

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

THE ARIZONA CATTLE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

and

THE REGIONAL FORESTER, SOUTHWESTERN REGION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

It is the purpose and intent of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide for careful and considered consultation, cooperation, and coordination between these two parties in all matters relating to rangeland management on public lands of the United States administered by the USDA Forest Service in the State of Arizona.

The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association (ACGA) and the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (FS) share an objective of improved communications for the purpose of effective, efficient multiple use management of the resources of Arizona National Forests. In pursuit of this objective ACGA has requested that the FS enter into this MOU.

This agreement is intended to provide a vehicle for a formal communication link between ACGA and FS on a State wide basis. It will assist in obtaining effective communication, coordination and consultation on all matters involving management of NF rangelands and provide for livestock industry input in all management decisions through the FS assessment and decision making processes.

This MOU is in furtherance of the policies of the signatories hereto, including: The policies of the United States, as expressed by Congress in the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. Section 1701 et seq.); The Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-514; 92 Stat. 1803); and the regulations of the United States Forest Service expressed at 36 CFR 222.7 (b) and (d) which authorizes Forest Officers to work cooperatively with State Livestock organizations and other organizations which have an interest in improvement of range management on public and private lands.

The ACGA Board of Directors authorized the development of a Memorandum of understanding between the ACGA and the USDA, Forest Service, Southwestern Region at the ACGA Annual Meeting in August, 1989.

I. The Arizona Cattle Growers' Association will:

Appoint an individual from each National Forest District to a Rangeland User Committee (RLUC) for each Arizona National Forest. One of these individuals will be designated as Chairperson of the (RLUC) for that National Forest. Terms of the initial appointment and any succeeding committee member designation process will be the responsibility of the ACGA Board of Directors.

The Chairperson of each NF (RLUC) will constitute a formal communications link to the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association Public Lands Forest Committee.

Issues involving more than one National Forest or which cannot be resolved locally will be considered by a committee consisting of the Chairperson of each forest Committee and the Chairperson of the ACGA Public Lands Forest Committee.

The National Forest Range Land Users Committees will determine the need for and call meetings as they deem appropriate, inviting Forest Service participation as needed.

II. Each Arizona Forest Supervisor will:

Annually provide each RLUC member on his Forest a list of allotments on which allotment management plans will be written or updated.

Make all relevant information available to the RLUC.

Solicit advice from the RLUC on allocation and prioritization of Range Betterment Funds through the Allotment Management Planning Process.

Provide each RLUC member on that Forest an opportunity to participate in the initial proceedings of the FS analysis and decision making processes of interest to the livestock industry. This will be accomplished by including the names and addresses of the RLUC members on the appropriate mailing lists.

III. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be construed as:

A. Limiting or affecting in any way the authority or legal responsibility of the signatories or as binding either the ACGA or the USDA. Forest Service to perform beyond the respective authority of each, or to require either party to assume or expend any sum in excess of available, or in the case of the ACGA, Board approved, funding.

B. Precluding individual ranch operators from requesting additional ACGA participation, or participation by other parties.

C. The ACGA, of any ranch operator, relinquishing any existing, or future, right to exercise all available administrative avenues for the resolution of differences or issues within the USDA; or, the ACGA, or any ranch operator, relinquishing any existing or future rights to recourse through the state or federal courts.

D. Representing all ranch operators on the National Forests of Arizona, regardless of ACGA membership status.

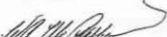
IV. Each provision of this Memorandum of Understanding is subject to the by-laws of the ACGA, the laws of the United States, and the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture.

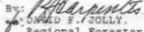
V. Amendments to this Memorandum of Understanding may be proposed by either party and shall become effective upon approval by both parties.

VI. This Memorandum of Understanding shall become effective when signed by the parties hereto and shall continue in force unless formally terminated by one of the parties after thirty (30) days notice in writing to the other party of their intentions to do so.

ARIZONA CATTLE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

USDA. FOREST SERVICE

By: 
WILLIAM McGIBBON, President
Arizona Cattle Growers' Association

By: 
DONALD F. JOLLY,
Regional Forester,
USDA Forest Service
Southwestern Region

Date: 8/9/90

Date: 8/9/90