

Seven Slash K  
Allotment Management Plan

Tonto Basin Ranger District

Tonto National Forest

Region III

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12/14/94  
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9-28-94  
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12/14/94  
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12/14/94  
Date

SEVEN SLASH K  
ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Allotment Description and Background

The Seven Slash K Allotment consists of approximately 17,524 acres northwest of Theodore Roosevelt Lake. It is adjacent to the Tonto Basin allotment on the north and east sides, the Three Bar allotment on the south and the Sunflower allotment of the Mesa Ranger District on the west. The elevation varies from 6099 feet at the Mazatzal Divide in the center of the allotment to 2158 feet at Theodore Roosevelt Lake in the eastern section of the allotment. Vegetation consists of mostly desert scrub and desert grassland species. chaparral is very common on the steeper slopes. Ponderosa Pine can also be found in the higher elevations. Topography consists of rolling mountains at the lower elevations getting very steep and rough with the rise in elevation. There are three main drainages located on the allotment. These are Ash Creek, Bumblebee Creek and Sycamore Creek. Soils are shallow and mostly a sandy loam with some heavy clays on the tops of ridges. The Seven Slash K allotment is situated on the Tonto Basin Ranger District, Tonto National Forest in Gila County,

The present permittee understands the importance and necessity of meeting Land Management Plan goals and objectives through the Integrated Resource Management process as presently directed by the Forest Supervisor.

Ranch and Livestock Operation

The Seven Slash K Allotment is strictly a cattle operation. This operation consists of a commercial cow-calf herd. Mother cows are kept yearly with calves usually held over to take advantage of winter and spring annuals in the desert ecosystem. The herd generally consist of mixed breed cattle. The allotment has a permit for 150 cattle + 119 yearling currently held by George Allen Ewing.

Throughout the years, water developments (springs) have been constructed on the allotment to relieve some of the distribution problems, but these are very limited. There are several existing fences in place to form pastures, but these pastures can not be utilized until a more diverse watering system is developed. Extensive management has been very limited as a result of insufficient water and rugged terrain. The permittee has instigated a "herding practice" to compensate for the lack of water and to improve livestock distribution.

## Seven Slash K Allotment Management Plan

### Management Goals and Objectives

The basic goal of this management plan is to improve resource conditions on the Seven Slash K management unit while maintaining a viable livestock operation. Based on this goal, the management objectives, formulated by the Interdisciplinary Team, are:

- accommodate riparian recovery on Ash Creek, Bumblebee Creek and various springs.
- improve management to increase the area of distribution of livestock from 45% to 80-90% of suitable acres on the allotments using Forest Service Guidelines and Standards.
- achieve proper use of rangeland vegetation on a greater percentage of allotment acreage to improve rangeland resource objectives.
- use smaller pastures and more intense grazing for a shorter time period as a tool to accomplish more unified distribution.
- through better resource management, improve water based recreation opportunities, and Resource Access Travel Management (RATM) with minimal conflicts between livestock and recreation.
- manage livestock to achieve multiple resource objectives while maintaining an economical livestock operation.
- improve forage species abundance and diversity in the Ponderosa Pine, chaparral, and desert scrub vegetation types.

### Grazing System and Schedule

The Seven Slash K grazing management is a rest-deferred rotation grazing system. Five pastures are included in the rotation system (excluding one holding pasture). Periods of rest vary, but generally the higher elevation pastures will receive between 6 and 12 months rest between use and lower elevation pastures will receive between 8 and 14 months rest between use. The Highway Pasture will only be used as a yearling weaning pasture by a portion of the herd. This holding pasture will be grazed for varying amounts of time each year, but not longer than is prescribed in the grazing system. Grazing treatments will change throughout the year and by season. The technical advantage of this system is the improved amount of annual growing season rest which it affords.

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The grazing schedule and intended numbers of cattle in each unit are displayed on form R3-2200-18.

The grazing schedule is intended to be flexible enough to allow for minor shifts in livestock movements between units to adjust for moisture conditions and available water. Major changes or shifts in movement dates must be jointly agreed upon by the permittee, and the Tonto Basin District Ranger.

Implementation of each unit grazing system will occur upon installation of necessary water developments and fences. Any change in current management practices will be jointly agreed upon and documented in the annual plan of instructions.

### Range Development and Improvements

Fencing and extensive water developments are critical to the effectiveness of this management plan. Presently there are only two grazing pastures.

Implementing the grazing management system will require the construction of 12 structural projects, including spring developments, pipelines, fences, cattleguards, storage tanks and drinkers.

Range developments and improvements will be constructed under permit modification using the following procedure:

- 1) Forest Service and Permittee (or representative) will locate improvement or development on-the-ground and flag the site.
- 2) Forest Service will prepare NEPA documentation and permit modification authorizing the work for any additional projects not included in the Environmental Assessment associated with this Plan .
- 3) Upon completion of the work and acceptance by the Forest Service, the permittee will provide the Forest Service an itemized invoice of his costs associated with the improvements.

Generally, range improvements will be a cost-share effort between the Forest Service and the permittee. Due to the Central Arizona Project, Plan 6, those improvements already existing on the lower one-third of the Seven Slash K Allotment will need to be replaced. The replacement of these projects will be funded by the Bureau of Reclamation. A separate schedule attached itemizes the improvements along with the share to be paid or supplied by the Forest Service and that of the Permittee.

Each improvement will be constructed under a permit modification which will outline specific details of cost-share and details of construction.

## Seven Slash K Allotment Management Plan

When funding limitations exist in any fiscal year, water developments will have priority over fence construction.

### Range Improvement Schedule

See appendix - Range Improvement Schedule

### Range Improvement Maintenance

The attached list of range improvements will be maintained by the permittee to a functional standard throughout the life of the plan. Emphasis will be placed on maintaining allotment boundary fences and maintaining existing spring developments.

The use of heavy equipment such as crawler tractors must be approved in advance by District Ranger.

Cleaning dirt stock tanks is considered a maintenance item and will require only advance notice via phone call. Any major work which significantly alters the structure, spillway or increases the original capacity of the tank is considered reconstruction and will require a joint on-site inspection to determine the extent of work to be done.

### General Management Considerations

#### A. Actual Use Records

The permittee will keep accurate accounting of cattle numbers entering each unit and the length of time the unit was grazed. These records will be presented to the District at the end of each grazing season.

#### B. Annual Plan

The Annual Operating Plan will be the action plan that implements management decisions for the current year. These instructions will serve as a working understanding with the permittee for carrying out actions described in the management plan. The annual plan will outline items of permittee responsibility such as salting, range improvement construction and maintenance, and livestock movement between units.

#### C. Followup Action and Monitoring

Follow-up action and monitoring will be consistent with the Interagency Review Team's Monitoring Plan for Plan 6 allotments and base data collected prior to new management agreements. Designated photo points will be taken every year by the permittee. Vegetative sampling associated with the Monitoring Plan will be conducted in FY96. The purpose of this is to determine the effectiveness of the management plan in terms of livestock distribution and location of range developments. The effective implementation of this management plan and the

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Plan

availability of adequate waters in the different grazing units will improve both the resource conditions and grazing capacity on the Seven Slash K Allotment.

Reports of the monitoring results will be sent to the Bureau of Reclamation. The status of new improvements, whether completed and/or their progress, will be noted after the four year monitoring review and the preparation for the modification of the 5-year plan. The status of these improvements is important when determining their usefulness and effectiveness as it pertains to the monitoring results.

D. Biological Evaluation Follow-up Action

Recommendations by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the Biological Evaluation will be followed. If any range improvement locations are not as specified in the Biological Evaluation, the Fish and Wildlife Service will be consulted.



RANGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

SEVEN SLASH K

FY YEAR PASTURE PROJECT	UNIT	EST. COST		PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY COST SHARE ECT.		COMMENT
		MATERIALS	LABOR	FS/SCS/BOR	PERMITTEE (P)	
'94						
BUCK BASIN						
EL OSO STORAGE TANK AND 2 TROUGHS	1 10,000 GAL STRG TANK & 2 TROUGHS	2,000	1,000	3,000 (RBF)	-0-	
EL OSO ROAD FENCE	7 MI	21,000	21,000	BOR CONTRACT (6,000/MI) 42,000	-0-	
'95						
MOUNTAIN						
MOUNTAIN CATTLE- GUARD	1 CATTLE- GUARD W/CEMENT BASE	1,500	500	2,000 (RBF)	-0-	
BUMBLEBEE						
BUMBLEBEE WEST PIPELINE	1.5 MI 1" 250 PSI BLACK PIPE & 4 TROUGHS	3,000	2,000	3,000 (BOR)	2,000 (P)	
BUMBLEBEE NORTH PIPELINE	.5 MI 1" 250 PSI BLACK PIPE & 1 TROUGH	1,000	667	1,000 (BOR)	667 (P)	
BUMBLEBEE CORRAL EXTENSION	WELL CASING, SUCKER ROD -	3,000	3,000	3,000 (BOR)	3,000 (P)	
BUMBLEBEE PASTURE FENCE	2.5 MI CONVEN. 4 STRAND BARBED WIRE	5,000	5,000	5,000 (BOR)	5,000 (P)	
HIGHWAY H.P. HIGHWAY H.P. ENCE	.25 MI BARBED WIRE	500	100	600 (RBF)	-0-	

RANGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

SEVEN SLASH K

FY YEAR PASTURE PROJECT	UNIT	EST. COST		PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY COST SHARE ECT.		COMMENT
		MATERIALS	LABOR	FS/SCS/BOR	PERMITTEE (P)	
ASH CREEK ASH CREEK PIPELINE	1 MI WITH 3 TROUGHS	2,750	2,750	2,750 (RBF)	2,750 (P)	
ASH CREEK FENCE	1 MI CONVEN. 4 STRAND BARBED WIRE	2,000	2,000	2,000 (RBF)	2,000 (P)	
RED HILL RED HILL STORAGE TANK	10,000 GAL STORAGE TANK & 2 TROUGHS	2,000	1,000	3,000 (BOR)	-0-	
RED HILL PIPELINE	1.5 MI 1" 250 PSI BLACK PIPE & 4 TROUGHS	3,000	3,000	3,000 (BOR)	3,000 (P)	
RED HILL FENCE REMOVAL	1.5 MI	NONE	1,000	-0-	1,000 (P)	
RED HILL HORIZONTAL WELL	CLEAN AND RE- DEVELOP EXISTING WELL	250	250	250 (RBF)	250 (P)	