

DEADMAN MESA ..  
ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN  
1988

Payson Ranger District  
Tonto National Forest  
Region 3

(b)(6)

Prepared by: Range Staff

1/17/88  
Date

(b)(6)

Reviewed by: District Ranger

1/29/88  
Date

(b)(6)

Agreed to by: Permittee

11/19/91  
Jan 17, 1988  
Date

(b)(6)

Approved by: Forest Supervisor

2-26-88  
Date

(b)(6)

## Deadman Mesa

### Allotment Management Plan

A Categorical Exclusion, in conformance with the National Environmental Protection Act and concerning management of the Deadman Mesa Allotment, was written and agreed to by Forest Supervisor James L. Kimball on October 28, 1987. A copy of this document can be found in the appendix of this plan. The preferred alternative chosen was a winter rotation system through eight pastures with minimal construction of new improvements. The current permittees Double Spur Ranches are fully supportive of and have participated in the development of this proposed system of grazing.

#### Basic Description

The Deadman Mesa Allotment is located immediately west of Strawberry, Arizona and totals approximately 17,000 acres in size. One half of the allotment is considered no capacity range. Those areas considered NC are found primarily in the Mazatzal Wilderness area in Hardscrabble Canyon and along the cliffs and steep slopes of Fossil Creek. Vegetation consists primarily of the Pinyon-Juniper woodland type with Utah Juniper as the primary species. This type is found primarily on the main Deadman Mesa landform that is distinctive to the area. Other vegetative types include; Riparian (along Hardscrabble Canyon and Fossil Creek), Chaparral (along steep canyon slopes and upper Fossil Creek basin), Ponderosa Pine (around Strawberry) and isolated grassland openings found throughout the allotment.

#### History of Use

The history of grazing on the Deadman Mesa Allotment as determined from the 1966 Allotment Analysis indicates that it was split from the Pine Community Allotment in 1942. Actual use prior to this date is too difficult to determine, although it was known that in 1920, 3,767 cattle grazed yearlong where approximately 632 are permitted at this date. This is approximately one sixth of what was originally permitted. The Total preference in 1942 was 297 cattle yearlong. The Calf Pen Allotment on the Coconino National Forest was included with the Deadman Mesa Allotment for years and is still controlled by the present permittees. The permitted numbers allowed on the Deadman Mesa Allotment at this time is 175 cattle from 10/21 to 5/31. Fifty cattle of this number are held in a range protection non-use agreement. The permitted cattle graze on various allotments on the Coconino N.F. from 6/1 to 10/20.

Past cattle operations have been primarily cow calf operations. The current permittees however have recently stocked with two year old heifers and may vary stocking according to their other ranch needs.

Management units existing on the allotment include two division fences on the top of the Mesa and several drift fences to prevent cattle from dropping into the canyons. These improvements are generally in poor condition and will need replacement if they are to be used effectively.

#### Problems and Conflicts

The Deadman Mesa Allotment has been considered overgrazed for many years. Capacity estimates from the 1970's indicated proper stocking should be 73 cattle 10/21 to 5/31. Fence and water improvements have not been maintained over the years. Existing fences are therefore not effective in providing barriers to cattle movements. Stock tanks have filled with silt and in several instances breached. The resultant problems have manifested themselves as a lack of forage, lack of ground cover, accelerated erosion, juniper and brush encroachment and a declining range condition. In particular the mesa top around Gus's Pasture, around permanent waters, and in the old juniper pushes have suffered the most.

Wild cattle in Hardscrabble Canyon have been identified as a problem for at least the last four years. Reports of from ten to twenty head have been reported to the District Office. One recent range inspection identified four animals observed in the Hardscrabble Lake area.

Of major consideration are the riparian areas in Hardscrabble and Fossil Creek Canyons. These areas are scenic and currently in fairly good condition. Fossil Creek in particular is heavily recreated.

The 1984 addition to the Mazatzal Wilderness Area encompasses all of Hardscrabble Canyon and most of the lower end of Fossil Creek. Management decisions must reflect the guidelines identified for these areas in the Forest Land Management Plan and Forest Service Handbooks and Manuals.

The lack of forage has also placed demands on wildlife in the area to compete with livestock. Proposed management will attempt to mitigate these needs.

#### Goals and Objectives

The long term goals for the Deadman Mesa Allotment are;

Manage the allotment according to the direction identified in the Tonto Land Management Plan. This plan identifies all areas within the Mazatzal Wilderness Area to be in management area 4A and all areas found on the Mesas outside the wilderness area in area 4F. The Fossil Springs Natural area is found at the far north end of the allotment and totals 20 acres in size. This area is considered management area 4E. Suitable rangeland within area 4A will be managed at level B which controls livestock numbers within present grazing capacity. Improvements are minimal and constructed only to the extent needed to protect and maintain the range resource in the presence of grazing. Management in area 4F is at level D. Level D seeks to optimize production and utilization of forage for livestock use consistent with maintaining the environment and providing for multiple use of the range. Management area 4E is at level A. Level A excludes livestock grazing to protect other values or eliminate conflicts with other users.

The short range objectives for the Deadman Mesa Allotment are:

1. Protect and enhance vegetation along Fossil Creek and Hardscrabble Canyon Riparian Areas.
2. Increase production of perennial grasses on Deadman Mesa through implementation of a new grazing plan.
3. Reduce conflicts between livestock and wildlife by increasing production and species diversity.
4. Reduce impacts of cattle grazing within the Mazatzal Wilderness Area.
5. Eliminate livestock grazing from the Fossil Springs Natural Area.
6. Utilize livestock and grazing as a tool to improve existing vegetative conditions.
7. Accomplish improved management in a cost beneficial manner.

Specific Objectives by Pasture (Refer to Appendix for Pasture Use Plan)

1. Upper Fossil Creek - This pasture is approximately 3323 acres in size. Cattle will be scheduled to use this pasture for a 1.5 month period in the fall. Two miles of fence and a 10 ft. minimum standard cattleguard is necessary to isolate this pasture from the Upper Mesa Pasture. This pasture is primarily a brush pasture. Emphasis will be to use salt and herding to keep cattle utilizing the brush species up out of the Fossil Creek riparian area. One corral located along Forest Road 708 near Fossil Creek is also planned.

Utilization objectives along Fossil Creek riparian area is 50% by twig count or 20% by volume on all woody species. The key area to be monitored will be around Fossil Springs. The district and forest boundary is located along the bottom of Fossil Creek. Fossil Springs is located on the Coconino National Forest. For practical management purposes the allotment boundary fence is located on the Coconino National Forest side. This fence runs along the bluff just north of the creek and ties into natural boundaries. Fossil Springs itself will be excluded from grazing through the use of walk through gates and horse gates. The Beaver Creek District on the Coconino National Forest will share the responsibility of constructing these gates and signing the trails. A comprehensive management plan for the Fossil Springs Wilderness Area will be developed by the Coconino National Forest in 1988. The permittee will make sure horse gates are closed whenever they put cattle in this pasture. Utilization levels for grass forage will be set at 50%. Justification of this use level is based on the fact that this area will only be grazed during the winter months.

The Nash Point pasture is a small trap found adjacent to this pasture. Total acreage in this pasture is 288 acres. This pasture can be used in the spring for a month long period as a bull or horse pasture for approximately 10 to 12 animals.

2. Upper Mesa Pasture - This pasture is approximately 2525 acres in size. It has been utilized the heaviest in the past and is therefore in the worst condition. Vegetation consists of primarily Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands with an understory of snakeweed with some isolated pockets of Ponderosa Pine and oak brush. Cattle are scheduled to use this pasture for a month in the fall and a month in the spring. Actual use will be less than this because the permittees management needs usually have him come on one or two weeks late and leave one

or two weeks late. While cattle are coming on and going off, they are held in Gus's Pasture or the Headquarters Pasture for a week or so for branding and other handling needs.

The main objectives are to control the amount of time cattle graze this pasture in any one period, and to increase the amount of perennial grasses found on the mesa. Spot seeding will be used to introduce seed sources to the area. Gus's pasture is located along FR 708 in section 25 and is approximately 200 acres in size. This pasture is used as a gathering trap and is in as poor or poorer condition than the rest of the mesa. This trap will be cross fenced and seeded. Use periods will be rotated with the Ranch Headquarters pasture at this time. One side of Gus's will be seeded and rested until grass becomes established, then the other will be seeded and rested. A waterlot will be constructed around Gus's Tank. The key area to monitor will be around Gus's tank and between this holding trap and the Ranch Headquarters. Allowable use will be set at 40% on perennial grass species, and 50% on "A" brush species (Mountain Mahogany, Silktassel, etc.).

No other new structural improvements are planned for this pasture. Reconstruction projects include the Shakepile Waterlot and Division fence. Heavy maintenance is necessary for Gus's Tank and Shakepile Tank.

3. Shakepile Pasture - This pasture is approximately 557 acres in size. It is vegetated with open Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands with blue grama and curly mesquite grasses as an understory. Oak brush can be found in drainages and in isolated areas. This pasture will be used for three weeks in the winter in odd numbered years and three weeks in the spring in even years. The main objective is to maintain and improve the perennial grass component found in this pasture. New construction needs consist of several strategically placed drift fences to keep cattle from dropping off the mesa into the Slaughterhouse Pasture. One reconstruction project is needed to reconstruct the division fence between this pasture and the Middle Mesa Pasture. The key area to monitor will be the area around the Middle Mesa Fence where the main mesa road crosses. Utilization in this area should not exceed 50% on perennial grasses and 60% on "A" brush species (Mountain Mahogany, Silktassel, etc.).

4. Slaughterhouse Pasture - This pasture is approximately 697 acres in size. It is vegetated with Chaparral with areas of Pinyon-Juniper and grasses. This pasture will be used in conjunction with the Middle Mesa Pasture. Slaughterhouse Tank is the only water source. At this time we will not plan on maintaining this tank. A new drift fence is necessary along the trail between Middle Mesa and the Slaughterhouse Pasture. This fence will allow control over the number of cattle to be placed in this pasture. This pasture is wholly within the Mazatzal Wilderness Area. The key area to monitor will be that area around Slaughterhouse Tank and the saddle to the north of it. Allowable use in that area will be 50% on perennial grasses and 60% on "A" brush species (Mountain Mahogany, Silktassel etc.).

5. Middle Mesa Pasture - This pasture is approximately 1,426 acres in size. Vegetation consists of a mix of brush, grass, and Pinyon-Juniper. This pasture will be used in conjunction with the Slaughterhouse Pasture. Cattle will be

kept in these pastures for a two month period each year. This pasture is the most productive pasture on the allotment. A fairly good stand of perennial grasses can be found on the western most side of the pasture and a moderate annual stand can be expected each spring. A large area of juniper control was completed in the late 50's and early 60's in the northern portion of this pasture. Much of this control area has grown back to junipers. A prescribed burn is planned to remove some of the younger junipers and some of the thick stands of snakeweed found in the understory. Spot seeding in bare areas found within this pasture is also necessary to provide a seed source for future germination. To properly utilize this pasture a new saddle tank will be constructed in the NE 1/4 of section 30. Waterlots are also necessary around this new tank as well as Louthan and Bill Tanks. Reconstruction projects include repairing Louthan Tank and rebuilding the pasture division fence between Middle and Lower Mesa Pastures. The main objective will be to increase production of perennial grasses within the juniper control areas and maintain grassland areas found within the pasture. Key areas to be monitored will be the Juniper push area and those areas around the stock tanks. Utilization levels should not exceed 50% on perennial grasses and 60% on "A" class brush species (Mountain Mahogany, Silktassel etc.)

6. Lower Mesa Pasture - This pasture is approximately 742 acres in size. Cattle will use this pasture for a one month period. New improvements that need construction includes two drift fences. One drift fence needs to be constructed along trail #17 off the top of Deadman Mesa into the junction of Fossil Creek and Hardscrabble Canyon, and the other needs to be constructed where the trail drops off the mesa into Hardscrabble Lake. Cabin Tank and its waterlot needs to be reconstructed to provide more permanent water and control of livestock in the pasture. In addition a waterlot needs to be constructed around Indian Springs. The main objective for management will be to control the amount of time cattle are allowed in this pasture. This will allow perennial grasses to increase in production. This pasture produces a moderate to heavy crop of annual grasses and forbs each year. The periods of use will be late January to early February on even numbered years and April on odd numbered years. This will promote the recovery of cool season grasses. Some spot seeding will establish a seed source in areas that are devoid of perennial vegetation. The key area to monitor will be those areas around Cabin Tank and directly east of the tank. Utilization on perennial grasses should not initially exceed 50%.

7. Lower Fossil Creek - This pasture is approximately 2,154 acres in size. The majority of this pasture is located within the Mazatzal Wilderness Area and is considered no-capacity range. The boundary between the Coconino National Forest and the Tonto National Forest is considered Fossil Creek itself. Much of this area is not fenced on line, therefore cattle often times intermingle between the Ikes Backbone Allotment and the Deadman Mesa Allotment. At this time both allotments are controlled by the same permittee. Vegetation consists primarily of chapparral with occasional Pinyons and Junipers interspersed. The bottom of Fossil Creek is rough and rocky but does support riparian obligate species. The main objective is to prevent overuse along the riparian area and increase use in the Chaparral type. This objective will be difficult to accomplish. The need for creative herding and salting will always be present.

This pasture will be scheduled for use every odd numbered year by 25 to 30 cattle. The length of time cattle will be allowed in there will be from two to three months from December through February. One new watergap is needed along Fossil Creek at the private land boundary. This will effectively divide Lower Fossil Creek from the upper portion. If control of cattle between the two different forests becomes a problem, a fence between the two areas will need to be looked at. The key area to be monitored will be around private land in the bottom of Fossil Creek and that area directly east of Stehr Lake.

8. Hardscrabble Canyon Pasture - This pasture is approximately 5,388 acres in size. Much of this pasture is considered No Capacity range, and all of it falls within the Mazatzal Wilderness Area. Vegetation in this pasture ranges from Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands to Chapparral along the steep canyon sides and Riparian along the bottom of Hardscrabble Canyon. The main objective of management in this pasture is to remove all wild cows and to prevent any overuse along the riparian area located in the bottom of the canyon. This area will be grazed every even numbered year by 25 to 30 cattle for a two or three month period. No animals will be allowed in this pasture until the wild cattle have been removed. No new improvements are planned in this pasture. There are several corrals currently in this pasture and one drift fence. One of the corrals located near Hardscrabble Lake needs to be maintained to be used effectively. The key area to be monitored is that area around Hardscrabble Lake. Use in this area should not exceed 40% on perennial grasses and 50% on "A" brush species (Mountain Mahogany, Silktassel, etc.). (Same as Fossil!)

#### Range Improvements

The planned structural and non-structural improvements for both new construction and reconstruction are given in the appendix. The costs are broken down for both the permittee and the Forest Service responsibilities.

#### Maintenance of Improvements

Normal maintenance as needed will be required of the permittees. The maintenance responsibility map outlines what improvements are the permittees responsibility.

#### Herding and Salting

It is the permittees responsibility to utilize both herding and salting and/or supplemental feeding to entice cattle away from concentration areas. The forest policy is that no salt will be placed on or within 1/4 mile of permanent water sources without specific approval from a forest officer. The use of supplemental feed when used on a regular basis also needs approval. Approval is generally given for special situations such as round up or locating animals that would otherwise not stay in a particular area.

## Monitoring

District personnel will monitor the success of management through range inspections. Frequency plot transects may be established to monitor any short range changes to the range vegetation. Those areas to be monitored will be the key areas identified in the specific objectives by pasture section of the text. The final resolution of the Resource Protection Non-Use Agreements will be based on the inspections and/or a Production and Utilization Survey completed at the end of the non-use period. Final decisions on capacity should not be made until the allotment management plan is fully implemented. If necessary the non-use agreement may be extended for one more five year period.



## APPENDIX

- I. Project Priority and Cost Estimates
- II. Biological Evaluation
- III. Scoping Document
- IV. Categorical Exclusion
- V. Arizona Dept. of Game and Fish Letter
- VI. Economic Analysis
- VII. Social Well Being Analysis
- VIII. Environmental Quality Benefit Rating
- IX. Allotment Management Plan Map (Attached to Front Cover)

Deadman Mesa Allotment Management Plan Project List

<u>Project Name By Priority</u>	<u>Year Planned</u>	<u>Estimated Costs FS/Permittee</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
<b>Structural Projects</b>			
1. Shakepile Fence Recon. 1 mile	1988	\$2,000/1,000	FS Materials <sup>1/2 FY89</sup> Permittee labor <sup>Complete FY91</sup>
2. Fossil Corral & Watergap	1989	\$0/500	Permittee
3. Walk Through/Horse Gate	1989	\$1,000/0	Forest Service
4. Gus's Pasture Fence and Waterlot 1 mile	1989	\$2,000/2,000	FS Materials FY92 Permittee labor
5. Middle Mesa Saddle Tank	1989	\$3,000/1,000	FS Construction FY92 Permittee
6. Upper Mesa Division Fence 2 miles, 1 cattleguard	1990	\$5,500/3,000	FS Materials 1 mile (89) FY92
7. Tank Maintenance 5 tanks	1991	\$2,000/3,000	FS Materials 2 maintained Permittee labor
8. Middle Mesa Fence Recon. 1 mile	1991	\$2,000/2,000	FS Materials FY91 Permittee labor
9. Lower Mesa Fence <del>1 mile</del> only gate needed	1991	\$2,000/2,000	FS Materials FY92 Permittee labor
10. Forest Road 428 Cattleguard	1992	\$4,000/0	Forest Service
<b>Non-Structural Projects</b>			
1. Deadman Burn 400 Acres	1992	\$4,000/0	Forest Service
2. Gus's Pasture and Pasture Spot Seeding	1991	\$6,000/2,500	
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$33,500/17,000</b>	

United States  
Department  
Agriculture

Tonto  
National  
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Payson  
Ranger  
District

1009 E. Highway 260  
Payson, AZ 85541

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Reply To: 2670

Date:

Subject: Biological evaluation of the  
Deadman Mesa Allotment Mgmt. Plan

To: District Ranger

An allotment management plan is being proposed for the Deadman Mesa Allotment that consists of a winter rotation system through eight pastures for 125 head of cattle. The season of use would be October 21 through May 31. The physical characteristics of the Allotment, present management, and proposed management are described in the allotment management plan and supporting environmental documents. Basically the allotment consists of a large mesa top with Fossil Creek Canyon on one side and Hardscrabble Canyon on the other side. The vegetative types consist primarily of pinyon-juniper (on top of mesa) and chaparral with a small amount of upper Sonoran desert grassland and riparian habitat associated with the canyons.

There are 18 threatened and endangered or sensitive species associated with the Allotment (Table 1). These species are presently using the allotment, or they were there historically, or there is potential habitat available. Twelve of these species are riparian obligate species. Riparian habitat is of critical importance. The riparian habitat is confined primarily to Fossil Creek and Hardscrabble Canyons. Both are large canyons where it is difficult to collect cattle. This is especially true with Hardscrabble Canyon. The bulk of the grazing will occur on the mesa top with a reduced amount of grazing occurring each year in the riparian areas. This in combination with a winter use only (Oct.-May) rotation will minimize the impact on the riparian areas and their associated wildlife species.

Six species that do or may occur are Federally listed. These are the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, spikedace, loach minnow, Cowania subintegra, and Agave Arizonaica. The bald eagle and the peregrine falcon are known to occur in association with this allotment. The spikedace and loach minnow are not known to occur, however, it is thought that there is suitable habitat. C. subintegra and A. Arizonaica may occur, however, they have never been observed and it is thought that they do not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat.

Among the proposed, candidate, or state listed species the river otter, black hawk, razorback sucker, Gila chub, and Colorado River roundtail chub do occur and are more than just migrants or rare visitors. The black-crowned night heron, white-faced ibis, western yellow-billed cuckoo, spotted bat, ferruginous hawk, and Swainson's hawk may occur but do so only as migrants or rare visitors. The narrow-headed garter snake and Mexican

garter snake, and Erigeron pringlei may occur but have never been observed.

Aeries are present nearby for the bald eagle and the peregrine falcon and their nesting territories do include some of this allotment primarily the Fossil Creek and Hardscrabble riparian areas. One objective of the management plan is to improve riparian habitat where needed and to maintain the existing riparian habitat that is in good condition. This will be done through reducing and limiting the use now occurring. The effect will not be detrimental. If there is any effect it will be an indirect beneficial effect.

Two listed plant species, C. subintegra and A. Arizona, may occur on the allotment, however, neither have ever been observed. C. subintegra is known to occur in the Verde River Valley in a soil classified as Ustochreptic Calciorthids, Loamy-skeletal, Mixed, Thermic. The soil has a very definite white chalky appearance. None of this soil type is known to occur on this allotment and, therefore, C. subintegra is thought not to occur. A. Arizona is thought to be a hybrid between A. chrysantha and A. Toumeyana var. bella. No A. Toumeyana is known to occur on this allotment and, therefore, A. Arizona is thought not to occur.

In our opinion, the proposed Deadman Mesa Allotment Management Plan and resultant livestock management will have either "no effect" or indirect beneficial effect on listed species or their habitats on the allotment. It is considered to be indirect because the objectives of the Plan is improved range conditions. The improvement of riparian conditions and habitat for other listed species are incidental side benefits to the main proposed actions. Formal consultation on the effects of this plan will not be required. A copy of this Biological Evaluation should be attached to the NEPA documents for the Allotment Management Plan.

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/ KEITH A. MENASCO  
Wildlife Biologist

cc:  
Forest Supervisor

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Table 1. Federal and state listed plant, wildlife, and fish species that occur on the Deadman Mesa Allotment or species that have potential habitat on the Allotment, Payson Ranger District, Tonto National Forest, 1987.

Riparian Obligate Species

Mammals

river otter \*\*\*\*

Birds

black hawk \*\*\*\*  
 black-crowned night heron \*\*\*\*  
 white-faced ibis \*\*\*  
 western yellow-billed cuckoo \*\*\*

Reptiles

narrow-headed garter snake \*\*\*  
 Mexican garter snake \*\*\*\*

Fishes

razorback sucker \*\*\*  
 Gila chub \*\*\*  
spikedace \*  
 Col. River rndtail. chub \*\*\*\*  
loach minnow \*

Nonriparian Species

Mammals

spotted bat \*\*\*

Birds

peregrine hawk \*\*\*  
 Swainson's hawk \*\*\*  
peregrine falcon  
bald eagle

Plants

Cowania subintegra  
Agave Arizona \*\*  
 Erigeron pringlei \*\*

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endangered

threatened \*

proposed \*\*

candidate \*\*\*

state listed \*\*\*\*

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1009 E. Highway 260  
Payson, AZ 85541

Reply To: 2210/1950

Subject: Deadman Mesa Allotment (AMP Categorical Exclusion)

To: Forest Supervisor

REC'D 20 SEP 1987  
 Date: September 14 1987  
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OCT 6 0 1987

On May 15, 1987 an Integrated Resource Management Team met at the Payson Ranger District to scope the relevant issues pertaining to an Allotment Management Plan for the Deadman Mesa Allotment. A copy of the issues and concerns developed during the meeting is attached.

Since that meeting the district has completed intensive reconnaissance of the management needs on the allotment and generated alternatives and selected the preferred alternative.

At this time the preferred alternative is a winter rotation system through eight pastures. This alternative is consistent with the Tonto National Forest Land Management Plan. Two other alternatives were evaluated. One was "No Action" and the other was "Eight Pasture Rotation with Wilderness Improvements". These alternatives were eliminated from consideration because they did not meet the intent of the Tonto National Forest Plan.

Vegetation on the allotment is primarily Pinyon - Juniper woodlands on the mesa tops with brush and riparian types within the canyons.

Planned costs to develop the allotment management plan will be minimal. Existing pasture division fences and stock tanks will be reconstructed or repaired into working condition. Several short drift fences and one new saddle stock tank will be required to utilize existing natural barriers to make three new pastures. This basic plan is similar to others that have been proposed on the district.

It has been determined that these activities will have no significant effect on the quality of the environment.

No T&E species will be affected by the implementation of this management plan. (Refer to Biological Evaluation attached)

Based on the above information and the requirements listed below, I recommend that this Allotment Management Plan be categorically excluded from any further N.E.P.A. Analysis.

1. All new range projects will be analyzed through the N.E.P.A. process.

2. All necessary archeological clearances and visual quality objectives will be met prior to any project implementation.

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STEPHEN L. GUNZEE  
District Ranger

I agree with the recommendation that the allotment management plan for the Deadman Mesa Allotment be excluded from further N.E.P.A. Analysis.

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JAMES L. KIMBALL Forest Supervisor

Date

10-28-87

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1009 E. Highway 260  
Payson, AZ 85541

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Reply To: 2210/1950

Date: July 2, 1987

Subject: Scoping Meeting (Deadman Mesa AMP)

To: List of Attendees

The following issues and concerns were developed during the scoping meeting held at the Payson Ranger District on May 15, 1987 for the Deadman Mesa Allotment Management Plan.

1. T&E Species (Cowania subintegra, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and Agave arizonica)
2. Hardscrabble Lake management.
3. Marijuana cultivation/Law Enforcement.
4. Fossil Creek road improvement/conflict with livestock.
5. Trails
6. Juniper age class distribution (re-wildlife habitat)
7. Cultivated pasture on forest (possible heavy use by livestock)
8. Winter use only (Compromising Mgt. Alternatives)
9. Time of use on plants.
10. Heavy residential building west side of Strawberry.
11. Poor condition of range improvements.
12. Livestock distribution/control.
13. Livestock use in wilderness/rough terrain.
14. Inadequate water on mesa.
15. Wild cattle in Hardscrabble Canyon (Potential for more)
16. Utilization of annual species.
17. Conflicts with wildlife and cattle for forage.
18. Waterfowl use (Lakes, creeks, nesting season)
19. Fire in wilderness (monitor, least suppression costs)

The following six concerns were developed as criteria to base the development of an allotment management plan.

1. Protection and enhancement of riparian areas.
2. Lack of forage on the mesa tops. (Need to improve ground cover and increase production of perennial forage.)
3. Impacts of livestock and range developments on wilderness and other recreation trails.
4. Improve diversity of plant species (primarily cool season species in light of winter grazing season)
5. Need to use livestock and grazing as tools to improve range and wildlife conditions.
6. Need to provide management with a positive cost benefit ratio.

The scoping team discussed possible alternatives for management on the allotment. Two alternatives were discussed but did not fully address the issues and concerns discussed. They were the no-action alternative and a short duration winter rotation through eight



pastures with wilderness range improvements. The preferred alternative is similar to the short duration winter rotation although it has seven pastures with no wilderness range improvements. Under this alternative there would be two wilderness pastures that would be used every other year with 25 or 30 cattle for a period of 3 or 4 months out of the permitted seven months with the remainder of the herd rotated through the other five pastures

The group reached consensus that improved management on the allotment was necessary and that the management discussed would be positive and have no significant impact on the environment. It was agreed to pursue the necessary steps needed to develop the preferred alternative.

Interested parties invited to attend were:

Rod Byers  
Steve Gunzel  
Keith Menasco  
Rob Ingram  
Janette Kaiser

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Bobbie Holliday  
John Kelsey  
Rich Martin  
Lee Redding  
Sue Morganson  
Henry Apfel  
Rob Smith  
Tom Wright

Payson R.D. Tonto N.F.  
Payson R.D. Tonto N.F.  
Payson R.D. Tonto N.F.  
Payson R.D. Tonto N.F.  
Payson R.D. Tonto N.F.  
Deadman Mesa Permittee Rep.  
Deadman Mesa Permittee Rep.  
Sierra Club  
Tonto N.F.  
Tonto N.F.  
Tonto N.F.  
Arizona Dept. of Game and Fish  
Arizona Dept. of Game and Fish  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club

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Stephen L. Gunzel  
District Ranger

EVAN MECHAM, Governor

Commissioners  
TEDDY BAKER, Elgin, Chairman  
LARRY D. ADAMS, Bullhead City  
FRANCE W. WEINER, Tucson  
THOMAS WOODS, JR., Phoenix  
PAUL L. ASHCROFT, Eagar

Director  
TEMPLE A. REYNOLDS

Assistant Director  
DUANE L. SHROUFE



## ARIZONA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT

2222 West Greenway Road Phoenix, Arizona 85023 42-3000

REGION VI  
7200 E. University  
Mesa, AZ 85207

June 2, 1987

RECEIVED  
TONTO NF  
PAYSON RD.

JUN 6 - 1987

Stephen L. Gunzel, District Ranger  
Payson Ranger District  
Tonto National Forest  
1009 E. Highway 260  
Payson, AZ 85541

RE: Deadman Mesa HMP

Dear Mr. Gunzel:

Thank you for inviting us to the preliminary scoping meeting for the Deadman Mesa Allotment. Henry Apfel, the Wildlife Manager for that area, attended the meeting and he expressed to me the following issues and concerns.

It is our perception that the majority of the range is in poor condition. Consequently, we would like to see "improving range condition" and "improving wildlife habitat" as major objectives of the AMP.

It appears that cattle use on Deadman Mesa is much heavier than on Fossil Creek and Hardscrabble. We would support measures to more evenly distribute cattle, such as a four pasture rotation system.

Lastly, we believe that current AUM's may be excessive given present range condition, and urge the Forest Service to carefully re-evaluate cattle numbers.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the Deadman Mesa Allotment Management planning effort.

Sincerely,

Temple Reynolds, Director

(b)(6)

Sue Morgensen, Habitat Specialist

SAM:nfs

cc: Robert K. Weaver, Habitat Evaluation Coord.  
Donald M. Turner, Region VI Supervisor  
Henry Apfel, Wildlife Manager

**ECONOMIC ANALYSIS - RANGE ALLOTMENT PROJECT**  
(Ref. FSH 2209.11)

1. Region

3

Forest

MONTO

3. District

PAYSON

4. Allotment

DEADMAN MESA ALLOTMENT

5. Alternative

PREFERRED

**PART I - BENEFITS - OUTPUTS "WITH PROJECT"**

A. Benefits	B. Analysis Time Periods (Year)				C. Total AUM Present Value MS	D. Total Resource Related MS	E. Total Benefits Present Value MS
	1 - 3 (a)	4 - 8 (b)	9 - 15 (c)	16 - 25 (d)			
<b>Grazing AUM's</b>							
1. Permitted grazing AUM's average annual/year for period.	(a) Increase						
	(b) Sustain	50	150	350	350		
	(c) Total	50	150	350	350		
2. AUM Value Coefficient \$/AUM		9.55	9.55	9.55	9.55		
3. Total Value, AUM (line 1c x 2)		477.50	1,432.50	3,342.50	3,342.50		
4. (a) Discount Factor @ 4%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (x rate used)	2.7751	3.9577	4.3856	4.5037		
(b) Discount Factor @ 7 1/8%	<input type="checkbox"/> (x rate used)	2.6183	3.3241	3.0940	2.4871		
(c) Discount Factor @ _____%	<input type="checkbox"/> (x rate used)						
5. Present Value, M\$ (line 3 x line 4(a), (b) or (c))		1.3	5.7	14.7	15.0	36.7	
<b>Resource Related Benefits</b>							
6. Watershed \$							
7. Wildlife	(a) Hunter Visitor Days	5	15	25	25		
	(b) \$ Value/HUD	55	55	55	55		
	(c) Benefit \$ (a x b)	275	825	1375	1375		
8. Fuelwood, other products \$							
9. Total Resource Related Benefit \$							
10. (a) Discount Factor @ 4%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (x rate used)	2.7751	3.9577	4.3856	4.5037		
(b) Discount Factor @ 7 1/8%	<input type="checkbox"/> (x rate used)	2.6183	3.3241	3.0940	2.4871		
(c) Discount Factor @ _____%	<input type="checkbox"/> (x rate used)						
11. Present Value, M\$		.7	3.3	6.0	6.2		16.2
12. Total Benefits P.V., M\$ (line 5 + 11)		2.0	9.0	20.7	21.2		52.9

Comments

DECISION NOTICE  
and  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

MANAGEMENT OF THE  
SUPERSTITION GRAZING  
ALLOTMENT

U.S.D.A. FOREST SERVICE  
TONGO NATIONAL FOREST  
MESA RANGER DISTRICT  
MARICOPA AND PINAL COUNTIES,  
ARIZONA

An environmental assessment that discusses the alternatives for management of the Superstition Grazing Allotment is available for public review at the Mesa Ranger District Office in Mesa, Arizona or at the Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office in Phoenix, Arizona.

It is my decision to adopt alternative D which will reduce the permitted number of Livestock on the allotment to 150 head yearlong plus N.I.. This alternative also establishes a system of management for the allotment.

In addition to the proposed alternative, three other alternatives were evaluated.

(A.) No action

(B.) Reduce the livestock numbers to the level indicated by the production-utilization studies for current management.

(C.) Convert to a yearling grazing operation.

Alternative C (conversion to a yearling grazing operation) and the proposed alternative would both meet the objectives for management as outlined in the environmental assessment. The proposed alternative was adopted because the permittees prefer the continuation of a yearlong cow-calf operation even though there is a contingent permit reduction.

I have determined, based on the environmental analysis, that this is not a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. This determination was made considering the following factors;

(A.) The objectives for management of the Superstition allotment as outlined in the Environmental Assessment.

(B.) There are no significant irreversible resource commitments.

(C.) There are no apparent adverse Cumulative or Secondary effects.

(D.) The physical and biological effects are limited to the area of planned management.

(E.) No known threatened or endangered plants or animals would be adversely affected by this proposal.

This decision is subject to administrative review pursuant to 36 CFR 211.19. Allotment management planning may begin immediately following signing of this decision notice.

4/23/85

DATE

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(b)(6)

JAMES L. KIMBALL  
Forest Supervisor