USDA United States Forest Tonto Basin Ranger District   28079 North AZ Highway 188
Department of Service   Roosevelt, AZ 85545
Agriculture   928-467-3200
                                                                    Fax: 928-467-3239

File Code:	2210
Date:	December 15, 2021

Dear Interested Party:

This letter initiates the scoping for the Pinto Creek Corral project on Tonto Basin Ranger District. The project is in Blevens pasture, near Forest Road 1491, approximately one mile south of Highway 188 and Spring Creek on the Poison Springs allotment. The legal location of the project is Township 3N, Range 13E, Section 2.

Existing Condition

The Poison Springs Allotment on the Tonto Basin Ranger District has been in non-use for several years. As livestock are moved back onto the allotment it became clear that additional infrastructure was needed in the Blevens Pasture to support the livestock operation. Within the Blevens Pasture limited livestock handling features are accessible and highway 188 prevents easy access and movement of livestock to other pastures. This pasture is in Management area 6J which manages for a variety of renewable natural resources with one of the primary emphasis on livestock forage production.

Desired Conditions

To provide adequate handling facilities on the allotment to manage livestock.

Current Management Direction

In management area 6J livestock should be managed at Level D. Level D management for livestock includes:

Management seeks to optimize production and utilization of forage allocated for livestock use consistent with maintaining the environment and providing the multiple use of the range. From all existing range and livestock management technology, practices may be selected and used to develop cost effective methods for achieving improved forage supplies and uniform livestock distribution and forage use... Cultural practices may be combined with fencing and water developments to implement complex grazing systems and management methods.

Purpose and Need

The purpose and need of the project is to provide adequate handling facilities to manage livestock that are on the allotment.

Proposed Action

A new corral that will be constructed around the Pinto Creek Well. The corral will be approximately 100' x 100' with a loading chute and a drift fence to help gather cows.

Design Features

- The Corral will be constructed of steel
- Forest Road 1491 cannot be blocked by the corral or the drift fence
- Forest Road 1491 will be authorized for maintenance by rancher

Comments

If you have information, you feel the Forest Service may not be aware of, especially any extraordinary circumstances, regarding the Proposed Action, **please send these in writing on or before 01/01/2022** to: Eric Hoskins at 28079 North AZ Highway 188, Roosevelt, Arizona 85545 or comments-southwestern-tonto-tonto-basin@usda.gov.

When submitting comments, please keep them specific to this proposal only. Comments which are not specific to the project and project area will be deemed outside the scope of the analysis and will not be considered. If you are including references, citations, or additional information to be considered for this project, please specify exactly how the material relates to the project. Also indicate exactly what part of the material you would like us to consider (such as page or figure number).

Comments received in response to this scoping notice, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this project and will be available for public inspection. Electronic comments must show name and address of submitter. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered. Additionally, any persons may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality (7 CFR 1.27(d)).

If you have questions concerning this process, please contact Eric Hoskins, Range Management Specialist, at 480-435-5563.
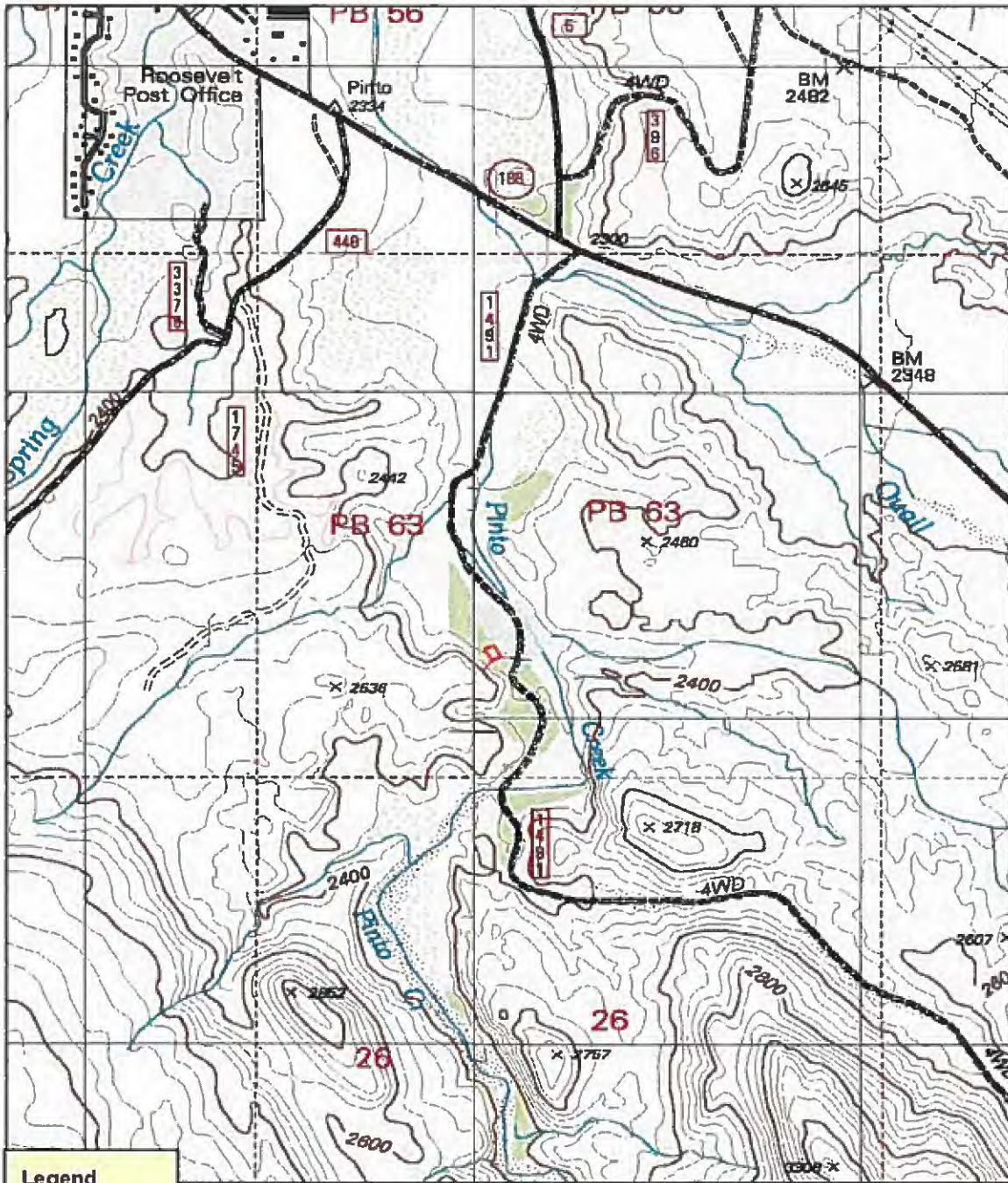
Sincerely,

Jeremy Plain
District Ranger

Enclosure

Pinto Creek Corral

Legend

— Drift_Fence
— Corral
--- Road_Route

1:15,000

0.5   0.25   0   0.5 Miles

N