

BOX CANYON
ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Nogales Ranger District
Coronado National Forest
Pima County Arizona

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Date:

Reviewed by:
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Approved by:
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Date:

Allotment Description and Background

The Box Canyon grazing allotment contains approximately 2,994 acres of National Forest System (NFS) land along the west side of the Santa Rita mountains, with elevations ranging from 4,320 to 6,160 feet. An additional 536 acres of Santa Rita Experimental Range (SRER) land and 35 acres of private land are included in allotment pastures.

The Forest Plan identifies two management areas on the allotment. Management Area 4 emphasis is for sustained harvest of livestock forage and fuelwood, while maintaining and improving game animal habitat. Management Area 7 emphasis is for unique resources (riparian areas). This management area is located primarily along Box Canyon channel, with some higher elevation areas in the southwest corner of the allotment.

Current Range Management

Livestock use on this allotment is by permit to Joe R. Robinson. The maximum allowable annual use on NFS land is 1584 Animal Unit Months (AUM's).

Present management consists of a permittee designed rotation grazing pattern that utilizes four (4) NFS pastures and two (2) SRER pastures. Two of the NFS pastures include SRER land.

Pasture 1 - This pasture is in the southwest corner of the allotment. It includes approximately 10 acres of private land, 360 acres SRER land and 832 acres NFS land. NFS suitable acreage is limited to 293 acres.

Pasture 2 - This pasture is located in the northeast corner of the allotment. It includes 636 acres of NFS land. Approximately 407 acres are suitable for grazing.

Pasture 3 - This pasture is located in the southeast corner of the allotment. It includes approximately 931 acres of NFS land. Approximately 667 acres are suitable for grazing.

Pasture 4 - This pasture is located in the northwest corner of the allotment. It includes approximately 25 acres of private land, 175 acres of SRER land and 595 acres of NFS land. Approximately 310 acres of NFS land are suitable for grazing.

November 1, each year, all livestock are placed in Pasture 3 (NFS). Beginning in mid-January, cows are moved to Pasture 2 (NFS) as they calve, until all animals have been moved. In mid-April all cows are moved from Pasture 2 into one of the four remaining pastures, using a rest-rotation pattern.

Pastures 1 (NFS), 4 (NFS), 9 (SRER) and 10 (SRER) are grazed in a rest rotation pattern from mid-April through November 1. Whichever pasture has received 17 months of rest is used for breeding. Pastures are rested four of five growing seasons during a five year cycle. The pasture grazed early in the summer season (June 15 - September 1) will have been rested the previous summer and spring growing seasons.

Goal:

Manage livestock to obtain sustainable multiple use resource objectives that are compatible with the standards and guidelines in the Forest Plan and the principles of ecosystem management.

Objectives:

Maintain or improve watershed condition throughout the allotment.

Maintain or improve range condition.

Maintain or improve riparian condition.

Meet or exceed cultural resource management objectives.

Meet or exceed threatened, endangered and sensitive species management objectives.

Grazing Program

Current management will continue. The following items will be considered during annual grazing direction development:

Water and/or forage availability may require minor adjustments in livestock movement patterns.

Maximum utilization levels will be established for each pasture annually, based on management objectives and season of use. Livestock will be removed from a pasture before the maximum utilization level is reached in the key areas.

Salt and supplement blocks will be used to help control livestock movements. Both will be placed away from water and other low areas where livestock tend to congregate. Salt and supplement areas will be moved periodically to help move livestock and to keep utilization levels within desired levels.

Range Improvements

None of the existing improvements will be reconstructed.

Routine maintenance of existing improvements will occur.

Monitoring

Key areas will be identified in each pasture. These areas will be used to monitor ground cover and species composition, density, dispersion and production. Key area designations may be changed to reflect adjustments in management.

Riparian areas will be monitored by visual observations and photographs documenting stand density, age-class diversity and recruitment.

Utilization will initially be monitored by the Permittee and a Forest officer. After both parties believe the Permittee is competent to visually monitor the areas, s/he will be responsible for monitoring and determining livestock movements.

Annual inspections will be completed by a Forest officer to ensure that Forest Service management direction is being followed and to determine if adjustments need to be made in the management direction or stocking rate.

Administrative Decisions

The District Ranger will determine the class of permitted livestock, the number of permitted livestock, and season of use; based on resource issues, management objectives and the management goals. The District Ranger will review these decisions periodically (annual minimum) and make any adjustments necessary to guarantee consistency with the Coronado Forest Land Management Plan, this allotment management plan or any new legal requirements.

SAMPLE GRAZING PATTERN

ROTATION SEQUENCE	YEAR 1	YEAR2 <i>Nov.</i>	YEAR3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5
FIRST (NOV 1)	PASTURE 3	PASTURE 3	PASTURE 3	PASTURE 3	PASTURE 3
SECOND	PASTURE 2	PASTURE 2	PASTURE 2	PASTURE 2	PASTURE 2
THIRD (APRIL) <i>2 mid/June</i>	PASTURE 4	PASTURE 1	PASTURE 10	PASTURE 9	PASTURE 4
FOURTH <i>5/26</i>	PASTURE 9	PASTURE 4	PASTURE 1	PASTURE 10	PASTURE 9
FIFTH	PASTURE 10	PASTURE 9	PASTURE 4	PASTURE 1	PASTURE 10
REST	PASTURE 1	PASTURE 10	PASTURE 9	PASTURE 4	PASTURE 1