

DAGGER ALLOTMENT  
MANAGEMENT PLAN

TONTO BASIN RANGER DISTRICT  
TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

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Date

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Date

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

DAGGER ALLOTMENT  
TONTO BASIN RANGER DISTRICT  
TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

I. ALLOTMENT DESCRIPTION

The Dagger Allotment is located in Gila County, Arizona and lies approximately 30 miles east of Roosevelt, Arizona. The allotment is bordered on the north by the Flying H Allotment on the Pleasant Valley Ranger District, on the northwest by the Sierra Ancha Allotment, on the west by the Poison Springs Allotment, on the east by the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, on the south by the Salt River, and the Hicks Allotment which is located on the Globe Ranger District. Approximately 33,576 acres lies within its boundaries.

A. Management Units

1. Coon Creek Unit - This unit lies on the western boundary of the allotment and is located on both sides of Coon Creek and extends up to the winter pasture located along the Bull Canyon road. This unit is characterized by gentle slopes and broad ridges on the lower portion of the pasture, and on the western side of Coon Creek. The eastern side of Coon Creek rises abruptly in steep ridges and rocky bluffs to the winter pasture which is an area of rolling hills. Curly mesquite and annual grasses make up the bulk of the forage within the unit. Coffeeberry, mountain mahogany, desert ceanothus, and false mesquite are the major browse species found scattered over this unit.

2. DeVore Unit - This unit lies in the south central portion of the allotment. It is characterized by the rough, rocky terrain bounded by steep slopes on the eastern and western sides of the pasture. The southern portion of the pasture is moderate slopes bordering the Salt River. Vegetation is primarily desert shrub.

3. Sheep Unit - This unit lies on the east side of Cherry Creek and extends to the Fort Apache Indian Reservation Boundary further east. This unit is generally composed of broad ridges with moderate slopes. Vegetation is primarily desert grassland.

4. Bull Unit - This pasture is located west of Cherry Creek and south of the Flying H Allotment. This unit is characterized by broad gentle slopes leading into steep slopes that form high bluffs on the western boundary of the pasture. The vegetation is primarily desert shrub with chaparral existing at the higher elevations.

5. Dagger Unit - This pasture is located in the southeast corner of the allotment. It is bordered by the Salt River on the south, Cherry Creek on the west, Fort Apache Indian Reservation on the east, and Montague Wash on the north. This pasture is a combination of large flat areas surrounded by moderate to steep ridges. Vegetation varies from desert grassland to desert shrub.

## B. Class of Livestock and Type of Operation

The livestock operation is a traditional cow-calf-yearling operation with yearlings being marketed in April following the year of their birth. The allotment is currently stocked with a crossbred herd with the permittee introducing Brahma-Hereford heifers and Brahma bulls to the herd.

This manner of livestock operation has established a spring-fall branding and shipping pattern. The most intensive work period is during the month of April. Even though branding and handling of livestock is required throughout the winter-spring season. Herd management and the grazing system will allow pasture management to coincide with spring-fall round-ups in April and October.

## C. Permitted Numbers

The term permit #12-672 issued 07/31/81 lists:

\*300 head: cows, bulls and horses - - Term 01/01 to 12/31  
200 head: yearlings - - - - - Term 01/01 to 04/30

\* A non-use agreement was implemented for 50 head.

The estimated capacity under this management system is approximately 222 cattle 01/01 to 12/31. This estimate was based upon the completion of the 1981 production/utilization survey. The data was collected following a dry summer and fall on the allotment. The lower annual precipitation, especially during the growing season for warm season grass species, resulted in lower production. The lower production would in turn raise the utilization levels due to there being less forage produced. This resulted in higher utilization figures thus lowering the estimated capacity figures for the allotment.

## E. Problems and Conflicts

The lack of water in several portions of the allotment present problems with effective livestock distribution. This problem will be resolved when the proposed water improvement structures are completed. The construction of the Cherry Creek interior pasture fence will present problems with gates being left open where the fence crosses Banning and Bladder Wash. These washes provide access to the eastern edge of the allotment which is heavily utilized by quail and deer hunters. This problem will exist due to the use of the Texas gate on this section of the fence. Cattle guards would be impractical due to them filling with sand everytime these washes run water. The permittee is aware of this problem and feels that he can check these gates often enough to reduce cattle moving back into rested pastures.

Slow improvement of the riparian area along the Salt River will be expected due to the continued yearlong grazing practiced by the Hicks Allotment which shares the Salt River with the Dagger Allotment as a common boundary. The number of cattle along this area will be reduced due to the Dagger cattle being out of this pasture for six months of every year. This reduction in livestock numbers may be sufficient to allow some regeneration and improvement of the existing riparian vegetation.

The riparian vegetation along Cherry Creek will have only an area of about 1½ miles that will be grazed in the DeVore Pasture rotation system. This will be from the water gap above the Cherry Creek crossing to the private property at the ranch headquarters. This area will be grazed every summer but with the improved water facilities in this pasture it is felt that livestock use along the creek can be reduced to a point where regeneration will occur. The rest of Cherry Creek will be managed under the three pasture rest-rotation system.

Trick Tanks, such as the White Rock and Ridge Trick Tanks, will be constructed only when all other possibilities for providing water in the upper portion of the Coon Creek Pasture have been evaluated. The cost effectiveness of these trick tanks must be determined before construction will begin.

The management plan provides for flexibility in management. In the event that movement of livestock outside of normal rotation dates becomes necessary, the reasons will be discussed and agreed upon between the permittee and District Ranger. If unforeseen circumstances warrant, i.e., extended drought or fire, the system can be modified so as to reduce grazing impacts on the allotment or a given pasture. This modification would only occur after discussion with the permittee and approval by the District Ranger.

## II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### A. Management Goals

1. Provide forage for livestock and wildlife on a sustained yield basis.
2. Enhance and protect wildlife habitat with consideration for threatened and nongame species.
3. Improve riparian areas or maintain in an upward trend.
4. Maintain and improve water quality through an improving range condition.
5. Improve soil conditions and maintain in an upward trend.
6. Improve and maintain visual quality.
7. Provide for proper livestock management and animal husbandry.
8. Increase marketed pounds of beef under proper stocking and management.

### B. Management Objectives

1. Overall allotment objectives.
  - a. Return and maintain all range to fair or better condition with an upward trend where the potential for these conditions exist.
  - b. Manage livestock to utilize vegetation while providing acceptable visual quality, water yield, and improved wildlife habitat in both quality and quantity.
  - c. Initiate a management system that meets animal husbandry requirements of livestock and provides proper stocking and management.
  - d. Provide structural improvements for management of livestock and the range resource.
  - e. Further improve the present management system to meet the physiological requirements of the plants.
2. Specific objectives by unit.
  - a. Coon Creek Unit
    - 1) Provide dependable, permanent water to supplement existing water supplies.
    - 2) Reduce sheet erosion to acceptable levels.
    - 3) Achieve allowable use on perennial forage by season of use and uniform distribution.

cent maximum.

- a) Allowable use of native perennial grasses 40 per-

- b) Allowable use of browse 40 percent maximum.

b. DeVore Unit

1) Provide dependable, permanent water to supplement existing supplies.

2) Reduce erosion in the unit to an acceptable level.

3) Achieve allowable use on perennial forage by uniform distribution. Allow use on browse (coffeeberry, false mesquite, mountain mohogany, desert ceanothus) 40 percent.

c. Bull Unit

1) Provide dependable water to supplement existing water supplies.

2) Reduce sheet erosion to acceptable levels.

3) Achieve allowable use on perennial forage by season of use and uniform distribution.

a) Allowable use on native perennial grasses 40 per- cent maximum.

b) Allowable use on introduced perennial grasses 30 per- cent maximum.

c) Allowable use on riparian species 60 percent maximum.

4) Increase perennial grass density by reseeding.

d. Sheep Unit

1) Provide dependable water source to supplement existing water sources.

2) Achieve allowable use on perennial forage by season of use and uniform distribution.

a) Allowable use on native grasses 40 percent maximum.

b) Allowable use on introduced perennial grasses 35 percent maximum.

c) Allowable use on riparian species 60 percent maximum.

3) Increase perennial grass density by reseeding.

e. Dagger Unit

1) Provide dependable permanent water in unit to supplement existing water.

2) Increase desirable perennial grasses, especially in vicinity of Dagger Spring.

3) Achieve proper use on perennial forage by season of use and uniform distribution.

a) Allowable use on native perennial grasses 40 percent maximum.

b) Allowable use on introduced perennial grasses 30 percent maximum.

c) Allowable use on browse 40 percent maximum.

d. Allowable use on riparian species 60 percent maximum.

### III. MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The alternative to be developed for consideration is as follows:

Proposed - This alternative consist of a combination of a three pasture rest-rotation system and a flip-flop system. This scheme calls for the use of Bull, Sheep and Dagger Pastures as a three pasture rest-rotation, while utilizing Coon Creek and DeVore Pastures as a flip-flop system. Montague and Ellison Pastures would be utilized during round-up as holding pastures.

The flip-flop system will work with the Coon Creek Pasture being utilized from 11/01 to 04/30 every year. The DeVore Pasture will be utilized from 05/01 to 10/31 every year. Montague and Ellison Pastures would be utilized during round-up as holding pastures.

The rotation system is as follows on form R3-2200-19 (see next page):







#### IV. DISTRIBUTION AIDS

Good livestock distribution will be achieved by the following:

A. Use of salt, minerals, and supplemental feeds in lightly utilized areas and/or at least one-quarter mile away from permanent water.

B. Some waters can be shut off to livestock, thus, achieving better distribution.

C. Herding livestock to under-utilized areas.

D. New structural water developments will enhance distribution by drawing livestock to formerly lightly grazed areas.

V. RANGE DEVELOPMENT

Funds beyond the available \$74,000 will be allocated as available annually on a priority basis.

The following range improvements are needed:

Structure Improvements

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>PRIORITY</u>
<u>Coon Creek</u>		
Ridge Trick Tank	\$ 4,000	9
White Rock Trick Tank	4,000	9
Winter Pasture Drift Fence	400	2
Smith Horizontal Well	2,000	5
<u>Bull</u>		
Redevelop Rock Spring	200	4
Redevelop Liquer Spring	200	4
Oak Creek Windmill & Storage	12,500	1
Cherry Creek Interior Pasture Fence	5,000	2
Banning Interior Pasture Fence	5,700	2
Ellison Interior Pasture Fence	2,300	2
<u>Sheep</u>		
Redevelop Granit Spring	200	4
Banning Windmill Storage Tank 5,000 Gallon	2,500	1
Bladder Windmill Storage Tank 5,000 Gallon	2,500	1
Ridge Storage Tank & Pipeline (above Hefner Tank)	17,000	6
Sheep Windmill Storage Tank 5,000 Gallon	2,500	1
Upper Sheep Wash Windmill	12,500	1
<u>Dagger</u>		
Upper Corral Pipeline & 5,000 Gallon Storage Tank	13,000	6
DeVore Windmill	12,500	1
Redevelop Dagger Spring	200	4
<u>DeVore</u>		
Redmond Pipeline & Storage Tank	TRICK TANK 12,000 20,000	1
Redevelop DeVore Spring	200	4

Ellison Holding Pasture

Pringle Windmill 5,000 Gallon Storage Tank	2,500	1
Montague Windmill 5,00 Gallon Storage Tank	2,500	1

Non-Structural Improvements

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>PRIORITY</u>
<u>Dagger</u> Dagger Basin Reseed	1500 acres	7
<u>Sheep</u> Pottery Point Reseed	600 acres	8
<u>Coon Creek</u> Winter Pasture Reseed	400 acres	8

The proposed revegetation projects will only be attempted in the event that natural revegetation does not successfully occur.

VI. MAINTENANCE OF RANGE DEVELOPMENTS

Maintenance responsibility is listed on the CPO-2200-5 in the appendix of this plan.

## VII. SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE FOR MONITORING OBJECTIVES

### A. Inspections and Follow-up Action

The following schedule will complete the production and utilization study series conducted after the management system is in effect:

1982 - Install Improvements	Tonto Basin RD Dagger Allotment Permittee
1983 - Install Improvements	Tonto Basin RD Dagger Allotment Permittee
1984 - Begin Rotation System	Tonto Basin RD Dagger Allotment Permittee
1985 - Monitor System & Inspect Grazed Units	Tonto Basin RD Dagger Allotment Permittee
1986 - Monitor System & Inspect Grazed Units	Tonto Basin RD Dagger Allotment Permittee
1987 - Monitor System & Inspect Grazed Units	Tonto Basin RD Dagger Allotment Permittee
1988 - Production/Utilization Survey	Tonto Basin RD Dagger Allotment Permittee
1989 - Production/Utilization Survey	Tonto Basin RD Dagger Allotment Permittee
1990 - Production/Utilization Survey	Tonto Basin RD Dagger Allotment Permittee
1991 - Update Allotment Management Plan	Tonto Basin RD Dagger Allotment Permittee

### B. Annual Permittee Plan

An annual permittee plan will be written each year at grazing application time. The annual permittee plan will include the following items:

1. Instructions

- a. Current maintenance projects.
- b. Pasture rotation schedule.
- c. New construction.
- d. Management practices.
- e. Salting instructions.
- f. Planned inspections.
- g. Any other deviation to management plan.

C. Management Instructions

1. Any deviation from the management plan will only be done in consultation with the District Ranger and Range Staff.
2. All livestock must be removed from a rested unit.
3. Acceptable livestock movement from one unit to another will be considered as two weeks prior and two weeks after removal date.
4. Salt, mineral, and supplemental feeds are to be located at least one-quarter mile from water.



USDA FOREST SERVICE (R-3) RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

2200-S CPU  
TONTU

I N V E N T O R Y & M A I N T E N A N C E R E S P O N S I B I L I T Y  
NF (12) 09-29-75 PERMITEE NAME J. Steven Smith & Larara Smith

TONTU BASIN

RD (6)

ALLOTMENT NO. 85

ALLOTMENT NAME

DAGGER

A S S I G N M E N T \*

NAME	KIND	IMP. NO.	UNITS	ASSIGNMENT
DAGGER HICKS FEN	FENCE, ABF	R01330	7.5	NO DAGGER RESPONSIBILITY
DAGGER PIKES PK	FENCE, ABF	R01347	2.3	NO DAGGER RESPONSIBILITY
DAGGER SEDON FEN	FENCE, ABF	R01640	4.0	NO DAGGER RESPONSIBILITY
DAGGER FLYING H	FENCE, ABF	0A5083	3.0	NO DAGGER RESPONSIBILITY
PEARLY COR	CORRAL	004561		DAGGER PERMITEE
NATURAL STK. TRL,	STOCK TRL	004569	4.0	DAGGER PERMITEE
DAGGER SIERRA ANCH	FENCE, ABF	005082	4.6	DAGGER PERMITEE
DAGGER FLYING H	FENCE, ABF	005083	3.0	DAGGER PERMITEE. BARBER FLAT CORRAL WEST.
DAGGER FOREST BNDY	FENCE, NFB	005084	9.3	DAGGER PERMITEE FROM GLEASON FLAT RD. SOUTH TO RIVER
DAGGER POISON SPGS	FENCE, ABF	005085	6.3	DAGGER PERMITEE FROM COON CR. PASTURE EAST TO FENCE 5082.
DAGGER BASIN FENCE	FENCE, AI	005086	5.0	DAGGER PERMITEE
OLD ELLISON FENCE	FENCE, AI	005067	2.8	DAGGER PERMITEE
STEER PASTURE FEN	FENCE, AI	005088	4.3	DAGGER PERMITEE
SHIPPING TRAP FEN	FENCE, AI	005089	2.3	DAGGER PERMITEE
CHERRY COON DIVIDE	FENCE, AI	005090	1.3	DAGGER PERMITEE
COON CREEK CORRAL	CORRAL	005091		DAGGER PERMITEE
BULL CYN CORRAL	CORRAL	005092		DAGGER PERMITEE

\* REFER ALSO TO MAP, YOUR ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITIES AS LISTED HERE ARE

USDA FOREST SERVICE (R-3) RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

2200-5 CPO  
TONTU

I N V E N T O R Y & M A I N T E N A N C E R E S P O N S I B I L I T Y  
NF (12) 09-29-75

PERMITEE NAME J. Steven Smith &  
~~Tamara Smith~~

TONTU BASIN

RD (6)

ALLOTMENT NO. 85

ALLOTMENT NAME

~~DAGGER~~

N A M E	K I N D	IMP. NO.	U N I T S	A S S I G N M E N T *
CHERRY CR CORRAL	CORRAL	005093		DAGGER PERMITTEE
SHIPPING CORRAL	CORRAL	005095		DAGGER PERMITTEE
DEVORE CORRAL	CORRAL	005096		DAGGER PERMITTEE
DAGGER CORRAL	CORRAL	005097		DAGGER PERMITTEE
BLADDER CORRAL	CORRAL	005098		DAGGER PERMITTEE
MONTAGUE CORRAL	CORRAL	005099		DAGGER PERMITTEE
NEW CORRAL	CORRAL	005100		DAGGER PERMITTEE
WHITE RIDGE TANK	DAM/RESVOR	005101	16	DAGGER PERMITTEE
WINTER PASTURE STK	DAM/RESVOR	005102	12	DAGGER PERMITTEE
MONTAGUE TANK	DAM/RESVOR	005103	16	DAGGER PERMITTEE
GRANITE TANK	DAM/RESVOR	005104	12	DAGGER PERMITTEE
HEFNER TANK	DAM/RESVOR	005105	16	DAGGER PERMITTEE
SHEEP WASH TANK	DAM/RESVOR	005106	6	DAGGER PERMITTEE
NATURAL CUR TANK	DAM/RESVOR	005107	8	DAGGER PERMITTEE
NATURAL WELL	WELL, WINDM	005108		DAGGER PERMITTEE
CHERRY CREEK WELL	WELL, WINDM	005109		DAGGER PERMITTEE
LIQUOR SPRING	SPRING, DEV	005110		DAGGER PERMITTEE

\* REFER ALSO TO MAP. YOUR ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITIES AS LISTED HERE ARE

USDA FOREST SERVICE (R-3) RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

2200-5 CPU  
TQNTU

I N V E N T O R Y & M A I N T E N A N C E R E S P O N S I B I L I T Y  
NF (12) 09-29-75 PERMITTEE NAME

J. Steven Smith &  
~~Tamara Smith~~

TONTU BASIN

RD (6)

ALLOTMENT NO. 85

ALLOTMENT NAME

~~DAGGER~~

N A M E	K I N D	IMP. NO.	U N I T S	A S S I G N M E N T *
BANNING WINDMILL	WELL, WINDM	005111		DAGGER PERMITTEE
BLADDER WELL	WELL, WINDM	005112		DAGGER PERMITTEE
DRIPPING SPRING	SPRING, DEV	005113		DAGGER PERMITTEE
SHEEP WASH WELL	WELL, WINDM	005114		DAGGER PERMITTEE
PRINGLE WASH WELL	WELL, WINDM	005115		DAGGER PERMITTEE
MONTAGUE WELL	WELL, WINDM	005116		DAGGER PERMITTEE