2019

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

COWBOY TANK AND SPRING VALLEY

WILLIAMS RANGER DISTRICT

KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Allotment Management Plan (AMP) is to update the current 1998 AMP for The Cowboy Tank and Spring Valley (formerly Sq*** Mountain) Allotments due to the expiration and subsequent issuance of the Term Grazing Permit. The Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (DN/FONSI) for Cowboy and Spring Valley Allotments as signed by Conny Frisch, Forest Supervisor, Kaibab National Forest, on October 2, 1995. As a result, this AMP includes management direction provided in the 1998 AMP as well as additional management actions required by the October 3, 1995 DN/FONSI.

II. 1998 Cowboy Tank and Spring Valley Allotment Management Plan

A copy of the 1998 AMP for Cowboy Tank and Spring Valley Allotment is attached. Allotment management direction provided in this document provided in this document is relevant to the management operation of the Cowboy Tank and Spring Valley Allotments

1. **Description of Allotment**

The Cowboy tank/Spring Valley Allotment is located within the Williams Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest. This allotment is permitted to graze as follows:

Cowboy Tanks	1016	Sheep	Ewes	5/21 - 10/20
Cowboy Tanks	30	Sheep	Ewes	6/01 – 7/15
Spring Valley	2032	Sheep	Ewes	5/21 – 10/20
Spring Valley	60	Sheep	Rams	6/01 – 5/15

The Cowboy Tank/ Spring Valley Allotment lies approximately 5 miles north of Sitgreaves Mountain. The terrain varies from open grama grass flats and pinyon/juniper woodland to stringers of ponderosa pine which are present in the southern portion of the allotment. The pine timbered areas contain an understory of predominantly Arizona fescue and mountain muhly with increasing amounts of mutton bluegrass. The pinyon/juniper areas support an understory of mostly blue grama with lesser amounts of squirrel-tail, June grass, 3-awn, and western wheatgrass.

Prior to 1961, this allotment was part of the old Williams Community Allotment, which grazed both sheep and cattle. In 1963, these allotments became a part of the Boulin Sheep and Goat Allotment. The now called Cowboy Tank, Spring Valley, and Twin Springs Allotments. Currently the permit for these three allotments are held by Joe Auza Sheep Company.

Since the Cowboy Tank and Spring Valley Allotments do not contain interior fencing they work well as sheep allotments with herders moving sheep from grazing unit to grazing unit with relatively short use periods in each unit. The estimated number of days sheep use each grazing unit are as follows:

Spring Valley 2032 ewes and 60 rams	
Pasture	**Estimated Number of Days**
Quintana	20
Mira Sol	20
Leon	25
Guragu	25
Caldena	20
Puerto Saffalo	25
Gabriel	25
Picnic	20

Cowboy Tank 1016 ewes and 30 rams	
Pasture	**Estimated Number of Days**
Cedar Mountain	35
Cowboy 1	35
Cowboy 2	35
Laws	35
Horse Trap	45

On Both Cowboy tank and Spring Valley Allotments, a rest-rotation grazing scheme will be followed allowing for 1 pasture on each of these allotments to be rested each year.

2. Desired Condition

In the long term, range condition will be fair with a stable or upward trend. Grazing use will be less than or equal to grazing capacity for all pastures. There will be an increase of cool season grass species throughout the year. Livestock distribution will be improved by providing for more watering points throughout both allotments. This will be obtained by developing more earthen stock tanks and reconstructing existing non-functional stock tanks and trick tanks.

The Forest Service will continue to provide opportunities for viable livestock grazing operations consistent with good ecosystem principles.

3. AMP Objectives

The following Objectives were developed for the specific proposal to move the allotments toward the desired condition.

1. Improve livestock distribution through construction of new earthen stock tanks and the reconstruction of existing stock tanks and trick-tanks.
2. Maintain the upward trend of range condition by allowing for as much rest to the forage component as possible.
3. Maintain the Cowboy Tank and Spring Valley Allotments as sheep allotments and continue to move sheep with the use of a herder.

4. Proposed Range Improvements

The following range improvements will require appropriate NEPA documentation before constructing.

1. Reconstruct trick-tank apron at laws trick-tank.
2. Reconstruct Horse Lake (tank). (Note- Accomplished 02/03/98)
3. Construct an earthen stock tank in the drainage that runs between Cowboy Tank and Geronimo tanks. (See allotment map for specific location). Water right filed on January 28, 1998
4. Construct 6 roadside pit tanks or drainage tanks on the Spring Valley Allotment. (See the enclosed allotment map for general locations).

5. Allotment Key Areas

The key areas for the Cowboy Tank/Spring Valley Allotments have been identified in the 1995 production/utilization study. These areas have been delineated as follows:

KEY AREA (1995 P/U STUDY)	ALLOWABLE USE
COWBOY TANK ALLOTMENT	
UNIT DELINEATION NUMBER 2 (UTILIZATION CAGE INSTALLED)	40%
UNIT DELINIATION NUMBER 4	40%
Spring Valley Allotment	
UNIT DELINEATION NUMBER 3 (UTILIZATION CAGE INSTALLED)	40%
UNIT DELINEATION NUMBER 6	40%
UNIT DELINEATION NUMBER 10	40%

6. Monitoring

Rangeland monitoring can be accomplished by inspecting these Key Areas for utilization by ungulates. In addition to the key areas established in the 1995 production/utilization study, two utilization cages have been installed on these two allotments. These cages are identified on the 1995 production/utilization map. (See production/utilization map legend for location of cages).

When this AMP is revised. Production/utilization and range analysis information should be conducted to obtain needed information concerning allotment capacity and range condition and trend.