

DECISION RECORD/FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS (DR/FONSI)

EA No. AZ-020-2004-126

Decision: The Box Bar Allotment grazing lease #06063 shall be authorized with the specified terms and conditions for 10 years as described in the proposed action of the environmental assessment. This decision updates and supplements existing terms and conditions within the grazing lease to provide available forage while protecting monument values. Construction of a riparian fence in the northeast corner of Bald Hill pasture, a boundary fence on the west boundary of the public lands within the Big Bug pasture, a pipeline and storage from Sycamore windmill to the Red Rock pasture is approved. If needed a riparian fence may be constructed in the Cross S pasture above Indian Creek.

Finding of no Significant Impacts: Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

Rationale for Decision: This alternative mandates terms and conditions on the grazing lease to meet the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. Additionally the monument proclamation mandates protection of the cultural, vegetative and wildlife resources. The proposed action is in conformance with the Phoenix Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (September 1989). Construction of the range improvements is needed to implement the terms and conditions of the new grazing lease. This action will not have a direct or indirect adverse impact on energy development, production, supply and/or distribution.

Stipulations: The following terms and conditions will be added to the existing grazing lease.

1. Modify the season of use to winter use grazing (November 1 to February 28) for public lands within the Big Bug, and Red Rock pastures upon completion of fence construction.
2. Modify the season of use in the River and Cross S pastures to winter use grazing (November 1 to February 28). Livestock movement across this pasture will be permitted in times outside of the season of use. Cattle must be moved within a two-week time period, unless weather conditions or situations beyond the control of the lessee do not allow. Concurrence from Phoenix Field Office personnel must be requested.
3. Permit a 25% bank alteration and 30% apical bud utilization limit on riparian tree species to allow for the rest of vegetation to achieve proper functioning conditions.
4. Establish an average of 40% utilization of key forage species over multiple years (no less than three) on the allotment. Provide for 1 out of 3 years growing season rest in upland pastures.
5. In order to improve livestock distribution on the public lands, all salt blocks and/or mineral supplements will not be placed within a 1/4 mile of any riparian area, wet meadow, or watering facility (either permanent or temporary) unless stipulated through a written agreement or decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4130.3-2 (c).



Teresa A. Raml
District Manager

Aug 26, 2005

Date: