

Cane

CASE FILE SUMMARY
SOULEN LIVESTOCK COMPANY
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DEC 20 2017
DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

I. General Statement

This is one of the older and larger sheep operations in the District with headquarters in the Weiser area. The base properties are made up mainly of range lands lying east of the Weiser River in what is known as the Crane Creek Unit.

II. Historical Summary

This operation began in the early days and was known as the Mesa Sheep Company when their first application was made in 1935 with Harry B. Soulen as president. The operation remained in the name of Mesa Sheep Company through the 1941 summer license and was changed to the Soulen Livestock Company on the fall license of that same year. There is no document found in the file to show this change. However, Mr. Soulen has remained in control of the operation.

The base property appears to have remained pretty much intact except for minor changes. The 1944 application states, "Lost the Bertelson Lease". There is no indication of what this lease consisted of nor was there any apparent change in the license.

A Section 7 transfer application appears in 1942 from Anges Little Bettis which shows 437 AUM's Federal range use with no AU's. No approval is shown and no change appears in licensed numbers.

In 1944, a Section 7 transfer was processed wherein the grazing privileges attached to leased lands were placed as owned lands designated as the Upper Ranch. No AUM's or AU's were given.

The Soulen Livestock Company first started using the Sunnyside Unit for winter use in 1947. Through a lease from Rex Jensen; and in 1950 the Highland Livestock & Land Company privilege was purchased in the same area. This purchase consisted of the purchase of approximately 1000 acres of deeded land in the Swan Falls and Melba areas, and a Section 7 transfer for 4000 sheep and 1800 AUM's.

III. Area of Use

The area of use from the Soulen Livestock Company holdings has customarily been the Crane Creek-Willow Creek area in T.10, 11 & 12 N., R. 2, 3 & 4 W.

The privileges acquired from Anges Little Bettis as the Little Estate is in the same general area. The area of use from the Highland Livestock & Land purchase is within the Sunnyside Unit and is strictly winter range. There was no privilege acquired from Rex Jensen. The Soulen operation has trail use only in the Black Canyon Unit.

IV. Base Property Commensurability

There has never been a formal Dependent Property Survey made of this operation. There is a large land holding through private and leased lands, therefore there has never been a great deal of reason to question commensurability.

In the 1935 application, they claim the following:

600 acres cultivated; 150 acres irrigated; 14,980.61 acres
. grazing; and 3700 acres leased lands.

In the 1960 submission, we have a great deal more land (see description and acreages in case file) listed as follows:

Total range land	30,795 acres
Dry Land	900 acres
Irrigated land	140 acres

Production - 1959

Alfalfa Hay	1100 Tons
Wheat, oats, barley	3000 bushels
Intermediate wheatgrass	300 acres
Alfalfa seed	3000 pounds

V. Priority

A. Mesa Sheep Company

Except for the statements in their first application (7/20/35) there is little in the files in the way of a formal statement or priority numbers. In that application, they applied for 500 cattle, 100 horses, and 15,000 sheep, and stated they graze under normal and economic conditions, 14,000 to 15,000 sheep, and from 350 to 500 cattle.

B. Highland Livestock & Land Purchase & Section 7 Transfer

From this purchase of approximately 1100 acres of deeded land in the winter range area (and 5000 in W.C. & C.C.)* and a Section 7 transfer, Soylen received the following:

4000 sheep, 12/15 to 2/28 90% F.R. 1800 AUM's
in the Sunnyside Unit.

* Willow Creek and Crane Creek

C. Anges Little Bettis Transfer

The privilege from this transfer seems to have been lost into the operation and not applied for, therefore it can no longer be recognized.

No license appears in excess of 15,000 sheep, and 350 cattle until 400 cattle were licensed in 1951 for the first time and remain at this figure at the present. The sheep numbers have ranged from 10,000 to 12,000 head over most of the period, however.

A license which was issued on 2/16/51 appears to have been intended to be recognized as the full priority as follows:

400 C-	4/1 to 11/30	5%	160 AUM's
10,000 S-	3/16 to 5/15	25%	1000 AUM's
8,000 S-	11/1 to 12/15	25%	<u>600 AUM's</u>
			1760 AUM's (Active)
3,000 S	3/16 to 5/15	25%	300 AUM's
13,000 S	5/16 to 5/31	25%	325 AUM's
5,000 S	11/1 to 12/15	25%	375 AUM's
13,000 S	12/16 to 12/31	25%	<u>325 AUM's</u>
			1325 AUM's (Non-use)
TOTAL			3085 AUM's

It is significant to note that the same amount of use is being applied for at the present time, i.e. 1760 AUM's of active use and no non-use has been requested nor approved since the February 16, 1951 license. Therefore, 2400 AU's and 1760 AUM's is all that can now be recognized.

VI. Class I Demand

A.	Willow Creek Unit	150 AUM's
B.	Crane Creek Unit	1610 AUM's
C.	Sunnyside Unit, 800 AU's	1800 AUM's
	Black Canyon Unit	Trail only

Eldon C. Beus,
Range Manager