

**ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**FOR THE**  
**CLEAR CREEK ALLOTMENT**  
**BLACK MESA RANGER DISTRICT**  
**APACHE - SITGREAVES NATIONAL FORESTS**

*Jin Ottaco* 12/20/12  
PERMITTEE NAME *Jin Ottaco* DATE: 3/12/02  
DISTRICT RANGER *Kate Klein* DATE: 3/20/02

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Clear Creek Allotment is located approximately 35 miles south of Winslow, Arizona and consists of 17,334 acres within portions of Townships 12 through 14 N and Ranges 12 and 13E, Gila and Salt River Meridian (G&SRM), Arizona. Elevations range from 6,100 to 6,700 feet. The topography is generally characterized by gentle to moderate slopes. Steep slopes do occur, associated with the canyons along Clear and Willow Creeks. The area is generally covered with trees with the dominant overstory species being pinyon and juniper.

This allotment management plan (AMP) shall set forth the objectives, management requirements, improvements needed and monitoring and evaluation standards for the Clear Creek Allotment as outlined in the Forest Plan and the Decision Notice signed by the District Ranger on January 13, 2000.

## **II. OBJECTIVES**

### **A. Range/Vegetation**

- On full capacity range, the ponderosa pine and mixed conifer habitats are in fair or better range condition, riparian habitat is in good or better range condition, and the pinyon/juniper woodland are in fair or better range condition.
- Ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, and pinyon/juniper Vegetative Structural Stages have an even distribution across the landscape
- Cool season grass and forb plants on full capacity range make up at least 50% of the herbaceous ground cover (given appropriate soil and climatic conditions). Cool season grass species are diverse within each habitat type.

### **B. Browse**

- Browse stands are well distributed and are healthy. Browse stands contain the more desirable shrub species, such as cliffrose, ceanothus, fourwing saltbush, winterfat and mountain mahogany. Browse growth forms not "clubbed" in appearance, and trees do not exhibit shrub form. Browse utilization is not more than 40% of the terminal ends. Objective is to achieve in 10 years after full implementation.

### **C. Watershed and Soils**

- Satisfactory soil conditions are maintained. Impaired soil conditions are in an upward trend within one decade on all areas where the potential exists to restore soil productivity and hydrologic functions. Soils have the ability to accept, hold, and release water and nutrients. Soils have the ability to resist erosion and degradation because of adequate effective ground cover.
- Water Quality meets or exceeds Arizona Department of Environmental Quality requirement. Upland and riparian areas do not contribute to degraded water quality.
- Floodplain and channel characteristics are adequate to dissipate energy during high stream-flow events. Streambanks and channels are stable, with few headcuts.
- Watershed conditions on the fifth-code watershed are in satisfactory condition by 2020.

**D. Riparian**

- Riparian areas are in a Proper Functioning Condition and meet Forest Plan guidelines.
- Multi-Storyed woody species composition is diverse with at least two deciduous, broadleaf species present in the plant community.
- Grasses and sedges have at least a four-inch stubble height in riparian areas, and exhibit high vigor and diverse composition. Streambank vegetation is comprised of plants able to withstand high stream-flow events. Ponds, springs, seeps and wet meadows exhibit healthy, vigorous plant communities.

**E. Wildlife**

- Have 40% of the available forage on this allotment available for wild ungulates. Strive to achieve within 5 years. This will be measured by monitoring wildlife utilization in areas of the herd unit with no cattle grazing (rested pastures/cattle exclosures).
- Wildlife populations are consistent with the land's capability. A diverse mosaic of habitats for healthy and balanced wildlife populations is present. Threatened, endangered and sensitive wildlife species have an abundant, widely spread prey base. Prey species have habitats with good hiding cover and forage availability.

**III. MANAGEMENT**

The Term Grazing Permit will be issued for 125 head of Cow/calves with an August 16 through October 31 season of use (312 AUM's). The grazing rotation is as follows:

The desired utilization levels by both wildlife and livestock will be as follows: 30% of herbaceous forage species and 40% on browse species (see monitoring section for more details).

Livestock shall not enter the allotment until the scheduled date identified on the AOP or Grazing Permit. The Permittee shall provide at least 5 days advance notice of entering the allotment, the location of entry, and the means by which the livestock will be placed on the allotment. All livestock, including strays shall be removed from the allotment by the last day shown on the AOP and Grazing Permit.

All livestock must be branded or marked, as identified on the current brand certificates in the Term Grazing Permit.

A request for an extension of the grazing season must be received in writing at least 30 days before the end of the season, which shall state the reason for extension. Excess forage is not automatic grounds for approving extensions. Approval will be determined on resource needs (soil protection, seed crop for next year, etc.) and not based on permittee convenience. Approval applies to only current year and previous years' approval does not constitute automatic approval for succeeding years. Any extensions will be paid for at the current grazing fee rate. A request for non-use must be received in writing at least 45 days prior to the grazing season.

Livestock may be moved from pasture to pasture within 3 days of the planned rotation dates. At least 90 percent of the permitted livestock must be moved by the scheduled date, and all livestock must be moved into the correct pasture within 3 days after the scheduled leave date. The permittee must notify the District Ranger if there is a need to deviate from planned rotation dates.

Livestock allowed to remain in pastures beyond the specified rotation date, allowed to drift between pastures, or allowed in a rested pasture will be considered a violation of the Term Grazing Permit. Animals on the allotment after the "off" date may be billed for at the unauthorized use rate and may be subject to other administrative actions on the permit.

Livestock will be managed to avoid concentrated use in any one area, especially riparian areas. A full-time rider may be necessary to disperse livestock and deter concentrations in preferred areas. Permittee shall manage livestock to utilize the less preferred areas by hauling water, placing salt or supplement feed, and herding as needed to achieve proper use.

Salt and mineral blocks may be placed in lightly used areas until the desired level of forage use is achieved. Blocks will not be placed in areas within a quarter mile of water or a riparian area and ideally no closer than 1/2 mile. Blocks will not be placed in over-used areas, meadow bottoms, along roads, along trails, or in heavily used recreation areas. Every time blocks are put out, they need to be placed at different sites. Blocks will be placed on sites not susceptible to erosion.

The permittee is encouraged to have off-Forest range to use in the event drought, excess forage utilization or other unforeseen events necessitate early livestock removal. When these conditions occur, the District Ranger, with input from the permittee, will make the determination if livestock removal is required for resource protection. Drought situations may alter grazing sequence or length of grazing period. The season or numbers may be adjusted in proportion to the amount of moisture that has been received to date.

The number of livestock and/or season of use may be adjusted if the forage use standards or other management objectives are not being met. Livestock will be moved to the next pasture in the grazing schedule or off the Forest when utilization standards are exceeded.

#### **IV. Improvements**

The range improvements planned for the allotment include:

Construct approximately ¼ mile of new fence, with a smooth bottom wire, to exclude livestock access to Clear Creek at Hamilton Crossing. The fence will be constructed before livestock are permitted to graze in the South Pasture.

Replace approximately 1 mile of pipeline from Tillman Draw to Government Storage Tank.

Implement thinning and individual tree pushing on 2,726 acres of pinyon-juniper woodland. Strive to achieve 100 acres of thinning/pushing per year or 500 acres in five years after this AMP is signed. Forest Service will be responsible for all the fuelwooding, heritage clearances, block layout and ½ of the acres of pushing. The permittee will be responsible for the other half of the pushing.

Maintain 738 acres of existing openings, to prevent pinyon –juniper reinvasion. Strive to achieve 100 acres per year or 500 acres in 5 years. Forest Service will be responsible for the block layout and heritage surveys (if necessary) and ½ of the maintenance.

Pasture	Compartment	Stand	Current VSS	Desired VSS	Acres	Treatment
East	4064	2	4C	4A	630	push or Fuelwood
East	4064	47	5B	3A	22	push or Fuelwood
East	4064	48	5B	2A	59	push or Fuelwood
East	4064	53	5B	4A	61	push or Fuelwood
East	4064	61	5B	5A	167	push or Fuelwood
East	4064	71	5B	5A	226	push or Fuelwood
North	4065	6	5B	4A	35	push or Fuelwood
North	4065	22	5B	4A	136	push or Fuelwood
North	4065	32	5B	2A	109	push or Fuelwood
South	4066	20	5B	3A	103	push or Fuelwood
South	4066	54	5C	4A	661	push or Fuelwood
South	4066	64	5C	3A	243	push or Fuelwood
South	4067	10	5C	2A	270	push or Fuelwood
North	4065	38	1	1	79	Maintain
North	4065	35	1	1	244	Maintain
South	4066	39	1	1	415	Maintain

#### Range Improvement Standards

All assigned range improvements will be maintained by the permittee. When the annual grazing application is approved, in whole or in part, livestock will not be placed on an allotment or moved into pastures if permit requirements concerning range improvement maintenance are not met. Proper maintenance of the range improvements will insure that the condition of the improvements is adequate to hold livestock in a pasture and will extend the useful life of the improvements. Forest officers periodically will inspect assigned improvements for compliance with maintenance standards prior to livestock entry or movement dates. All range improvements are the property of the U.S. Government.

A permit modification will be prepared for approved projects each year. Permittees will sign a permit modification form for the project and will sign for materials furnished by the Forest. Ground disturbing activities will not be initiated by the permittee until proper clearances have been approved. Annual fence maintenance does not require approval.

A. Fences. Standards for maintenance and construction are:

1. All allotment boundary fences are to be maintained prior to livestock entering National Forest lands. Livestock will not be permitted to enter the Forest until fences have been properly maintained to keep livestock where they are placed.
2. Each permittee is responsible for the maintenance of all or a portion of an allotment boundary fence. A permittee will not be allowed to place livestock on the allotment if the neighboring permittee does not maintain their assigned allotment boundary fence.
3. Pasture fences will be maintained before moving livestock to a new pasture.
4. Old wire and steel fence posts will be removed from the Forest.
5. Broken wire will be spliced with good quality double strand, 12-1/2 gauge barbed or smooth wire.
6. Wire spacing will be similar to original spacing. The top wire height will not exceed 42 inches. The bottom wire will be smooth wire. The bottom wire will be 18 inches from the ground. The remaining wire strands will be spaced as follow, counting from the bottom wire: 18 inches, 24 inches, 32 inches, and 42 inches.
7. Wire will not be over tightened and will be stretched to remove slack.
8. Broken posts or rotten wood posts will be replaced with a steel post or a juniper or treated wood post greater than 5 inches in diameter.
9. Brace posts will be maintained in tight and serviceable condition.
10. Steel posts that have settled may need to be jacked up and possibly moved. Leaning steel posts will be straightened.
11. Gates will be maintained so they can be opened easily. Gate sticks will be 2-3 inches in diameter. Smooth wire will be used for gate loops.
12. At least 90 percent of fence stays will be sound. Replacement stays will be good quality wood, 1-1/2-inch by 3 inches in diameter. The bottom of each stay will rest on the ground. Galvanized stay wire will be used for tying stays. For 20-foot spacing between posts, three stays shall be used.
13. Missing staples and fence clips will be replaced.
14. All trees, which have fallen across the fence line will be cut and removed from the fence right-of-way.

**B. Water.** Issuance of this grazing permit and the permittee's acceptance of the permit does not convey ownership of a water right to the permittee(s) but allows the use of a portion of it within the terms of the appropriation. The Forest has filed for water rights on these waters with the State of Arizona. Grazing domestic livestock may not be possible without these water rights. The Forest will retain ownership of the water rights as appropriated to the United States Forest Service (USFS) for current and future grazing permittees as well as for wildlife and recreation consumptive needs. Ownership of the water rights belonging to the USFS will assure that the use of the water will be appurtenant to the land and will be available for both current and future grazing permittees.

Stock water is important for proper livestock distribution. Water must be used to demonstrate beneficial use in order to maintain water rights. If natural water is not available, the permittee may haul water to obtain proper livestock distribution. The following will be done:

**1. Trick Tanks.**

- a. Fences around water sources and equipment shall be maintained annually to FS standards.
- b. Collection boxes, inlet pipes, and water troughs will be clean of sediment and debris before the improvement is used and during the grazing season as needed.
- c. Broken pipe will be repaired or replaced. Material not usable will be removed from the Forest and disposed of properly.
- d. Troughs that leak will be repaired. Troughs should be level. Overflow pipes should be placed to avoid creating a boggy area at the trough. Rusted out troughs need to be replaced through a permit modification.
- e. Float valves will be cleaned and set to prevent overflow. They shall be checked regularly when pasture is in use and shall contain a protective cover to prevent damage from livestock.
- f. Troughs shall have escape ramps for small mammals and birds. Escape ramps shall also be maintained.
- g. Trick tank support structure and tin shall be inspected annually to insure that the improvement is sound. All damages need to be repaired.

**2. Stock Tanks.**

- a. Check stock tanks for seepage.
- b. As a general rule, spillways need to be free of debris and obstructions. Eroded portions need to be repaired when they exist.
- c. Tanks need to be cleaned to their original capacity whenever drought or other circumstances occur that result in the tanks being dry. Special care will be taken during cleaning to prevent future water loss. The work will be coordinated with the District Ranger prior to initiating repairs.

#### **V. Monitoring and Evaluation**

It should be recognized that monitoring is not an in depth analysis but a measure of indicators that may trigger further detailed analysis of a particular resource. Either monitoring or detailed analysis may trigger immediate corrective action on the allotment on a seasonal basis or as a change in the AMP and permit.

The following techniques will be used to monitor grazing management:

##### **A. UTILIZATION**

Utilization should be determined according to a methodology described in "Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements". Compare actual utilization with allowable standards to determine compliance. Validation of grazing dates and stocking rates can be determined based on actual livestock use in comparison to utilization data.

Four places in each pasture were selected for utilization monitoring. These areas are identified on the enclosed map, and will be referred to as Key Areas.

Utilization Data will be collected from key areas in each pasture, which are identified on the enclosed key area map. Key species will be monitored in each key area for actual use. Key species for the respective key areas are:

##### ***North Pasture***

Key Area #1: blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), western wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*) and spike muhly (*Muhlenbergia wrightii*)

Key Area #2: blue grama

Key Area #3: blue grama and western wheatgrass

Key Area #4: blue grama, western wheatgrass, needleandthread (*Stipa comata*)

##### ***East Pasture***

Key Area #1: blue grama and western wheatgrass

Key Area #2: blue grama

Key Area #3: blue grama and spike muhly

Key Area #4: blue grama, western wheatgrass and spike muhly

##### ***South Pasture***

Key Area #1: blue grama and western wheatgrass

Key Area #2: blue grama

Key Area #3: blue grama and cliffrose (*Cowania mexicana*)

Key Area #4: blue grama

Key areas and key species may need adjusting, based on better information, additional improvements, pasture divisions, etc.

The desired combined (wildlife and livestock) utilization of these key species (herbaceous) in key areas is 30%. Utilization could not be expected to exactly meet 30% each year, therefore in the long-term a 25 to 35% use would be considered within the acceptable range for this analysis. If annual utilization is above 35% or trends of annual utilization are above 30%, district personnel and the permittee need to re-evaluate the annual stocking. The above ranges apply both to the key species and key areas. If utilization falls outside of these ranges, either high or low, the stocking levels and/or management will be reevaluated. If utilization of one key area or key species is above 35%, then management of that key area should be reassessed, such as salt placement, water locations, etc. The desired utilization levels of browse species is set at 40% of the terminal ends.

Utilization monitoring is the responsibility of the Permittee. The measurements should be taken within 5 days after the scheduled pasture move date specified in the Annual Operating Plan. The data sheets should be turned into the District Ranger within 8 days of the scheduled move date. Pasture use monitoring should be documented and filed in 2210/2230. Successive monitoring data will be used in validating pasture and allotment capacities. Current information on precipitation, forage production, and/or use levels may be used to adjust annual grazing use. The permittee should also keep a copy for their records.

#### B. COMPOSITION AND DENSITY

To determine changes in composition and density, long-term validation will be accomplished through re-reading Parker 3 Step clusters and/or establishing Daubenmire (cover/frequency) transects as per R3 Rangeland Guide. These range clusters are suitable for determining long-term trend in vegetation and should be read between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year and again the ninth or tenth year after the signature of the decision. Great changes may not occur during the 10-year period but trend indications should be detected. The trend indications gathered from transects, should be measured against the desired condition/objectives.

New clusters may be located within each pasture and should be established and read before the 5<sup>th</sup> year and read again the ninth or tenth year after the signature of the decision.

#### C. GROUND COVER

Determination of ground cover can be replicated at range clusters. In most cases, an increase in vegetation cover from baseline measures is considered as moving toward Desired Conditions (DC), a decrease is considered as not accomplishing DC. Data will be collected on transects during the ninth or tenth year (same as vegetation monitoring).

#### D. CAPACITY ESTIMATES

Objective is to determine if original capacity estimates based on desired use levels are correct for individual pastures, considering vegetation, landscape, resource conditions, and forage preference. A combination of utilization monitoring, composition and density and ground cover will be used to validate capacity estimates. The utilization monitoring, composition, density and ground cover data, yearly precipitation data from local stations and any other pertinent information should be reviewed by the District Ranger, Range and Wildlife personnel from the Forest Service, along with the permittee, between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years. Due to the unpredictability of the results of the data collected, evaluations of stocking will need to be made at this time. Validation of capacity estimates may result in further adjustments in stocking rates, season of use, or both, either up or down.

**E. ACTIONS**

Monitoring will be used to adjust or amend previously described actions in the decision document or AMP. Information on monitoring should be shared with the permittee and others concerned with the decision. If the monitoring data is not achieving or moving toward the Desired Conditions, Forest Service personnel must analyze the problem and decide on a course of action. If necessary, an ID Team may be instituted to determine the corrective action needed. Re-initiation of NEPA may not be necessary if the action is still within the scope of the original decision.

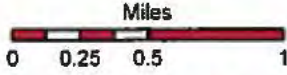
Failure to comply, by the permittee, with the requirements of this Allotment Management Plan may result in suspension or cancellation of their Term Grazing Permit.

**Range Improvement List  
Clear Creek Allotment**

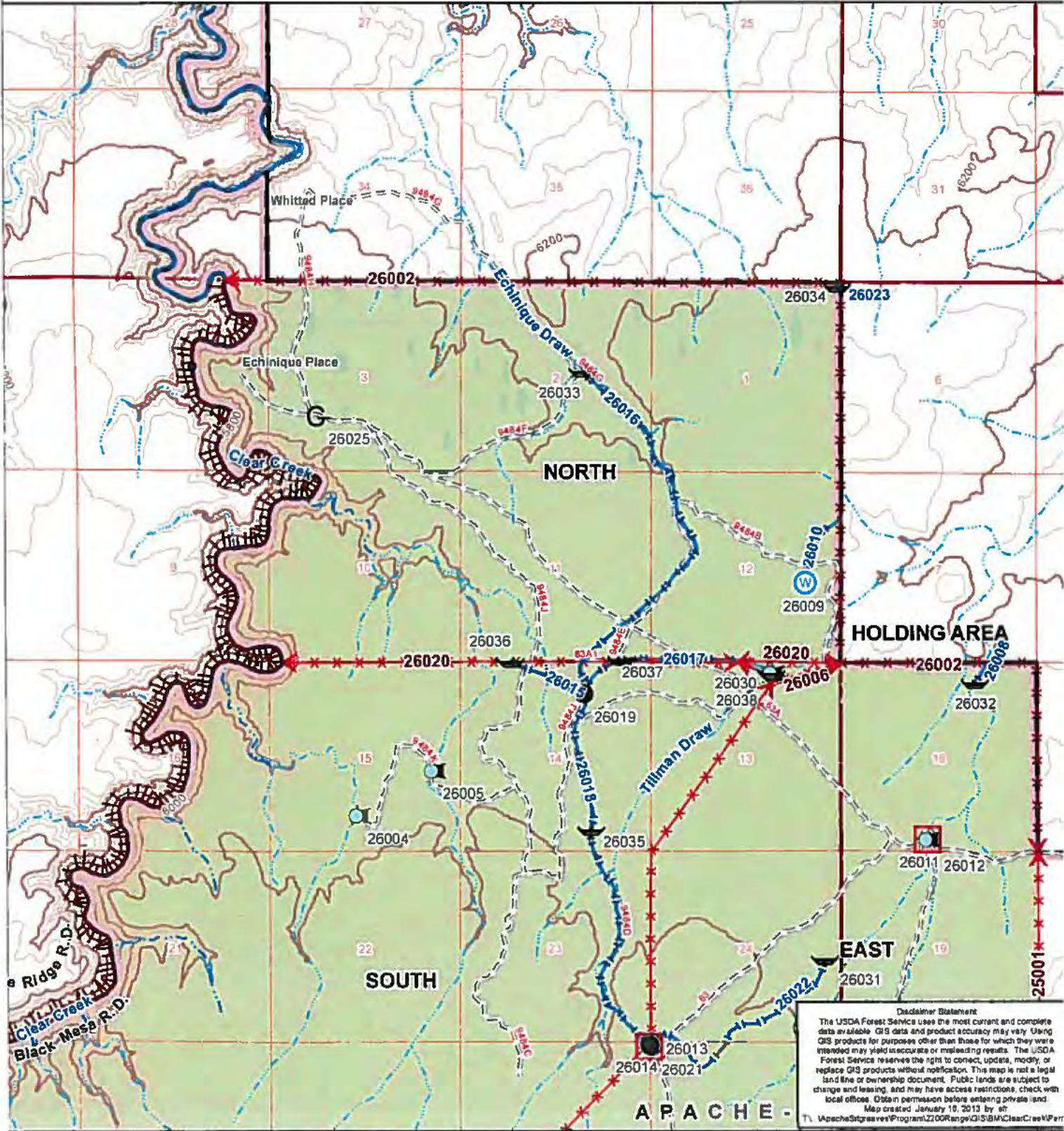
<b>Improvement Number</b>	<b>Improvement Name</b>	<b>Maintenance Responsibility</b>	<b>Length (Miles)</b>
25001	Wallace-Clear Creek Fence	Wallace Permittee	4
26001	Clear Creek-Wallace Fence	Wallace Permittee	3.67
26002	Forest Boundary Fence	Clear Creek Permittee	7.28
26003	South-East Division Fence	Clear Creek Permittee	4.47
26004	O'Haco Stock Tank	Clear Creek Permittee	
26005	Surprise Stock Tank	Clear Creek Permittee	
26006	Burrow Weed Waterlot	Clear Creek Permittee	1.12
26007	Tillman Stock Tank	Clear Creek Permittee	
26008	E. Pasture HP pipeline w/1 trough	Clear Creek Permittee	0.09
26009	High Point Well	Clear Creek Permittee	
26010	High Point Well Pipeline	Clear Creek Permittee	0.81
26011	Coyote Stock Tank	Clear Creek Permittee	
26012	Coyote Stock Tank Waterlot	Clear Creek Permittee	
26013	Ellsworth Well	Clear Creek Permittee	
26014	Ellsworth Well Storage Tank	Clear Creek Permittee	
26015	Govt Tank W Pipeline w/1 trough	Clear Creek Permittee	0.44
26016	Echinique pipeline w/1 trough	Clear Creek Permittee	2.21
26017	Govt Tank E Pipeline w/2 troughs	Clear Creek Permittee	1.08
26018	Ellsworth Pipeline N w/1 trough	Clear Creek Permittee	2.02
26019	Govt Storage Tank	Clear Creek Permittee	
26020	North-South Division Fence	Clear Creek Permittee	2.41
26021	Ellsworth Waterlot	Clear Creek Permittee	
26022	Ellsworth Pipeline East Pasture	Clear Creek Permittee	1.21
26023	Pipeline Trough HPoint North Pasture w/1 trough	Clear Creek Permittee	0.13
26024	Hamilton Crossing Fence	Clear Creek Permittee	0.11
26030	Burrow Weed Tank	Clear Creek Permittee	

# Clear Creek Allotment Range Improvements

Black Mesa Ranger District  
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests  
Pasture: North



- |                 |                      |           |                          |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| National Forest | <b>Improvements:</b> | Trough    | <b>Road: Maint Level</b> |
| Black Mesa RD   | Pit Tank             | Waterlot  | US / State Highway       |
| County Boundary | Water Tank           | Corral    | High Degree User Comfort |
| Other Owner     | Well                 | Fenceline | Mod Degree User Comfort  |
| Powerline       |                      | Pipeline  | Suitable Passenger Cars  |
|                 |                      |           | High Clearance Vehicles  |

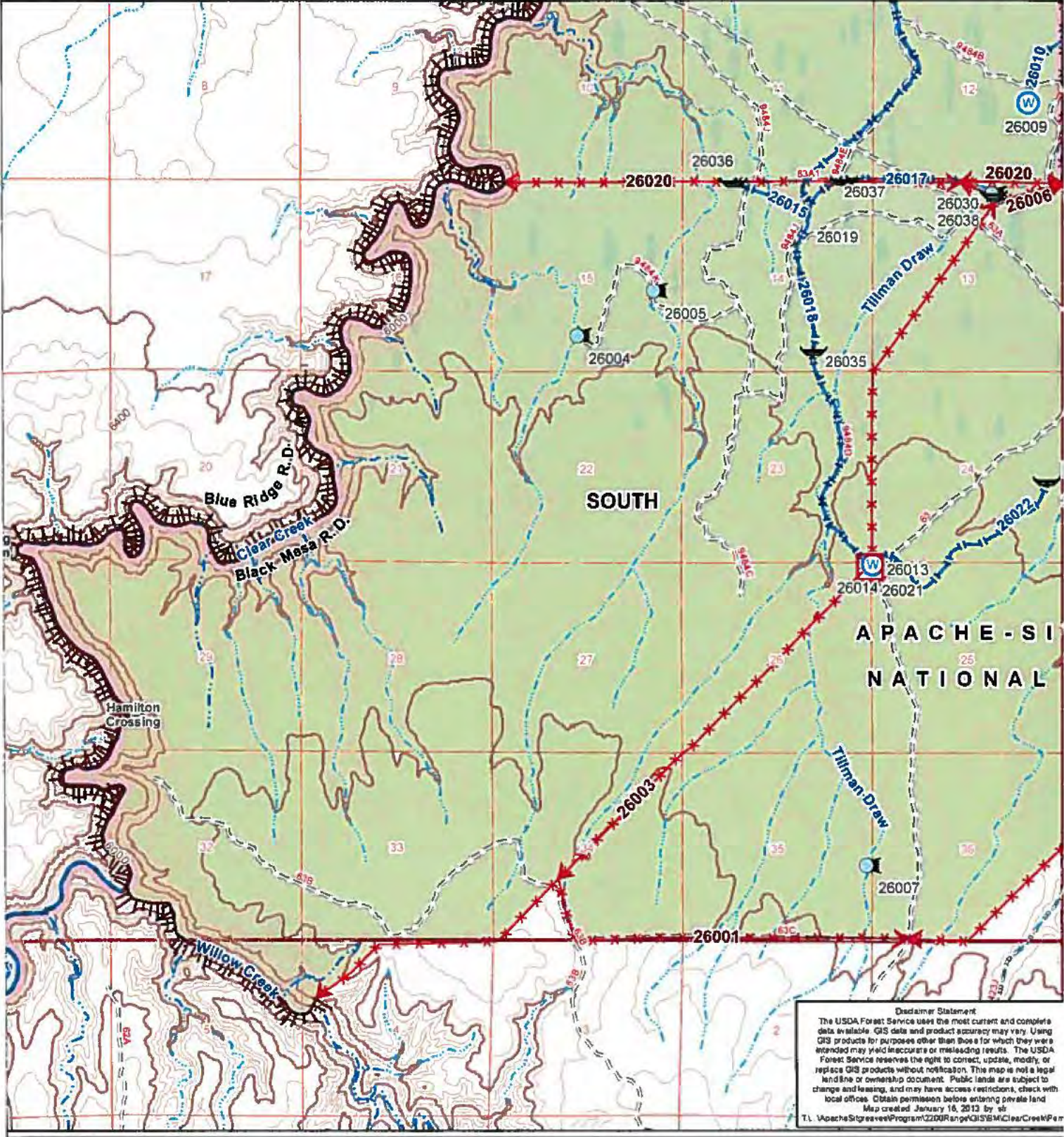
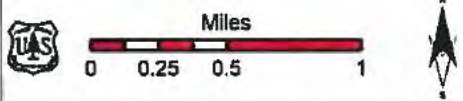


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# Clear Creek Allotment Range Improvements

Black Mesa Ranger District  
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests  
Pasture: South

- |                 |                      |           |                          |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| National Forest | <b>Improvements:</b> | Trough    | <b>Road: Maint Level</b> |
| Black Mesa RD   | Pit Tank             | Waterlot  | US / State Highway       |
| County Boundary | Water Tank           | Corral    | High Degree User Comfort |
| Other Owner     | Well                 | Fenceline | Mod Degree User Comfort  |
| Powerline       |                      | Pipeline  | Suitable Passenger Cars  |
|                 |                      |           | High Clearance Vehicles  |



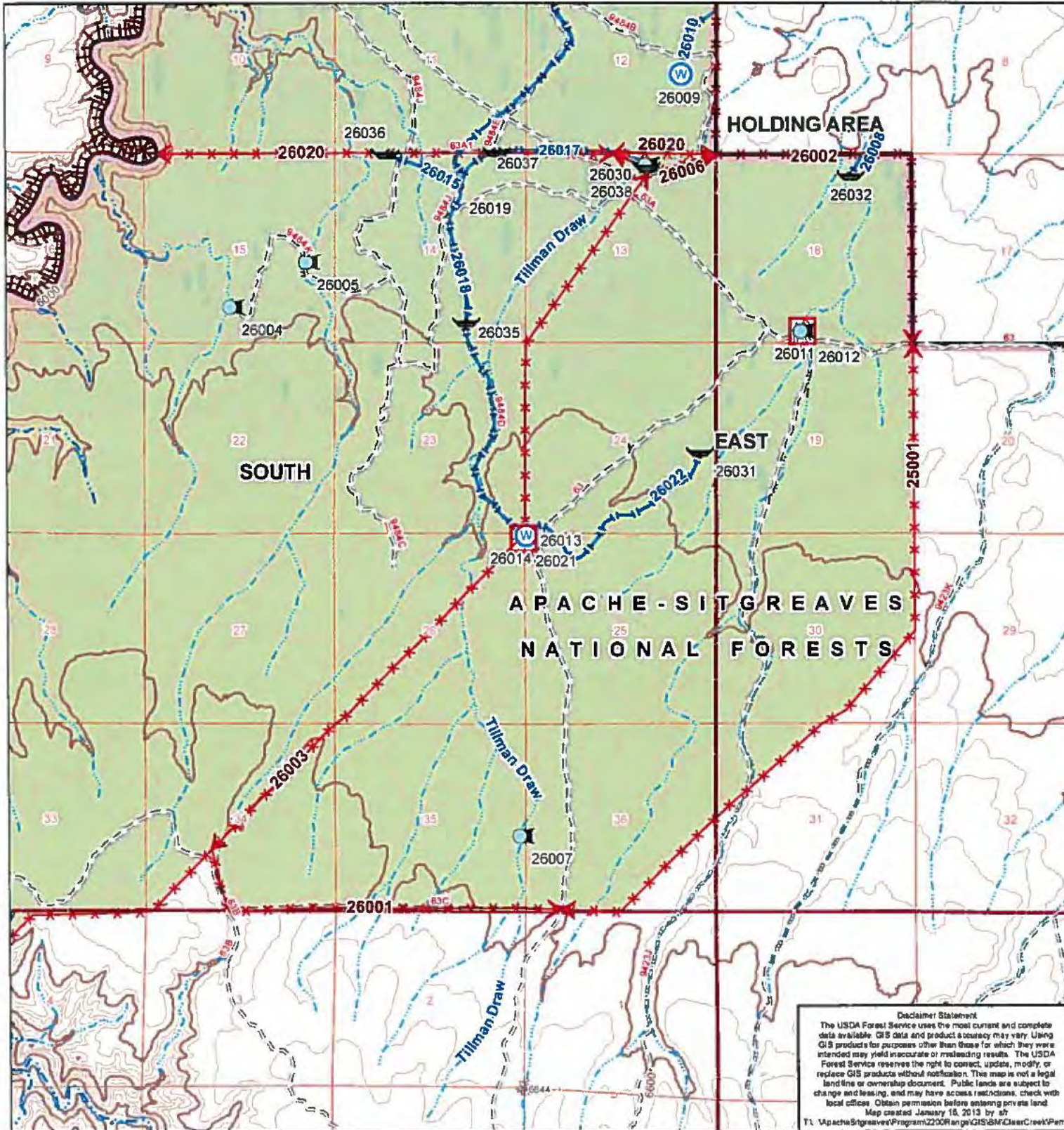
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# Clear Creek Allotment Range Improvements

Black Mesa Ranger District  
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests  
Pasture: East & Holding Area



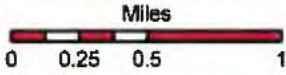
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|-----------------|----------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| National Forest | <b>Improvements:</b> | Pit Tank | Trough                  | <b>Road: Maint Level</b> |
| Black Mesa RD   | Water Tank           | Waterlot | US / State Highway      | High Degree User Comfort |
| County Boundary | Well                 | Corral   | Mod Degree User Comfort | Suitable Passenger Cars  |
| Other Owner     | Powerline            | Pipeline | Fenceline               | High Clearance Vehicles  |



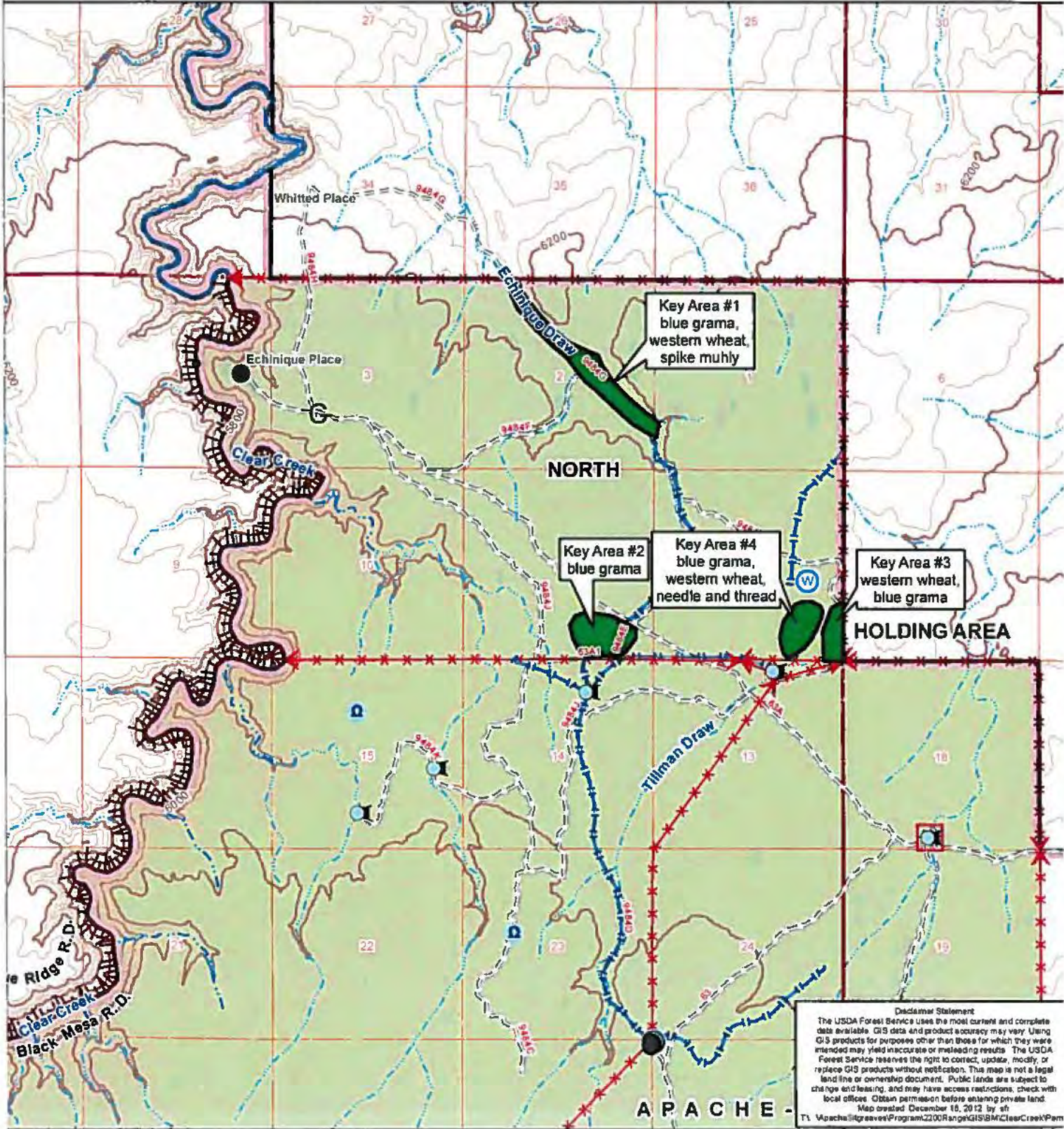
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# Clear Creek Allotment Key Areas

Black Mesa Ranger District  
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests  
Pasture: North



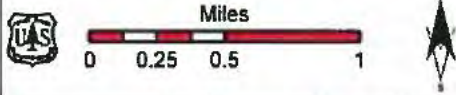
- National Forest
- Black Mesa RD
- County Boundary
- Other Owner
- Powerline
- Key Area
- Road: Maint Level
- US / State Highway
- High Degree User Comfort
- Mod Degree User Comfort
- Suitable Passenger Cars
- High Clearance Vehicles



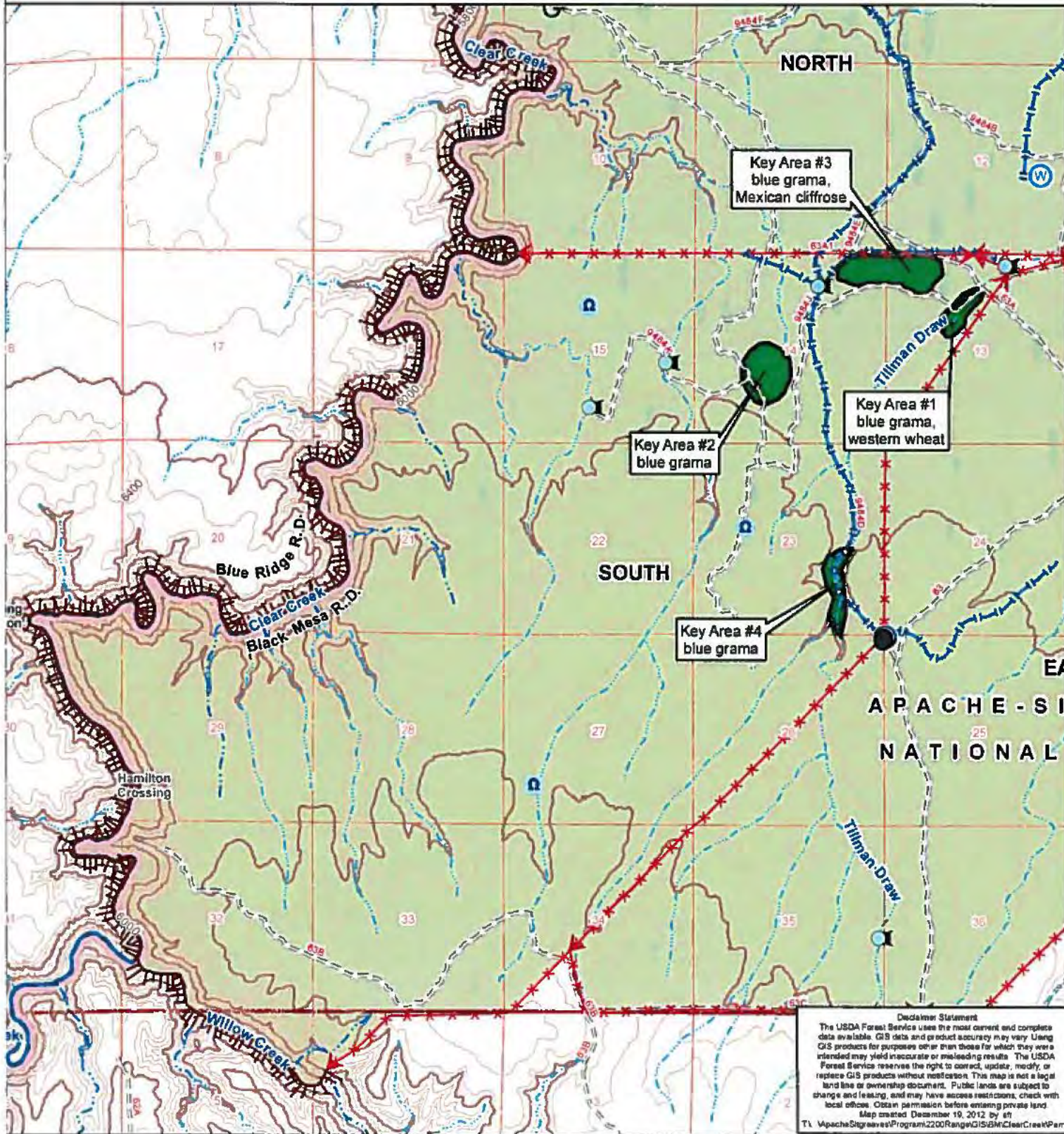
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# Clear Creek Allotment Key Areas

Black Mesa Ranger District  
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests  
Pasture: South



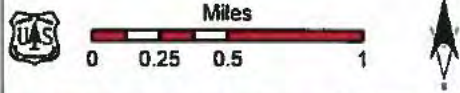
- |                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| National Forest | Road: Maint Level        |
| Black Mesa RD   | US / State Highway       |
| County Boundary | High Degree User Comfort |
| Other Owner     | Mod Degree User Comfort  |
| Powerline       | Suitable Passenger Cars  |
| Key Area        | High Clearance Vehicles  |



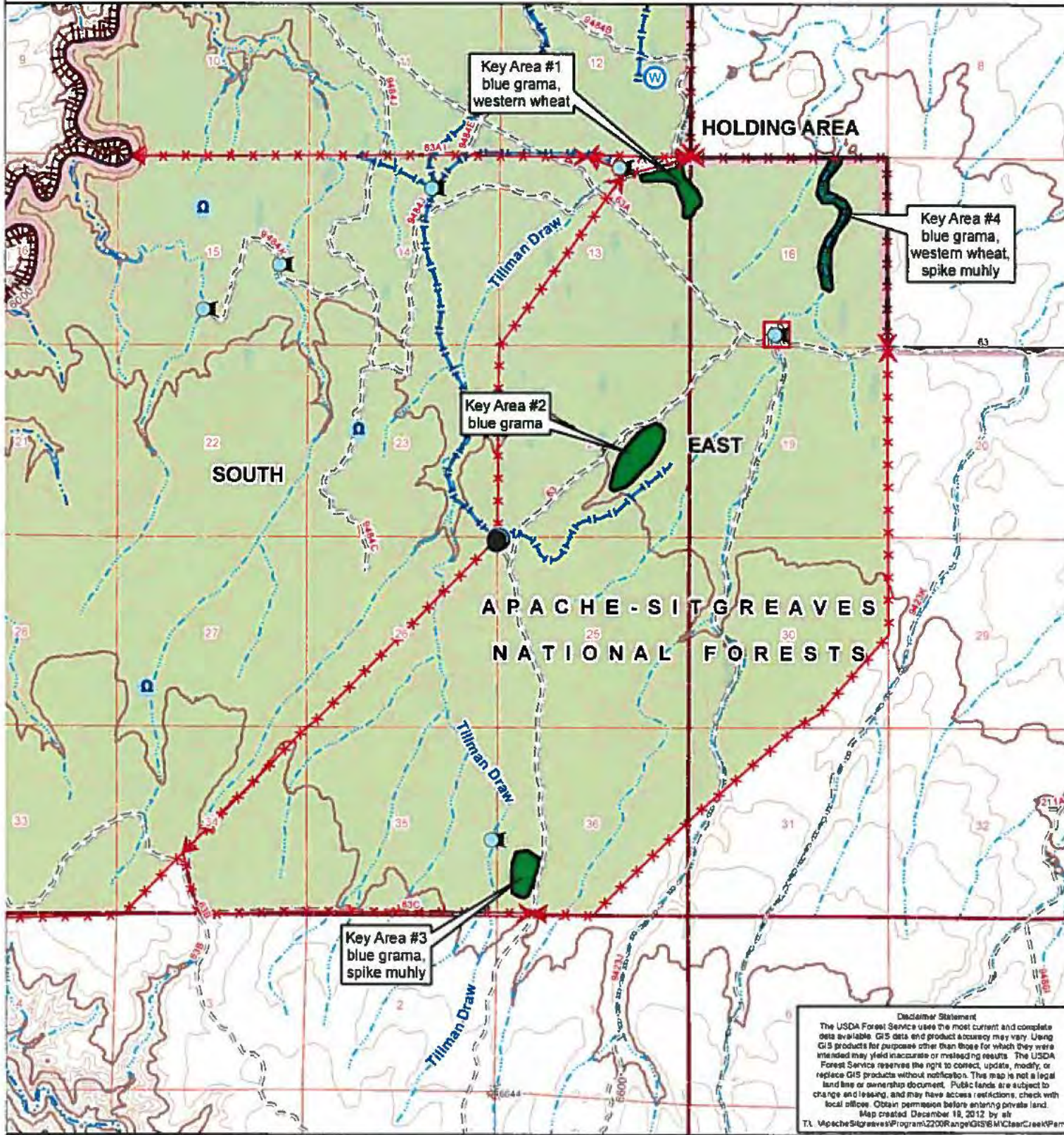
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# Clear Creek Allotment Key Areas

Black Mesa Ranger District  
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests  
Pasture: East & Holding Area



- National Forest
- Black Mesa RD
- County Boundary
- Other Owner
- Powerline
- Key Area
- Road: Maint Level
- US / State Highway
- High Degree User Comfort
- Mod Degree User Comfort
- Suitable Passenger Cars
- High Clearance Vehicles





**Clear Creek Allotment  
Black Mesa R.D.  
Apache-Sitgreaves N.F.s  
Allotment & Pasture Boundaries**



**Legend**

- State Highway
- Other Owner
- Allotment Boundary
- Pasture Boundary



Map created Dec. 11, 2012 by sfr  
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Saved as:  
Land Line Locations Area Approximate  
Projected Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 12N

110° 52'

