

GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3

(Reference FSM 2230)

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Permittee: **802811010602**Permit Number: **50527****Special Terms and Conditions****Goals & Objectives**

The Coronado LRMP (page 10) contains the following goals for the range program on the Forest:

- To restore rangeland to at least moderately high ecological condition (65% to 70% of potential production, fair range condition) with stable soil and a static-to-upward trend.
- Produce livestock products consistent with other resources and uses.
- Eliminate grazing from areas not capable of supporting livestock without significant detriment to range or other resources.
- Balance permitted grazing use with grazing capacity.
- Provide habitat for wildlife populations consistent with the goals outlined in the Arizona Department of Game and Fish Comprehensive Plans and other resource values.
- Provide ecosystem diversity by at least maintaining viable populations of all native and desirable nonnative wildlife, fish, and plant species through improved habitat management.
- Improve habitat and protection of local populations of Threatened and Endangered species to meet the goal of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- Provide a favorable flow of water on quantity and quality for off-forest users by improving or maintaining all watersheds to a satisfactory or higher level.
- Allow the use of available National Forest lands for appropriate public or private interests consistent with National Forest policies.

Allotment Management Plan

The purpose of this Allotment Management Plan (AMP) is to describe on-the-ground management practices, which will achieve the goals and objectives.

Grazing Strategy

The grazing strategy should be dictated by the range use (allowable use) and resource needs based on the current monitoring and existing conditions, including weather and the current permittee's ranching operation. The intent of this management plan is to be able to add or reduce the amount of use to meet the established objectives for this allotment and still be a workable plan for the permittee to follow and implement on the ground. Livestock may be allowed to stay longer on an allotment or pasture if utilization standards have not yet been met, or may be removed early if standards have been reached earlier than expected. Drought, wildfire, or prescribed fire will be factors which may contribute to early removal or the resting of pastures for resource protection.

The allowable use percentages should not be exceeded. Any need to grazing beyond the allowable use standard will be authorized by the District Range Staff based on resource needs. To ensure allowable use is not exceeded, livestock distributions aids will be utilized.

National Environmental Policy Act

The Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Last Chance, Barney, Fresno, Happy Valley, Cumero, Rock Pile, Rincon, and Agua Verde Allotments was signed on February 9, 2009 by Stan Helin, District Ranger. The Allotment Management Plan below highlights site specific management tiered to the DN and FONSI.

Cumero Allotment

The Cumero Allotment is approximately 12,985 acres and is comprised of nine grazing pastures: the Horse Pasture (187 acres), Lower Cumero (2,543 acres), Upper Cumero (789 acres), Ash Creek Riparian Pasture (326 acres), Bear Springs (5,074 acres), San Juan (1,042 acres), Hidden Pasture (802 acres), East Pasture (1,401 acres), and Keith (840 acres). It is located on the east side of the Rincon Mountains. It is surrounded by the Rock Pile and Happy Valley Allotments with a small portion of National Park Service on the northwest boundary and the south and east border consisting of the National Forest Boundary. Approximately 20% of the Allotment lies within the Rincon Mountain Wilderness. The vegetation overstory in the higher elevations consist of mainly oak, juniper, and pinion pine. Shrubs include: manzanita, silk tassel, mountain mahogany, and sumac. Lower elevations are dominated by mesquite, oak, and some juniper. Shrubs consist of catclaw, manzanita, and turpentine bush. Grasses within the allotment are primarily plains lovegrass, bluestem, sideoats, hairy grama, three-awns, Lehmann's lovegrass, rothrock, sprucetop, and slender grama. Most of the allotment is extremely steep, rocky, and rough. Elevations range from approximately 3,800 feet near the ranch headquarters in the Ash Creek drainage to approximately 8,000 feet at the highest point along the western boundary with the national Park.

Livestock Distribution Aids

- All supplements will be placed on good forage, no less than 1/2 mile from any water sources, and away from natural concentration areas such as drainage bottoms, saddles, roads, and trails. Supplement locations will be rotated periodically. No hay or bulk feed may be fed on Forest lands.
- Water lots around dirt tanks will be maintained in satisfactory condition to control livestock access to water.
- Regular herding of livestock will be used to improve livestock distribution.

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Special Terms and Conditions**Mitigation**

Mitigation measures have been used on other grazing allotments and are considered effective at reducing environmental impacts. They are consistent with applicable Forest Plan standards and guidelines, Best Management Practices (BMPs), terms and conditions, and conditions and conservation measures of existing biological opinions. Implementation of the mitigation measures, in combination with project design criteria, should preclude the occurrence of potentially significant environmental impacts. The following measures will be implemented to mitigate resource impacts:

Soil, Water, and Vegetation-the objective is to mitigate effects of livestock grazing management and to assure that management is responsive to changing resource conditions. The objective will be accomplished through the use of BMPS and adaptive management. Practices include, but are not limited to:

- Utilization of key upland forage species in key areas will be managed to achieve the goal of light to moderate grazing as a pasture average. The objective is to protect plant vigor, provide herbaceous residue for soil protection and to increase herbage producing ability of forage plants.
- The Forest will prepare annual operating instructions that consider current conditions and management goal. Periodic field checks including stock counts, range readiness, and utilization monitoring will be used to identify needed management adjustments. The objective is to assure achievement of resource and management objectives.
- Necessary techniques will be used to achieve proper distribution or lessen the impact on sensitive areas. Practices include herding, salting, and controlling access to waters. Salt will be placed on good feed at least a 1/2 mile from any water. Salting locations will be moved annually. No hay or bulk feed will be placed on Forest lands.

Wildlife and Plants - the objective is to mitigate impacts to wildlife and sensitive plants from livestock grazing and disturbance associated with construction of range facilities.

- All new or reconstructed water developments will include wildlife access and escape ramps.
- any new fencing will be built to Forest Plan standards (Forest Plan, p. 35) to provide for wildlife passage through the fence. At a minimum this will be a 4-strand fence with smooth wire 18 inches off the ground and a total height of approximately 42 inches.
- All proposed range facilities will be surveyed for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species prior to any ground disturbing activities. Facilities will be designed and constructed to have no adverse effect on listed species.
- Range construction projects will be designed to avoid the destruction of agaves. If impacts to agaves are unavoidable, the Forest will insure that no more than 1% of agaves within 800 meters of a project are impacted.
- Stock pond maintenance activities will be conducted in compliance with the Forest's stock pond management and maintenance guidelines.

Heritage Resources the objective is to protect heritage resources (historic and prehistoric sites) from impacts caused by range construction projects or livestock concentration.

- All proposed range facilities will be surveyed for heritage resources prior to any ground disturbing activities. Facilities will be built or modified to avoid impacts to sites. If unrecorded sites are discovered during the course of project implementation, activities will cease and the Forest Archaeologist will be notified.
- Range facilities, if needed, will be located to avoid concentrations of livestock on identified heritage resource sites.
- No salting will occur within or adjacent to identified heritage sites.

Nondiscrimination

During the performance of this authorization the holder agrees that:

1. The holder and its employees shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability or by curtailing or refusing accommodations, facilities, services or use privileges offered to the public generally. In addition, the holder and its employees shall comply with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1971, as amended, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended.
2. The holder shall include and require compliance with the above nondiscrimination provisions in any third-party agreement made with respect to the operations under this permit.
3. The Forest Service shall have the right to enforce the foregoing nondiscrimination provisions by suit for specific performance or by any other available remedy under the laws of the United States or State in which the violation occurs.