

## BRUSHIEST ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Globe Ranger District  
Tonto National Forest

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Agreed to by: [Signature], 8/23/83  
PAGE LAND AND CATTLE COMPANY, Permittee Date

Submitted by: L. P. Widner, 8/25/83  
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## BRUSHIEST ALLOTMENT

### MANAGEMENT PLAN

#### I. DESCRIPTION

The Brushiest Allotment is located in the northwestern edge of the Globe Ranger District, Tonto National Forest. Approximately 25% of the allotment is within the Superstition Wilderness and another 32% is within the Superstition Contiguous Rare II study area. With a large part of the allotment wilderness and Rare II study areas, the management emphasis is to manage livestock grazing while maintaining wilderness values, recreation opportunities and protecting resources.

There are six major drainages on the allotment; they are: Wood Canyon; Haunted Canyon; Rock Creek; Spencer Creek; West Fork of Pinto Creek; and Campaign Creek. All the canyons are characterized by steep slopes and narrow bottoms. They all run in a northeasterly direction. Five primary peaks lie on the fringes of the allotment; they are: Iron and Montana mountains on the west; Fortuna Peak on the south; Grizzly Mountain on the east; and Pinto Peak on the north. Sawtooth Ridge is another prominent feature within the allotment. It runs for approximately 5 miles separating Rock and Spencer creeks. Approximate elevations range from 3,450 feet at Miles Ranch to 6,050 feet at Iron Mountain.

The allotment contains approximately 21,643 acres of which 130.5 acres are privately owned. Mrs. Ann Taylor, permittee of the Superior Allotment, owns 78 acres in Haunted Canyon, known as Tony Ranch, and 52.5 acres at the Miles Ranch are designated as commensurate property for the Brushiest Allotment by Page Land and Cattle Company.

Page Land and Cattle Company has submitted a proposal to exchange 42.5 acres of the Miles Ranch, which is, in part, within the wilderness, for Forest Service land in the Coronado National Forest. The proposal, due to land locations, meets the criteria for continued processing even though there is a current moratorium on common land exchanges.

At present, there are no active mines on the allotment, although several claims are held. Individuals hold seven claims near Silver Spur cabin, while Inspiration Consolidated Copper Company holds several on the south and west fringes of the allotment. Of the seven near Silver Spur Cabin, three are in the Wilderness, which will be invalid on December 31, 1983; four are located in the Rare II study area. Inspiration Consolidated has completed, and is expected to continue, sporadic drilling and exploration on their claims.

#### A. Current Management

The present system of management allows no rest to the range resource as the cattle occupy the entire allotment yearlong. Bulls remain with the cow herd year-round, therefore, calves are essentially produced on a year-round

basis; however, the majority are dropped in January through May. Calves are held over as natural increase and sold in late May as yearlings. Mother cows are generally replaced after 7-8 years with replacements coming from within the herd. Bull replacement varies with individual performance and usually not kept over 8 years. Bulls are replaced from outside the herd in order to keep the herd free from line-breeding.

#### B. Permit

Page Land and Cattle Company holds the term grazing permit for 98 cattle year-long (CYL) plus 100% natural increase (NI) 1/1-5/31. They have held the permit since December of 1982. Mr. Steve Brophy is the company president and representative; Mr. Bernard Ortega is the ranch manager.

#### C. Problems and Conflicts

The present resource condition on the Brushiest Allotment can be attributed to two factors: Continued and yearlong grazing and unfavorable precipitation patterns. In an attempt to remedy the situation, a three-pasture rotational management system will be initiated.

By implementing a management system, which provides yearlong rest, 2 years out of 3, adequate plant phenological recovery time should be achieved.

Permanent waters are limited on the allotment; therefore, two springs will be developed and several others need heavy maintenance before initiation of the rotation system.

Grapevine and Sherry springs will be developed with the use of a horizontal drilling rig.

The water developments which require maintenance are: Blue, Javelina, Upper Haunted, Cement, Spencer, and Lower Campaign springs.

For aid in access to waters and distribution of livestock, two stock trails will be constructed and one Forest system trail will be reconstructed.

Approximately 2 3/4 miles of fence are required to initiate the rotation system. (See attached map for location of spring development and fencelines.)

Recreational use on the allotment consists of hunting, hiking, horeback riding and dispersed camping. No major conflicts are foreseen as walk-through and swing gates will be constructed where the fence crosses Forest system trail #212.

Problems with cattle walking fencelines are expected until livestock become accustomed to confinement.

## II. GOALS

### A. The long-term goals for the Brushiest Allotment

1. Improve productivity while protecting and enhancing the biological and physical integrity of range ecosystems.

2. Foster a permanent, increasing productive range livestock industry.

3. Enhance conservation of range, soil and water resources and maintenance of environmental quality.
4. Provide forage without impairing land productivity to the extent benefits are commensurate with costs.
5. Maintain or improve visual quality.
6. Provide increased quality of recreational experiences to those who seek them (wildlife and visual resources).

In order to accomplish the described goals, a three-pasture rest/rotation system will be initiated, along with the construction of structural range improvements.

B. The following short-range objectives will serve to accomplish the long-range goals:

1. Improve utilization distribution by controlling livestock.
2. Allow plants to meet their physiological growth requirements through a rest/rotation management system.
3. Limit utilization of key species in key areas to 70%.
4. Improve animal production by increasing the opportunity for animal husbandary practices.

### III. MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The management system to be employed is a three-pasture rest/rotation management system, with a 1-year rotation schedule. Included in the system are two additional pastures, which will be used each spring for holding yearlings during roundup and before shipping to market.

The three-pasture rest/rotation schedule, including yearling pastures, is illustrated on the following page.

### IV. DISTRIBUTION AIDS

A. Proper livestock distribution is of key importance to the success of any range management plan. The following distribution aids should be employed:

1. Water - As previously mentioned, water is limited on the allotment. Maintenance of all waters is critical and should be accomplished prior to moving livestock into the specified unit. Once proper use has been attained near waters, gates to water traps should be closed when possible, and cattle located on a water where use is lighter.
2. Salting - Salt should be placed at least one-fourth mile from permanent water in lighter use zones. Placement of salt in soft areas will be avoided to the extent possible and the same salt grounds will not be used year after year.

Livestock should be located on the salt ground to encourage use early in the grazing season.

3. Horseback Distribution of Livestock - As cattle are moved into a fresh unit, they should be placed on all available salt and watering areas in an attempt to avoid concentrating livestock in any one area.

4. Fencing - Stockproof fences are critical in achieving good distribution and providing rest to adjoining pastures. All fences must be maintained prior to moving into a fresh unit.

5. Trails - Trails are critical in achieving good livestock distribution and access to waters. All trails must be cleared prior to moving into a fresh unit.

#### V. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

##### A. Priority I

<u>Year</u>	<u>Improvement</u>	<u>Estimated FS Costs</u>	<u>Estimated Permittee Costs</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
✓ 1984	Sherry & Grapevine springs horizontal wells.	\$7,500	\$1,400	Forest Service to contract wells; permittee to construct troughs.
✓ 1984	Sawtooth Ridge division fence; 2 3/8 miles.	\$20,000		Forest Service to construct.
✓ 1984	Government stock tank water lot fence; 3/8 mile.	\$1,500	\$2,250	Forest Service to supply and distribute materials; permittee to construct.

##### B. Priority I Reconstruction

<u>Year</u>	<u>Improvement</u>	<u>Estimated FS Costs</u>	<u>Estimated Permittee Costs</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
✓ 1984	Javalina spring		\$600	Permittee to supply materials and reconstruct.
✓ 1984	Upper Haunted spring		\$600	" " "
✓ 1985	Blue spring		\$300	" " "
✓ 1985	Spencer spring		\$600	" " "
✓ 1985	Cement spring		\$300	" " "
✓ 1986	Lower Campaign spring		\$250	" " "
✓ 1985	Brushiest/Superior Allotment fence; 1½ miles.	\$200	\$7,500	Forest Service to supply 50 posts; permittee to supply remainder and reconstruct.

C. <u>Priority II</u>		Estimated	Estimated	
<u>Year</u>	<u>Improvement</u>	<u>FS Costs</u>	<u>Permittee Costs</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
✓ 1984	Reconstruct Java- lina Canyon trail #270.		\$1,500	Permittee to reconstruct.
✓ 1984	Construct Yellow Jacket trail.		\$1,000	" " "
✓ 1985	Construct Grapevine trail.		\$500	" " "
	TOTAL	\$29,200	\$16,800	

#### VI. MAINTENANCE OF IMPROVEMENTS

Maintenance responsibility is outlined in the term permit and will be adhered to. All improvements should be in working condition when livestock enter a new unit. Specific maintenance of improvements will be outlined in the annual permittee plan.

#### VII. FOLLOWUP

A. A permittee plan will be prepared jointly by the permittee and the range conservationist on an annual basis. The following items will be included in the annual permittee plan:

1. Rotation Schedule - The 2200-18 contained within this plan will serve to illustrate the rotation scheme designed to meet the desired objectives. Modification of the rotation scheme must be agreed to by both parties. The annual permittee plan will specify pastures, moving dates, season of use and numbers of livestock.
2. Salting Techniques - Specific salting locations will be outlined annually.
3. Range Improvement Maintenance - Construction and reconstruction of range improvements will be identified in the annual plan along with the party responsible for their construction.
4. Livestock Accountability - Specify the method by which livestock numbers and/or tag numbers on the allotment will be confirmed annually.
5. Range Inspections - Identify the specific inspections which will be conducted to monitor utilization levels, livestock numbers, salting techniques and compliance with permit terms and conditions.
6. Flexibility - Moving dates are flexible to a certain degree due to variables such as weather, and water and feed availability; therefore, the permittee and range conservationist will jointly determine when proper range utilization has been attained.

## VIII. MONITORING OBJECTIVES

A. Annual inspections are the key to effective evaluation of this plan. The objective will be to conduct an inspection when livestock are moved out of a unit and in the company of the permittee. Problems with salting techniques, maintenance, excessive utilization levels and/or distribution should be mentioned to the permittee while on the allotment. A written report of finding should be presented to the permittee. The need for amending this plan can only be determined through close supervision.

B. Remeasurement of conditions and trend clusters will serve to evaluate the success of this plan. These should be done during the fourth year and in the company of the permittee, and a determination made if the plan has served to improve conditions and/or justify any change in stocking rate.

ADDENDUM

TO

BRUSHIEST ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

A proposal to amend the Brushiest Allotment Management Plan and adjust the term grazing permit were submitted in the Categorical Exclusion -Brushiest AMP Amendment and Adjustment of Term Grazing Permit. The C.E. was approved on 1-13-88.

The term permit is adjusted from 98 CYL + NI 1/1-5/31 to 110 CYL. An average of the yearling numbers run on the allotment for the past 10 years (40 head average) was used to calculate the number of yearlings (NI) to be converted to mother cows ( 40 yearlings x .7 AUM's/yearling x 5 months / 12 months per CYL = 12 head CYL, 98 + 12 = 110 CYL).

The rotation schedule is changed from 1-year pasture moves to 6-month moves through the existing three pastures. See rotation schedule (R3-2200-19) dated June 1, 1988 for the new rotation scheme. Also, the 70% utilization objective #3 on page 3 of the Allotment Management Plan is changed to 60%.

*Acting* David Stewart, 3/3/89  
Forest Supervisor Date

Jas. Reece, 2/24/89  
Permittee Date