

SUPERIOR ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Globe Ranger District

Tonto National Forest

Revised 7/84

See 2200-19 dated 6/8/94

Prepared By:

Robert H. Maxwell, Range Substaff

Date

Reviewed By:

George C. Martinez
George C. Martinez, Range & WL. Staff

10/3/79
Date

Agreed to By:

James C. Herron
James C. Herron, Permittee Manager

10-4-79
Date

Submitted By:

David M. Stewart
David M. Stewart, District Forest Ranger

10-5-79
Date

Approved By:

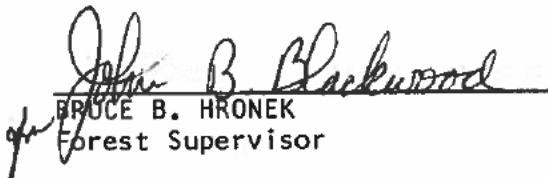
John C. Bedell
John C. Bedell, Acting Forest Supervisor

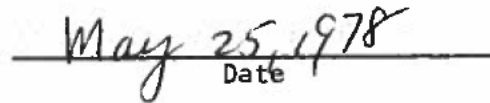
10/29/79
Date

Finding of No Significant Impact Decision Notice
Superior Allotment Management Plan

Input received from the Forest Landscape Architect and included in appendix is to be considered when developing detailed environmental assessment for specific projects.

- 4) Ability to proceed with additional water developments.
If it is not possible to put in these water developments,
then a re-analysis and possible adjustment of numbers of
livestock may be necessary.


JOHN B. HRONEK
Forest Supervisor


Date

I. DESCRIPTION

The Superior Allotment is located adjacent to the town of Superior and extends on either side of Highway 60. It is bounded on the west by the Forest and District boundaries; on the south by the Forest boundary; on the north and the east by the Devil's Canyon and Brushiest Allotments.

Elevations range from 2,400 feet on Queen Creek to 5,200 in at Fortuna Peak.

The allotment is characterized by steep, topographic features and by relatively level mountainous surroundings. Perpendicular features, such as Apache Leap Cliffs on the east side of the allotment, and high peaks, such as Picket Post Mountain, make up the inaccessible range found primarily on the south and east edge of the allotment.

A. Management Units

The Superior Allotment will be divided into six pastures (see map for pasture division). They are named Montana Mountain, Silver King, 88, TU, Wildhorse and Home pastures.

Montana Mountain is a large pasture on the north end of the allotment. This pasture includes the greatest part of the high country which is in fair condition. It also contains a small portion of the lowland country in very poor to poor condition. Montana Mountain pasture will be created by a division of the old North pasture.

Silver King pasture will also be created by dividing the old North pasture. This pasture contains most of the lowland country north of the highway. The town of Superior is in the southeast corner of the pasture.

The "88" pasture is one of the four pastures south of the highway. It is one of the largest pastures and contains about 80% poor condition range.

The "TU" pasture is the smallest of the larger units. It has the advantage of good water development and will be grazed in conjunction with other pastures.

The smaller pastures, Wildhorse, Home, and Silver King, will be used in conjunction with the "88" and "TU" pastures. The purpose of this is to manage the lowlands so that traditional grazing patterns will be broken up, improve distribution of cattle, and provide more rest for important perennial vegetative species.

B. Type of Operation

(b) (6)

maintain a cow-

calf-yearling operation on the Superior Allotment. Yearlings are permitted until May 31 following the year of their birth.

(b) (6) is the designated manager and authorized agent for the operation.

C. Animal Husbandry

This management plan will aid the permittees by concentrating their cattle in one pasture at a time. During this time it is possible more cows will breed and result in a larger and more uniform calf crop. Calves dropped more uniformly may be heavier at the time of shipping.

Roundup should be easier and serve to account for cattle plus facilitate the handling of livestock prior to shipping.

D. Permitted Numbers and Season of Use

The following is a summary of current demand for grazing livestock:

- (1) (b) (6) have a term permit for 35 cattle from 1/1 to 12/31 plus 22 yearlings from 1/1 to 5/31.
- (2) (b) (6) has a term permit for 279 cattle from 1/1 to 12/31 plus 156 yearlings from 1/1 to 5/31.

E. Range Limitations and Allowable Use

The Superior Allotment is separated by Highway 60 into two areas, north and south. The north part has not yet been divided by fences. The south portion is fenced into two large pastures plus one smaller pasture. There are highland areas in the north portion which need water development to help reduce grazing impact on the lowlands.

Historic grazing pressure on the allotment has been extremely heavy. From 1915 to 1940, stocking ranged from 800 to 1,874 adult cattle plus NI. There were also numerous trespass cattle, wild horses, burros and goats. The pattern of grazing has always been concentrated on the desert shrub type adjacent to the TU ranch and town of Superior.

The 1961 allotment analysis estimated the grazing capacity at 5,300 AUM's.

Current range inspections reveal that most of this capacity is in the highlands. The lowlands cannot tolerate the current stocking level without the benefit of a management plan.

F. Problems and Conflicts

Much of the damage to soil and vegetation is due to past improper grazing. As a result, current conditions on the allotment, especially on the lowlands, are very poor and in some cases damage is irreversible. The proposed system will serve to mitigate these impacts by providing additional rest in areas which historically received heavy livestock use and are still deteriorating.

Trespass has long been a problem, and may continue to be a problem, as long as the town of Superior remains relatively unfenced. Grazing livestock in a smaller area for specified periods will enable one to maintain better control on authorized livestock.

As a result of extensive mining activity, recreation and other uses, many roads have been built. This has created a problem of increased vandalism of range developments and theft of government and private property related to grazing. In many instances, gates have been left open allowing livestock from BLM and private land to trespass. A serious problem of safety also is occurring when livestock get onto the state highways. The use of metal and concrete for construction of improvements along with installation of cattleguards and use of "please close the gate" signs will help minimize these impacts.

A primary problem relating to management is distribution of livestock. Some areas of the allotment, particularly in the highlands, are not being utilized at all. Whereas, areas around water developments continue to be sore spots. Salting on water has accentuated this problem. Efforts exerted by the permittee to employ sound management techniques such as riding, herding, salting away from water and following the planned rotation is the key to correcting this problem. The development of additional waters in the highlands will also serve to correct this problem.

II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT

A. Long-Term Goals for the Superior Allotment

1. Since the Superior Allotment's chief value is for watershed, it is important to improve and maintain water quality; therefore, ground cover will need to be increased to minimize the volume of silt entering the drainage system of Queen Creek.
2. Protect and enhance wildlife habitat with special consideration for rare and endangered nongame species by improving riparian zones through livestock manipulation.
3. Improve perennial grass forage species by considering their physiological growth requirements within the framework of an allotment management plan. This improvement will help provide forage for livestock and wildlife on a sustained-yield basis.

B. Specific Objectives That If Accomplished will Meet the Long-Term Goals

1. Maintain the following allowable use levels on perennial grass species in key areas.

	<u>Allowable Use</u>
a. Montana Mountain Pasture	60%
b. Silver King Pasture	50%
c. 88 Pasture	50%
d. Woods Canyon or TU Pasture	50%
e. Wildhorse Pasture	60%
f. Home Pasture	50%

2. Reduce grazing impact on riparian zones and canyon stringers, by improving livestock distribution.
3. Develop water in the high country to draw livestock off of the low country, riparian zones, and canyon stringers.
4. Divide the North pasture to stop drift of cattle into the town of Superior, reduce impact on the lowlands and reduce hazard of livestock straying onto Highway 60.

Objectives #1, 3 and 4 will provide the primary accomplishment for long-range goals #1 and #3.

Objectives #2 and 3 will serve to improve wildlife habitat and afford an opportunity for wildlife enhancement.

C. Schedule and Procedure for Monitoring Objectives

	Every 6 Months	Every 10 Years	Every 5 Years
<u>Range Inspections</u>	X		
<u>Trend and Condition Transects</u>		X	
<u>Pace Transects</u>	As needed		X
<u>Production and Utilization Study</u>			X
			or as needed

1. Range inspections should be scheduled every 6 months to coincide with movement of livestock. The permittee or his representative will be invited to participate. Following the inspection written documentation will be provided to the permittee to assure a common understanding of problems and remedial action required.
2. Upon implementation of the allotment management plan, trend and condition transects should be read thus provide a basis for comparison when remeasured in 10 years.

REGION 3

FOREST *Tonto*

ALLOTMENT Superior

PERMITTED

(b) (6)

STRICT GLOBE

DATE PREPARED 6/4/84

MGNT. PRESC:
BY PASTURE

Second Year - 19⁸⁹35

Third Year - 19⁹⁰~~94~~

Fourth Year - 1987

Fifth Year - 1958⁹²

[illegible]

FOREST Tonto

GRAZING SYSTEM

PASTURE PLAN AND USE RECORD

DISTRICT Globe

DATE PREPARED 6/4/84

88
First Year - 1984

Second Year - 19⁸⁹85

Third Year - 19⁹⁰₉₆

PASTURE OR MGT. UNIT

Montana Mt.

Silver King

29
11.0

AG 100
T11

twich

A schematic diagram of a 1D lattice with N sites. The lattice is represented by a horizontal line with N discrete sites. The leftmost site is labeled '1' and the rightmost site is labeled 'N'. A double-headed arrow above the lattice indicates the distance L . A single-headed arrow above the lattice indicates the distance $L/2$.

YEARLY NOTES:

RAY - OCT. MONTANA & SUTTER
NOV - APRIL 88