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The permittee will take action to ensure proper livestock distribution occurs and that forage use levels are not exceeded. If forage use continues above the desired use level, adjustments in the Term Grazing Permit, allotment management plan, or other management actions will be necessary.

8. Management Practices. The scheduled rotation, grazing season, and livestock numbers will be in the annual operating instruction. Adjustments in numbers, rotation schedule, or season of use may be made if allowable use guidelines are exceeded. Cattle may be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when forage utilization guidelines are exceeded.

Specific management practices follow:

The Environmental Assessment (EA) and the June 22, 1999 Decision Notice (DN) for an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) is incorporated by reference into the Special Terms and Conditions. Subject to the above Decision Notice (DN) this portion of Part 3 constitutes the Allotment Management Plan for the allotment identified in Part 1.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP)

The permitted number of livestock will be **221 Cow and Calf pairs** with a season of use from **09/01 to 10/31**. Allowable herbaceous forage use levels, hereinafter called *grazing utilization standards*, applied in the determination of capacity are 40% on Full Capacity (FC) range on poor-fair-good condition classes and 20% on Potential Capacity (PC) range on poor-fair-good condition classes. The grazing utilization standard on shrubs is 25%.

This AMP reconfigures the existing allotment and pasture boundaries of the Colter Creek Allotment to incorporate more grazing units and formalize pasture configurations that have been administratively combined in the past. One new pasture from the Rudd Creek Winter Allotment will be added. The Nelson Pasture is a new pasture proposed to be developed on a mesa top, north of the current North Pasture. The Nelson Pasture may not have seasonally dependable water and in some years may need to be grazed in common with the North Pasture.

Livestock and Grazing Management:

The livestock operation will consist of a single cow herd. Livestock will be trailed from summer pastures on the Hayground Allotment along FR 285, then along FR 88, FR 60B or through the S ½ of sections 5 and 6. From the private land or State land leases, cattle will be trucked. Livestock will be rotated through the 5 main and 2 special emphasis pastures scheduled in the rotation. Livestock will be trailed off the allotment to winter grazing units located on private land and state leases, north of the Forest boundary. Livestock trailing to the permittee's winter pasture will be accomplished by moving from the North Pasture across US Highway 191, east to Forest Road 275, and up the hill approximately one mile turning north along a two-track road that goes to the Forest boundary. Livestock crossing of Nutrioso Creek will be on FR8058. The livestock trailing will be accomplished in one day. The off-Forest trailing route will require crossing through the North Escudilla and Molina Springs Allotments.

All grazing management and range development actions will implement soil and water conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs) to maintain/improve water quality and prevent accelerated soil erosion (EA, Appendix C).

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Main Pastures:

The allotment will be grazed with a five-pasture rotational deferred grazing system. The five main pastures are: Pat Knoll, Colter, Middle, Greenwood and the North Pasture. The Pat Knoll and Colter Pastures are high elevation pastures located in the northwest and southwest corner of the allotment respectively. The Middle Pasture is located in the center, and the Greenwood and North Pastures, at the north end of the allotment. The North, Greenwood, and Middle Pastures are at lower elevations and the warm season growing period extend into mid-September (09/15).

The Nelson Pasture is a new pasture proposed to be developed on a mesa top, north of the current North Pasture. The Nelson Pasture may not have seasonally dependable water and in some years may need to be grazed in common with the North Pasture.

Special Emphasis Riparian Pastures:

There will be two special emphasis riparian pastures along Riggs Creek: Riggs Pasture, including the Holding #1 Pasture and the Riggs Creek Riparian Pasture. Periods of scheduled use for the special emphasis pasture will typically not exceed 5-7 days, and actual periods of use will be determined by the management objective for the special emphasis pasture including complete rest.

The Riggs Pasture is a riparian emphasis pasture that includes former private land along Riggs Creek that was cultivated in the recent past. There are abandoned fields that have the potential to be re-seeded and there is an opportunity to place grade stabilization structures in Riggs Creek to restore meadow function.

The Holding #1 Pasture is a relatively small pasture within the Middle Pasture that was developed as a big game winter range emphasis pasture. In the past the Holding #1 Pasture has been used as a small gathering and holding pasture for a short period. The winter range forage re-seeding effort in the Holding #1 Pasture was unsuccessful. The pinon-juniper overstory and rocky site limit forage production. The proposed use as a gathering or short duration pasture will continue under Alternative 2 for the interim. The final objective will be to incorporate the Holding #1 Pasture into the Middle Pastures. The pasture combination will require realigning the pasture division fence between the Riggs and Middle Pasture along the ridgeline south of Riggs Creek, and removing the southern fence line of the Holding #1 Pasture.

The Riggs Creek Riparian Pasture will be a newly created pasture within the Middle Pasture adjacent to the Riggs Pasture (upstream) to improve management and recovery of Riggs Creek. As described above, periods of scheduled use for the riparian emphasis pastures will typically not exceed 5-7 days, and actual periods of use will be determined by the management objective for the special emphasis pasture including complete rest as necessary.

Traps:

A series of multiple fence lines, traps and holding pastures in the vicinity of Riggs Creek Reservoir will be cleaned up and made into a single horse pasture with access to the stock water pond. A small horse pasture along Colter Creek, in the southeast corner of the Middle Pasture will also be retained. Horse pasture utilization will be the same as for the allotment.

Livestock Excluded Pastures:

The FS Administrative Horse Pasture, and the UO5 Pasture (Nutrioso Wetlands) are riparian emphasis areas to be used for accelerated recovery of Nutrioso Creek and will not be grazed by livestock in this

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AMP. The riparian emphasis for these two pastures is to provide for recovery of Little Colorado River spinedace in Nutrioso Creek.

Several small existing pastures that are no longer necessary for the management of the allotment will be eliminated; Holding #2, UO4, and the pasture fence around the "Greenwood Place" in the Middle pasture. The UO2 parcel along Nutrioso Creek will not be grazed. A small portion of the North Pasture adjacent to the UO2 parcel, that accesses Nutrioso Creek, will be fenced along the rock rim above it. The current fencing is poorly located resulting in a livestock congregation area and creates potential conflicts with adjacent unfenced private land.

Pasture Rotation:

Within the grazing system, the first pasture entered will be rotated within the grazing schedule every year. The opportunity to rest a pasture is an option and will be evaluated annually. A determination to rest a pasture will be made based on the existing resource needs at that time. The evaluation for rest includes the opportunity to apply prescribed fire management practices within the allotment area for a minimum of two consecutive years. Rest-Year 1 may be necessary to build up fine fuels and Rest-Year 2, to provide post fire recovery and seedling establishment to the treated area. The allotment will receive growing season rest every year with the exception of the first pasture entered.

As described above, the warm season growing period extends into the first 15 days of the planned grazing season with the exception of the high elevation Pat Knoll and Colter Pastures. The actual growing season dates vary by year. The two high elevation pastures will be entered early in the grazing rotation (Sept.) alternating the first entry pasture every other year. The net result of the high elevation pasture schedule is that the lower elevation pastures will not be entered until October, after the warm season growing period is completed. Livestock will not graze the allotment during the active plant growth period i.e. the cool season (April 15 – July 1) through the warm season (July 1 – September 1). This grazing system will result in primary growing season rest every year. Average pasture duration for the five main pastures in the grazing system will be approximately 12 – 15 days every year although actual use will be adjusted to reflect the size of the pasture.

If allowable utilization standards for key forage species are exceeded in any one key livestock grazing area in a pasture, livestock will be required to move to the next scheduled pasture early or be removed from the National Forest System Lands if no other pastures remain on the current years annual operating plan. There will be no re-grazing of pastures.

Interim Livestock and Grazing Management

Until the new pasture fences and water developments listed below are completed, an interim management of a 4 pasture DEFERRED-ROTATIONAL grazing system will be implemented. ***The grazing system will allow 195 head of cows and calves from 09/01-10/31.***

Improvements

To fully implement this AMP, structural improvements will be constructed that will improve the distribution of livestock and reduce forage use in key areas. Existing range improvements throughout the allotment will be reconstructed as necessary. All fence construction and reconstruction will utilize smooth wire on the top and bottom strands. A complete list of proposed improvements for Alternative 2 can be found in the EA (pgs 73-78). Implementation of these projects will depend on the availability of future funding.

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Mitigation Measures

Mitigation for permittee livestock operations:

The Nelson Pasture will be the new pasture to be developed on a mesa top, north of the current North Pasture (EA section II, pgs 76).

A series of multiple fence lines, traps and holding pastures in the vicinity of Riggs Creek Reservoir will be cleaned up and made into a single horse pasture with access to the stock water pond. Horse pasture utilization will be the same as for the allotment (EA Section II, pgs 73-78).

Mitigation for threatened, endangered and proposed species.

There will be two special emphasis riparian pastures along Riggs Creek: 1) Riggs Pasture, including the Holding #1 Pasture; and 2) Riggs Creek Riparian Pasture. Periods of scheduled use for the special emphasis pastures will typically not exceed 5-7 days to improve management and recovery of Riggs Creek. Actual periods of use will be determined by the management objective for the special emphasis pastures including complete rest (EA section I.C.3., EA section II. Pgs 73-78, Biological Assessment for the Colter Creek Allotment 09/19/98, Concurrence by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via the Guidance Criteria 09/18/98).

The FS Administrative Horse Pasture and the UO5 Pasture (Nutrioso Wetlands) are riparian emphasis areas to be used for accelerated recovery of Nutrioso Creek and will not be grazed by livestock under in this AMP. The riparian emphasis for these two pastures is to provide for recovery of **Little Colorado spinedace** in Nutrioso Creek (EA. Section I.C.2, EA. Appendix B., Biological Assessment for the Colter Creek Allotment – 09/19/98, Concurrence by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service via the Guidance Criteria – 09/18/98, see also Addendum to BAE 7/14/06 needed improvements to mitigate for Little Colorado Spinedace).

The UO5 Pasture (Nutrioso Wetlands) contains suitable unoccupied **Southwest Willow Flycatcher** (SWWF) habitat. This pasture will not be grazed by livestock to provide for recovery of Little Colorado spinedace in Nutrioso Creek. Livestock grazing on the Colter Allotment under this decision does not pose any threats to future SWWF nesting in the UO5 Pasture through cowbird concentration due to the time of year (09/01 to 10/31), which is well outside the breeding season (04/01 to 07/31), however; portions of the North Pasture, portions of the FS Admin Horse Pasture, the UO2 Pasture, and the proposed Nelson Pasture are adjacent to or within 2 miles of the UO5 Pasture (suitable unoccupied SWWF habitat) (Biological Assessment for the Colter Creek Allotment – 09/19/98, Concurrence by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via the Guidance Criteria – 09/18/98).

The UO2 parcel along Nutrioso Creek will not be grazed by livestock to provide for recovery of Little Colorado spinedace. The small portion of the North Pasture adjacent to the UO2 parcel, that accesses Nutrioso Creek, will be fenced along the rock rim above it to prevent livestock access to Nutrioso Creek (EA. Section I.C.3., EA Section II. Pgs 73-78, Biological Assessment for the Colter Creek Allotment – 09/19/98, Concurrence by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via the Guidance Criteria – 09/18/98).

When livestock are trailed from the Hayground Allotment to the Colter Creek Allotment (09/01 or 09/02) they will cross intermittent drainages in **loach minnow** watersheds. There are tanks in some of these drainages that will catch any sediment produced by livestock trailing. The permittee will be encouraged to use as many roads or hardened crossings available to trail across any drainages. (Biological Assessment for the Colter Creek Allotment – 09/19/98, Concurrence by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via the Guidance Criteria – 09/18/98).

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This AMP will implement soil and water conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs) that apply to the activities listed above to maintain/improve water quality and prevent accelerates soil erosion (EA, Appendix C).

Monitoring

Monitoring will be conducted by the Forest Service as described in the EA, Appendix I (Monitoring Plan Summary). Some utilization monitoring in livestock excluded and rested pastures will be conducted in conjunction with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Monitoring of BMPs will be undertaken via various methods as outlined in the EA, Appendix I. If monitoring indicates that livestock capacity adjustments are required, the Term Grazing Permit will be modified to reflect the results of new capacity determinations.

Base Property:

Base Property is land owned and used by the permittee for a farm or ranch operation and cannot be leased to another entity. Base property shall include basic livestock management facilities. The permittee will immediately notify the Forest Officer in charge of any change in control of base property. The following land parcel is recognized as base property for the permit:

Acreage	Legal Location (MDM)	Property Assessed to:
10 acres	SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of the SW ¼ of section 29 T14N R28E of the Gila & Salt River Base & Meridian, Apache County, Arizona.	Galyn D. & Roxanne H. Knight

Colter Creek Allotment Grazing Permit Map

Range Improvements

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ○ Spring or Seep | ⚡ Fence | Maintenance Responsibility | |
| ⊙ Monitoring Point | ⋯ Natural Barrier | — Colter Creek Permittee | — St. Mary/Benton CK. Permittee |
| ⊙ Corral | ■ Private | — ADOT | — Rudd Creek Permittee |
| ⊙ Tank | | | — Water Canyon/Murray Basin Permittee |

This map is part of grazing permit No. _____ issued to Colter Creek Permittee on _____ by _____ and shows the Colter Creek Allotment.

Date: 3/22/2021

