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BLACKJACK ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

1989 AMENDMENT

Cave Creek Ranger District
Tonto National Forest
Region 3

Proposed by: Richard N. Kvale 7-18-89
Richard N. Kvale, District Range & Wildlife Staff Date

Patti R. Fenner 18 July 1989
Patti R. Fenner, Range Conservationist Date

Ad. N. King 8-3-89
Blackjack Allotment Permittee Date

Recommended for approval by: Johnny R. Wilson 8/4/89
Johnny R. Wilson, District Ranger Date

Approved by: David Stewart 8/22/89
for James L. Kimball, Forest Supervisor Date

Range inspections over the last 2 years have indicated that several minor changes in the Allotment Management Plan would improve livestock distribution and range condition. Following is a description of each:

Increasing frequency of pasture moves from 3 times/year to 4 times/year. Pasture moves will occur in May, July, October, and February. This will relieve pressure on the pasture grazed during the summer season by splitting this season into early and late summer grazing periods. Bulls will be brought onto the ranch private property in September/October and kept there and fed until February. They will then be put into the spring pasture ahead of the cows. The Bull Pasture can be used as a special pasture for first-calf heifers.

Construction of a waterlot around Bull Pasture Stock Tank. Approximately 1/2 mile of fence tying into the Lockwood and the Blackjack Pasture fences with gates to each would make this dependable water available to cattle in either pasture and would act to distribute cattle to unwatered corners of these two pastures.

Bentonite White Rock Overland Flow Stock Tank. This tank has not held water since it was constructed a few years ago. One of the Forest Hydrologists visited the site in 1988 and recommended mixing bentonite into the clay already in the bottom of the tank to cut down on seepage problems.

Construct Trick Tank at south end of Cedar Pasture. The trick tank at the north end has worked well. Since water in this pasture is provided mainly by stock tanks, and these have been unreliable recently, the permittee has proposed constructing a trick tank at his own expense. The Ranger District will provide necessary clearances, and storage will be provided by moving steel tanks from the Ridge and/or Cougar Waterhauls. Cougar Waterhaul will not be necessary if the Bull Pasture tank is waterlotted, and Ridge Waterhaul has not been needed since adequate storage was installed at Seldom Trick Tank in the Lime Creek Pasture. The Ranger District and permittee will agree upon trick tank specification prior to construction.

Prescribed burn of portions of the 1987 Blackjack Burn to maintain reduction in catclaw density and vigor. The year following the initial burn catclaw on Lockwood Mesa suffered a marked reduction in vigor, and perennial grasses increased in density. A follow-up burn on the flatter portions of the Blackjack Burn would serve to further reduce catclaw vigor while it is in a more vulnerable state. The worst problem areas of catclaw are on Lockwood Mesa and in the Triple Tanks area. The increased grass cover will serve as fine fuels to efficiently carry the fire. This burn is proposed for the fall of 1990, after Lockwood has had one summer season's rest from grazing.

Develop Black Hole Spring in the southwestern corner of the Lime Creek Pasture. This will draw cattle into this currently unused corner of the pasture. The Forest Service has recently acquired a Permit to Divert from the State of Arizona Water Resources Department.

On the next page is a schedule of construction dates and costs for these improvements. Attached is a grazing schedule reflecting the changes in pasture moves.

Range Improvement Schedule

<u>FY 1989</u>	Materials	Labor	Total Cost
Waterlot Bull Pasture Stock Tank (1/2 mile of fence)	900	900	2300
<u>FY 1990</u>			
Develop Black Hole Spring	500	500	1000
Bentonite White Rock Stock Tank	400	800	1200
Install Trick Tank at south end of Cedar Pasture	3000	2000	5000
Prescribed Burn on Lockwood Mesa (2000 acres)		4000	4000

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Second Addendum to the
Blackjack Allotment Management Plan

Cave Creek Ranger District
Tonto National Forest
Region 3

Proposed by: Patti R. Fenner 11-6-87
Patti R. Fenner, Range Conservationist Date

Richard Kvale 11-9-87
Richard N. Kvale, District Range & Wildlife Staff Date

Agreed to by: [Signature] 11/10/87
Permittee, Blackjack Allotment Date

[Signature] 11-10-87
Permittee, Blackjack Allotment Date

Recommended for approval by: Johnny R. Wilson 11/17/87
Johnny R. Wilson, District Ranger Date

Approved by: Charles C. Wilder 12-8-87
James L. Kimball, Forest Supervisor Date

This addendum reflects another attempt to fine-tune grazing management on the Blackjack Allotment.

Extensions of pasture fences toward natural barriers are needed at two locations:

- On the east side of Cook's Mesa, the fence between Triple Tank and Lockwood Pastures. About 1/4 mile of fence will prevent cattle from going around the west side of this pasture fence.
- The fence on Blackjack Point used to tie into brush as a natural barrier. The Blackjack Burn, conducted last summer, removed most of this brush, so that cattle are able to walk around the end of the fence. 200' of fence will tie this fence into topographic natural barrier.

The permittee has proposed a fence to split the Lime Creek Pasture into two approximately equal halves. Some years this pasture produces more feed than is needed for yearlings in the short spring season. Splitting the pasture would allow it to be used by yearlings in one half and another class of cattle in the other half. If we decide later to begin using Lime Creek in the regular rotation schedule, this fence will make it possible to use the north and south halves of the pasture in sequence, thus reducing the amount of time cattle are on any one piece of country. It will tie into the drift fence in sections 10 and 11, split the Seldom Trick Tank water trough, and end at Board Corral. It will be about 2 miles in length. This fence is not far from Agave arizonica populations (found in the Red Rover Mine area to the south) and Cowania subintegra populations in the Lime Creek drainage. A person familiar with these species will conduct a survey at the time this pasture fence is scoped out. Archeological survey will be done concurrently.

Visual quality objectives for all three areas is maximum modification.

Schedule

Triple Tank/Lockwood Gap Fence - 1/4 mile

est. cost to gov't. (materials):	\$400
est. cost to permittee (labor):	\$625
fiscal year to be constructed:	88

Blackjack Point Gap Fence - 200'

est. cost to gov't. (materials):	\$100
est. cost to permittee (labor):	\$200
fiscal year to be constructed:	88

Lime Creek Pasture Fence - 2 mi.

est. cost to gov't. (materials):	\$3,300
est. cost to permittee (labor):	\$5,000
fiscal year to be constructed:	89 or 90

After preliminary analysis and selection of mitigation measures, no additional public issues or resource concerns are apparent. I hereby recommend that this addendum be approved as a categorical exclusion and this report become an amendment to the Blackjack Allotment Management Plan.

Johnny R. Wilson
JOHNNY R. WILSON
District Ranger

Enclosure: Map



CAVNESS

Rome

Lockwood Mesa

IONAL

HEAD OF NEW RIVER

Little Cottonwood

Blackjack Point

MESA

High Mesa

Indian

Blodgett

Blodgett

Cottonwood

Blodgett

Lockwood

Cottonwood

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Cottonwood

Blackjack

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