

BRUNCHOW HILL ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Bureau of Land Management
Safford District
Safford, Arizona

March 1990

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Location and Acreage

The allotment lies 7 miles east of Sierra Vista and 8 miles west of Tombstone in Cochise County, Arizona. Table 1 indicates allotment acreage and ownership as shown on the base map.

Table 1
Allotment Acreages

<u>Land Status</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Sections</u>	<u>Percent of Area</u>
Public	999	1.6	54
Private	712	1.1	36
State	171	.3	10
Total	1882	3.0	100

B. Resource Data

1. Topography and Elevation

The allotment is generally hilly with one prominent hill (Brunckow) on the south border. The San Pedro River flows through the west side. Elevations range from a high of 4500 feet on Brunckow Hill to a low of 3900 feet on the San Pedro River. The majority of the allotment is about 4100 feet.

2. Vegetation

Two major vegetation types make up the plant composition. See Table 2.

Table 2
Vegetation Types

<u>Vegetation Types & Major Associated Species</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Sections</u>	<u>Percent of Area</u>
Desert Riparian (Cottonwood, Willow, Burmuda Grass)	10	.1	1
Chihuahuan Desert Scrub (Whitethorn, Tar Bush, Creosote)	1872	2.9	99
Totals	1882	3.0	100

3. Resource information concerning climate and soils can be found in the District RMP.

C. Livestock Management Information

1. Livestock Operations

This allotment has been leased by Eunice P. Lindsey since April 1963. Her son, Bill, now operates the ranch. He runs about 20 mature cattle which includes one bull yearlong. He runs a cow-calf operation.

The current livestock operation is summarized in Table 3.

Table 3

<u>Licensee</u>	<u>Time Numbers</u>	<u>Total of Use</u>	<u>Federal Qualifications</u>	<u>Other Land</u>
Eunice P. Lindsey	20	YL	84	240

2. Carrying Capacity Determination

Utilization and trend studies will be initiated on the allotment to monitor progress in achieving objectives. These studies will provide the basis for determining proper stocking and making appropriated adjustments whether increases or decreases in livestock use.

In the event that cattle numbers are questioned because of excess use on federal land, utilization studies will be initiated to determine stocking rate. Current use of forage species appear to be light. Forty percent by weight is considered maximum average use on this range yearlong.

An irrigated pasture on private land helps supplement cattle forage during the summer months.

3. Grazing Management Problem

The riparian corridor along the San Pedro is the area of most concern. This corridor is all on private land. Approximately 814 acres lie within the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) which was designated by Congress to be managed in a special manner. Cattle will continue to graze on these lands at least for the 15 year period that the above designation is in effect; then the entire SPRNCA will be re-evaluated to determine the status of grazing.

II. OBJECTIVES

A. General

1. Watershed

a. Stabilize the San Pedro River bottom by reducing bank cutting.

2. Livestock Forage

Utilize the key forage species on this allotment by an average of 40 percent.

III. GRAZING MANAGEMENT

A. Key Species and Phenology

Management of the allotment will be based on the key species Bouteloua curtipendula sideoats grama. This species was chosen because it is abundant and palatable.

Table 4
Plant Phenology

<u>Key Species</u>	<u>Start Growth</u>	<u>Flowering</u>	<u>Seedripe</u>	<u>Proper Use</u>
Sideoats Grama Bocu	3/1	7/15	8-10	40%

B. Grazing System

1. Grazing Formula

The grazing season will be yearlong from March 1 to February 28. Upon full implementation of this plan, the lease will be divided into 3 pastures. A best-pasture deferred rotation grazing system will be used. Best pasture will be determined by the operator. Such variables as rainfall pattern, pasture readiness, and use of irrigated pastures will influence where the cattle will be at any given time.

2. Grazing Schedule

The determining factor of when cattle will be removed from a pasture is when the key species has been utilized 40%.

3. Grazing Authorization

The number and class of livestock and season of use, as outlined in Table 5 will be considered the authorized use for this lease.

Table 5
Authorized Use

<u>Licensee</u>	<u>No. of Cattle</u>	<u>Available Active AUMS Season</u>	<u>Available Active AUMs Federal</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total AUMs</u>
Eunice P. Lindsey	20	YL	84	156	240

4. Changes in Authorized Use

Changes in use requested by the livestock operator, which are outside the limits of the authorized use specified in the Plan, must be applied for and approved in advance of the grazing period.

At no time will cattle be allowed to use more than one pasture at a time.

5. Billing Procedures

The operator will be billed annually through the Safford District Office. All bills will be due and payable prior to the beginning of the grazing season, March 1.

IV. PROPOSED RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Table 6
Range Improvements

<u>Name</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Rebuild Boundary Fence	1	Sec. 7, South and East boundary	1 3/4 mi.

V. STUDIES AND EVALUATIONS

Range utilization will be initiated in the event that grazing of key species appears to be grazed in excess of 40%.

VI. AGREEMENT

I, the undersigned user of the public lands within the Grazing Lease No. 5251, hereby accept this Allotment Management Plan as my authorized grazing operation.

This plan may be modified if the operator or BLM believe a change is necessary to meet resource objectives. Proposed changes will be discussed with the operator and changes made will be initialled and dated.

It is understood that the grazing privileges specified in this plan are subject to all provisions of the grazing regulations (43 CFR 4110).

Accepted:

Ann F. Lindsey
Licensee

3-19-90
Date

Approved:

Don P. Salter
Area Manager

3/21/90
Date

Debra Rae
Range Conservationist

3-21-90
Date

