

GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3
(Reference FSM 2230)

Permittee Number

645925010602

Permit Number

07046

COTTONWOOD ALLOTMENT
ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Lakeside Ranger District
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests

Agreed by:

Nelda Thomas Date: 12-3-02
Nelda Thomas Permittee

Howard Thomas Date: 12/3/02
Howard Thomas Permittee

Howard Thomas Date: 12/29/15

Prepared by:

Randall L. Chavez Date: 12/3/02
Randall L. Chavez Operation Team Leader

Approved by:

Edward W. Collins Date: 1/8/03
Edward W. Collins District Ranger

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Special Terms and Conditions

The Environmental Assessment (EA) and the September 13, 2000 Decision Notice (DN) for an Allotment Management Plan is incorporated by reference into the Special Terms and Conditions. Subject to the above mentioned DN this portion of Part 3 constitutes the Allotment Management Plan for the allotment identified in Part 1.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN
Cottonwood Allotment

Goals and Objectives:

Authorized grazing would be at an appropriate level and timing such that it improves unsatisfactory resource conditions and perpetuates satisfactory resource conditions in order that long-term sustainability of grazing can be maintained (EA page 2), specifically:

- (a) Grazing is consistent with the land's capability to support such use, and balance use with estimated grazing capacity (EA page 3),
- (b) Maintain or improve full capacity range at or to fair or better condition. Keep all structural improvements in good condition and well maintained. (EA page 3),
- (c) Fifth-code watersheds are in satisfactory condition by 2020. Water quality meets or exceeds Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) requirements (EA page 3),
- (d) Satisfactory soil conditions are maintained. Impaired soil conditions are in an upward trend within one decade on all areas where potential exists (EA page 3),
- (e) Riparian areas are in proper functioning condition and meet Forest Plan standards and guidelines. Riparian vegetation is healthy and diverse (EA page 3),
- (f) Maintain or enhance natural openings in the Pinyon-juniper vegetation type. Cool season grass and forb species on full capacity range make up at least 25% of the herbaceous ground cover, given appropriate soil and climatic conditions. Browse is healthy and diverse (EA page 3),
- (g) Wildlife populations are consistent with the lands capability. A diverse mosaic of habitats for healthy and balanced wildlife populations are present (EA page 4),
- (h) Community and individual economic sustainability are maintained (EA page 4),
- (i) Prehistoric and historic sites are protected and preserved through management activities (EA page 4),
- (j) Air quality meets or exceeds ADEQ standards (EA page 4).

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

The management strategy is to graze a 100 cow/calf herd during the summer for a variable period between April 1 to October 31. When grazing occurs during the winter, a total of 90 cows will be authorized for a variable season between November 1 and March 31. Livestock will be under a deferred rotation grazing system. When National Forest System lands are used in the summer, use will vary between 188 and 318 animal unit months (AUMs); when used in the winter, use will vary between 63 and 337 AUMs. Based on a calendar year, total use will vary from 304 to 429 AUMs (DN page 1, EA page 8). This management strategy will continue to be operated under a Coordinated Ranch Management Plan, as amended.

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Management emphasis will be to have riparian areas in satisfactory or proper functioning condition. Riparian species will improve plant density and vigor in wet meadows and spring areas (EA page 13). Best Management Practices for grazing will be implemented in order to improve watershed conditions and protecting water quality (BMP's – EA Appendix C page 26).

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

Grazing management will reflect a five pasture deferred rotation system in a six year cycle (EA page 8). The grazing schedule may be adjusted on a yearly basis to account for years with high or low precipitation. Table 1 displays how the pastures will be alternated (page 2 of the DN). Refer to the Rotation-Deferred Grazing Worksheet for 2000 – 2004 for a layout of the schedule.

Table 1. Grazing schedule (DN page 2).

Grazing sequence, pasture in rotation	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	4 th Year	5 th Year	6 th Year*
1 st pasture	Kay	Red	Ballard	12-mile	Cedar	Cedar
2 nd pasture	Cedar	Kay	Red	Ballard	12-mile	12-mile
3 rd pasture	12-mile	Cedar	Kay	Red	Ballard	Ballard
4 th pasture	Ballard	12-mile	Cedar	Kay	Red	Red
5 th pasture	Red	Ballard	12-mile	Cedar	Kay	Kay
6 th pasture					Cedar	Cedar

Notes: * After 6th year, schedule returns to 1st year.

Shipping will occur during the month of October and the FS Shipping pasture will be used every other year.

STANDARDS AND PRESCRIPTIONS:

Allowable forage utilization is based on the amount and kind of forage available to livestock on the allotment, plant needs, and range condition and trend. Forage utilization will be based on the monitoring of key areas as outlined in the Monitoring Plan (EA Appendix C page 28-31). The maximum allowable forage use of 35% will only be allowed under several factors such as weather and will be considered acceptable for any three years out of the ten. The acceptable range of allowable use is 20-30.

The permittee will take action to insure proper livestock distribution occurs and that forage use levels are not exceeded. If forage use continues above the authorized use level, adjustments in the term grazing permit, allotment management plan, and/or other management actions will be necessary.

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These utilization standards will be applied regardless of scheduled grazing periods for each pasture and regardless of the number of livestock in each pasture. These standards are a point-in-time measurement upon which pasture moves will be based. The grazing utilization standards below are for herbaceous key species in key areas as described in the Appendix C of the EA.

Table 2. Grazing utilization standards for herbaceous species in key areas by pasture.

Pasture	Key Area(s)	Allowable forage utilization level (%)	Key specie(s)
12-Mile	A-1	25 -30%	Needle & thread, sand dropseed, blue grama, winterfat*
12-Mile	A-2		Sideoats grama, needle & thread, blue grama, sand dropseed*, winterfat*, & squirrel tail
12-Mile	A-3		Blue grama, needle & thread, winterfat*, fourwing saltbush*
Ballard	B-1		Blue grama, needle & thread, winterfat*, galletta*
Ballard	B-2		Blue grama, western wheatgrass
Ballard	B-3		Blue grama, needle & thread,

*Not species to base stocking/changes, but utilization should be noted. Refer to map for key areas.

MITIGATION MEASURES (EA page 25):

- Archaeological approval will be obtained prior to ground-disturbing activities.
- Slash generated from grassland and woodland control projects will be treated in accordance with the BMPs.
- Build fences in compliance with Forest Service standards, i.e., the bottom-wire will be smooth and a minimum of 20" from the ground; the top wire will not exceed 42" from the ground and wooden stays would be used.
- Soil and water BMPs are in Appendix C of the EA and will be followed.
- Retain all existing snags and recruitment of potential snags in treatment areas.
- Forage utilization will be monitored.

RANGE DEVELOPMENT CONSTRUCTION:

Range Improvements – Water. The permittee has certain improvements assigned for maintenance on page(s) 7 in this permit. These improvements are on National Forest System lands within the allotment. The improvements include both stock tanks and springs. Issuance of this grazing permit and the permittee's acceptance of the permit **does not** convey any ownership of a water right to the permittee, but allows the use of a portion of it within terms of the appropriation. The Forests 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 Forests will retain ownership of the water rights for current and future grazing permittees as well as for wildlife and recreation consumptive needs. Ownership of the water rights 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.

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New range developments as listed under the Decision Notice, shall be constructed (Table 3). Construction priority will depend on funding and material availability.

Table 3. New Range Improvements to be constructed.

Development		Location	Maintenance responsibility	Improvement #
Type/name	Units			
Water Lot	1	T13N, R20E, Sec. 3	Thomas	7076
Water Lot	1	T13N, R20E, Sec. 4	Thomas	7078
Water System (Pipeline, storage tank, trough)	1	T13N, R20E, Sec. 17	Thomas/Forest Service	7815(truck tank) 7816(pipeline)
Maintain Woodland VSS1 stands	1,181 acres	Cottonwood Allot.	Thomas	N/A
Canopy Cover Reduction (Woodland VSS5)	318 acres	Cottonwood Allot.	Forest Service	N/A
Canopy Cover Reduction (Grassland/Savannas)	757 acres	Cottonwood Allot.	Forest Service	N/A

Reconstructing range improvements were also identified in the Decision Notice. These are as follows:

1. The Forest Service is responsible for seeking third party funding to upgrade existing fences (20 miles) to meet Forest Wildlife Standards. The Forest Service would attempt to implement this within the first 3 years of the Decision.
2. The southern fence (1 mile), between NFS land and private in Section 13 would be reconstructed and aligned with the Forest Boundary. The cost would be shared among the Forest Service, private landowners and adjacent permittee. An attempt to implement this activity would occur within the first 3 years of the Decision.

MONITORING:

The Forest Service will ensure that monitoring will be conducted, including implementation monitoring of grazing utilization standards and effectiveness monitoring of Best Management Practices (BMPs). The permittee is encouraged to conduct utilization monitoring and keep records of actual use on this allotment. An in-depth monitoring plan is located in Appendix C of the EA, pages 28-31.

Livestock Monitoring: Utilization measurements will be taken after cattle leave the pasture, which is sometimes called a "point in time measurement" or "relative utilization". The measurement should be taken within five days (during the growing periods) after the schedule move date specified in the Annual Operating Instructions, but could be delayed for up to two to three weeks if the cattle leave the pasture during the dormant season.

Riparian Monitoring: Monitoring plots will be located in Cottonwood Wash near the pasture division fence. This plot should be measured every year after the transect has been installed. Monitoring would

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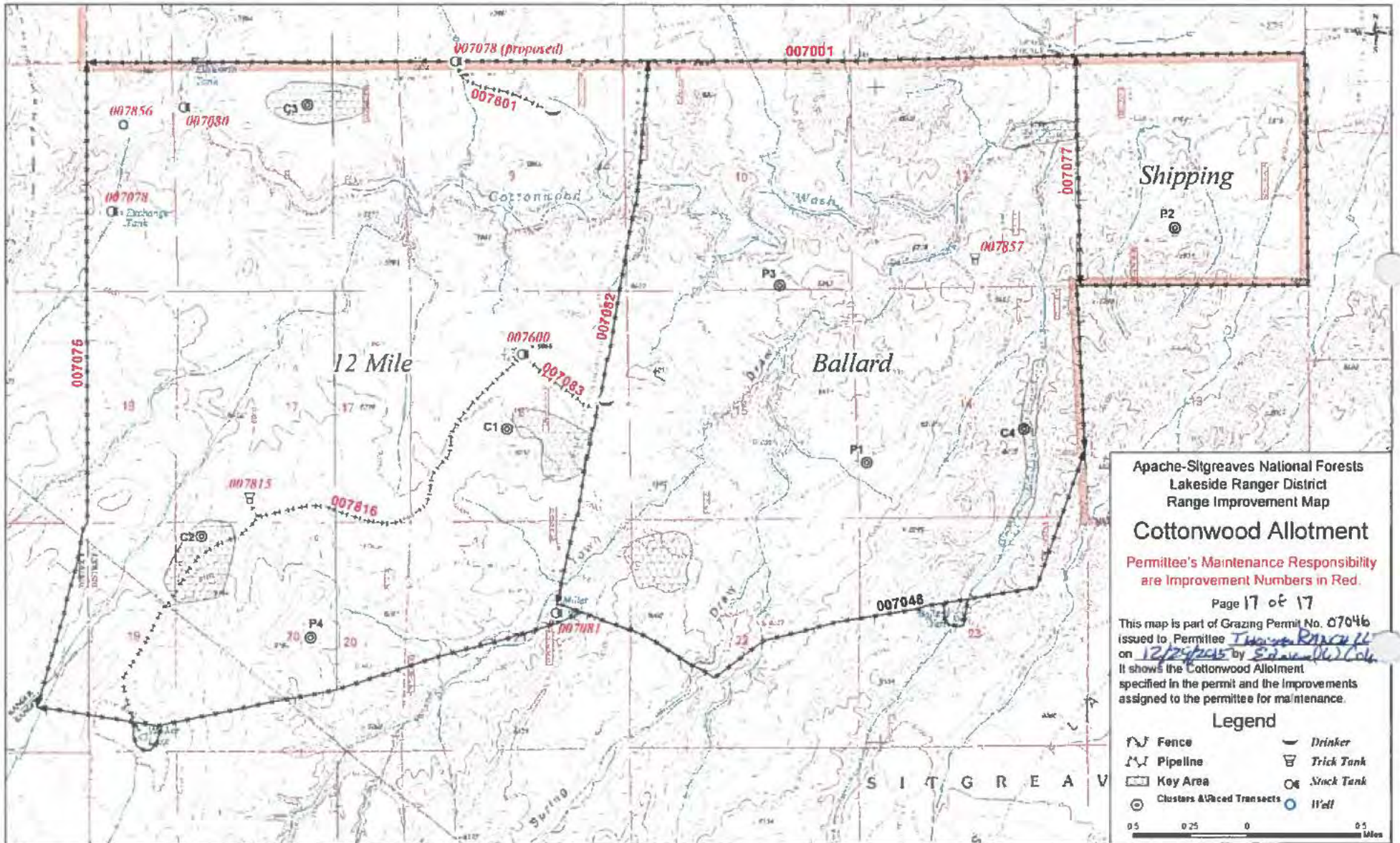
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need to occur not only after the cattle leave the pasture, but also during periods with no cattle, to determine wildlife usage. Utilization levels for the riparian areas will be 35%. Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) will be conducted at five year intervals to determine trend.

BMPs Monitoring: Monitoring of BMPs will occur via various methods, one of which is grazing utilization monitoring noted above. Reading the Parker Three Step Transects is another method that will be conducted and includes assessment of factors (bareground, plant cover, etc.) that reflect effectiveness of BMPs (EA, Appendix C).

Noxious Weed Monitoring: The location of any noxious weeds shall be noted in the annual utilization monitoring report. During this monitoring any noxious weed shall be grubbed out.



Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests
 Lakeside Ranger District
 Range Improvement Map
Cottonwood Allotment

Permittee's Maintenance Responsibility
 are Improvement Numbers in Red.

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This map is part of Grazing Permit No. 07046
 issued to Permittee *Thomas Ranch II*
 on *12/24/2015* by *S. J. ...*
 It shows the Cottonwood Allotment
 specified in the permit and the improvements
 assigned to the permittee for maintenance.

Legend

- Fence
- Pipeline
- Key Area
- Clusters & Viced Transsects
- Drinker
- Trick Tank
- Stock Tank
- Well

