and Section 7 of the same township and range, 6 km (about 4 miles) northwest of the NCA. George married his wife Mary Petersen in 1917. Slaugh recalled, "Mary and I took up a homestead on Diamond Mountain in 1919 and lived there three summers. Never harvested a crop; the Mormon crickets took it all." (Jacobson 1964:88-89) Louis Roberts, the foreman of the Meagher operation, eventually took over the George Slaugh cabin and used it in the spring to house his family when the Meagher sheep grazed on Diamond Mountain (DeJournette 1996).

No homesteader ever proved up a claim within the JWPNCA, but setting aside homesteads claimed by stockmen, two homesteaders— John Alfred Lambert, Sr. and Daphne Cooper—successfully claimed 640-acre livestock homesteads adjacent to and north of the NCA (Figure 32).

John Alfred Lambert Sr., born in New Jersey in 1861, came to the Uinta Basin as a soldier stationed at Ouray in October 1881. Lambert came back to the area years later. John Lambert and his son John Lambert Jr. (Figure 33) worked on a 640-acre livestock homestead on Diamond Mountain in 1920. The Lamberts lived in Vernal and worked in coal mines during the fall and winter. In the spring they went back out to the homestead on Diamond Mountain. The Lamberts dug a well, built a cabin (Figure 34), assembled corrals, and raised sheep and goats on the homestead. After the Lamberts proved up their claim, John Sr. moved back to Vernal, while John Jr. hired out as a sheepherder and dry farm hand on the Mountain (DeJournette 1996:178–180; Fazio 1967:17).

Daphne Cooper (Figure 35), who homesteaded a 640-acre tract just north of the JWPNCA and west of the Lamberts was a most unusual homesteader. A California school teacher, in 1917 she separated from her husband, Roy, and moved to Vernal with her six children, Robert, Conrad, Arvene, Helena, Claude, and Laurence, ages nine years to six months. Her brother, sister, and mother also moved there at about the same time. In 1918 Daphne and Roy decided on a divorce, an unusual step at the time. To support her family, she began working as a teacher for Uintah County. In the summer of 1923 her oldest son, Conrad, got a job working in the sheep business for Norman Olsen on Diamond Mountain. Her other children wanted to get some bum lambs to raise, so Daphne made arrangements with Forrest Slaugh to stay at his cabin, in the vicinity of Diamond Spring. The boys visited surrounding sheep camps and soon had plenty of bum orphan lambs to care for.

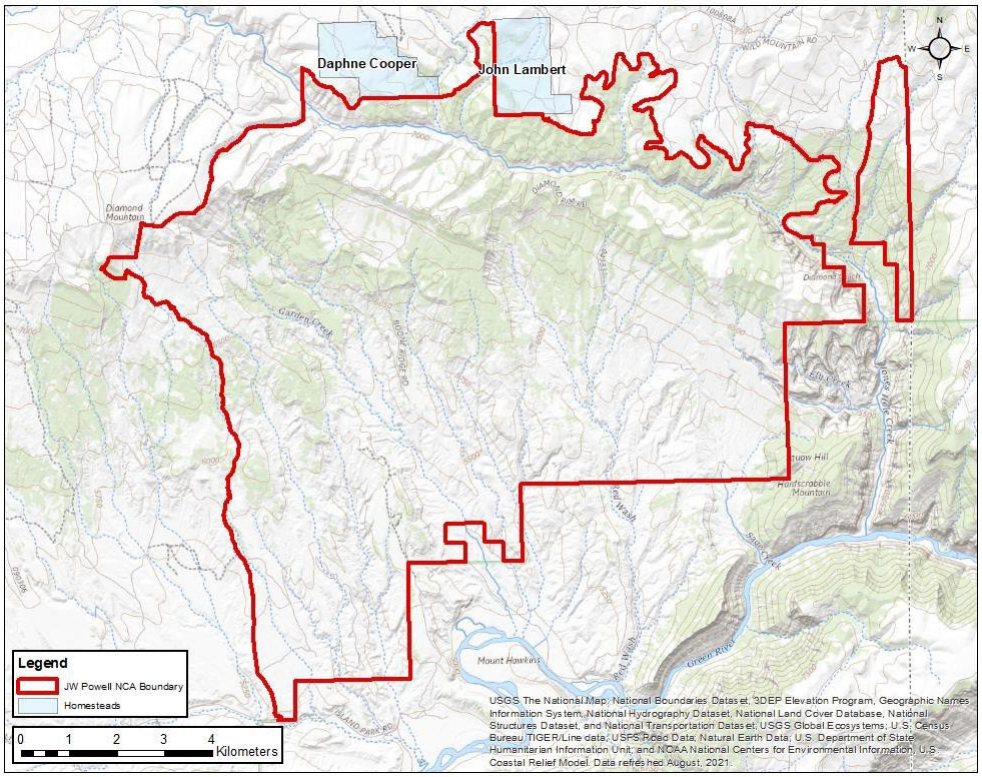

Figure 32 Cooper and Lambert homesteads adjacent to the JWPNCA

Figure 33 John Lambert, Jr. in 1961 (RHC)

Figure 34 John Lambert cabin in the 1920s (RHC)

In 1925, Daphne filed for a 640-acre livestock homestead in Sections 23 and 24 of Township 2 South 24 East, just north of and adjacent to the NCA (the claim was finalized in May 1930). The first summer they spent on the mountain they lived in a tent and shanty, continuing with their bum lamb business while Daphne cooked for sheep shearers at the John N. Davis place at Diamond Spring ranch. The neighboring ranch was owned by Norman Olsen, Conrad's employer. The other Cooper children pitched in at Olsen's ranch as well, once helping drive away a big band of Mormon Crickets heading across the mountain to Olsen's wheat field. Every winter they would return to Vernal when Daphne would teach school. In the spring they would go back to Diamond Mountain to fulfill the Homestead Law by living on the homestead and making improvements.

The second summer, Daphne and the children built their mountain home made of logs, cut lumber, and roofing, helped by Frank Hartle, a neighbor. When the family ran out of logs, Frank and the boys went down to an old outlaw hideout at Gerber Springs and pulled logs off to complete the cabin walls. All told, the cabin had two rooms, each about 12' x 14' in area. There was no spring on the claim, and water had to be carried from Diamond Springs several miles away from the Coopers' homestead. The Coopers eventually built a concrete-lined cistern that they filled with Diamond Springs water. Daphne quit the homestead in 1930. Her son Arvene (Figure 36) apparently entered the sheep business for a time but eventually sold the property to the Hatches to buy a home in Vernal (Carr 2015). The divorced single mother and her six children stayed long enough in the area to give their name to the property's current grazing allotment, Cooper Draw.

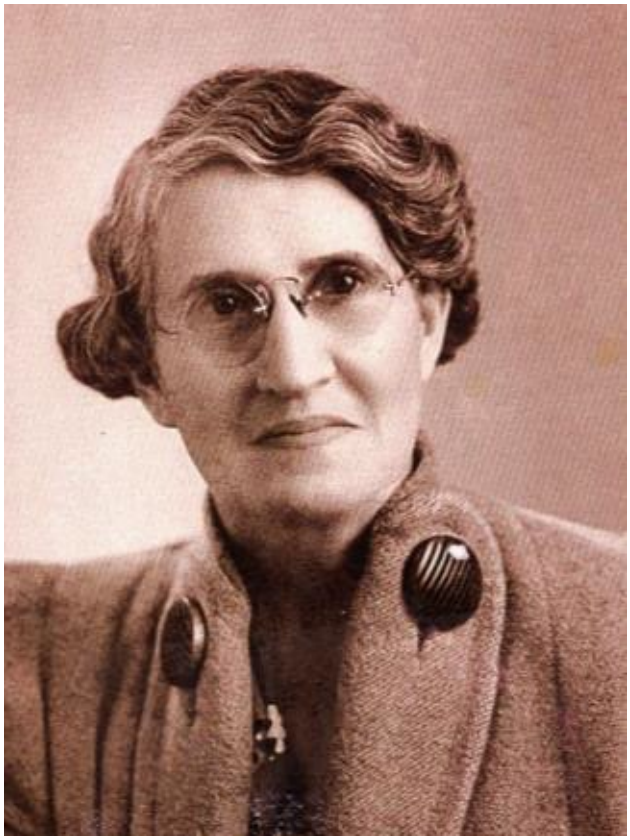

Figure 35 Daphne Cooper ca 1945 (RHC)

Figure 36 Arvene Cooper in 1929 (RHC)

The uptick in homestead claims on Diamond Mountain coincided with an increasing interest in game conservation and hunting in the area. In 1925 the Utah State Legislature designated 1.5 million acres as a game preserve in Uintah County. The acreage, primarily within the Ashley National Forest, also included lands on Diamond Mountain and included the northern portion of the present-day NCA north of Diamond Gulch. The purpose of the refuge, proposed by the Vernal Gun Club, was to protect deer and pheasants (*The Vernal Express,* December 19, 1924 and September 25, 1925).

6.9 TAYLOR GRAZING ACT AND THE JWPNCA

The Diamond Mountain range, like much of the range around Vernal, had seen steady degradation throughout the early twentieth century. As early as 1916, Briant Stringham remembered that "As time went on you could see that [Diamond Mountain] was a poor place to be because it was so overgrazed," and in 1917–1918 Stringham shifted his grazing to western Colorado (Stringham 1977).

Stringham himself became a prime political force in getting the Taylor Grazing Act passed in 1934. The Act, described extensively in Chapter 5 of this report, profoundly changed the nature of grazing and the entire livestock industry. The Act limited the amount of stock on the range to curb overgrazing and favored established local stockmen with prior historical claims to water and grazing rights on their local ranges. In this respect, the Act did not upset the applecart. The local advisory board in Vernal, like the other advisory boards across the west, placed priority with established livestock operations, and forced roving sheep herds without base properties (the tramp herds) off the range and out of business. Some sheepmen were resentful of these changes. In the late 1970s, Rosalie DeJournette recalled:

> [Y]ou see, before that we had open range. We could just go where ever we pleased and then later when they put that Taylor Grazing in, they fenced off… everybody's, we had to follow the lane with our sheep, before when we could turn them loose and let them feed, when we was leaving our spring range to go up to our summer range up on Elk Park, we could just turn them loose… but after they passed that Taylor Grazing then we had to herd them through these fences, cause everybody that had ground up there fenced off their property (DeJournette 1978:6).

The local stockmen all had experience with the restricted federal range system in the Ashley National Forest and appreciated the initial federal regulation of the range, realizing it was in their best economic interests. The Act gave a considerable amount of power to local livestock interests through the creation of local Grazing Association boards that provided the new Grazing Service input on allocation of grazing permits. Two of the original fifteen Vernal board members, Wallace Siddoway and Clyde Hatch, had grazing land adjacent to or within the present-day JWPNCA (*Vernal Express* August 30, 1934).

The advent of the Grazing Service gives the historian a more definite historical snapshot of how the JWPNCA was being used. Under the new Grazing Service system of the late 1930s the entire present-day JWPNCA made up the southeastern portion of Unit B of the Duchesne Grazing District (Figure 37), bounded on the southwest by Brush Creek, southeast by Dinosaur National Monument, and east by the Colorado border. U.S. Grazing Service records at the BLM VFO are somewhat fragmentary, but a 1938 grazing

record book indicates the following individuals applied grazing permits within Unit B for winter range (Table 7) and spring range (Table 8). It is unclear based on this single record book how much livestock the Grazing Service actually approved for the District 8 range. Nearly all the stockmen historically associated with the JWPNCA and its vicinity in the early twentieth century are represented in the grazing applications (highlighted in the tables), except for the Ruple family (U.S. Grazing Service 1938).

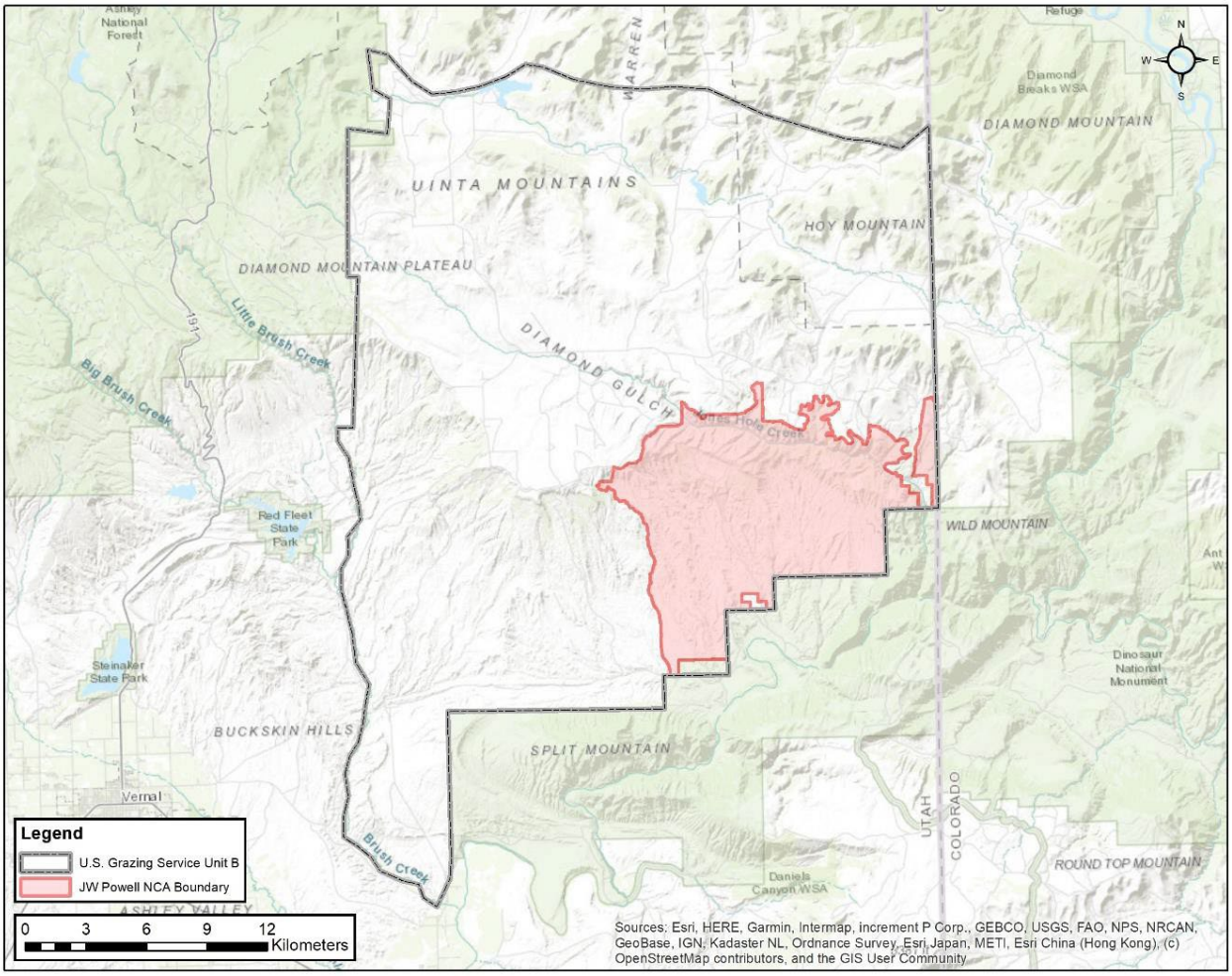

Figure 37 Unit B of the U.S. Grazing Service Duchesne (or Number 8) District (1938–1940s)

Table 7. District 8, Unit B Winter Range Grazing Applicants in 1938 (highlighted applicants associated with JWPNCA)

Grazing Service Applicant	Forest Permit	Livestock Class License Applied For
Zelph Calder		Cattle – 100 (all year) Sheep – 700 (all year)
Douglas Chew		Cattle – 90 (November – May) Horses – 20 (November – May)
Ford DeJournette	Sheep – 897 AUMs	Sheep – 1600 (November – May) Cattle – 18 (all year) Horses – 18 (all year)

Grazing Service Applicant	Forest Permit	Livestock Class License Applied For
William Holmes, Jr.		Sheep – 150 (November – May)
W. L. Karren		Sheep -1000 (November – May)
Orvial H. Karren		Sheep – 1600 (January – May)
W.A. and A.H. Murray		Sheep – 990 (May – June and October – December)
J.T. Nash		Sheep – 600 (November – May)
Oral Peterson		Cattle – 18 (May – December) Horses – 3 (May – December)
Charles C. Rich		Cattle – 10 (all year) Horses – 6 (all year) Sheep – 250 (all year)
William H. Siddoway & Sons	Sheep – 2028 AUMs	Sheep – 6200 (November – May)
Robert Shiner	Sheep – 950 AUMs	Sheep – 2160 (November – May)
H.W. Wooley	Sheep – 1009 AUMs	Sheep – 2200 (November – May)

Table 8. District 8, Unit B Summer Range Grazing Applicants (highlighted applicants associated with JWPNCA)

Grazing Service Applicant	Forest Permit	Livestock Class License Applied For
Ashley Bennion	Sheep – 743 AUMs	Sheep – 2000 (May – July and September – November) Horses – 4 (May – July and September – November)
Roland and John Bennion	Sheep – 940	Sheep – 2500 (May)
Joe Boan	Cattle – 200	Cattle – 40 (May – June and November – January)
Orson Burton		No record
O.B. Calder		Sheep – 800 (May – October and November – May)
Zelph Calder		Cattle – 100 (all year) Sheep – 700 (all year)
Douglas Chew		Cattle – 90 (May - November) Sheep – 2000 (May – November)
Ford DeJournette	Sheep – 897	Cattle – 18 (all year) Horses – 18 (all year) Sheep – 2062 (all year)
Hacking, Joseph	Sheep – 2048	Sheep – 2100 (May – June and September – October)
Charles Hatch		Sheep – 324 (May – June and November – May)
Loren Hatch	Sheep – 816	Sheep – 1710 (May – June and October – May)

Grazing Service Applicant	Forest Permit	Livestock Class License Applied For
S. J. Hatch & Sons	Sheep – 454	Sheep – 2000 (May – July and September – May)
John J. Horrocks		No record
W.M. & C.W. McCoy	Sheep – 1540	Sheep - 4925 (May – July, November – May)
F.A. & F.S. Middleton		Cattle – 50 (May – November) Horses – 4 (May -November)
N.J. Meagher	Sheep – 1711	Sheep – 8910 (illegible)
Artie J. Murray		No record
A.H. Murray		Sheep – 900 (May – June and October – December)
Reader Livestock Company	Sheep – 1001	Sheep – 2850 (May – June and October – May)
Charles C. Rich		Cattle – 10 (all year) Horses – 6 (all year) Sheep – 250 (all year)
Raymond Searle		Sheep – 600 (all year)
L.R. Stringham	Sheep – 326	Sheep – 1200 (all year)
P.C. Stringham		Sheep – 1200 (May – October and November – May)
F.B. Thompson	Cattle – 75	Cattle – 20 (May)
Edwin J. Winder		Cattle – 13 (June – September) Sheep – 260 (June – September)

Initially the Grazing Service apparently assigned stockmen to pasture they had used historically. The Grazing Service did not assign specific land allotments to these operations, however, until about seven years after the advent of the Taylor Grazing Act. The Grazing Service had to adjudicate grazing privileges associated with each applicant's base property. According to one historian, "Until the grazing service could establish forage capacity and allotment acreage in each grazing district it issued temporary licenses authorizing grazing at pre-1934 levels. Because adjudication was so time-consuming the first permit degrades a federal allotment was not issued until 1940 and the process was not entirely completed until 1967." (Hoffman 2009:254-255)

Based on the fragmentary primary source documentation available at the BLM Vernal office, the Grazing Service began preliminary identification of allotments in District 8, Unit B in 1942. During these initial allotment assignments, the Grazing Service attempted to distribute the allotments based on prior customary usage. Assuming this was the case with allotment assignments in Unit B, the following operators likely grazed in these areas within the NCA (see Figure 37) prior to establishment of the Grazing Service in the mid-1930s, and this represents historic customary usage for these operators:

- **J.H. Reader, Joel Evans (Ruple family), and F.A. and F.S. Middleton**: an area south of Diamond Gulch, roughly corresponding to the present-day Diamond Mountain allotment.
- **N.J. Meagher:** the western portion of the present-day Cooper Draw allotment.
- **S.J. and Loran Hatch and F.A. and F.S. Middleton:** the eastern portion of the present-day Cooper Draw allotment and the majority of the present-day Ruple Cabin allotment.
- **W.H. Siddoway and Sons, Joel Evans (Ruple family), and F.A. and F.S. Middleton:** the western portion of the present-day Ruple Cabin allotment. (U.S. Grazing Service 1942)

A series of ca. 1942 Grazing Service maps also indicate certain owned or leased properties within and around the NCA related to the Ruples and Douglas Chew, a stockman and son of Jack Chew. By the 1930s Doug Chew had developed a business relationship with the Ruples. Doug had started out herding sheep for Bill Collier at Pot Creek, north of the NCA. After accumulating his own herd Doug moved southeast to Colorado, summering his flocks on Blue Mountain and spending the winters in Pat's Hole, which was east of Island Park and the NCA. According to Douglas' account, "The Taylor Grazing Act stopped the free use of land and so we leased Island Park for five years from Lily Ruple beginning in 1935." (Beeler 1985:10). On December 7, 1941, Doug Chew purchased the old Daniels Ranch on the south bank of the Green River not far from the NCA (*Fence Post* March 28, 1994). This is now known as the Chew Ranch and is still owned and operated by the Chew family as an active ranch.

The Ruples and Doug Chew leased grazing land within and around the NCA from the State of Utah, with the Chews leasing additional land from the Ruples. In addition to the Island Park ranch the Ruples possessed a smaller property within the present-day Diamond Mountain allotment just south of Diamond Gulch, and Section 32 of Township 3 South, Range 24 East. The Ruples leased all of their southernmost properties in the vicinity of Island Park to Douglas Chew. Probably both the Ruples and Chew were also assigned grazing privileges within the present-day Island Park allotment, although no records confirming this were located.

Records examined were incomplete so no information could be found for the present-day Shiner and Island Park allotments. It is known that the Shiners' range prior to the mid-1930s ranged from Brush Creek to Island Park, which is the general location of the present-day Shiner allotment, so it is likely safe to assume that the Grazing Service assigned the Shiners the allotment that now bears their name.

In addition to the Grazing Service, another federal program of the 1930s, the CCC, had a tremendous positive local impact. Many CCC projects in Uintah County improved range conditions for stockmen. Based on an examination of CCC records, however, no CCC projects were ever constructed in the vicinity of the JWPNCA, except for road repairs to the Diamond Mountain highway west of and north of the area (Uintah CCC Projects Binder n.d.).

6.10 WORLD WAR II AND THE POSTWAR YEARS: 1940 – 1960

In 1946 the U.S. Grazing Service became the BLM. The slow process of adjudication continued through the 1940s and 1950s, with allotment boundaries becoming officially confirmed and recognized. With the advent of the BLM increasing numbers of personnel were assigned to the Vernal office and the scope of

the BLM mission expanded. The bureaucracy worked closely with ranchers on such range improvements as water access, fencing, seeding, and predator control.

6.10.1 Island Park Ranch: End of an Era

Lilly Ruple tried desperately to maintain the Island Park ranch after Hod's death in 1937 but for a single woman in poor health this proved extremely difficult. In 1938 Lilly married one of her hired hands, Joel Evans. In 1945 Lily passed away, leaving her estate in three undivided equal shares to Evans and Lilly's two daughters, Billie Ruple Untermann and Wanda Ruple Staley (Figure 38). Billie sold her share of Island Park to Clark Feltch (Figure 39), a rancher who had arrived in the area in from Colorado as a child in 1914. Prior to his acquisition of Billie's portion of the Lilly Evans estate he had worked mostly on Blue Mountain on the south side of the Green River, although Grazing Service records indicate he had property north of the JWPNCA on Pot Creek in the early 1940s. Wanda kept her share of the property, 320 desert acres with access to Island Park (Long 2004:18; Staley n.d.b; *Vernal Express* April 26, 1958).

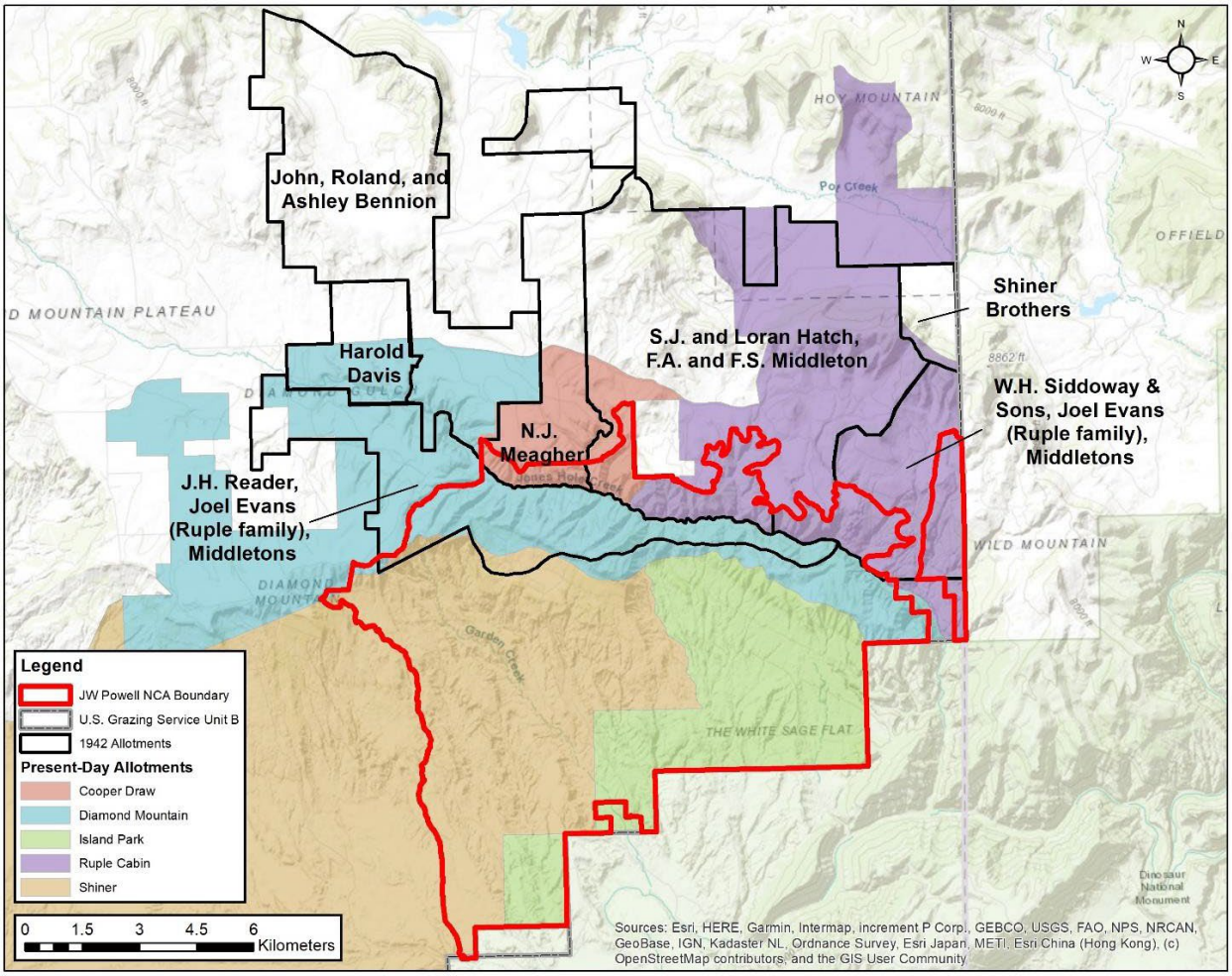

Figure 38 Graphic representation of initial 1942 allotment assignment, JWPNCA

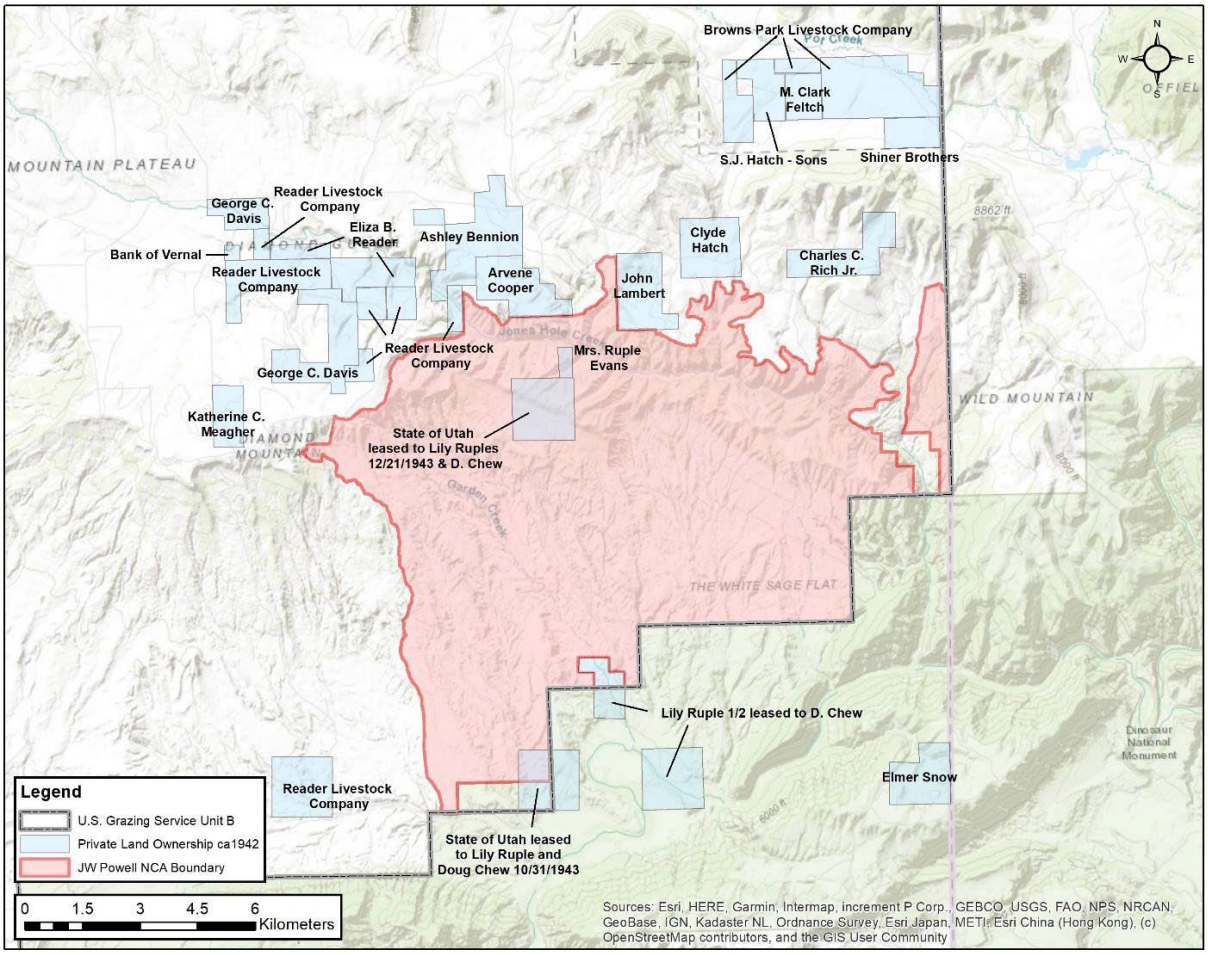

Figure 39 Property owners in vicinity of JWPNCA ca 1942

By the late 1940s or early 1950s the BLM had adjudicated the Island Park allotment, which was transferred from Lilly Ruple and Joel Evans to Wanda Staley (Figiure 40). Over the next five decades Wanda would either run a small herd of cattle in the allotment (usually less than 20) or lease grazing rights to other cattle or sheep operators, such as B.H. Stringham (BLM Wanda Staley File n.d.). Meanwhile Evans and Feltch (Figures 41 and 42) continued their joint operation of the Island Park ranch. Evans and Feltch grazed cattle within the old Ruple (federal) range in the Wild Mountain - Ruple Cabin area, which included northwest portions of the JWPNCA. In 1956 Evans passed away and his share of the operation passed to his sister, Pearl McCarrell. In 1957 Feltch and McCarrell sold the Island Park ranch to the Utah Fish and Game Commission as a deer range. Feltch and McCarrell's cattle operation continued grazing in the present-day Ruple Cabin allotment up through 1965. McCarrell passed away that year and a few years later Feltch became an employee of the BLM. Eventually the Commission sold the Island Park ranch to Dinosaur National Monument (BLM 1969; Burton 2003a; Long 2004:18; *Vernal Express* April 24, 1958 and July 15, 1965). Wanda Staley never relinquished her desert property and in 1953 the BLM formally adjudicated the Island Park allotment privileges to Wanda (Colton 1953). Both private property and Island Park allotment privileges were still held by Ruple descendants through the Wanda Staley Trust up until 2022, when the Trust conveyed the Staley property to the NPS (McLean 2022).

Figure 40 Wanda Ruple Staley in 1938 (RHC)

Figure 41 Clark Feltch in Island Park, 1950 (RHC)

Figure 42 From left to right, Henry "Hod" Staley, Joel Evans, Doc Middleton, Carl Staley, Ilene Staley, ca 1945 (RHC)

6.10.2 Sheep Operations on Diamond Mountain: 1940 – 1960

The war caused a significant shortage of labor as young draft-age men went into the service. Rosalie DeJournette recalled that all of her sons went into the service in 1940-42 except for one: “That left this boy… and myself and Mr. DeJournette to run our sheep. We couldn’t hire anybody, we didn’t have any money to hire anyone, but we made it and we came out just fine.” (Burton 1978:6)

In 1946 the federal government formed the BLM, which replaced the U.S. Grazing Service. Up through 1949 the BLM VFO granted grazing privileges so that sheep and cattle grazed common allotments. In 1949, at least for the present-day Ruple Cabin and Diamond Mountain allotments, the BLM met with licensees and divided the area into three separate allotments that segregated sheep and cattle, with one used by Loran Hatch, one by S.J. Hatch, and one allotment for cattle operators (Minutes of a Meeting with B.H. Stringham and Raymond Anderson, June 14, 1966, B.H. Stringham File).

The DeJournettes quit the sheep industry shortly after World War II. Dick DeJournette bought out his father, Ford, in 1950. Ford died in 1956 and Dick sold out the sheep business to help settle the estate of his father (DeJournette 1996:118).

In 1950 J. Harold Reader sold out to brothers Lynn and Darrell Huber (Figure 43), who lived in Lapoint but had a camp and cabin on Diamond Mountain for their sheep operations. The Hubers took over the Reader property in the present-day Diamond Gulch allotment, and also had property at Flynn’s Point north of the present-day NCA and Beeler Basin. The Hubers’ business went well until 1958, when their sheep got into locoweed in their winter range south of Ouray, Utah (DeJournette 1996:92):

> [S]heep had to eat the equivalent of their weight before it bothered them and made them go plum loco. The sheep seemed to crave the weed and just kept eating it, then they would refuse to eat hay or drink water. They would lose their normal coordination and finally a slow death took its toll. The lamb crop the following year was very much affected. Many lambs were deformed and had parrot mouths. This locoweed was a heavy loss for the sheepmen involved (DeJournette 1996:101).

This locoweed problem in the late 1950s also adversely affected the Meagher and Hatch operations. Meagher lost 2800 out of 10,000 sheep in his Utah herds (DeJournette 1996:101). The Huber brothers dissolved the partnership a year after the locoweed struck, with Lynn taking over the sheep operation on Diamond Mountain (DeJournette 1996:92). The Hubers had a cabin at Seymour Spring on the rim of Diamond Mountain. Lynn's wife, Daun, remembered "hauling sheep from Diamond Mountain and coming off the old dugway in the two-ton truck. The road was so narrow and slick. I'd have [my] three little boys with me, and I'd be so scared, but I didn't dare say a word. I'd hurry as quickly as I could to get back to Lapoint…" (DeJournette 1996:92) Lynn Huber had a serious heart condition and Dick DeJournette, Ford's son, assisted Lynn with the sheep operation. Dick remembered that

> Lynn was a pleasant little guy to be around and good to work with. He talked slow and had a dry wit. He was telling me one day about a cub bear in McKee Draw. Lynn was checking the sheep on foot one morning. He went around the big rock and ran head on with a little scrawny cub bear. Lynn said "It scared me so damned bad I didn't know whether to **** or go blind." I said, "What did you do?" He said, "Well, I'm not blind." (DeJournette 1996:93)

Despite locoweed problems N.J. Meagher's sheep empire continued to prosper. By the late 1950s Meagher counted 7000 head of sheep in Colorado and 10,000 head in Utah, which made him probably the largest operator in Uintah County (DeJournette 1996:101). Similarly, other older sheep operations in the area continued operations on Diamond Mountain and the northern portions of the JWPNCA. Although William Siddoway had passed away in 1950, his sons continued the Siddoway sheep business throughout this decade.

Conversely, the Hatches sold out their sheep in the 1950s to Briant Stringham, one of the most prominent sheepmen and politicians in Uintah County (DeJournette 1996:121). Stringham had been active in the industry since the 1910s, had provided support in getting the Taylor Grazing Act passed, and served on numerous business and civic boards. Stringham also proved to be an outstanding local politician and public servant, getting elected mayor of Vernal and later to the Utah State legislature (Kiever 2014).

Transportation to and from Diamond Mountain, and access to the northern portion of the NCA improved with the rebuilding of the Diamond Mountain Road in 1950. In December 1949 Cliff McCoy and 13 other Diamond Mountain stockmen, including J. Harold Reader and Robert Shiner, went before the Uintah County Commission, each promising $100 towards repair of the road. The commission approved the work, and the Diamond Mountain Road was realigned and rebuilt from Brush Creek west (Carr 2016:12). Paving of the Diamond Mountain Road enabled easier direct transportation of sheep from Diamond Mountain (DeJournette 1996:142).

Figure 43 Lynn (left) and Darrell Huber (right) (DeJournette 1996)

The area around Diamond Gulch continued to be a popular spot for hunting and camping into the 1950s and 1960s. In one 1955 incident two hunters purposely shot a horse led by camper Gordon Smuin and his two sons. His sons rode one of the hunters down on their remaining horse, with the hunter admitting he shot the horse for no reason and agreeing to pay damages. Smuin is quoted as saying, “For 13 years I’ve camped and hunted in Diamond Gulch but it’s getting too hot for me. Hunters up there are firing in every direction and I have to keep taking cover behind rocks to save myself from getting shot.” (*Vernal Express* October 27, 1955)

6.11 CHANGING OF THE GUARD: 1960 – 1980

In the 1960s the sheep industry faced a perfect storm of declining demand, labor shortages, and high operating costs, as described in Chapter 5. The sheepmen who used the JWPNCA were not immune to these pressures. Most of the old sheep families of the area sold out during this decade, including the Davis family of Diamond Spring ranch, the Shiners, the Hatches, and N.J. Meagher. The 1960s and 1970s saw two trends in the livestock industry in and around the NCA. The first trend was increasing consolidation of grazing land and herds into the hands of fewer and fewer struggling ranchers. The second trend was that as the sheep industry struggled stockmen began a gradual conversion from sheep to cattle.

The Shiners sold out their sheep business in the early 1960s to Clive Sprouse and Shorty Hatch, who formed the Sprouse-Hatch Ranch Company (DeJournette 1996:130). The Sprouse-Hatch operation remained active for a brief time during the 1960s (Hatch 1967).

George Davis had already sold his portion of the property, including Diamond Spring, to Ralph Siddoway in 1955 (the Siddoway family still owns this property). In 1963 George's brother, Harold Davis, the last of the Davis family on Diamond Mountain, sold his sheep and permits to Arthur Boren, who operated out of the Boren Ranch on Brush Creek, west of the NCA (DeJournette 1996:93; *John Nightingale Davis* 1998). Boren (Figure 44) was a businessman primarily involved in gilsonite mining and left his sheep operation in the hands of his foreman, Glade Holmes (Holmes 2021). Two years before, Boren had acquired the Huber herd and grazing allotments. The Hubers had just started to recover from the locoweed when Lynn died suddenly in 1961. Lynn's wife, Daun, sold the sheep and range to Boren that year (DeJournette 1996:93). In addition to acquiring grazing rights to much of what would become the Diamond Mountain allotment, in about 1970 Boren also acquired grazing rights to the Shiner allotment to the south, a portion of which is within the present-day NCA and for a brief time most of the allotments within the JWPNCA were utilized by him (BLM 1973). In 1977 Art Boren conveyed the ranch, sheep, and grazing rights to the present-day Diamond Mountain and Shiner allotments to his foreman Glade Holmes and Glade's wife Darlene, who only owned the operation two years before conveying it to Tom Anderson in 1979 (Cook and Cook 1987; Holmes 2021).

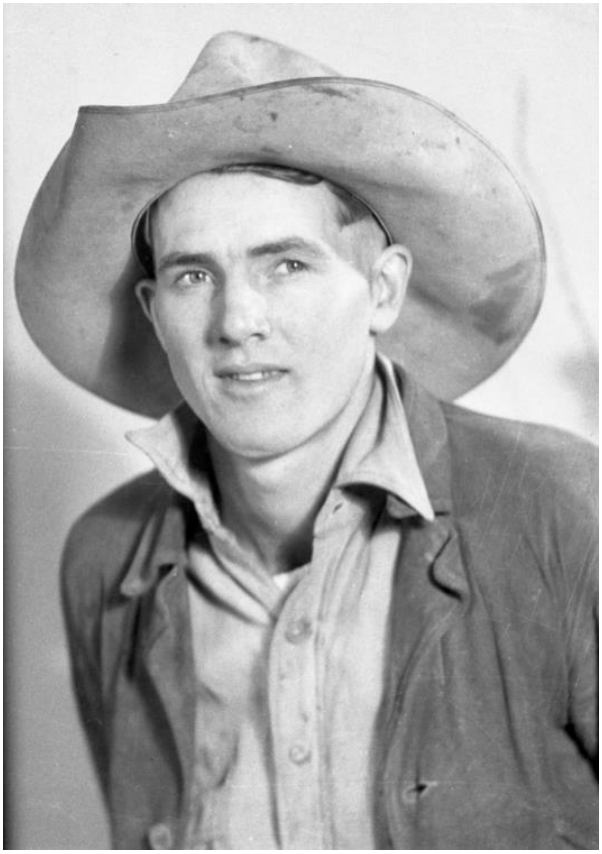

Figure 44 Arthur Boren in the mid-1930s (RHC)

Loran and Claude Hatch sold their operation in 1968 to Ralph and Don Walker. BLM records show that the WS Livestock Company, owned by Don Walker, Ralph Walker, and Willis Southam, had grazing rights in the Cooper Draw allotment from up until 1973, then Ralph Walker alone until the mid-1970s. Ralph Walker sold out his portion of the partnership while Don, like so many other sheepmen of the time, went into the cattle business (DeJournette 1996; Walker, Walker and Southam 1974).

In 1973 Bud Showalter and Johnny Smith bought out N.J. Meagher's entire sheep operation, which included Sunshine Ranch in Jensen, about 16,000 acres on Diamond Mountain, and 8000 head of sheep. Meagher passed away shortly thereafter. Later in the 1970s Tom Anderson bought the former Meagher holdings on Diamond Mountain (DeJournette 1996:125-126).

Tom Anderson (Figure 45) began buying up sheep operations on Diamond Mountain in 1961 and would be a significant operator within the NCA from the 1960s through the 1980s. He first purchased the Sam Wooley estate property in 1961 up on Bullshit Ridge (north of the project area) and then bought out the old N.J. Meagher acreage. From 1965 to 1975 he had acquired the bulk of the grazing permits in the Ruple Cabin allotment to support his cattle operations. In 1979 Anderson also bought out Glade and Darlene Holmes (formerly Art Boren's) sheep and grazing permits in the present-day Shiner and Diamond Mountain allotments. Tom also got Allen Bennion's land, the Goodrich ranch, and many other properties, which he traded many times and sometimes repurchased over the years (Cook and Cook 1987; DeJournette 1996:131-132; BLM 1966; BLM 1967; BLM 1969; BLM 1973).

Other newcomers to the JWPNCA area included the Uintah Basin Grazing Association, or the UBGA, and Doc Holmes. The UBGA was a cattle cooperative formed in the early 1970s. Gayle McKeachnie recalled, "Tom Anderson wanted to sell this big, big mountain ranch that he had put together, so Larson Caldwell and I put together the Uintah Basin Grazing Association. So that was like in '72 or '73. And it was a cooperative. And we borrowed [money] from the Farmers Home Administration in Ogden and bought Tom Anderson's ranch and it was made up of 13 ranchers mainly from Duchesne County. They became known as the Dirty Dozen." (McKeachnie 2021) The UBGA is the only livestock cooperative in Uintah County. A successful enterprise nearly fifty years old, the Association is reminiscent of the traditional Mormon co-ops common in the territory from the 1840s to the 1870s. The UBGA currently uses multiple BLM grazing allotments, including Ruple Cabin within the NCA.

Nile "Doc" Holmes, a distant cousin of Art Boren's foreman, Glade Holmes, acquired grazing rights in Cooper Draw in the late 1970s. BLM records indicate that by 1980 Holmes grazed between 550 and 750 sheep in Cooper Draw, depending on the time of year (650 sheep from May to July, 750 from September to October, and 550 sheep from October to November (Holmes 1980).

Since the 1960s Tom Anderson had been grazing cattle at Ruple Cabin, but when the Siddoways transferred their privileges to Hacking, Anderson transferred his Ruple Cabin cattle grazing privileges to the UBGA. At that point the BLM completely converted the Ruple Cabin allotment from sheep to cattle pasture (BLM 1975).

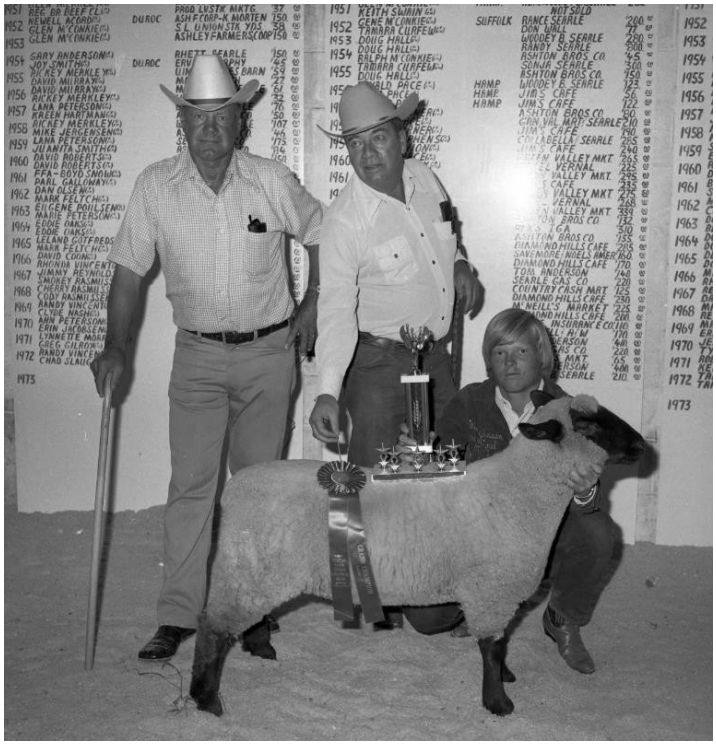

Figure 45 Tom Anderson (left) and Woody Searle (center) at a Junior Stock Show in 1973 (RHC)

Wanda Staley, Hank Ruple's granddaughter, kept her Island Park grazing privileges throughout this period but apparently never ran more than twenty cattle at a time. Instead, Wanda leased out her grazing privileges to large-scale operators such as B.H. Stringham, Rulon Hacking, the Walkers, and others (Clark and Richardson 1971; Colton 1953; Evans and Staley 1963; Staley and Walker 1966).

William H. Siddoway's sons, including John, Wallace, and Ralph, continued sheep operations on Diamond Mountain in the 1960s. Ralph Siddoway, originally a high school teacher, was the last of the family in the sheep business. Ralph was injured in an accident in 1977 and at this point his son Lynn, an accountant by training, took over the business and ran the Siddoway operation for the next quarter of a century (Spencer 2003). In 1976 Ralph and John Siddoway transferred their grazing rights in the Ruple Cabin allotment to Rulon Hacking, putting an end to grazing sheep in that allotment (Tolman 1976).

Hacking's family were historically sheepmen on Diamond Mountain, although their spring range was traditionally further north. By the mid-1970s the Hackings had converted from sheep to cattle because, in the words of Rulon's son Mitch, "They went broke" with sheep (Hacking 2021; Tolman 1976). The Hackings are still operating as a cattle company and the family continues use of the Ruple Cabin range.

6.12 THE CATTLEMEN: 1980 – PRESENT

Tom Anderson held BLM grazing allotments to much of the range within the JWPNCA by the late 1970s and early 1980s. The sheep industry, however, dropped into a steep, terminal decline in the area. In a newspaper article from 1981, Anderson and Ralph Siddoway listed out the manifold reasons for this decline:

> a) Market price of wool and lamb meat, (b) unable to obtain herders who will live in the hills with the sheep, (c) young people are financially unable to begin from scratch in the business due to the base property grazing laws, (d) the halting of poisoning of predators by the federal government [under the Nixon administration in 1972], (e) the power to control grazing right taken away from the people who used the land and put into the power of bureaucrats, (f) psychological attitude toward sheep business being risky, (g) U.S. wool and meat being purchased from foreign markets (*Vernal Express* March 5, 1981)

According to Anderson, "I have been in the sheep and cattle business all my life. I really enjoy it. I feel, though, that wool and lambs would have to be worth double what they are today to offset the increase cost of operation to be able to show a profit from the sheep industry." (*Vernal Express* March 5, 1981) From the industry's height in the 1930s and 1940s of 150,000, by the beginning of the Reagan administration there were only 15,000 sheep in the entire basin (*Vernal Express*, March 5, 1981).

During the last two decades of the twentieth century economic pressure and BLM grazing policies gradually forced out the last remaining sheep operations within the JWPNCA or forced them to convert to cattle for survival. Economic headwinds and climate change have continued to make the business situation precarious for those ranchers still in business in the area.

The Cook family had a sheep ranch located in Colorado since the 1930s or 1940s. In 1980 Floyd Cook sold the Colorado ranch and bought a ranch on Diamond Mountain from Tom Anderson. In the early 1980s the economy suffered with a drop in energy prices. The market for lamb cratered and Cook sold half the ranch and allotment privileges to Jack Chivers. To survive the Cook ranch sold all their sheep and converted completely to cattle in 1984. Cook and Chivers ran cattle in the area and used the Shiner allotment as winter range (Interviewee X 2021). The Diamond Mountain allotment is used for spring range from May until June. From June to October the cattle graze in the Ashley National Forest, while in the fall (October to November) the cattle graze on private rangeland.

Jack Chivers started a successful garbage business in Vernal before also becoming involved in livestock. In 1981 Chivers and his son, David, owned thirty cattle on a hundred acres of land. After the Chivers acquired land and allotments on Diamond Mountain in 1984, the ranch became more successful. Currently the Chivers graze about a thousand cattle on thousands of acres of property. Jack Chivers passed away in the early 2000s and his son David continues the family garbage and cattle businesses (Chivers 2021).

The Holmes Ranch continued sheep ranching throughout the 1980s and 1990s. The Holmes sheep would go to Cooper Draw from May to June, and then would trail up to their forest permit, where they stayed until September. The Holmes sheep would then trail back to Cooper Draw, where they would cull and ship off lambs. The herds would stay in Cooper Draw until late October or early November, when they would move the herds back to the home ranch on Asphalt Ridge, west of Vernal.

By the 1990s only two sheepmen operated in the vicinity of the NCA and on Diamond Mountain: Nile (Doc) Holmes and Lynn Siddoway (DeJournette 1996:108). Doc Holmes passed away in 1995. In 1999 the Holmes Ranch became the very last operation within the JWPNCA to change over from sheep to cattle. Lynn Siddoway would be the last individual with a sheep operation on Diamond Mountain. BLM policy on

Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep forced him out of business four years later, in 2003 (Holmes 2021; Spencer 2003). Doc's son, Dwayne Holmes, recalled that the Holmes ranch changed to cattle "because of the low land prices, the low wool prices, the predator [policy by the federal government]. That's when they started coming down on us for trying to control the coyotes," in addition to the pressure coming from BLM efforts to conserve bighorn sheep (Holmes 2021). When the Holmes Ranch shifted to cattle, they began using Cooper Draw from May to October, with the rest of the year in private grazing ground at the home ranch, except for April when they move to the McCoy Flat desert range.

Although Wanda Staley passed away in 2008, Island Park grazing privileges remain in the hands of the Ruple descendants in the form of the Wanda Staley Trust. As late as the 2010s the family continued to graze a limited amount of cattle (less than 20 head) on this allotment (BLM Wanda Staley File n.d.).

Since about 2000 droughts have severely impacted stockmen in the area. Hay for feed is getting harder to come by with the lack of water (Interviewee X 2021). Cattlemen have had to start buying equipment and trucks to haul water to their livestock, adding yet another expense on to an already capital-heavy business.

Except for Island Park, grazing allotments within the JWPNCA have changed hands multiple times since the enactment of the Taylor Grazing Act in 1934. Prior to the Act, historic allotment use had to be deduced from both General Land Office records, family history records, local histories, and the earliest U.S. Grazing Service records. VFO records from the 1930s to the 1970s are somewhat fragmentary, but records from the 1980s to the present give a mostly complete picture of the use of the area by livestock operators. An abstract of allotment use dating to the 1870s is found in Table 9 below. Dates for the most part should be considered approximate.

Table 9. JWPNCA Allotments – Historical Abstract

Present-Day Grazing Allotments	Allotees (or Ranchers using area prior to Taylor Grazing Act)	Dates	Comments
Cooper Draw (prior to 1973 was a portion of the Hatch Cove allotment)	Duncan Blair	c1875 - c1883	Used for cattle range (DeJournette 1996).
	The Burtons	c1883 – 1909	Used for cattle range, although the Burtons also grazed sheep by the early 1900s. The McKee operation probably also grazed the Cooper Draw area in the 1890s (Burton 2003b; DeJournette 1996).
	Samuel J. and Loran Hatch, the Cooper homestead, probably other sheep operations	1910s - 1920s	Used as sheep range, the Cooper family also proved up on a 640-acre homestead and had a small-scale sheep operation for a time. The Middleton ranch (cattle) may have also grazed on the east end of the present-day allotment

Present-Day Grazing Allotments	Allotees (or Ranchers using area prior to Taylor Grazing Act)	Dates	Comments
			(Carr 2015; U.S. Grazing Service n.d.; U.S. Grazing Service 1942).
	Samuel J. and Loran Hatch, the Cooper homestead, N.J. Meagher	1930s - 1940s	Sheep range, possibly Middleton cattle operation on the east end of the present-day allotment (U.S. Grazing Service n.d.; U.S. Grazing Service 1942).
	Samuel J. and Loran Hatch, Briant Stringham, probably other sheep operations	1950s - 1960s	Sheep range (DeJournette 1996).
	W.S. Livestock Company (Don Walker, Willis Southam, and Ralph Walker)	? – 1973	W.S. Livestock ran both cattle and sheep on the property (Walker, Walker and Southam 1974).
	Ralph Walker	1973-1975+?	1973: Cooper Draw created from split of W.S. Livestock Company's grazing privileges in the Serviceberry Springs and Hatch Cove allotments on Diamond Mountain. Ralph Walker grazes sheep only in Cooper Draw (BLM 1974; Walker, Walker and Southam 1974).
	Nile ("Doc") and Evelyn Holmes (later Holmes Bar NE Ranch)	Late 1970s - 1994	1980: grazing 550-750 sheep on allotment. Continued as sheep range until 1999 when the Holmes Ranch converted to cattle (Holmes 1980; Holmes 2021).
	Holmes Bar NE Ranch	1994-Present	Converted from sheep to cattle in 1999 (Holmes 2021).
Diamond Mountain [Originally 5 different allotments: Bowery Spring, Diamond Spring, Highway, Gerber Spring, and Diamond Gulch. Allotment formally delineated in 1987—Chivers receivedd	Duncan Blair	c1875 - c1883	Used for cattle range (DeJournette 1996).
	The Burtons and the Ruples	c1883 - 1909	The Burtons probably used the western end of the allotment for cattle range, although the Burtons also grazed sheep by the early 1900s. The McKee operation probably also used the western end of the allotment in the 1890s. The Ruples used this area to graze cattle (Burton 2003b; DeJournette 1996; Watson 1977).

Present-Day Grazing Allotments	Allotees (or Ranchers using area prior to Taylor Grazing Act)	Dates	Comments
by transfer from Floyd Cook 394 AUMS attached to Diamond Spring, Diamond Gulch, Bowery Spring, Gerber Spring, and Highway allotments. These AUMs attached to new Diamond Mountain allotment.]	Louis Kabell, other sheep operations? Possibly John Reader operation?	1890s - 1916	Louis Kabell likely grazed sheep on the western end of the Diamond Mountain allotment and the east end of the Shiner allotment from about the 1890s to 1916, when he sold his sheep herds and sheep range to John Reader. Reader may have also grazed in these areas prior to this transaction (Watson 1977).
	Reader Livestock Company, the Hod Ruple – Evans operation, and the Middletons	1916 - 1930s	Cattle and sheep range (U.S. Grazing Service n.d.; U.S. Grazing Service 1942; *Vernal Express* July 7, 1916 and September 22, 1916).
	Reader Livestock Company, the Huber Brothers, the Evans-Feltch operation, and the Middleton ranch	1940s - 1950s	Cattle and sheep range (U.S. Grazing Service n.d.; U.S. Grazing Service 1942).
	Ralph Siddoway	1962 - 1967?	Primarily sheep range. In 1967 Siddoway transferred portions of Sections 20, 29, 33 of TS 2S R 25E (west of and on border with the NCA, northwest portion of present-day Diamond Mountain allotment) to Arthur Boren (Siddoway and Boren 1967).
	Arthur M. and Stella M. Boren	c1967 - 1977	Sheep range (DeJournette 1996).
	Glade and Darlene Holmes	1977-1979	Sheep range (DeJournette 1996).
	Raymond Anderson	1979-1981	Cattle and sheep range (DeJournette 1996).
	Cook	1981- Present	1981: Cook family obtains privileges to group of allotments known collectively as the Diamond Mtn. allotment. 1982: livestock class partially changed from sheep to cattle. 1987: livestock class completely changed form sheep to cattle. Area north of Jones Hole

Present-Day Grazing Allotments	Allotees (or Ranchers using area prior to Taylor Grazing Act)	Dates	Comments
			highway is transferred OUT of allotment (BLM 1987a).
	Chivers	1987-Present	Cattle range (BLM 1987b).
Island Park	Duncan Blair	c1875 - c1883	Cattle range (DeJournette 1996).
	Hank Ruple	1883 - 1910	Used to pass through to better grazing ground (Watson 1977).
	Park Ranch Company	1910 - 1915	
	Hod and Lilly Ruple, later Joel and Lilly Evans	1915 - 1945	Used to pass through to better grazing ground (Staley n.d.b).
	Joel Evans – Clark Feltch partnership	1940s – 1950s	Used to pass through to better grazing ground (Staley n.d.b).
	Wanda Staley and the Wanda Staley Trust	1945 – present	Grazed small amount of cattle and leased grazing rights for sheep and cattle operators. In 1962, transferred 31 AUMs to base property of Arthur and Stella Boren. In 1963-1965 leased allotment to Alford Evans. In 1965 transferred 89 AUMs to the base property of B.H. Stringham. In 1966-1967 leased grazing rights to Don Walker. In 1970-1974 leased grazing rights to Ben Clark. From the 1990s to 2010s Staley and the Staley grazed 17 cattle on the allotment (various records in Wanda Staley File, BLM VFO).
Ruple Cabin	Duncan Blair	c1875 - c1883	Used for cattle range (DeJournette 1996).
	The Ruples	c1883 - 1910	Used for cattle range (Watson 1977).
	S.J. Hatch, Loran Hatch, Hod and Lilly Ruple (later Joel and Lilly Evans), Middletons, W.H.	1910s – 1940s	Used for cattle and sheep range. Unknown when Siddoways and Hatches began grazing present-day Ruple Cabin allotment, possibly 1900s –

Present-Day Grazing Allotments	Allotees (or Ranchers using area prior to Taylor Grazing Act)	Dates	Comments
	Siddoway and Sons, Charles C. Rich		1920s (Staley n.d.b; U.S. Grazing Service n.d.; U.S. Grazing Service 1942).
	Hatch, Siddoway, Evans-Feltch operation	1950s	Used for cattle and sheep range. Estimated dates and operations, BLM records fragmentary (U.S. Grazing Service 1942).
	Clark Feltch and Pearl McCarrell (Pearl was Joel Evans sister)	? - 1965	"Predecessors of the Anderson Sheep Outfit in Cherry Springs, Ruple Cabin, and Pot Creek" (BLM 1969).
	Anderson Sheep Outfit	1965 - 1975	Anderson Sheep Outfit acquired bulk of grazing privileges "to support his steer operation." (BLM 1969). 1975: Raymond Anderson transferred his 2410 AUMs to UGBA (BLM 1984).
	Elaine S. Richards (nee Siddoway)	1964-1979	1964-1971: Utah District and Supreme Court case over Elaine's inheriting father's grazing rights. Cancelled 1979 by show of cause – non-use since 1973 (BLM 1964; BLM 1979b; Fourth Judicial District Court of the State of Utah 1971).
	Ralph, John, and James Siddoway	? - 1976	1975-1976: Ralph and John Siddoway transferred grazing rights to Rulon Hacking (Tolman 1976). .
	Rulon Hacking, later Hacking Land and Livestock	1976 - Present	1976: Change in class of livestock from sheep to cattle (BLM 1984).
	UBGA	1976 - Present	Cattle range (BLM 1984).
Shiner	Duncan Blair	c1875 - c1883	Used for cattle range (DeJournette 1996).
	The Burtons and the Ruples	c1883 - 1909	The Burtons probably used the western end of the allotment for cattle range, although the Burtons also grazed sheep by the early 1900s. The McKee operation probably also used the western end of the allotment in the 1890s. The

Present-Day Grazing Allotments	Allotees (or Ranchers using area prior to Taylor Grazing Act)	Dates	Comments
			Ruples used this area to graze cattle (Burton 2003b; DeJournette 1996; Watson 1977).
	Louis Kabell, other sheep operations? Possibly John Reader operation?	1890s - 1916	Louis Kabell likely grazed sheep on the western end of the Diamond Mountain allotment and the east end of the Shiner allotment from about the 1890s to 1916, when he sold his sheep herds and sheep range to John Reader. Reader may have also grazed in these areas prior to this transaction (*Vernal Express* July 7, 1916 and September 22, 1916; Watson 1977).
	Reader Livestock Company, Ford DeJournette, the Shiner Brothers, Hod and Lilly Ruple (later Joel and Lilly Evans)	1915 - 1940s (or earlier)	This was primarily sheep range during this time period. In the 1940s Douglas Chew leased land from the State of Utah within the Shiner allotment as well (U.S. Grazing Service n.d.; U.S. Grazing Service 1938).
	Shiner Brothers, Huber Brothers	1950s	Sheep grazing (DeJournette 1996).
	Arthur M. and Stella Boren, Sprouse-Hatch Ranch Company	1960s [dates?]	Boren acquires Huber grazing privileges in 1961. Sprouse-Hatch operation also used area in the 1960s (DeJournette 1996; Hatch 1967).
	Arthur M. and Stella M. Boren	1960s - 1977	BLM converted Shiner from sheep to cattle in the 1980s (BLM 1981; BLM 1987b; Cook and Cook 1987; DeJournette 1996).
	Glade and Darlene Holmes	1977-1979	
	Raymond Anderson	1979-1981	
	Cook	1981 - Present	
	Chivers	1987 - Present	

Page intentionally left blank

7. SUMMARY OF ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS WITH UINTAH COUNTY RANCHING FAMILIES

Ten individuals were interviewed for this ethnographic study for the John Wesley Powell National Conservation Area (NCA) (Table 10): eight were interviewed in person in Vernal, Utah during the week of May 11-14, one was interviewed virtually via Zoom on May 14, and one was interviewed virtually via Zoom on August 24, 2021. Additional input was received from the Staley family descendants during the May 2022 field trip, including Ilene McLean, her daughter Lori Martin, and her niece, Brandi Moore (Figure 46). All the interviewees were either current ranchers in the Vernal area, or descendants of ranching families. All were raised in the Vernal area and attended the local public schools. All but two live in Vernal; the two exceptions are Bill Siddoway and Ilene McLean, who continue to visit Vernal frequently and have relatives in the area. One of the interviewees is a water rights lawyer in Vernal as well as a rancher; another is the retired County Assessor as well as a rancher; and one, a retired academic administrator, is the brother of the last sheepman on Diamond Mountain. At the time of the May 2021 interviews, they ranged in age from 58 to 91 years (58, 66, 68, 68, 69, 70s, 72, 81, 90, 91). One interviewee requested that his name not be used in the report; he is referred to as Interviewee X. Dave Chivers and Bill Siddoway stipulated that the information they provided could only be used for this project, and no other purpose or reuse.

Five themes were raised in the questionnaire or became apparent during our discussions with the interviewees:

- Settlement and livestock ranching in the Uinta Basin
- History and purpose of the NCA
- Features within the NCA and surrounding area
- Care of the land
- Future of ranching

These are discussed below and wherever possible, explained in the interviewees' own words.

7.1 SETTLEMENT AND LIVESTOCK RANCHING IN THE UINTA BASIN

Chapters 5 and 6 provide a detailed history of the occupation of the Uinta Basin, beginning with the early Euro-American trappers and traders, the placement of the indigenous people on reservations, and the entry of farmers and ranchers beginning in the late nineteenth century. Unlike many other areas of Utah, the Uinta Basin was not initially settled by LDS missionary families, but gentiles. Only after non-Mormons began settlement of the Ashley Valley in the early 1870s did Mormon families move to the Basin individually or with their relatives, to establish farms, ranches, and local businesses. Transportation into and out of the Basin was restricted; no railroad was ever built to Vernal, the closest railhead was 115 km (71.5 miles) away in Green River, Wyoming, and the early roadways required circuitous routes to bypass the many encircling ranges to get into the Basin:

Table 10. Interview Summaries (listed in alphabetical order)

Interviewee (Age at time of interview) Grazing Permitee	Family Name	LDS?	Arrival in Vernal Area	Specific Locations	Occupation(s)	Allotments	In NCA?	Seasonal Round (C=Cattle; S=Sheep)	Topics Discussed with Interviewee
Scott Chew (66)	GGF: Jack Chew	Yes, from England	1901	Brown's Park. (confluence of Green and Yampa rivers) Homesteads in Brown's Park, Utah (1901) then Echo Park, Colorado (1910)	Rustler, Rancher (brought cattle to Vernal)	[Pre-allotments]	No		Great Grandfather Jack Chew; Grandfather Doug, sheepherder, and had own cattle and sheep (complement each other on the range), summers on land leased at Pot Creek, historic family use of land at Pot Creek; Scott's current allotments (not on NCA); reasons for decline of sheep industry; seasonal movement of his sheep, discussion of sheep camp he was preparing to move his sheep; his Dad advised to sell off sheep last year during Covid – did at 50percent of usual price
	GF: Douglas Chew	Yes	Born in Vernal	Jensen (acquired old Daniels Ranch in 1941, now known as the Chew Ranch)	Sheepherder for Collier 1926-1941; had own sheep and cattle; he thought they complemented each other	Pot Creek (leased land)	Yes, leased land from State of Utah and the Ruples	**Sheep** *Nov-Mar*: grazing on Jensen home property *Apr:* shearing, lambing *May*: trailed *Summer:* grazing on Pot Creek *Sept?:* trailed to Jensen *Oct?:* separated lambs; shipped to market	
	F: Dean Chew	Yes	Born in Vernal	Jensen (Chew Ranch)	Rancher		No	"	
	Scott	Yes		Jensen (Chew Ranch)	Rancher Utah State Legislator	Daniels Canyon Split Mountain (shares allotments with 3 others)	No	**Sheep (his allotments are south of the NCA)** *March/April: drive to Jensen corral to shear* *May*: mountain ranch, lamb/dock/mark *Summer*: truck to Steamboat Springs, Colo (NF) *Nov*: return to ranch **Cattle** *March:* come off range to home ranch to calve *May*: move to summer range – private July/Aug/early Sept: NF Daniels Canyon? *Late Sept:* move to Split Mountain, UT allotment (7 pastures there, shared with 3 other ranchers)	
	Son: Carson			Jensen (Chew Ranch)	Rancher	"	No	"	
Dave Chivers (58) Chivers Ranch, Inc.	GGF: John Thomas Chivers	Yes: from Wales as a child	1884	Vernal			No		Family history; father had 30 cows on 100 acres in 1981 and 300 cows when he passed in 2006; Dave has 1000 cows on 4000 acres but could not do it without support from his garbage company; problems facing ranchers today; his allotments within the NCA and physical features; how his operation uses the allotments; seasonal movement of his herds; historic seasonal movement
	GF: Dee Chivers	Yes	Born in Vernal in 1900	Vernal	Sheepherder for Hackings; good horseman		No		
	F: Jack Chivers	Yes		Vernal	Gilsonite miner 20 years; started garbage company to earn extra money to buy day-old calves and milk cows		Yes	Purchased half of and Diamond Mtn BLM allotments Shiner from Floyd Cook in 1984	
	Dave	Yes		Northeast Vernal	Garbage and Storage businesses; Rancher	BLM: Shiner and Diamond Mountain FS: Ashley NF (Jun 5-Sep 1)	Yes	**Cattle:** *Nov-May:* Shiner allotment May: move to feedlots Feb: move to home ranch Mar/Apr: calve Apr/May: Shiner allotment (45-60 days) May/Jun:	

Interviewee (Age at time of interview) Grazing Permitee	Family Name	LDS?	Arrival in Vernal Area	Specific Locations	Occupation(s)	Allotments	In NCA?	Seasonal Round (C=Cattle; S=Sheep)	Topics Discussed with Interviewee
								Diamond Mtn allotment and holdings; also Ashley NF allotment *Fall:* feedlots near landfill	of sheep; description of individual shepherds; shearing and docking of sheep; duties as an allotment holder; discussion of the allotment; one son runs business, the other runs the ranch
	Son: Mark Chivers			Vernal	Rancher		Yes	"	
Mitch Hacking (68) Hacking Land and Livestock	GGF: Joseph Pearson Hacking	Yes	1895	Brought sheep from Cedar Fort UT, homesteaded Jackson Draw and home place in Maeser		Wild Mountain (Jackson Draw/Willow Creek in early 1900s)	No	**Sheep until 1960s**	Family history; historical family rangelands just north of NCA on Diamond Mountain; main ranch in Maeser; transfer from sheep to cattle; seasonal movement and feeding of cattle; use of Ruple Cabin (partly in NCA) in the summer; wildlife on Diamond Mountain and NCA; how NCA came about as a trade for National Forest wilderness areas.
	GF: Rulon Stringham Hacking	Yes	Born in Vernal 1903		Rancher County commissioner		No		
	F: Rulon Hacking		Born in Vernal 1930	Herded sheep in Maeser, Red Wash, Diamond Mountain, and Lonetree, Wyoming	Rancher Owned the original A&W in Vernal Oil field worker Started Target Trucking	Permits between the Coal Mine Basin, U Hill and Lapoint, Ruple Cabin permit acquired in 1975	Yes		
	Mitchell Rulon		Born in Vernal 1952	Homeplace in Pelican Lake area south of Vernal		Ruple Cabin	Yes	**Cattle: (500 mother cows in Vernal; 2000 head in feed lot in Ouray, CO)** Jan - Apr: feed hay, and leased corn fields May 5-June 5: spring permits on BLM and state land June 5- Oct 1: Wild Mtn, BLM and on the Monument homestead Oct 1-Nov 1: private land on Wild Mtn Nov 1-Jan 1: BLM permits	
	Sons and Daughter			Raise cows in feedlot in Colorado				Raise cows in feed lot	
Dwayne Holmes (68) Holmes Bar NE Ranch LLC	GF: Joe Holmes	Yes; immigrated from England	Late 19th century?	Homesteaded homeplace on Brush Creek or Ashley Creek; homesteaded grazing allotment 'Seven Acres Cabin' under Asphalt Ridge	Rancher		No		Discussed family history, his father was Nile "Doc" Holmes, known for docking sheep with his teeth, family homesteaded east of Naples

Interviewee (Age at time of interview) Grazing Permitee	Family Name	LDS?	Arrival in Vernal Area	Specific Locations	Occupation(s)	Allotments	In NCA?	Seasonal Round (C=Cattle; S=Sheep)	Topics Discussed with Interviewee
	F: Nile "Doc" Homes	Yes	Born in Vernal 1916	Asphalt Ridge	Rancher	leased some in Colorado in the 1950s, Hamilton Mountain, then Bear Mountain Cooper Draw (late 1970s, prior to wildfire in 1982) McCoy Flat Parker Allotment near the "twist" west of Asphalt Ridge	\ Yes	**Sheep:** May 10 – trail to Cooper Draw June 15– trail west to Moore's Peak (NF) Sept 15 – trail back to Cooper Draw, ship lambs End Oct – trail to homestead on Asphalt Ridge	on Ashley Creek, father used sons and local herders (named herders), changed from sheep to cattle in 1999, historic seasonal movements of the Holmes sheep herds, working other jobs to feed family, hunting on Diamond Mountain, Cooper Draw allotment, water issues, reasons for not going back to sheep, installing fencing for cattle, story of how Jones Hole got its name, Gurr cabin (gone), previous holders of NCA allotments (Art Boren mining gilsonite, Glade Holmes, Tom Anderson, Bennions, Hatches). "
	Dwayne	Yes	Born in Vernal 1952	Leased his Dad's sheep operation in 1978	Oil fields Bonanza Power Plant Rancher	Cooper Draw	Yes	**Cattle** (changed from sheep to cattle, 1999; have adjusted to the drought with the following schedule): May 20--Oct 15 Cooper Draw Oct 15-Nov 1 homeplace to feed on hay, cull, preg test Nov 1-Jan 1 McCoy Flat "high desert" Jan 1-Apr 20 homeplace/feed lot Apr 20 – May 20 McCoy Flat	
	Son: Andy	Yes			Rancher				
Gayle McKeachnie (72)	GGF: Thomas Murray McKeachnie	Yes, immigrated from England, but was Scottish; settled first in Wasatch County	Late 1880s	Homesteaded Bates Springs in western Vernal just before Asphalt Ridge, and Betts Cove on Diamond Mtn	Farmer/Storekeeper Carried mail from Vernal to Rock Springs, WY		No		Family history–settled SW end of Vernal around Asphalt Ridge; 3 generations, both sides, in the area; early settlements in area; Dawes Act; family homesteaded at Betts Cove; started with sheep; acquired by Stringham then acquired by Tom Anderson; Brown's Park outlaws; family brought sheep to Diamond Mountain; spending time and working on Diamond Mountain; historic seasonal movement and feeding of McKeachnie sheep; incident where his grandfather Tom McKeachnie was shot; Meagher sheep operation run by Mr. Roberts; problems facing sheepmen; his
	GF: John W. McKeachnie	Yes	Born in Vernal in 1895	Homesteaded Bates Spring on Diamond Mtn	McKeachnie Brothers Sheep (bought herd)		No		
	F: Colton McKeachnie	Yes	Born in Vernal in 1920	Bought Bates Spring from his mother	Farmer Rancher State meat inspector President of the Highline Canal Company		No	Sheep spent summers in the National Forest in the high Uintas, and spring and fall range on BLM/Diamond Mtn high desert	
	Gayle	Yes		Bates Spring	Water Lawyer		No		
	Son:	Yes		Bates Spring	Runs ranch for McKeachnie family				

Interviewee (Age at time of interview) Grazing Permitee	Family Name	LDS?	Arrival in Vernal Area	Specific Locations	Occupation(s)	Allotments	In NCA?	Seasonal Round (C=Cattle; S=Sheep)	Topics Discussed with Interviewee
									personal biography (college, law school, political career); start of Uinta Basin Grazing Association Co-Op buying out Tom Anderson; increase of elk in area; previous holders of NCA allotments (Art Boren, Stringham, Hubers); current NCA allotment holders.
Ilene McLean (81) (Ruple Descendant) Wanda Staley Trust	GGF: Henry "Hank" Case Ruple, wife May	No	1883 Island Park; filed homestead 1893	Fort Duchesne, Island Park, Pot Creek sawmill, Brush Creek ranch	Carpenter Rancher Sawmill owner	Present-day Ruple Cabin, Wild Mountain, Island Park	Yes	Cattle	Family history; Henry Cate Ruple—Diamond Mtn sawmill, Island Park; sale to Dinosaur National Monument; family had cattle, sheep, cattle; trail from Island Park to Wild Mtn via tail from Island Park to Jones Hole; pushed cows north 2 weeks/they came home on their own; places noted on map: lime kiln, stills, Indian camps, Island Park cemetery, outlaws, petroglyphs, hermit Pat Lynch, Split Mtn correct location, Wagon Road Bench copper mine, Pot Creek sawmill, springtime sheep camp on top of Rainbow Park; has additional places could identify if drive the area. Ilene and her niece Brandi Moore administer the Wanda Staley, which holds the Island Park Allotment.
	GF: Henry "Hod" Ruple, wife Lilly married Joel Evans when Hod passed 1937; Lily passed 1945?	No	Island Park	Island Park	Rancher	Wild Mountain, BLM Island Park, BLM	Yes	Sheep for ca. 15 years in the '20s and 30s; Cattle	
	M: Wanda Ruple Staley; husband Melvin Carl Staley coal miner, Vernal Chief of Police and County Deputy Sheriff	Yes	Born in Island Park 1920	Island Park Vernal		Island Park, BLM	Yes	Cattle	
	Ilene McLean (Wanda Staley Trust)	No		Vernal	Rancher	Island Park, BLM	Yes	Cattle	
Lorin. (Pudge) Merkley (90)	GGF: Nelson Merkley	Yes	1870s from Cedar Flat, Utah				No		Family history; ranch at 3500 W 1000N; just sold last cattle a week ago; economic problems with small ranches; worked as county tax assessor; had first grazing permit on Diamond Mountain in 1954; his father's BLM permits (not in NCA); seasonal movement of livestock; quality of individuals in livestock business; hunting on Diamond Mountain; discussed previous allotment holders (George C. Davis, Shiners, Tom Anderson, Art Boren, Ruples, and Doc Holmes); Butch Cassidy; Diamond Mountain as a sheep/cattle
	GF: Charles Albert Merkley	Yes	1870s from Cedar Flat, Utah		Rancher (ran horses at Davis Spring)	Homestead? at Davis Hollow / Davis Spring	No		
	F: Sidney Merkley	Yes	Born in Vernal in 1906	Bought homeplace in Vernal, moved to Maeser in 1936	Rancher	Stirrup Allotment, Bonanza Unit, BLM	No	Cattle	
	Pudge	Yes		Homeplace is in Vernal	Oil Field Surveyor County Assessor Rancher	Diamond Mountain, FS purchased ca. 1954	No	Cattle: (trailed until 25 years ago) Jun-Nov: Diamond Mtn, FS Nov: lease land or move to homeplace	

Interviewee (Age at time of interview) Grazing Permitee	Family Name	LDS?	Arrival in Vernal Area	Specific Locations	Occupation(s)	Allotments	In NCA?	Seasonal Round (C=Cattle; S=Sheep)	Topics Discussed with Interviewee
									area; problems with four-wheelers.
Smokey Rasmussen (70s)	GF: ?				Sheepherder – died of rattlesnake bite while tending sheep				Family farm in Jensen area on road to Monument; having cattle and sheep; seasonal movement and feeding of his cattle; geographic features in NCA ("Rough Trail", Boone Ridge Road); his other allotments; trailing cattle across NCA; his lawsuit against BLM when they tried to prevent him from using the Rough Trail; value of sheep versus cows; use of Jones Hole trail; wildlife on Diamond Mountain.
	F: Lewis Rasmussen				Oil fields Rancher (kids ran the ranches)		Travelled through NCA	Louis and his brother David bought two allotments up north, as well as Yellow Jacket north of Wild Mtn, and McFarley Flat down south from Howard Ainge in 1970: lost Yellow Jacket when his dad died and they went bankrupt	
	Smokey				Rancher (black angus)		Yes, used Rough Trail to get to Wild Mtn.	Feb/Apr: South Park Creek, CO (1 wk) Mid Apr: McFarley Flat (BLM, S of NCA) End May/mid Jun: Wild Mtn allotment, CO Mid Jun-end Oct: South Park Creek Mid-May-Oct 1: leased Bobcat Ranch for yearlings Nov/Dec: McFarley Flat Dec/Jan: Homeplace in Jensen	
	"Adopted" son Alan Harrison								
Bill Siddoway (91)	GF: William H. Siddoway	Yes	1889 from Salt Lake City	Ashley	Carpenter/ran the sawmill on Taylor Mountain; In sheep business by 1895; brought sheep from WY in 1905; 4 sons were sheep men; Vernal banker	Homesteaded on Diamond Mtn	Yes		Family history; grandfather William H. Siddoway came to Ashley Creek in 1899, started sawmill; discussion of ingenuity and resourcefulness of settlers in this remote area; start of Siddoway sheep business in 1905; William's sons; his father Ralph and his family; Bill's career in higher education; Diamond Mountain Siddoway location (Mail Draw, Davenport Draw, Lambson Draw, Pot Creek, Kettle Creek); homesteading; historic seasonal movement and feeding of Siddoway herds; William Ashley's greater impact on Uinta Basin compared to John Wesley Powell; grandfather's businesses in Vernal; Butch Cassidy; WW II and higher wool prices; sheep breeds (Rambouillet and Columbia); Siddoway brothers; Vernal as atypical Mormon settlement; Ute Tribe; fence issue on
	F: Ralph	Yes	Born in Vernal in 1905	Vernal Diamond Mountain	Accountant; School teacher; Sheep Rancher after 1943	BLM allotments: Mail Draw, Lambson Draw, Davenport Draw, Pot Creek, Ruple Cabin	Yes	Spring: Diamond Mtn, lambing Summer: trailed to Iron Springs, Ashley NF Fall: Diamond Mtn Fall/Winter: BLM allotments on UT/CO border	
	Bill	Yes	Born in Vernal in 1930	Vernal Diamond Mountain	Worked on father's sheep ranch until went to University; University administrator	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Brother: Lynn	Yes	Born in Vernal in 1934-	Vernal Diamond Mountain	Inherited Ralph's sheep ranch; Last sheep man on Diamond Mtn, forced out of business in 2003 by BLM Rock Mountain bighorn policy	Diamond Mtn	No	-	
	Bill's 4 children	Yes	-	Share Bill's 300 acres private land at Diamond Springs	various		No	-	

Interviewee (Age at time of interview) Grazing Permitee	Family Name	LDS?	Arrival in Vernal Area	Specific Locations	Occupation(s)	Allotments	In NCA?	Seasonal Round (C=Cattle; S=Sheep)	Topics Discussed with Interviewee
									Diamond mountain; stray cow pen; typical bed-down set-up for sheep herds; things that can go wrong with sheep in bed-downs and counting corrals; photos of Iron Springs area; NCA forage is poor, water is poor, current and previous allotments (Chivers, Shiner, George Davis); Diamond Springs.
Interviewee X (69)	GF	Yes	Born in Vernal in 1900	Southeast Vernal (leased land to FAA for VORTAC installation) Ranch in Colorado from about 1950 to 1980	Rancher		No		Family history; shift from sheep to cattle in 1984; sold out half to Chivers family in early 1980s bad economy; problems facing ranchers today; his allotments on the NCA and physical features; how his operation uses allotments; seasonal movement of his herds; feeding cattle on grain and corn; expenses for ranchers; issues with federal bureaucracies; work full time at other jobs to keep up his ranch.
	F	Yes	Born in Vernal	Ranch in Colorado from about 1950 to 1980 Bought Diamond Mountain Ranch 1980 Southeast Vernal (McCoy Flat)	Rancher	Summer: 3 bands in Colorado, then trailed to Winter: McCoy Flat with one combined band BLM: Shiner and Diamond Mountain (sold half to Chivers in 191)	Yes	**Sheep & Cattle:** 4000 head of sheep and 200 head of cattle in 1980. Market for lamb dropped dramatically in early 1980s and little market for wool; sold half of his BLM allotments to Jack Chivers and transferred the BLM permits to cattle.	
	Interviewee X	Yes	Born in Vernal 1953	Diamond Mountain Ranch	Electrician for gilsonite mine Rancher	BLM: Shiner and Diamond Mountain allotments Private land on Diamond Mtn, about 24 km (15 miles) from corral on Shiner	Yes	**Cattle: sell calves each Fall to feedlot or "background" – feed calves for 70 days then sell** *Nov 1-early Feb*: haul to Shiner allotment *Feb-mid Apr*: home place, feeding; calving *Mid-Apr- Jun 20th*: push onto Diamond Mtn allotment *Jun 24-Oct 1*: trail 3 days to Ashley NF Oct 1 -Nov 1: home place, culling/ship calves	
	1 son is a rancher, 3 sons have jobs, and assist when they can	Yes					Yes		

> So really, everything that they used had to come in by horse-drawn conveyance, horse and wagon. That meant they had to be self-sustaining and ingenious people. They were without any outside resources. So, you filled your wagon, you moved to Vernal, and there you are. They wanted power...well, they built a power plant. They could raise wheat. if they wanted flour, they built a flour mill. That kind of ingenuity was basic to the entire operation of Vernal (Siddoway 2021a:1).

Uinta Basin is often described as "high desert" surrounded by mountain ranges that provide cooler temperatures and more water during the summer months. Because it is arid, it is not ideal grazing land unless it is carefully tended and not overgrazed. The earliest settlers claimed springs and other water-rich locations and used the surrounding areas to raise their crops and livestock.

Because of the aridity of the Uinta Basin, livestock require large amounts of acreage for forage. The typical pattern was and continues to be, that family residences (often referred to as home places) are located on the floor of the basin in Vernal or surrounding towns, with spring and winter grazing areas in the lower elevations at ranch base properties or on BLM allotments, and summer grazing in the highest elevations on Ashley National Forest Service land in the Uinta Mountains along the north/northwest boundary of the basin. Livestock must be rotated throughout the year, sometimes only staying in one area for a week to ten days, depending on how well watered it is and whether it has good forage.

Cattle and sheep were initially driven into the Uinta Basin in the 1870s and 1880s from areas such as Brown's Park, northeast of the NCA. Cattlemen and sheepmen competed for the grazing areas. After the hard winter of 1879-1880, sheep became the predominant livestock as they weathered that killing freeze better. Burton (1996:111) reported that 50,000 sheep were in the area by the mid-1890s.

Figure 46 Ruple descendants (l-r) Lori Martin, Brandi Moore, and Ilene McLean with Island Park in background

Early ranchers (1870s-1890s) claimed squatters rights on their ranch base property and the federal-owned free range. Their base property rights were later formalized through homesteading via one of the homesteading acts enacted in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Rangelands were the open range on federal lands. After overgrazing resulted in quick degradation of the rangelands in the late nineteenth century, the newly created Forest Service began regulating the range within the Ashley National Forest by setting limits on the number of animals and duration that could be grazed.

The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 ended the free-range system on federal land and imposed grazing regulations on vast sections of Department of the Interior. The grazing regulations were first administered by the U.S. Grazing Service. The grazing range was divided into allotments after consultations with stockmen in the early 1940s. The Public Range Improvement Act of 1946 established the BLM to administer DOI rangeland allotments and gave priority to stockmen with a history of prior use of a particular range. The 1946 Act also had a commensurability requirement that ranchers must own private property, water, and graze equal to that found on an allotment and they are required to make improvements on the allotments. Both the 1934 and 1946 Acts resulted in a reduction in livestock on the federal range nationally. Within the Uinta Basin this specifically meant a reduction in sheep.

Raising sheep differs dramatically from raising cattle: they graze in a different manner, eat different forage, and have dramatically different requirements for management by ranchers.

7.1.1 Sheep

Per Dusty Carpenter, BLM VFO Range Officer, before the 1950s, ranchers had summer homes and ranges, and winter homes and ranges, and drove sheep between them. They would move the sheep in early morning, break for lunch, and when cooler in the evenings, move them again in the evening to where they wanted them to bed down. Sheep are always on the move as they are nibblers of browse, forbs, and grass and unlike cattle, they can eat terpenes in the sagebrush without adverse effect. Sheep are “flushed through” an area.

Sheep require constant attention for half of the year, but a single sheepherder and a well-trained dog can manage a flock numbering in the hundreds if not thousands. Sheep spend winters in Vernal, lamb in the spring on private property, then summer in Colorado on Forest Service permits. Sheep are sheared in the spring, lamb in April-May, and move onto the summer range. Dave Chivers explained that the sheep were sheared in the spring before they lambed so that the lambs could recognize their mothers more easily. He added:

> So after they would shear why they take a branding iron, but it wasn’t hot, and dip it in paint and stick it on sheep. [It lasted] really good for a couple months. You could make out parts and then the use earmarks and stuff. Marked their ears and stuff for another tool to help them identify them.(Chivers 2021:13).

Lynn Siddoway was the last sheepman on Diamond Mountain, having inherited his father Ralph’s sheep business. Lynn’s brother, Bill Siddoway, spent his youth helping with the family business before he left the

Uinta Basin to pursue an academic career. Bill participated in this study and provided a detailed summary of tending sheep:

Description of Tending Sheep, 1940s-1950s

by Bill Siddoway (BS) as told to Suzanne Griset (SG)

Siddoway Interview, May 14, 2021, pp. 20–23

BS: You are with the sheep before its daylight. Sheep go to sleep. They lay down, lay on the bed ground. They stay until it begins to get light. They're ambitious. They get up and some will start to move as soon as it's light. Now the best way to keep a herd of sheep together is [to] be there when the first sheep get up. And the first sheep that start to move you nudge in the direction you want them to go, and as they move, a few others get up. A good herder lets them move on their own tempo to a great degree. And we're now going to trail the sheep, and so you have a specified direction. It's narrow, it's not spread out like you're going to cover a major part of the mountain side to graze. So, you keep the edges, caravan, and finally you nudge the later risers and get everybody out of bed and move them down the trail. Keep wagons nearby. You've had a breakfast meal before you go to the bed ground.

SG: Let me interrupt just a minute. When you say it's nearby, does it need to be separated from the sheep? And so, because you're doing activities and things near it, I mean how, where is it placed in relation to the sheep?

BS: You're on the trail, the sheep, the sheep wagon would be sometimes 50 feet, sometimes one-half mile. Depends on how [wide is] that part of the trail, the composition of the territory. And then you keep the sheep moving together, uh, no cowboy stuff. You let, the first day you'll have an older [sheep] who's been to the Ashley Forest before–she knows where she's going. It'll be not an old ewe, there will be probably six or eight that they move out in front. And you know your sheep, and all of those [leaders] have bells on, so they announced that here we go, we're going to the forest. Everybody wants to go and the sheep string out. You keep them together.

You have to have water midday, so the sheep trail anticipates at midday you're going to have a stream, a pond, the reservoir, where the sheep will drink and lay down and rest for a short time. We pull a wagon up and they have a noon meal and spread out. You're taking a nap yourself, 30 minutes. You'll start to get your sheep up. You want to make sure that you can reach the evening bed ground on time. You don't want to be lagging behind. So, you get your herd moving again toward the evening place of bed ground, and just move along gently. Every herder has a dog, some like two. And the dog, if you're on the trail, and you're alone, the dog will work a lot and work on the fringes and keep the sheep moved together; keep them from straying away from the trail. If you have a couple of guys on the trail, the dogs are still very helpful—the great use of the dog is in the corral.

You get your sheep to the bed ground for the evening, again there is likely water [nearby]. And it's an established bed ground because a lot of sheep have been there. And it's obvious sheep are very defenseless—their only defense is flight—and so they're happy if they can go to bed on a high rise where they can see around. Seeing and fleeing are their two defenses. So, most bed grounds will be on a rise. And that's why the sheep choose, they want to go where they feel comfortable. You get them to the bed ground. You ride around the bed ground and make sure that no sheep decided to go on further. You gotta stay with them until dark, after dark, until the last one has gone to sleep. Now, that's, that's a typical day when it goes right.

SG: So, tell me some of the things that go wrong.

BS: Well, the most likely place for things to go wrong is at the fence line where you leave private property and enter government property. You have leased a place for 1,250 head to graze. You're not authorized to take 1,251. So, there's a corral where you count the sheep. A manager of the corral is there to tell you when you can go through the corral, and there to manage counting so that there is a record that you took not more than you may have, it's 1,250, and you may have 1,320, and so you're allowed a certain latitude, but you pay for the additional sheep.

Well, it's all a matter of being good neighbors and friendly and working things together, but the place where you have trouble is if another sheep owner is bringing his sheep, and his appointment is a half day behind yours. If they're not careful, your sheep can mix. And that's where you always have to have extra help—at the counting corral—so you keep your sheep and his sheep from mixing. That's a terrible job to have to run both herds through them and separate the mess. You don't want to do that. So, you're very careful in how you manage your herd when you come to the counting corral.

Now, sometimes a herd will come to the counting corral and say, 'I'm going to go through at daylight, and another guy said, 'Well, my sheep–they go through as soon as I can' and they bend down a little too close to the [inaudible] and the dog gets loose and he barks and the sheep get up and they stir a little and so some of his sheep get mixed, and you can see what happens. The counting corral, which is fixed at the location of the boundary line, that's the place where you have to be really careful, and you have to be short tempered enough to stand for yourself, but kind enough to give a little ground.

That corral [just outside the Forest] is maintained and operated by the Woolgrowers Association. The Forest says I lease a certain piece of property for a certain number of sheep. You have to certify that you brought that number of sheep.

SG: And when I come [to that location], because it's been a long time since the sheep have gone through there, when archaeologists go back and try to find the locations of the bed downs and those camping areas, what other kind of features would you look for, to find them?

> **BS:** A heavy manure and urine concentration, and the animals laying on the ground, it's, even after years of there being no sheep, the bed ground would still be without forage. That would be on a rise. On the trail, the sheep wagon would be right nearby. 12-15 miles [per day]. The sheep graze a little, but uh…the sheep are nibblers. They grab a mouthful and move on. Grab a mouthful, move on (Siddoway 2021a).

***

7.1.2 Switch from Sheep to Cattle

Sheep remained the predominant livestock within the JWPNCA from about 1900 until the 1970s. World War I, and especially World War II, created large markets for wool in the twentieth century as military uniforms and blankets were made of wool. Lamb was also a favored meat in the nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries.

Post-World War II, a variety of factors were identified by the interviewees for the decline in sheep ranching and the switch to cattle ranching in the 1970s–1990s in the Uinta Basin and in much of the United States.

The market for wool and lamb declined dramatically after World War II and affected the profitability of sheep ranching. Jobs became available that paid better and did not require months of living alone with the flocks in remote locations and sheep ranchers had to look elsewhere for herders. Ranchers also remarked that the fluctuation in federal regulations, especially the predator policy during that period, greatly affected the sheep ranching industry.

> We changed 1999 from sheep to cattle because of the low lamb prices, the low wool prices, the predator [policy by the federal government]. That's when they started coming down on us for trying to control the coyotes. And so, by '99, we had a group of trappers that would come in and take the problem prey or predator, out of the picture. Whether it be a bear, coyote, lion, whatever, you know. And sometimes I think that we lost more sheep and stuff with the coyotes, or with domestic dogs, than we have a lot of the others. You'd end up losing 30–40 head of them with a pack of dogs….one night...and some of it was they were pressuring us on the Rocky Mountain Bighorn (Holmes 2021: 6-7).

Mitch Hacking's family was one of the earliest sheep operations to switch from sheep to cattle, in the late 1960s. When asked why they did so early, his response was, "They went broke!" (Hacking 2021:3).

Scott Chew, who continues to raise sheep along with cattle, noted that sheepherding is a lonely job. After World War II, most Americans would not take the job. He said that ranchers are having to reach out to indigenous herders from Mexico and South America. Chew also noted that the increase in "employee rights" has raised the cost of sheepherding dramatically. Ranchers now must provide recreational vehicles—rather than the traditional "sheep camp" on wheels (Figure 47); the new facilities must include electricity and bathroom facilities and fresh food provisions, whereas formerly sheepherders camped out and relied heavily on canned foods for half of the year, only coming to town two times, for a week each time.

> What happened is this: in the ‘70s and the ‘60s—prior to that time, the government helped, you know? They had predator control programs, they had—we had wool incentive payments, and different things. The government helped a little bit with keeping folks alive out on the range. But the real problem is—we ran out of folks who know how to herd sheep.
>
> Nobody grew up doing it. Of course, in my grandpa’s time, coming out of the Depression, the sheep business was good to be in and if you were a young man, you can get a job herding sheep or even an older guy herding sheep, and because—you’d just be willing to be alone and out there…And then in the early 50s, folks—they'll get back from World War II and they've done different things and have families and stuff, and nobody learned how to handle livestock. So, I would say that the labor situation is probably more to do with it than the economical part of it…but it would have been nicer, well, everything would have been a little nicer if it made a little more money.
>
> …we mostly use South American people [as sheepherders now]. It's interesting that the opportunity for those folks is changed to a different geographic part of Mexico. The guys that we have are native oriented, you might say they're Indians, kind of and we've had Chilenos, and we've had Peruvians, too. We don't get very many Chilenos up here anymore because the exchange rate isn’t as good…and when those guys come from that far away, they stay three years. Mexicans are okay for just one year. They’re closer and can run back, you know, in nine months if they—they help with the summer operation and then go back. That's our—one of our biggest challenges is in the help… we have a lot of folks think they wanna do that, but they have visions of it, sitting on the hill playing the ukulele and watching your flock graze underneath, instead of actually going out and doing something (Chew 2021:8).

Gayle McKeachnie reinforced Mr. Chew’s point regarding sheep industry labor problems in his interview: “[W]hat happened to the sheep [business] is basically predators, labor problems…you know, with the way we have regulated industry now, you can't hire a sheepherder and have him live at the tent in the High Uintas.” (McKeachnie 2021:25-26).

Figure 47 Chew sheep camp, co-author Paul Maggioni (left) and Scott Chew (right), 2021

7.1.3 Cattle

In contrast to sheep, cows are wanderers and “tongue eaters” – they prefer grass and some herbaceous plants but cannot tolerate the terpenes. Cows like to stay around water and “loaf.” After they eat, they trample an area where they can lay down to sleep and digest. They can be fenced and left to graze as long as there is also water available (Dusty Carpenter in Griset 2021).

Cattle do not require constant supervision. They can be left to graze, as long as there is water, a fence to contain them, and sufficient forage. When the BLM allotments were converted to grazing cows, the allotees had to put up barbed wire and improve the water by improving springs, adding water pipelines to troughs, and building reservoirs.

If forage is insufficient, cows must be fed hay and corn that has to be trucked into the grazing area or ranchers must bring the cattle to the home place or leased land to feed them. If the rancher does not have

sufficient acreage to grow hay and corn, it must be purchased. Interviewee X grows hay and corn on Diamond Mountain. He bales the hay and chops up the corn for silage:

> That's what you feed those calves mainly. If you background them [feed them for the first 70 days to fatten them before selling them]. We'll harvest the first crop [of hay] the first part of June, second crop about the middle of July, and third crop about the first part of September. Corn gets harvested in September, latter part of September, first part of October (Interviewee X 2021:7).

With the continuing 20-year drought in the western states, water has also become perhaps *the* critical factor. Each rancher has different access to water depending on whether they have it on their home properties or have access to irrigation water. The NCA is notorious for not having much water in the best of years and for the past few years, many of the ranchers have had to truck water into the NCA allotments, and some even to their homeplace.

> Normally I—I mean, I got a lot of water. Usually, I start in the latter part of April, and I'll water till 1st of October—never out [of water]—and I got, I think 14 days of water this year… So, I'll raise the first crop [this year] then we're going to be scrounging for hay somewhere and there's not going to be any here because there's nothing. I mean, I'm not the only show in town…They're all like that. Everybody's that way. There's no water." (Interviewee X 2021:7)

Dwayne Holmes echoed the concerns about water:

> We've hauled water for all year long it seems like this year, because of the drought. This is an ugly drought you guys; this is the worst I've ever seen it. My Dad talks about the dirty thirties, and it was one that set the record. The lowest pre-set in a year's time in 1934 and '35. It was my understanding listening to the radio, that was the record prior to last year, and last year we exceeded that (Holmes 2021:19).

If the price of beef is down and sales do not exceed the expenses/money owed, many ranchers have had to sell livestock, their grazing permits, land, or the home ranch. One interviewee spoke about the economic downturn in the early 1980s that resulted in his father selling half of their BLM grazing allotments – a loss he still rues. Examples of permits changing hands are rife throughout the VFO records and depicted in Table 7.

7.2 FEDERAL REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING GRAZING

A host of federal regulations were cited by many of the interviewees as a threat to the continued health of ranching. These include the grazing system of stipulating AUMs for each area, the arduous process for doing the improvements required of allotees, environmental legislation (e.g., the Predator Law, Sage Grouse and Bighorn Sheep protections, and most recently the development of Wilderness Areas), fluctuating administrative policies, and the designation of the NCA.

7.2.1 Allotment Requirements

Grazing Permittees are required to make improvements, both structural, e.g., fences and water improvements, and non-structural e.g., seedings and prescribed burns. The ranchers enter into a negotiated Allotment Management Plan (AMP) with the BLM, which specifies how many AUMs (Animal Unit Months) may be grazed for specified time periods, and when needed, in specified areas of the allotment. For example, the AMP for the Shiner and Diamond Mountain allotments was approved in 1994. It was designed to limit spring use on Shiner to ten days every other year and limiting spring use to 30 days the other years, and to increase the spring rest period by changing the turn on date in May (from May 1 to May 25).

Additionally, the BLM also develops a VFO Resource Management Plan and individual allotment Resource Management Plans, both of which are developed with analyses prescribed by the National Environmental Protection Act and approved upon the publication of a Record of Decision. Grazing permittees must obtain permits for all proposed improvements each year and must pay for the improvements, unless the BLM requests and receives funding for specific types of actions, which means they must be planned several years in advance.

> I am big on water development. I love doing water projects. When I do a water project, I see my cattle benefit, the elk, deer, the sage grouse…on my private properties…I have about 24 solar pumps to pump out of wells that have either been drilled or dug with the track hoe. Ninety-five percent of them dug with track hoe. I have fishponds back on my private property with one running into another. I'm going year-round. Solar pumps work during the day when the sun shines; when sun shines, they charge. Over on this private property over here [pointing to map], I have a 2-inch pump that pumps water all the time out of Brush Creek and pumps it over in as far as I can come and stay on my private property. There's elk, herds of deer, and all manner of wildlife up there. We've done that a couple years now. Most of this stuff down in this area [pointing to map] is cleaning ponds and diverting water so it runs off the roadways and goes into a pond...there's hundreds of them in there. We work on them constantly. Every year...we at least do 10 to 20 cleaning, redoing, fixing, shading, so that they would catch water. (Chivers May 11, 2021, p. 19)

He went on to say that he has to obtain permits from BLM to do the required improvements and repairs on the grazing allotments.

> They [BLM] almost made it impossible for us to do it until a couple of years ago, and there was another big—it got to the point that we might be three years getting permission to go clean a pond that already existed—and finally we got enough political people gathered up…It says right in our permit that it's our responsibility. They can take it away from us for not doing it right. Well, finally we got it cleared up. We got things straightened out again.
>
> We have to do archaeological studies [for new projects, to] make sure that we're not disturbing something, but for existing projects, now it's back, but we swing from one direction to the other direction depending on government administration and everybody

> feels different about it. The trouble with it is the people that live back in the cities on the East Coast that scream and holler the loudest, haven't ever been out here and seen what actually exists. (Chivers, May 11, 2021, p. 18-19)

Gayle McKeachnie also commented on the federal requirement that allotees make improvements on their allotments, then sets about hampering them. In Wilderness Areas on the Ashley National and Wasatch National Forests in the Uinta Basin, no mechanized vehicles are permitted, but the allotees must still maintain the water improvements.

> There are lakes that have been dammed off to make them bigger so that we have irrigation water in the valleys. You can't take—you can't drive a backhoe or a Caterpillar tractor and dredge those out and do repairs on them. I have a client over in Roosevelt, the Dry Gulch Irrigation Company. When they go to certain of those lakes, they have to hire a helicopter to take equipment in, at $60,000 an hour, some of those big helicopters to take the equipment in to repair those [water improvements on wilderness land] because you can't take motorized vehicles. They get special permits to drop those in. (McKeachnie, May 11, 2021, p. 28)

The fear is that the JWP "conservation area" on BLM land will invoke that same type of regulations as the NF requires on wilderness areas.

7.2.2 Environmental Legislation

Where federal agencies have engaged in a variety of policies that aimed to improve the conditions and wildlife of federal reserves, ranchers feel that *they* are the best stewards of federal lands by their care for the land and continual improvements, especially concerning water. They point to some of the policy changes that have had disastrous impacts on sheep/cattle operations, e.g., fluctuations in predator regulation, protection of sage grouse and Rocky Mountain sheep that have altered the local ecology and resulted in large elk herds now occupying Diamond Mountain where there had formerly been none.

Interviewee X itemized how many federal and state agencies he has to deal with: federal agencies include the BLM, Forest Service, Farm Service Agency, Federal Aviation Administration, Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Reclamation; state agencies include the state engineer in the Department of Natural Resources, and the Division of Water Rights, Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands, the Trust Lands Administration, and the Division of Wildlife Resources. His grandfather leased land on their home place to the FAA for a VORTAC station on the ranch. He leased it for $50/acre in the 1960s; the interviewee tried to renegotiate the fee since the land is now worth $7000/acre. He wanted at least half of that figure to compensate for the lost use of that acreage. The agency suggested that the lease was his patriotic duty, or, alternately, they would condemn the land and take it (Interviewee X 2021:20).

Ranchers resent rulings made by government employees who did not grow up in the area or on ranches. The perception is that the employees' "book learning" is contrary to what the local ranchers feel works best in this area. It was only toward the end of the interviews that the Team realized that the word

"Environmental" in both companies' names was off-putting to the ranchers. "Environmentalist" is equated with someone from back east who has no knowledge of the requirements of the local ecology.

7.2.3 Lack of Enforcement of Violations by the Public

In contrast to the overregulation of the allotees, there is a perception and examples to back it, that the agencies are not enforcing the rules for public use of lands. The perception is that the increased demand by the public to use federal lands for recreation activities has become political, catering to the larger audience, with little enforcement of the standing rules and policies to protect the land, water, fencing, etc.

Scott Chew recounted that the public has torn down portions of the fencing at the Jensen separating corral so they would have firewood for their adjacent campsites. They stole the original surveyor's monument marker that had the date the corrals were built in the 1930s. They even stole the scales.

Several of the interviewees spoke of the unregulated use of four-wheelers that is causing damage to dirt roads and resulting in erosion, as well as damage to vegetation needed for cattle browse. rising tide of public demand to use the lands for recreation, oftentimes destroying not only the natural environment, also the roads and improvements made by the allotees. Lorin (Pudge) Merkley spoke of gates left open, fences cut by hunters to facilitate getting out an elk, and the destruction caused by unregulated use of four-wheelers that result in ruts in the roads that make them impassable or lead to erosion:

> …Diamond Mountain is a wonderful sheep country, livestock country. Some of the best there is in this area. But with increasing population and modernization, it's going to hell frankly. Too much traffic and people that don't respect the land. And up there on my place [on Diamond Mountain] I've never cared to go hunting, but the last 10 years, these damn four wheelers, they go anywhere and everywhere….I've never restricted them or stopped them, but now I'm going to have to do it. They leave the damn gate open and it's so they have to kill an elk and they cut the damn fence and go through it. I guess I've just about had all of it I can take (Merkley 2021).

Interviewee X related that he has had cattle shot with arrows as "sport." Allottees are required to leave gates unlocked as allotments are considered public lands, however, members of the public have left gates open which allowed the cattle wander onto the roads where they are struck by cars. This has been especially bad on the Ashley National Forest: "That's a madhouse up there in summer!" (Interviewee X 2021:11). He showed us photos of a meadow that had been ruined by 4-wheelers and suggested that "If it cost a guy 500 bucks…if they caught him off that trail and the word got around. But there's no enforcement, so they do what they want." (Interviewee X 2021:15)

7.2.4 Designation of the NCA

There remains much confusion and suspicion about the designation of the NCA and its ultimate effects on ranchers. None of the interviewees was involved in the discussions establishing the NCA; they said they learned of it after it was designated. When asked why it was designated, a variety of suggestions were made: some thought it was an effort to maintain the Dinosaur National Monument viewshed; others thought it was the result of land deals between federal agencies to enable the designation of more wilderness areas

on the Forest. Bill Siddoway wondered why it had been named in honor of John Wesley Powell and thought William Ashley a more appropriate alternative:

> John Wesley Powell, in my judgment, did not have near as much of an impact on everything that you would call the Uinta Basin. He didn't have near the impact that William Ashley had. John Wesley Powell saw this little piece of property that you're concerned with. He saw that from the Green River, so far as we know, unless you have better data. William Ashley saw the entire Uinta Basin and all of the mountains, all of the mountains surrounding the elevation. He saw it by horseback. Then he became more intimately acquainted with the country that you're dealing with in your report…. That's a nice tribute, but William Ashley, who saw the world by horseback, and Powell saw it from his wooden boats, which he tried to keep afloat in the rough waters of the Green River. (Siddoway 2021a:10)

The NCA is seen by all of the interviewees as a transition zone – something to be traversed to get to the good grazing areas on the other side – either north-south or east-west. As Bill Siddoway opined: "the forage is poor, the water is poor" and that pertained even before the current drought. Dave Chivers echoed that observation: "The thing with this area is, it's so desert-y, but other than the sheepherders that moved through it over the years, they're…it's not a desirable place." (Chivers 2021:21). Pudge Merkley wondered at the hardiness of the Ruple family in settling just south of the area: "It was rough going, they had a rough go. I mean how in the thunder [did they make] a living? That's pretty rough country to live in…" (Merkley 2021:21)

The designation of the NCA has focused more public attention on the area. Where previously the allotments had not been much affected by public activities in comparison to the fence cutting, 4-wheeling destruction of meadows and roads occurring all over the private landholdings on Diamond Mountain, and one interviewee reported that he is seeing more people on his allotment since the NCA designation, and his family has had that allotment for more than forty years.

There is also confusion on what BLM has or is thinking of changing in its policies on the portion of the allotments that are within the NCA. Interviewee X's understanding is that the allottees cannot do any new improvements in the conservation area, and said this has hampered his proposed improvement of a pond:

> I was in a meeting with the muckymucks and, in fact, they told me initially that we couldn't use any kind of mechanized equipment. I said, 'So we're going to get out there and clean all the reservoirs with a shovel? Some of them it takes you 12 hours with a dozer, to clean the mud out of them and you're gonna do with a shovel?" They've finally backed up on that…but I don't think you can do any new improvements (Interviewee X 2021:25-26).

The designation of the NCA by the Dingle Act, requires that the BLM develop a management plan for the area and the allotees are understandably nervous that the new designation will impose new regulations. All of them have invested decades of time and hundreds of thousands of dollars in improvements developing springs, reservoirs, water pipelines, building fences and corrals, and grading roads on the land within the NCA.

7.3 FEATURES IDENTIFIED BY INTERVIEWEES: NCA AND SURROUNDING AREA

Each interviewee was asked to identify specific features familiar to them within the NCA boundary and the surrounding areas. They marked these on the large-scale map that the Team brought to each interview (Figure 48).

Figure 48 (l-r) Suzanne Griset, Ilene McLean, Paul Maggioni, Dusty Carpenter (BLM) and Bill Reitze (BLM), field visit to Island Park, May 24, 2022

Trails: The trails through the NCA and leading to surrounding areas are marked on the project map (see Figure 49). Originally, they were the travel routes from locations north and east of the NCA, e.g., from Brown's Park to Vernal (aka the Outlaw Trail). Many were very narrow and required livestock and herders to travel single file, especially in the rough terrain of the NCA. Many of these trails were linked, particularly in the north and western areas, by using two-track roads or paved highways to get from one point to another. Dusty Carpenter, BLM VFO Range Officer, observed that the trails were along ridge tops because the bugs are so bad down along the creeks (Griset 2021). Smokey Rasmussen sued the federal government about 15 years ago when it tried to prohibit use of Rough Trail, which runs along Boone Ridge Road. Smokey won the case.

Many of the interviewees pointed out the trails their families used, as well as interesting locations along the way.

Ruple Cow Trail to Wild Mountain (Jones Hole Trail): this trail was described by Ilene McLean as leading on the east side of Island Park along a very narrow trail via White Sage Flats, down into Jones Hole, camping at the bench at Ely Creek Spring or wherever the cows stopped, and ultimately arriving in the range lands on Wild Mountain. The GIS dataset of Uintah County trails downloaded from the Utah Geospatial Resource Center identifies this trail as “Indian Trail”.

White Sage Flats Trail: The Ruple family used this to trail their livestock to their range on the present-day Diamond Mountain and Ruple Cabin allotments, with a crucial watering point for the livestock at Cottonwood Spring (McLean 2021).

Rough Trail (Boone Ridge Road): The trail went from Island Park to Boone Spring on the Diamond Rim Road. This is also the trail that Smokey Rasmussen successfully sued the BLM when it tried to close it about 15 years ago. Some interviewees said Boone Ridge and Boone Spring were named after an outlaw, but this could not be confirmed through historical research. The GIS dataset of Uintah County trails downloaded from the Utah Geospatial Resource Center identifies this trail as “Boone Ridge Road”.

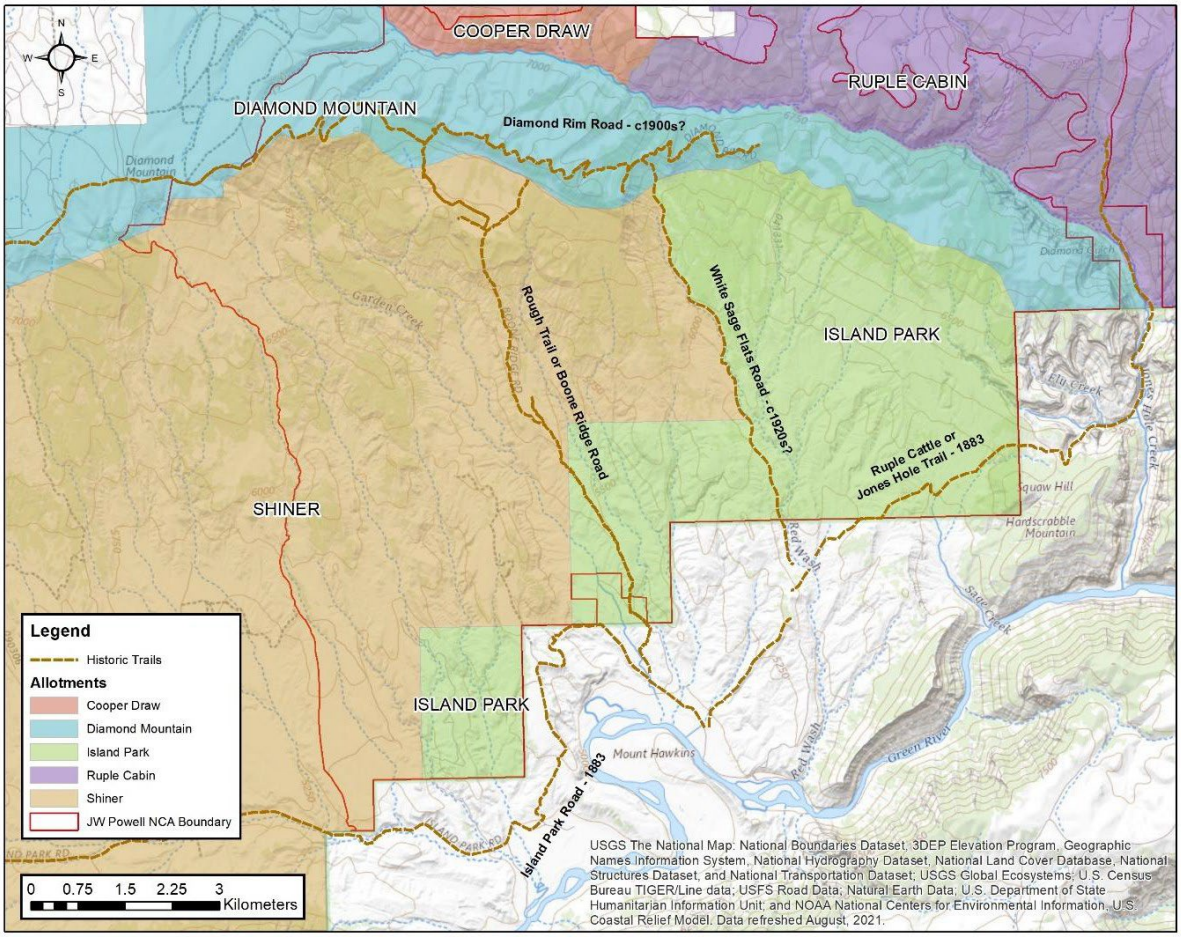

Figure 49 Historic trails in the JWPNCA

Cabins: Most cabins are no longer standing and may only be marked by fragments of wood or historical artifacts in the vicinity; they would require field confirmation of their locations. Most cabins were reported to have been small, one-room wood structures, built to provide shelter when the area was being used to graze livestock. With the exception of the Gurr Cabin location along Diamond Gulch Road in the north extent of the Island Park Allotment, the others are north of the rim on Diamond Mountain or Wild Mountain and are outside the NCA boundary. Many of these were built to "prove up" homesteads in the 1920s-1930s.

The Ruple family built three cabins and a house in Island Park, and two cabins on Wild Mountain, where they took their livestock to graze in the early twentieth century. The first cabin was built by Hank Ruple in 1879 in Island Park, at their homeplace, and was located at the mouth of Garden Creek and Green River. The second was located between the first cabin and where the one-story Ruple house was built to the south; Hod bought a house from people in Oak Park, moved it, and erected it on a concrete slab; Ilene said the remnants of the slab remain (McLean 2021:2-4). The two cabins and the two-story house were within what is now Island Park in Dinosaur National Monument, and they burned in wildfires. A third cabin was built by Wanda Ruple Staley about 30 years ago further up Garden Canyon on their private property; it is standing but uninhabitable.

The cabin currently standing just north of the Green River within the Monument is labelled as "Ruple Cabin" on the USGS map; however, Ilene clarified that it was never used by Ruples and was built by Bill Karren after the Ruples sold the property to the Monument.

The two Ruple cabins on Wild Mountain are also labelled on the USGS map; they have been recorded as archaeological site 42UN421. Both are within the Ruple Cabin allotment, but 240 m (about 790 ft) beyond the NCA boundary.

Corrals: In addition to corrals located within grazing areas and on home places, an important feature located on the boundary of federal lands were the larger communally owned corrals for counting livestock to ensure that allotment holders were placing the approved number of AUMs on their allotments. The grazing association that built and maintained the corral would also hire an individual to tally the sheep for each herd. Dave Chivers described the counting corral on Diamond Mountain, owned by the Diamond Mountain Grazing Association:

> That corral's still there today. We rebuilt it 15 years ago. At one time there were so many sheep herds that went through that counting corral, there was a full-time employee that stayed there that was paid by the Grazing Association. You'd come in there, sort out your strays, count your sheep, run them on through. Warn the next one, and they'd be lined up, herd after herd after herd. We need to go through that corral, that's headed to the [inaudible] (Chivers 2021:13).

Chivers also mentioned that the smaller corrals remaining along Diamond Gulch Road, recorded as archaeological sites 42UN8388 and 42UN8390 are sheep docking corrals.

Another communally owned corral is the separating corral in Jensen south of the NCA that was used to separate lambs from mothers and prepare them for market. We interviewed Scott Chew at the Jensen separating corral in Jensen a mile south of Highway 40 and on the east bank of the Green River (Figure 50).

Corrals were either pole or slat depending on whether they were upright juniper tree poles, or milled lumber placed between poles. Juniper trees were available on Diamond Mountain, and they have the reputation of lasting longer than other wood (Griset 2018:139).

Figure 50 View west of the Jensen separating corral

Sheep Bed Down Areas, Sheep Camps, and Trappers: Historic features associated with raising sheep included sheep bed down areas that are still likely evidenced by denuded or sparsely vegetated areas that have a distinct urine/manure odor (Ilene McLean opined that “sheep stink!”). Bill Siddoway described (see Siddoway Description of Tending Sheep) the bed down areas as being not too distant from water sources, and the sheepherder was likely located not too far away; his camp left behind evidence of firepits and historic trash that contained large quantities of food cans. These bed down areas would be located about

12-15 miles apart on elevated areas with good line of sight in all directions. Note that these are traditionally *not* designated as sheep camps, as that term is reserved for the sheepherder's wooden trailer:

> It's an old-time camper, except there was no restroom facilities in it. They bathed outside in a pan, they used the restroom outside. In there, there was woodchip stoves for heat for cooking, for warming water, had a trapper wagon that they pulled behind them. Inside the trapper wagon was kept storage food, feed for their horses. And so, one hooks right behind the other one. And, originally, they pulled their teams and horses. And as things progressed and went on, later then, they fixed them so they could pull them with a pickup...
>
> When you brought supplies, you know, every couple of months there, they got sacks of flour and they got gallon jugs of strawberry jam. And when they brought that stuff to them, that's what was kept in the trapper cabin. And if they had a vegetable to eat or anything like that, it had to be brought to them in cans. They didn't have no refrigeration or anything like that. Most of them sheep herders were fantastic cooks. Rolls, and stews, they could cook you anything, that was in a Dutch oven (Chivers 2021:12, 14).

Spring Sheepherder Gathering Areas: Two areas were reported, both outside the NCA, one to the northwest at BS (Bullshit) Ridge, and the other beyond the southern border atop Rainbow Park in what is now Dinosaur National Monument. Both are located on elevated, flat-topped features that allow several shepherds to bring their flocks to the area, situate each flock around the feature, and be able to keep an eye on the sheep from above while they visited. These gatherings could last up to a month depending on the available feed.

Native American Features: Ilene McLean observed that Indian camps could be found on most east-facing ridges at Island Park. She reported a large camp at Squaw Hill [marked as Squaw Mountain on the USGS map]. It is the mountain on the north side of Whirlpool Canyon, close to Jones Hole. Her grandmother was told by the local Indians that one Fremont woman stayed behind when the rest moved out (McLean 2021:13).

The artifacts on the surface of these camps have largely been collected, especially within the past 50 years. She also noted the petroglyphs on the ledge near McKee Springs, west of Rainbow Island, that also include an inscription by Pat Lynch, a hermit who lived in the area in the late nineteenth century.

Clandestine Activities: These hinterlands of the NCA also provided a place to conduct clandestine activities such as the two stills operated by Hod Ruple to make moonshine. One was in Lime Kiln Draw in the NCA, the other was south of the Green River at Haystack Rock (a name the Ruple family gave to a large rectangular rock formation on the south bank), amongst the pines on the east side of the canyon. Both were subsequently removed; she thinks by Utah Game and Fish [Division of Wildlife Resources]. Interviewee X noted the approximate location of a bootlegger's camp on Garden Creek in the northwest part of the NCA.

Mineral Extraction: One instance of mineral prospecting was reported by Ilene McLean. Her great grandfather Hank Ruple had a copper mine east of Island Park. Ilene's recollection was that her great grandfather had hauled out ore using the road near Wagon Road Bench. She also said there was a round

pipe coming out of the ground where the mine was located, that was visible as of ten years ago. There may be other areas where small scale mineral investigation occurred in the NCA that have not been recorded as yet.

A 1978 interview of Wanda Staley (Ilene's mother) and Sue Watson (Wanda's aunt, Ilene's great-aunt) provides additional discussion about a copper mine, although this mine appears to be located within the present-day boundaries of Dinosaur National Monument on Sage Creek, and may not have been associated with the Ruples:

> Sue Watson: "Well, if any of you have heard of the…. Sage Creek Mine, which was a copper mine, it was right on the river. And right back from this Split Mountain, right at the upper end of that, that was called Sage Creek, that goes in there… They hauled ore out, and you can see the parts of terrain they had to bring it out over, and they hauled it out in wagons… They would haul it with four-horse teams until they came to these steep ridges, and then they would have to use an eight-horse team to pull it out…"
>
> Unknown [possibly Wanda Staley]**:** It was a very good grade of copper, but the expense of getting it out was just too great. And of course, it's in the Monument, so even if there were methods that were less expensive… (Richardson and Watson 1978)

Local Names for Topographic Features: Many of the interviewees reported names for local features that are different from the names recorded on the USGS maps. For instance:

- Asphalt or Iron Ridge for the dark-colored, ridge on the southwest side of Vernal
- Split Mountain was the name applied by the Ruple family to the canyon between Jones Hole and Island Park, visible when looking southeast from the north side of the Green River at Island Park (Figure 51). USGS has labelled Black Mountain, south of the Green River, as Split Mountain. The divergence in terminology may be explained by a 1964 map of mineral exploration in the Uinta Basin, which labeled a copper mine in the vicinity of the Ruples' Split Mountain as the "Little Split Mountain Mine" (Covington 1964:2).
- BS Ridge is the polite term for what the locals refer to as Bullshit Ridge.

7.4 CHANGES IN RANCHING

7.4.1 In the way things are done

We previously discussed how sheep herding has changed with the replacement of the sheep camp by the recreational vehicle that has a power source, toilet, and bathing facilities. Another major change has occurred in the way livestock are transported from one grazing area to another, or to market.

Until 5-15 years ago, livestock (formerly sheep, now cattle), were 'trailed' from the home place to the grazing allotments on BLM and permitted lands on National Forest, and to feed lots or the railhead to go to market. Trailing was conducted on horseback and required multiple horsemen (and horsewomen) depending on the size of the herd, and how far and how difficult the travel. For example, Interviewee X's father Floyd

trailed 4,000 sheep in 1980 from Meeker, Colorado to McCoy Flat on the Green River; it took 16 days on the highway.

Figure 51 View south to what the Ruples call "Split Mountain" (possibly the “Little Split Mountain” on 1964 map)

Trailing from one permit area to another or to the home place has been largely replaced by trucking livestock in vehicles that range in size from pickup truck to semis hauling cattle cars. Large operations purchase the semis while smaller operations rent them when needed.

Dave Chivers explained that when he trailed his cattle from his Diamond Mountain private land and leased lands to the summer allotment on Ashley Forest, it required 8–10 people on horseback and three days (with stops each night). Now he uses semis to pick them up from his corrals along Diamond Mountain Road. He owns the equipment, partly due to his commercial garbage business, and it takes about 12 loads to transfer them in one long day. They try to complete the transfer in one day so that mothers and calves who become separated in the process, are reunited; otherwise, if the mother is not reunited within three days, the calf becomes abandoned by the mother.

Mitch Hacking provided an example of some of the complications trailing engendered:

> We used to trail them through town, that was always interesting. I could tell you stories. Oh, 'till probably about four years ago. We developed a pattern. We [would] go up Fifth North. We tried [using the] Highway Patrol and that never ever worked, yeah it was a mess. Finally got the Animal Control, Rick Bell, and he knew what he's doing—we could do it. But the problem is, you got dogs in the yards and mailboxes, and we finally get the traffic taken care of, but... We always had a new guy come. One year we had the mayor of Vernal, and we'd always put him in the back so when the mailbox got knocked over and the mad lady

> came out and started chewin' everybody out, we'd say, 'Well the owner's back there and he's on that gray horse.' We did that every year. We always had a new guy come – he got chewed out by everyone. He was pretty good—[Al] Gardner was good with them, you know. That's how we fared to that, but we'd have to go past the ballpark. We finally got us a truck, a bull wagon. We haul 'em now! (Hacking 2021:5-6).

Interviewee X stated:

> …we used to trail them but there got so much, you know, people, housing developments, and stuff, that we finally just quit doing that 'cause the calves would be in the backyards and it was a mess. So, it's easier to just truck them out there where there's not anybody to screw with them: dogs and kids…We had to cross US 40 down here and traffic was just bizarre. Then the oil boom was on…It's just easier to just load them on a truck and haul them out there and dump them in the corral and leave them overnight to pair up and then—then from there on, we trail (Interviewee X 2021:9).

Another change has been the introduction of the 4-wheeler. Interviewee X checks on his cattle three times per week to ensure they have water and no problems or illness. He takes a 4-wheeler and a horse, as it is faster and easier to get around on the 4-wheeler, but if there is a problem, he can use the horse to reach areas that are difficult to access. Smokey Rasmussen (Rasmussen 2021:15) noted that he has broken every rib in his body and has vowed never to get on a horse again.

Another method for checking for cows that stray is the use of small airplanes. Dave Chivers' allotments are large; he doesn't have fences on the Shiner Allotment and lets his cows drift north across his undeeded property to reach the Diamond Mountain Allotment on the rim. The area is so large and rough to traverse, he rents an airplane to search for missing cows after they move the herd out of the allotment. Last year, five cows were not relocated despite three searches by plane; they showed up the following spring (Chivers 2021:6).

All these new methods require greater cash outlays but reduce the amount of time and number of personnel and horses needed to complete the task. Nevertheless, ranching requires the availability of increased labor when moving livestock, branding, and separating calves and mothers and sending the culls to market. Most of the families at the turn of the twentieth century that were associated with what became the NCA, had many children in each generation, or relatives living close by who could be counted on to assist when needed. Families are smaller today and children are often living/working away from the Uinta Basin, making it necessary to augment help when needed. In Smokey Rasmussen's case, he has no family member to inherit his operation, but has designated a neighbor, Alan Harrison, who has been helping Smokey since Alan was a teenager, as his heir. Alan's kin have also been assisting when more labor is needed.

7.5 FUTURE OF RANCHING IN THE UINTA BASIN

When meeting with BLM staff the first day prior to the interviews, Suzanne noted that all of the scheduled interviewees are near or greater than 60 years of age and wondered how that affects the transfer of allotments in the future. Dusty Carpenter opined that sixty percent of the current allotees will not continue

into the next generation – because the ranch lands are worth so much money as private property for development, they will be subdivided, and only rich millionaires or conservation areas will continue ranching. The current trend is toward allotment consolidation (Griset 2021). In many ways, the pressures facing ranching in the Uinta Basin are similar to what is happening nationwide.

7.5.1 Economic Pressures

Allotments constitute a large part of the "wealth" of a ranching operation, as they can be sold to other individuals. With the exception of a few large livestock operations that have large land holdings and capital, family ranchers run small numbers of livestock and are dependent on access to federal land to supplement their grazing. We asked how "allotments in common" with more than one allotee are handled – are they divided by the BLM? Dusty Carpenter replied that BLM does not interfere – the allotees must divide it themselves.

Small ranch operations must supplement family income from outside sources. Examples from the interviews included jobs with Uintah County and the Town of Vernal, gilsonite mining, oil and gas, land survey, an electrician at the local powerplant, positions in local businesses, and personal businesses, e.g., Chivers' garbage and storage businesses.

Small family ranchers require additional help for major activities such as moving cattle from one grazing area to another, spring and fall roundups, branding, etc. If family members are not available, this requires additional costs. The pattern has been that one child remains a rancher, while the others find jobs but return to help with the major activities. Smokey Rasmussen has no children but has an "adopted" son who has helped him since he was a teenager and will inherit Smokey's ranch.

Ranching is expensive and requires cash on hand or a large credit line to pay for operations throughout the year until the fall/winter sales (or earlier if they have to thin the herds due to no forage). The value of a ranch is contained in the land, the grazing permits, the equipment, and the size of the herd.

The economics of ranching, and agriculture in general, have changed dramatically over the past 50 years. The cost of ranching has made it prohibitive without income generated from outside sources. Table 10 shows the additional occupations of many of the interviewees. This is not a new phenomenon, but it appears to be increasing as the cost of ranching rises. Ranchers generally "get paid" once per year and must have the money or credit to carry the operation for much of the year. Small operations (less than 100 head) are not sustainable without external income to support the needs of the families and the livestock.

Ranching has high operating costs, with expenditures of tens if not hundreds of thousands on a single piece of equipment that might only be used for a short period. Pudge Merkley, who was nearing 91 years of age when we interviewed him in May 2021, was depressed because he had just sold his last cow the previous week, and he did not see a good future for small livestock operations.

> It's the economics of it. It's just out of the question. I don't know how a young buck would ever get into this business, short of having it inherited or something, and even then. Main reason I'm getting out of it. Newest piece of equipment on my farm is a 1999 or 2007 tractor.

> My equipment is all old and worn out and it would take $1,000,000 to replace it. And hey, when I say these things, I think it's general. (Merkley 2021:4)

Interviewee X also noted the expense of the equipment needed to function as a rancher:

> I got…probably half $1,000,000 worth of equipment or three quarters, which is not anything anymore. All these guys will have a couple of million in it. That's the thing I don't think people understand, is how much outlay there is for this kind of stuff. Uh, but I've got a windrower and a baler…That windrower was $120,000 for example. Just for that one piece of machinery. (Interviewee X 2021:18)

He also mentioned at other times in the interview, a water truck, a wheel irrigation system, three tractors, well levels, discs, and blades, and clearly this is not a complete equipment inventory.

Dave Chivers has the advantage of generating capital from his garbage and storage businesses and is trying to add to his holdings to make the operation large enough to be self-sustaining.

> My dad died 15 years ago, and we had 350 head of cows, and we've kind of figured that 1,000 head was a [level] Mark would need to be, to be able for him and his family to, hopefully, they can make a living off of it. Ranching's a tough business. (Chivers 2021:4)

A similar opinion was expressed by Interviewee X:

> Anymore, the ranching thing's really changed. You've got all these guys [they've] got oil businesses and things like that; they just do this or a hobby. And a tax shelter (Interviewee X 2021:22).

Ilene McLean explained why her mother before her, and now the Wanda Staley Trust, lease the Island Park allotment to other ranchers: "…we leased it because I wasn't even here to run anything, and nobody else likes ranching or could afford it." (McLean 2021:7)

One approach to reaching sustainable size of operations has been the formation of the Uinta Basin Grazing Association, a cooperative of ranchers who share resources, costs, and labor.

7.5.2 Environmental Factors

In addition to the complications wrought by changes in laws protecting various wildlife, the larger problem for this generation of ranchers has been and appears to be the lack of predictable water supplies due to the 20-year drought in the western states.

> I don't necessarily—not a fan of global warming, but I—I know the earth goes through natural cycles and where it's hotter or colder. And the last 20 years we've definitely experienced something different here. (Interviewee X 2021:7)

Water is critical for animals to drink and for forage to grow. Several of the interviewees spoke about the need for hauling water in the NCA allotments and on their home places.

> [T]here'll be years like this one when in—in, what was it? Was it, I think, '18? Actually, we came off [Diamond Mountain allotment] Labor Day and these—Diamond Mountain, there was nothing there and nothing in that winter permit. So, I brought them home and I sold 100 head of them, and I fed the other 200 from Labor Day clear to the next first of May before I…it was damn expensive….We come off Labor Day, a month early….I had some fields that had some stuff in them and we, and I, well, I done that again. I've had to do that the last few years, several times Just use those [fields]. So, I wouldn't cut a third crop of hay, I'd put them cows on Bloat Guard…you put them on alfalfa hay, they'll bloat, and it'll kill them if they're not adjusted to it…
>
> This year I spent most of one week before I put the cows in there, putting water in ponds so they'd have water when they got wherever. And then we've kicked them up out of there and they're not even down in there now, in the Shiner, they're up in those burns, the bottom edge of the Diamond Mountain allotment now, and I'll probably end up—we'll end up hauling probably quite a lot of water around that rim 'cause it's—there's not much live water there either. (Interviewee X 2021:10, 11, 17)

7.5.3 Competing Interests

Many of the interviewees spoke about the allotees' care of the land and the rising tide of public demand to use the lands for recreation, oftentimes destroying not only the natural environment, also the roads and improvements made by the allotees. Lorin (Pudge) Merkley spoke of gates left open, fences cut by hunters to facilitate getting out an elk, and the destruction caused by unregulated use of four-wheelers that result in ruts in the roads that make them impassable or lead to erosion:

> …Diamond Mountain is a wonderful sheep country, livestock country. Some of the best there is in this area. But with increasing population and modernization, it's going to hell frankly. Too much traffic and people that don't respect the land. And up there on my place [on Diamond Mountain] I've never cared to go hunting, but the last 10 years, these damn four-wheelers, they go anywhere and everywhere….I've never restricted them or stopped them, but now I'm going to have to do it. They leave the damn gate open and it's so they have to kill an elk and they cut the damn fence and go through it. I guess I've just about had all of it I can take (Merkley 2021).

David Chivers talked about the expense and the effort ranchers go through for upkeep and maintenance of the roads, springs, and other range facilities that others abuse and take advantage of:

> Over time, we spend a lot of time fighting, trying to keep it the way that it's been and keep things function[ing]. In fact, in all reality, you know who cleans all the ponds? Fixes all the springs? Takes care of roadways so that people can drive through in their automobile and look at it, and make it good for antelope, elk, mule deer, coyotes, bears, mountain lions, all them things? Nothing can survive anywhere, there isn't a living thing that doesn't have to have water. Part of my charge of owning this permit is that I take care of them waters and

> keep them updated. And that costs a bloody fortune and if the cattleman, or the sheep man, or whoever['s] using the land ever goes away, that ground will cease to be any good for any of that…it takes so much work that I own my own Caterpillar, and my own tractor, two of them. I keep these things fixed and up to date. Not just on BLM ground, but on my private ground. But without them things, all that feed and all that country is absolutely worthless. Even birds have to have drinks. (Chivers 2021:18-19)

Several of the interviewees suggested that federal grazing allotments would benefit from grazing both sheep and cattle since they graze differently and are therefore complementary. They graze different vegetation, and they can be alternated every six months on the same ground.

> Our country [Uinta Basin] is probably more suited for sheep and some other reasons, but… they complement: the cows and sheep. They complement each other. They eat different types of forage, and you can manage the range better with the two of them. But sheep take a full-time effort. It's part of the reason people have gone to cows; you can control them with fences and stuff, where sheep have to—you have to have a body there. (Chew 2021:7)

Dusty Carpenter, BLM VFO Range Officer, thinks the best way is to use both sheep and cows in an area is to run the sheep first to get rid of the alkaloid forbs [such as invasive cheat grass] then bring in cows, but the BLM regulations currently make multiple grazings difficult (Griset 2021).

Dwayne Holmes said his Dad always thought the Uinta Basin was better for sheep than cattle.

> …my Dad, when I would get on the other side, he's going to reprimand me. He's gonna say, 'you dumb kid. This is sheep country. It's not cattle country.' The reason it's sheep country is because the sheep graze closer to the ground, so the little growth you get out here in the desert on this cheat grass, actually [it] is invasive, but the sheep will go in and eat that whole lot. They get closer to the ground and start winterizing it. And it makes them more economical to keep. You can make more money with cows, but you have to put more money into them. And so when you get down to the bottom line, which is your profit, the sheep, the potential with the sheep is a lot greater than it is with the cattle. (Holmes 2021:21)

Gayle McKeachnie mentioned that a wool grading facility opened in Midvale, Utah last year, the only one in the United States (McKeachnie 2021:29). Dwayne Holmes thinks sheep may be making a comeback, though he's aware that lamb is not popular in the American "fast food market" compared to beef (Holmes 2021:2). That may be slowly changing as the American diet expands to incorporate additional dishes that highlight lamb, but the livestock industry is also subject to larger factors such as international competition and the recent disruption wrought by Covid. Scott Chew related how the Covid pandemic decimated the wool industry last year:

> So last year, what happened in March was, we [the United States] shut down everything going to China. We had zero wool market last year. Zero. And so, the processing places were filled up with all this wool. We were pretty fortunate 'cause. I got our wool tested. They do a scour test that tells you…what you yield, whether you're 30 percent wool or 50ercent,

> how much dirt? How much vegetation? Cause you get leaves and stuff… And then if they [the sheep] trail, if it's a dry year and they trail into water, they get more dirt in there and dust and so, I wanted it scoured….and he called me and he said 'Scott,' he says, 'I have a shipment going out that your wool will just fill.' He says, 'I can sell it today….it's 50 percent of what it was a year ago.' So, we were able to sell it…some of the only ones that sold. (Chew 2021:14)

Ranching is increasingly affected by actions in global markets and politics far distant from Uinta Basin, and ranchers must stay abreast of future trends and attempt to shape them to their interests (as when they fought federal overregulation or inaction).

7.6 WHY DO THEY RANCH?

Post-WWII, there has been an increasing exodus of youth who do not follow their parents into ranching. Part of this is due to the constraints of fixed availability of land and the need for large operations in order to make a profit. Another part is due to the availability of jobs that pay more, require less physical labor, and, to use a current phrase, provide better 'life/work balance.' The 24/7 nature of ranching was aptly demonstrated while we were interviewing Dwayne Holmes, he received multiple phone calls from a neighbor reporting that some of his livestock were on the road they called again to confirm that they had moved the cattle to a safe location so that he could come get them. Pudge Merkley stated:

> I had a son, he stayed with me in the cattle business about eight years, 10 years ago. We couldn't expand enough. We run 125 or 130 head of cows. And of course, he married a girl who wasn't familiar with it. And you know, it made it tough on him. Saturday and Sunday, instead of being picnic time and party time, it was work time. So, he just up and sold his 40 head of cows and left the ranch. That's it, and not that he wanted to. (Merkley 2021:5)

Interviewee X remarked on the advantages and disadvantages of ranching:

> I got one son that loves it. I mean, he just…my others will help but, yeah. You know it's—it just gets in your system. It's like a drug, only you don't get high, you just go broke. You know, that's all I ever wanted to do since I was a little kid. And that's the way this kid is. So, you get some of these diehards that hang on. They're too dumb to do anything else. You know this thing [ranching] has made my kids...teaches them responsibility, teaches them hard work. I've never had a kid that had to actually hunt a job here (Interviewee X 2021:23).

These sentiments were expressed by every one of the interviewees.

7.7 SUMMARY OF RESULTS FROM THE INTERVIEWS

The interviews suggested:

- The NCA has always been an area that was used as marginal grazing for livestock, to augment grazing on the home place and on summer allotments on higher, wetter Forest land.

- The NCA was largely a “pass through” area – a place to traverse in order to get to the other side, whether going to Wild Mountain, Diamond Mountain, or into the Uinta Basin.

- Water has always been a limiting factor in the area and is especially critical during the ongoing drought in the western states.

- Native American campsites are distributed throughout the area, on east-facing slopes, though many have been heavily surface collected.

- The Gurr Cabin was the only Euro-American residence within the JWPNCA. This cabin was probably not a year-round residence, and there is no documentation there was a homestead at this location within General Land Office records. No significant Euro-American settlement occurred within what has been designated as the JWPNCA—they are beyond the boundary, particularly on Diamond Mountain and in Island Park. The Ruple family established a ranch in Island Park (on what is now part of Dinosaur National Monument) south of the NCA; one cabin on their private property just south of the Island Park Allotment; and at least two cabins just north of the NCA on Wild Mountain. A ranch has been located at Diamond Mountain Spring, northwest of the JWPNCA, since the mid-1870s, while various homestead claims have been filed since the early 1900s just north of the NCA on Diamond Mountain.

- Evidence of sheep herding likely consists of bed down areas located on elevated areas with good line of sight; they may still reek of urine and manure and have little to no vegetation; the sheep camp was parked nearby and may be evidenced by the remains of campfires used to cook with Dutch ovens, and historic trash dumps consisting largely of tin cans; the bed down areas may be 12-15 miles apart, the distance sheep could browse in a day.

- Campsites associated with driving cattle are likely near corrals; they are not necessarily elevated, they are near water, they would have been occupied by a larger number of drivers and would have historic trash.

- Corrals were built of juniper poles or milled lumber and would be smaller along the trail, with larger communal counting and separating corrals near the boundaries of federal land.

- Isolated features within the NCA that were reported by the Ruple family include a moonshine still (removed likely 50 years ago) and a copper mine.

- Most of the interviewees thought the NCA area was better suited to sheep, but the demand for wool and lamb is only beginning to increase after a 50-year low.

- Several interviewees suggested that co-grazing cattle and sheep (alternating every six months) would eradicate cheatgrass and benefit the forage in the NCA, if permitted by BLM.

Page intentionally left blank

REFERENCES CITED

Bancroft, Hubert Howe
1890 *History of Utah, 1540–1887*. The History Company, Publishers, San Francisco.

Barton, John D.
1998 *A History of Duchesne County.* Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City.

Bass, Alan
2018 Grazing Administration. Electronic document, https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/wildhorse_2018AdvBrdMtgSLC_Panel_AlanBass.pdf

Baugh, Alexander L.
2015 "John C. Fremont's 1843-44 Western Expedition and Its Influence on Mormon Settlement in Utah," in *Far Away in the West: Reflections on the Mormon Pioneer Trail,* edited by Scott C. Esplin, Richard E. Bennett, Susan Easton Black, and Craig K. Manscill. Brigham Young University Religious Studies Center, Salt Lake City.

Beckstead, James H.
1991 *Cowboying: A Tough Job in a Hard Land.* University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City.

Beeler, Sylvia
1984 The Chews of Brown's Park. *The Daily Press.* June 1.

1985 County Profile: Douglas Chew of Brown's Park. *The Daily Press.* March 7.

Bernatchez, Jocelyn
2014 *Cultural Resources Inventory for the Diamond Rim Bullhog Project, Uintah County, Utah*. Prepared for the Bureau of Land Management, Vernal Field Office, State of Utah, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, Salt Lake City, of behalf of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Salt Lake City.

Blanch, George T., and Clyde E. Stewart
1943 *Utilization of Irrigable Land in the Reservation Area of Uinta Basin, Utah*. Bulletin No. 303. Agricultural Experiment Station, Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah.

A Brief History of Sterling Driggs Colton
n.d. A Brief History of Sterling Driggs Colton, File No. 0829, Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

Burdick, Enola Chew
1997 Personal interview, May 2, May 3, and November 22. Museum of Northwest Colorado, Chew File, Craig, Colorado.

Bureau of Land Management

1964 Allotment Adjustment Record, April 2. Operator: Elaine Richards. Ruple Cabin Allotment Binder. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

1966 Allotment Adjustment Record, August 15. Operator: Ralph Siddoway. Ruple Cabin Allotment Binder. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

1967 Allotment Adjustment Record, February 10. Operator: Anderson Sheep Outfit. Ruple Cabin Allotment Binder. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

1969 Allotment Management Plan for the Cherry Spring, Ruple Cabin, Wild Mountain, and Pot Creek allotments, October 10. Ralph Siddoway File. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

1973 Shiner Allotment Management Plan. Shiner Allotment Binder. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

1974 Bureau of Land Management Allotment Description: Cooper Draw, Diamond Mountain Unit. Cooper Draw Allotment Binder. Bureau of Land Management, Vernal Field Office, Vernal, Utah.

1975 Environmental Analysis Report. Title: Wild Mountain and Ruple Cabin Change in Class of Livestock. Ruple Cabin Allotment Binder. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

1979a Shiner Allotment Management Plan. Shiner Allotment Binder. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

1979b Show Cause Notice to Elaine Richards, June 11, 1979. Elaine Richards File. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

1981 Allotment Adjustment Record, February 13. Operator: Floyd Cook. Cook Livestock Historical File. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

1984 Ruple Cabin Allotment Management Plan Evaluation, 1979-1984. Ruple Cabin Allotment Binder. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

1987a Allotment Adjustment Record, March 16. Operator: Floyd Cook. Diamond Mountain Allotment Historical File. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

1987b Allotment Adjustment Record, March 27. Operator: Jack Chivers. Diamond Mountain Allotment Historical File. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

1990 Diamond Mountain Resource Management Plan. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

2007 Grazing Management Agreement for McCoy Flat/Holmes-Palmer, East Huber, Rich and Stetson, and Cooper Draw Allotments. Cooper Draw Allotment File. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

Burton, Dennis Kim

1979 *The Burtons: Early Pioneers of Ashley Valley.*

Burton, Doris Karren

1991 Sheriff John Theodore Pope. *The Outlaw Trail Journal.* Summer:3–14.

1996 *A History of Uintah County: Scratching the Surface*. Utah Centennial County History Series. Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City.

1998 *Settlements of Uintah County: Digging Deeper.* Uintah County Library, Vernal.

2003a *Blue Mountain Folks: Their Lives and Legends.* Uintah County Library, Vernal, Utah.

2003b Infamous Persons: The McKee Brothers. *The Outlaw Trail Journal.* Winter:39–49.

Burton, Rosalie

1978 Interview with Rosalie Burton, January 11, 1978, interviewed by Diedre Northern, Accession 772, Uintah Basin Oral History Project, Volume II, Manuscripts Division, University of Utah Marriott Library, Salt Lake City.

Cannon, Brian Q.

1986 Struggle Against Great Odds: Challenges in Utah's Marginal Agricultural Areas, 1925–1939. *Utah Historical Quarterly* 54(4):310-327.

Carr, Elaine

2014 Sheep: The Industry that Built a Town. *The Outlaw Trail Journal.* Summer 2014:2–24.

2015 Gutsy Woman: Daphne Roberts Cooper, Diamond Mountain Homesteader. *The Outlaw Trail Journal.* Winter:31–38.

2016 The McCoys of Diamond Mountain. *The Outlaw Trail Journal.* Summer 2016:3–18

Chew, Scott

2021 Interview with Suzanne Griset and Joseph Paul Maggioni, May 11.

2022 Email, June 14.

Clark, Ben, and Wanda Staley Richardson
1971 Grazing Lease. Wanda Staley File. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

Colton, G.M.
1953 Dependent Property Summary, February 10. Wanda Staley File. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

Cornia, Reed W.
1998 Land Conflict in the Uintah Basin: The Anglo and Native American Struggle for Control of the Uintah-Ouray Reservation's Natural Resources. Published M.S. thesis, Department of History, Utah State University.

Conetah, Fred
1982 *A History of the Northern Ute People.* Uintah-Ouray Tribe. University of Utah Printing Service, Salt Lake City.

Cook, Floyd, and Sarah Belle Cook
1987 Real Estate Agreement. Cook Livestock File. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

Covington, Robert E.
1964 *A Brief History of Early Mineral Exploration in the Uinta Basin.* Thirteenth Annual Field Conference, Intermountain Association of Petroleum Geologists. Utah Historic Society Library Collection, Salt Lake City.

Craig Empire-Courier
1950 Funeral Rites for Mary Chew Held in Jensen. December 27.

Daughters of the Utah Pioneers
1976 *Builders of Uintah: A Centennial History of Uintah County, 1872 to 1947.* Art City Publishing Company, Springville, Utah.

Davis, John Clive
1974 John Nightingale Davis Family History, from *John Nightingale Davis* [binder]. Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

DeHart, William A., and William H. Metzler
1955 *Labor Structure and Labor Problems: Utah Sheep Ranches, 1952–1953.* Bulletin No. 378. Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, Utah State Agricultural College, in cooperation with the Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Logan, Utah.

DeJournette, Dick, and Daun DeJournette
1996 *One Hundred Years of Brown's Park and Diamond Mountain.* DeJournette Enterprises, Vernal, Utah.

DeRoy, Nelson Blair
2008 Sweetwater County, Wyoming Biographies: Blair, Archibald, November 5, 1835–April 13, 1917. Electronic document, http://files.usgwarchives.net/wy/sweetwater/bios/blair4gbs.txt. Accessed September 3, 2021.

Diamond Mountain and Brown's Park Country
n.d. Diamond Mountain and Brown's Park Country. File No. 0576, Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

Duncan, Clifford
2000 The Northern Utes of Utah. Excerpted from *A History of Utah's American Indians.* Electronic document, https://issuu.com/utah10/docs/history_of_utah_s_american_indians/s/10994. Accessed April 24, 2021.

Esplin, A.C., William Peterson, P.V. Cardon, George Stewart, and K.C. Ikeler
1928 *Bulletin 204: Sheep Ranching in Utah: Report of a Preliminary Economic Survey of the Ranch Situation as of 1925.* Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, Logan, Utah.

Evans, Wilford and Wanda Staley
1963 Grazing Lease. Wanda Staley File. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

FamilySearch.org
2007 1880 Census Household Record James McKee. Website print-out accessed March 29, 2007. File No. 1105, Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

Fazio, Jim
1967 *Men on the Mountain: A Historical Look at the Vernal Ranger District.* United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Vernal, Utah.

Fence Post
1994 Obituaries. March 28.

Forstall, Richard L. (ed.)
1995 *Population of States and Counties of the United States: 1790-1990*. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C.

Fourth Judicial District Court of the State of Utah
1971 *Elaine Siddoway Richards vs. Henry Ralph Siddoway, Mary Siddoway, Ben Morrison,* Civil No. 4511, July 8. Elaine Richards File. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

Fremont, John C.
1845 *The Exploring Expedition to the Rocky Mountains in the Year 1842, and to Oregon and North California in the Years 1843–'44.* Gales and Seaton, Printers, Washington, D.C.

Georgetta, Clel Evan
1972 *Golden Fleece in Nevada*. Venture Publishing Company, Ltd., Reno, Nevada.

Goodrich, Ruth, and Gladys S. Jacobson
1975 *Life as We Lived It: The Goodrich-Merrell Story.* Moses Lake, Washington.

Goodsell, Wylie D.
1971 *Costs and Returns: Migratory Sheep Operations, Utah-Nevada, 1960–69.* Farm Production Economics Division, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

Griset, Suzanne
2018 Summary of Oral History Interviews with Lincoln County Ranchers. In *A Ranching and Farming Context for Lincoln County, Nevada, Ca. 1857 to 1934. Phase I: Historic Overview, Oral Histories, Property Types, and Evaluations,* by Anne Oliver, Kate Hovanes, Suzanne Griset, Thomas R. Carter, and Stephanie Lechert, pp 133–144. Report No. 17-98. SWCA Environmental Consultants, Salt Lake City.

2021 Meeting notes, JWP NCA Ethnography Project, May 11, 2021. BLM Vernal Field Office, Vernal, Utah.

Hacking, Mitch
2021 Interview with Suzanne Griset and Joseph Paul Maggioni, May 12.

Hall, Frank
1895 *History of the State of Colorado, Volume IV.* The Blakely Publishing Company, Colorado.

Hall, Myke
2003 Facts: Sheepmen Stories. *The Outlaw Trail Journal.* Winter:27–32.

Hanson, Wallace R.
1983 *The Geologic Story of the Uintah Mountains, Geological Survey Bulletin 1291*. U.S. Government Printing Office.

Haslem, Joe
1977 Interview by Mike Brown, September 1, File No. 0395, Regional History Center, Vernal.

Hatch, Donald
1967 Assignment of Cooperative Agreements and/or Range Improvement Permits, March 21. Shiner Allotment Binder. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

Heritage Request Online
2003 Census Results. Website print-out, accessed August 26, 2003. File No. 1105, Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

Heslop, MaryOwen (Hatch)
1996 *Jeremiah Hatch: The Life and Times of an Extraordinary Man.* Brigham Young University Print Services.

Hoffman, Hillary M.
2009 A Changing of the Cattle Guard: The Bureau of Land Management's New Approach to Grazing Qualifications. *Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation.* 24(2):243–284.

Holechek, Jerry L., and Jerry Hawkes
1993 Desert and Prairie Ranching Profitability. *Rangelands* 15(3):104–109.

Holechek, Jerry L., Jerry Hawkes, and Tim D. Darden
1994 Macro Economics and Cattle Ranching. *Rangelands* 16(3):118–123.

Holmes, Dwayne
2021 Interview with Suzanne Griset and Joseph Paul Maggioni, May 14.

Holmes, Nile
1980 Actual Grazing Use Survey, December 1. Cooper Draw Allotment Binder. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

Island Park Homestead
n.d. Island Park Homestead. Manuscript, Regional History Center.

Interviewee X
2021 Interview with Suzanne Griset and Joseph Paul Maggioni, May 12.

Jacobson, Gladys Slaugh (editor)
1964 *Legacy: The Story of George Alfred Slaugh and Rachel Maria Goodrich, Their Children and Children's Children*. Gladys Slaugh Jacobson, Salt Lake City.

Jessen, Kenneth
1993 The Great Diamond Hoax. *The Outlaw Trail Journal.* 3(1):12–18.

John Nightingale Davis
1998 *John Nightingale Davis* [binder]. Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

Johnson, Michael W.
1998 *A History of Daggett County: A Modern Frontier.* Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City.

Kiever, Ellen S.
2014 Prominent Person: Briant H. Stringham, He Loved This Country and Served It! *The Outlaw Trail Journal.* Summer 2014:25–42.

2015 A Place to Hide: "Jones Hole". *The Outlaw Trail Journal*. Winter:25–30.

Kilker, Catherine A., and Charles R. Koch
1978 *Sheep and Man: An American Saga*. Mountain Empire Publishing, Inc., Denver.

Kinder, Peri
2017 Uintah County: Smoothing Out the Highs and Lows of an Energy-Dependent Economy. *Utah Business.* November 2. Electronic document, https://www.utahbusiness.com/uintah-county-smoothing-highs-lows-energy-dependent-economy/.

Layton, Stanford J.
1988 *To No Privileged Class: The Rationalization of Homesteading and Rural Life in the Early Twentieth Century American West.* Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

Lechert, Stephanie and Christine Michalczuk
2018 *U.S. Highway 40 Gusher Eastbound Passing Lane and Center Turning Lane Project, Uintah County, Utah, Class III Cultural Resources Inventory*. SWCA Environmental Consultants, Salt Lake City.

Leishman, Garth W., Robert H. Fish, and Randy J. Lewis
2003 *Soil Survey of Uintah Area, Utah—Parts of Daggett, Grand, and Uintah Counties.* United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Listingsmagic.com
2021 MLS ID 800968. Electronic document, http://www.listingsmagic.com/ps2/2.0/index.php?property_ID=12270, accessed March 21, 2022.

Long, George

1986 When Sheep Were King: A Story about Uintah County's Early Sheep Industry, from *A Narrative History of Uintah County, as Told and Recounted by George Long.* Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

2004 Beautiful Island Park, from *A Narrative History of Uintah County, as Told and Recounted by George Long.* Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

McKeachnie, Gayle

2021 Interview with Suzanne Griset and Joseph Paul Maggioni, May 13.

McGinty, Ellie Leydsman, Ben Baldwin, and Roger Banner

2009 *A Review of Livestock Grazing and Range Management in Utah.* State of Utah, Governor's Public Lands Policy Coordination Office.

McKee, James

1891 To Whom it May Concern. *Uintah Papoose.* December 18, 1891.

McLean, Ilene

2021 Interview with Suzanne Griset and Joseph Paul Maggioni, August 24.

2022 Interview with Suzanne Griset and Joseph Paul Maggioni, May 24.

McRae, Angel

2011 Who Owns the Land? Battle Over the Uinta Basin. Electronic document, https://www.ksl.com/article/17122704/who-owns-the-land-battle-over-the-uintah-basin, accessed April 24, 2021.

Meagher, N.J. Jr.

1978 Interview with Mike Brown, February 10. Uintah Basin Oral History Project, Volume II. Accession 772, Manuscript Division, University of Utah Marriott Library, Salt Lake City.

Mehls, Steven F.

1985 *Dinosaur National Monument Historical Resources Study*. Submitted to: National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Contract CX-1200-4-A066. Western Historical Studies, Inc., Lafayette, Colorado.

Moncrief, E. Shaw

1995 *Jones Hole Power Facility. Cultural Resources Clearance for State Project Number U954BL318b, Site 42UN2235.* Prepared by the Bureau of Land Management-Phillips for the US Fish and Wildlife Service-Jones Hole Fish Hatchery.

Muhn, James, and Hanson R. Stuart
1988 *Opportunity and Challenge: The Story of BLM*. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D.C.

Nash, Robert B., and Sonia Hutmacher Cunningham
2016 *Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, Diamond Mountain Sale Parcels, Uintah County, Utah*. Prepared for the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, Salt Lake City by Desert West Environmental, LLC, Ogden.

Nicholes, Sidney W. Jr.
1974 Oral History. Conducted May 16, 1974, by John Bluth. MSS OH359 1979, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

O'Brian, Timothy
1982 Environmental Assessment: Shiner and Diamond Mountain Allotments Change in Class of Livestock. Shiner Allotment Binder. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

Office of U.S. Supervisor of Surveys
1936 Township No. 2 South, Range No. 25 East, of the Salt Lake Meridian, UT. General Land Office, Washington, DC.

Oliver, Anne, Kate Hovanes, and Stephanie Lechert
2017a *Sheepherding and Sheep Camps in the Uinta Basin, 1879 to 1972*. SWCA Environmental Consultants, Salt Lake City.

2017b *Irrigation in the Uinta Basin, 1869 to 1972*. SWCA Environmental Consultants, Salt Lake City.

O'Neil, Floyd A. and Kathryn L. MacKay
1979 *History of the Uintah-Ouray Ute Lands*. American West Center Occasional Papers.

Overall, Philip and Joelle
n.d. Wardle Sheep Shearers 1927–1953. File No. 1624, Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

Peterson, Charles S.
1989 Grazing in Utah: A Historical Perspective. *Utah Historical Quarterly* 57(4):6–25.

Richardson, Wanda and Sue Watson
1978 #44 Island Park, tape copy of tape made on 14 October 1978 on a trip to Island Park, Utah State University class: Theater Arts 532, Oral Traditions, Professors Smith and Black. File No. No. 542, Regional History Center, Vernal.

Ross, Glade and Daun DeJournette
2016 I Am the Outlaw Trail. *Outlaw Trail Journal*. Summer:43–54.

Sawyer, Byrd Wall
1971 *Nevada Nomads: A Story of the Sheep Industry.* Harlan-Young Press, San Jose, California.

Searle, Raymond
n.d. Diamond Mountain History. Document located in the Regional History Center, Vernal Utah.

Siddoway, H. Ralph
n.d. William Henry Siddoway. Personal papers of William R. Siddoway.

Siddoway, H. Ralph and Arthur Boren
1967 Agreement, November 15. H. Ralph Siddoway File. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

Siddoway, William R.
2021a Interview with Suzanne Griset and Joseph Paul Maggioni, May 14.

2021b Personal communication, May 21.

Sims Sheep Company
2019 Email to David Whittekiend, Forest Supervisor, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Re: Notice of availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement; High Uintas Wilderness Domestic Sheep Analysis; Evanston-Mountain View Ranger District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Roosevelt-Duchesne Ranger District; Ashley National Forest (FS Project ID 44503). August 19. Electronic document, https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/98915_FSPLT3_4880186.pdf, accessed June 9, 2022.

Smith, Moroni A.
1918 *Herding and Handling Sheep on the Open Range.* Moroni Smith, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Snow, Alice and Newell
1977 *History of Albert Snow – A Native Pioneer.* Document located in the Regional History Center, Vernal Utah.

Spangler, Jerry D.
1995 *Paradigms and Perspectives: A Class I Overview of Cultural Resources in the Uinta Basin and Tavaputs Plateau, Volumes 2 and 3.* Uinta Research, Salt Lake City, Utah.

2002 *Paradigms and Perspectives Revisited: A Class I Overview of Cultural Resources in the Uinta Basin and Tavaputs Plateau*. Prepared by Uinta Research, Salt Lake City, Utah for Bureau of Land Management, Vernal Field Office, Vernal, Utah.

Spencer, Maureen
2003 Last Herd Leaves Mountain. *The Vernal Express,* October 15.

Staley, Wanda
n.d.a Henry Case Ruple and May Coon Ruple. File No. 1149 Henry Ruple, Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

n.d.b Henry Horace (Hod) and Lilly Taylor Ruple. File No. 1149 Henry Ruple, Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah

n.d.c The History of the Island Park Area. File No. 542, Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

2004 Interview by Kathi Irving, June 7. File No. 1149 Henry Ruple, Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

Staley, Wanda and Don M. Walker
1966 Grazing Lease. Wanda Staley File. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

Stringham, Bryant H.
1937 Letter to Senator Elbert D. Thomas, Washington, D.C., August 23, 1937. Uinta CCC Projects Binder, Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

1977 Interview by Mike Brown, August 10. Accession 772, Uintah Basin Oral History Project, Volume II, Manuscripts Division, University of Utah Marriott Library, Salt Lake City.

Sypolt, Charles Melroy
1974 Keepers of the Rocky Mountain Flocks: A History of the Sheep Industry in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming in 1900. Manuscript Number 75-239. Published Ph.D. dissertation, Department of History, University of Wyoming.

Tennent, William Lawrence
1980 The John Jarvie Ranch: A Case Study in Historic Site Development and Interpretation. A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science in History. Utah State University, Logan Utah. Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

Tolman, Byron K.
1976 Dependent Property and Adjudication Summary, December 3. Operator: Rulon Hacking. Hacking File. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

Uintah CCC Projects Binder
n.d. Uintah CCC Projects Binder. Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

Uintah County

2021 Uintah County General Plan 2017 Update. Electronic document, http://co.uintah.ut.us/document_center/CommunityDevelopment/General%20Plan%202017%20Update%202-1-2021.pdf, accessed March 21, 2022.

United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service [USDA-ARS] Jornada Experimental Range, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, and New Mexico State University

2022 Ecosystems Dynamics Interpretive Tool, Ecological Site Description, Major Land Resource Area Map. Electronic document, https://edit.jornada.nmsu.edu/catalogs/esd, accessed June 19, 2022.

United States Geological Survey

1955 Island Park, Utah 1:240000 Topographical Map. United States Geological Survey, Washington, DC.

United States Grazing Service

n.d. Map Books. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

1935 Utah Grazing District No. 8, Commensurate Property Report of F.S. & F.A. Middleton. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

1938 Record of Action of Regional Grazer. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

1942 Agreement. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

United States Surveyor General's Office

1922 Township No. 2 South Range No. 24 East of the Salt Lake Base and Meridian, Utah. U.S. Surveyor General's Office, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Untermann, Billie Ruple

1971 Historical Interview, July 30, 1971. Family History Binder, Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

2003 Historical Article: Island Park. *The Outlaw Trail Journal.* Winter:2–10.

Utah American Indian Digital Archive

2008 History: The Northern Utes. Electronic document, https://utahindians.org/archives/ute/history.html. Accessed April 24, 2021.

Vernal Express

1898 McKee Must Serve His Term. September 29.

1899 Local News. August 24.

1900 Sheep May Graze on the Uinta Forest Reserve from July 1st to October 1st. May 5.

1902 Of Interest to Sheep Men. April 12.

1902 Popper Visits His Ranch. June 28.

1903 Move Onto the Reserve. July 4.

1916 Big Deal Finished, Kabell Sells Ranch. July 7.

1916 Another Big Real Estate Deal. September 22.

1918 County Commissioners Appropriate Money to Build Road to Diamond Mountain. July 12.

1923 Diamond Mountain Farmers Outline Work. March 18.

1924 Agricultural and Livestock Industry of Uintah County. December 12.

1924 Gun Club Seeks Game Refuge Thirty Miles Long from Little Mountain to the Colorado Line. December 19.

1925 Ashley Game Preserve Described for Hunters of Game. September 25.

1926 Wool Industry is Big Factor in Uintah County. May 28.

1929 Local Stockmen Give Cold Facts on Condition Facing Uintah County Sheepmen. February 21.

1932 George McKee, Pioneer Cattleman of Ashley Valley Succumbs, Wednesday. May 26.

1933 John Davis. February 4.

1934 Vernal Grazing Ass'n Formed by Stockmen. August 30.

1935 Taylor Grazing Act to Benefit Public Domain in Uintah Basin Area. August 1.

1935 Advisory Board Hears Grazing Applications. August 22.

1937 "Hod" Ruple Funeral Held Here Today. June 3.

1938 Vernal Grazing Area Will be Testing Region. October 20.

1938 Dinosaur National Monument. November 17.

1947 Sheep Industry Still Leads as Basin's Top Business. January 2.

1947 F.S. Middleton, Ashley Rancher, Died Wednesday. March 6.

1954 Pioneer Passes: Charles C. Rich Noted for Charity. February 25.

1954 Jack Chew, 102, Dies in Salt Lake. September 8.

1955 Diamond Gulch is "Hot Shooting Spot" Says Gordon Smuin as Horse is Slain. October 27.

1956 Funeral Services Held in Naples for Joel A. Evans. April 26.

1956 Funeral Services for Alva A. Hatch Held in Vernal. July 5.

1958 State Purchases Old Ruple Ranch for Deer Range. April 24.

1965 Pearl McCarrell Services Held Here Thursday. July 15.

1981 Sheep Industry Played Important Role in Basin. February 26.

1981 Two Vernal Sheepmen View Decline of Basin Industry. March 5.

1997 Chew Honored for Livestock Operation. December 10.

Walker, Don D.

1964 The Cattle Industry of Utah, 1850-1900: An Historical Profile. *Utah Historical Quarterly* 32(3):8-23.

Walker, Don M., Ralph Walker, and Willis J. Southam

1974 Agreement. Cooper Draw Allotment Binder. Bureau of Land Management Vernal Field Office Files, Vernal, Utah.

Walt, Ronald G.

1997 *A History of Carbon County*. Utah Centennial County History Series. Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City.

Watson, Sue Ruple

n.d.a Cattle Kingdom. Family History Binder, Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

n.d.b Historical Interview. Family History Binder, Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

n.d.c Sue Watson Autobiography Part 2 continued from Tape #50, File No. 460, Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

1971 Historical Interview, August 5. Family History Binder, Regional History Center, Vernal,

Utah. 1977 Interview with Mike Brown of the Golden Age Center, August 15. Family History

Binder, Regional
History Center, Vernal, Utah.

2001a Tape 75: Sue Watson: Tamarack School Project, File No. 1149 Henry Ruple, Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

2001b Tape 77: Sue Watson. Sue Watson: Stories of Island Park. File No. 1149 Henry Ruple, Regional History Center, Vernal, Utah.

Wilder, Gary
1994 "Browns Park," online article on the Utah History Encyclopedia website. Accessed February 14, 2022 at https://www.uen.org/utah_history_encyclopedia/b/BROWNS_PARK.shtml.

Willison George F. (ed.)
[1940] History of Grazing in Utah. Ms B 100, Box 1, Folder 7, MS on file at Utah State Historical Society, Salt Lake City.

Wilson, Richa
2004 *Within A Day's Ride: Forest Service Administrative Sites in Region 4, 1891–196*0. USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region Facilities Group, Ogden, Utah.