

# Double U Ranch

## Ranch Management Plan

### Introduction

The Double U Ranch is located 10 miles northwest of Elfrida, Arizona along Gleeson Road. It is just southwest of the old mining town of Gleeson at the south end of the Dragoon Mountains, in the Sulphur Springs Valley.

It contains over 7350 acres of deeded private land and 3240 acres of Arizona State Trust lands under lease no. 05-557. There are also 80 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands.

The Double U Ranch is owned by Telles Enterprises Inc., a family corporation that includes John (Jack) and Linda Telles and their 2 daughters. The ranch was purchased in July 1968 from the H. Ramsey estate. At that time, the stocking rate was 300 cows year-long. This number was reduced in the early 1970's to about 225, and for more than 15 years the stocking rate has been considered to be about 185 year-long animal units. This has been based on extending the carrying capacity described in the State Land Trust lease to the private lands.

### Objectives

#### General

1. Increase the long-term carrying capacity of the ranch
2. Improve the forage diversity
3. Implement a long-term plan of brush management
4. Concentrate/reduce the calving season
5. Continue the Hunter Access agreement with the Arizona Game and Fish Dept.

#### Specific

1. Vegetation Management
  - a) Assure that the physiological requirements for plant growth and reproduction are met for the following key forage plants:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Plant Symbol
blue grama, black grama, sprucetop grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> , <i>Bouteloua eriopoda</i> , <i>Bouteloua chondrosioides</i>	BOGR2, BOER4, BOCH
sideoats grama, plains bristlegrass, green sprangletop, Arizona cottontop	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> , <i>Setaria vulpiseta</i> , <i>Leptochloa dubia</i> , <i>Digitaria californica</i>	BOCU, SEVU2, LEDU, DICA8
bush muhly	<i>Muhlenbergia porteri</i>	MUPO2
plains lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis intermedia</i>	ERIN
Lehmann lovegrass, Boer lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis lehmanniana</i> , <i>Eragrostis chloromelas</i>	ERLE, ERCH2

- b) Limit the average utilization on key species to **40 percent** of current year's growth.
- 2. Implement a rest-rotation grazing system that includes all pastures on the ranch, and that also provides planned use in the smaller pastures for gathering and weaning, the bull herd, and replacement heifers. This will help facilitate livestock management and a shorter calving season.
- 3. Outline the location and extent of brush encroachment in all pastures, and identify the areas where the likelihood of success and the benefits of brush management are the greatest.

## Range Improvements

### Current Range Improvements (see Plan map for details)

At this time, the list of range improvements includes the following

- Interior fencing that divides the ranch into 3 large pastures that are roughly equal in size, and 4 smaller pastures that vary in size
- Water development that provides dependable water in all pastures and good water distribution in most
- Extensive areas of mechanical brush management that was done 30-40 years ago
- 168 acres of mechanical brush management that was completed in April 2005

### Proposed Range Improvements (see Plan map for details)

- Solar pump to replace the damaged windmill at the Stamp Mill well that waters 3 pastures. This includes new troughs and pipeline – the storage tank is in good condition.
- A new well in pasture # 6 (Big Pasture), with solar pump, trough, and short pipeline
- A solar pump, pipeline, and new trough in pasture 4 (Heifer Pasture), supplied by the Adobe well
- Brush management (acres vary) in each pasture in turn, as the required deferment fits into the ranch grazing schedule

## Grazing Management

### Numbers and Season of Use

The base carrying capacity of the Double U Ranch is **183 animal units**, or **2200 animal months**. The breakdown by land status is as follows:

STATE	55	AU's	663	AUM's
BLM	1	AU's	12	AUM's
PRIV. CONTROLLED	127	AU's	1524	AUM's

These numbers are based on extrapolating the carrying capacity of the State Land Trust lease to the private acres.

As a comparison, the long-term carrying capacity as calculated by the NRCS after a recent inventory of the ranch on an ecological site basis, is **158 AU (1894 AUM)** under present conditions, and **169 AU (2023 AUM)** with the proposed water improvements in place. This estimate does not give a breakdown by land status; however, it does give an estimate by pasture. See Appendix for details.

### Grazing System

There are 3 large pastures that are roughly equal in both acres and carrying capacity – they are pasture 1 (Mountain Pasture), pasture 6 (Big Pasture), and pasture 8 (South Pasture). Each of them will be used in turn for 6 months by the main herd. Move dates will not be rigid, but will typically be around the 1<sup>st</sup> of May and the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. This will allow

each of these pastures 12 months between periods of grazing, and spring and summer growing-season rest for 2 out of 3 years.

Pasture 5 (Bull Pasture) will be used to hold the bulls away from the herd from around November 1 until early April, at which time they will join the cows. The occasional sick cow will be put in here also. This pasture may also be used to expose the early-calving cows to the bulls in a more confined area – cows with calves 45 days old and more might be sorted from the main herd and put into this pasture with the bulls around mid-March for 2 weeks or so. This pasture will normally receive summer rest every year, as well as the later part of the spring growing season.

Pasture 4 (Heifer Pasture) will be used for replacement heifers kept each fall. They will typically go into this pasture in late November after they are weaned. The pasture might also be used for the long yearlings and first-calf heifers. They will normally be moved to join the main herd in early April. This pasture will also typically receive summer rest every year, as well as the later part of the spring growing season. This pasture will also be used as a gathering pasture at branding times on occasion, especially when the cows are being gathered from the Mountain Pasture.

Pasture 3 (Horse Pasture) will be used for a short period, usually 3-4 days, by cows with calves just prior to shipping in October.

Pasture 7 (holding Pasture) will be used as a short-term gathering and holding pasture at branding times.

Pasture 1 is a very small pasture used on occasion by the horses, and for sick cattle when they need to be kept close to the corral at headquarters.

Since each of them will receive summer rest every year, pastures 3, 4, and 5 will also be used as reserve forage in the event of drought, and to provide extra rest to the larger pastures if the need arises.

### **Salting / Supplemental Feeding**

At this time, trace mineral salt is provided at all water points. Movement of salt or supplement to encourage better grazing distribution is not an absolute necessity on this ranch (see Appendix for map of grazing distribution by water points). However, there may be some benefit to moving the salt away from the waters at times, and Mr. Telles wants to experiment with this.

Occasionally, a protein supplement (molasses-based, such as Sweetlix) is supplied. This is not a regular practice – it is driven by a visual assessment of cattle condition and forage quality, and by cost.

From January 1<sup>st</sup> until April 1<sup>st</sup> when they join the cows, the bulls are fed breeder cubes.

### **Management Flexibility during Drought and other Unforeseen Circumstances**

In the recent past that includes several drought years, the primary strategies have been a conservative stocking rate and reduction in numbers.

As part of this plan, each year the actual forage availability will be estimated and stocking rate will be adjusted if necessary. This estimate will be made in the fall after the summer growing season, typically at the time of monitoring and update of records and actual use.

## **Monitoring Studies**

### **General**

Monitoring transects, using accepted range-monitoring methods, will be used to evaluate the effects of livestock and wildlife use on the rangeland resource and to aid in management decisions necessary to maintain or improve

rangeland condition. Currently, there are no monitoring transects established on the ranch with the exception of a photo point, established in April 2005, in the recently-completed brush management area.

### Key Areas

A minimum of 3 key areas will be established in the fall of 2006. They will be used to monitor changes in the dominant Ecological Sites on the ranch (see Appendix for Ecological Site map). Study data will be collected within the key areas and will be used to guide the management of the ranch.

### Key Species

Because it is a major component in most areas of the ranch, Lehmann lovegrass will be a key species. In some areas, this will also be true of Boer lovegrass. The key areas chosen will have as wide a selection and as large an amount of native perennial grasses as possible (see species list under Objectives). At least one key area site will be chosen that has a dominance of perennial native grasses.

### Methods and Responsibilities

#### 1. Actual Use

The rancher will record actual use data throughout the year showing when, where, and how many livestock used the ranch during the grazing year. This data will be kept on the specification sheet for prescribed grazing as supplied by the NRCS.

#### 2. Climate

Monthly rainfall totals will be kept by producer.

#### 3. Utilization

Utilization on key grass species will be measured using the grazed-class photo method. Utilization on shrub species will be measured using the same method. Utilization will be measured by NRCS, ASLD, CES, and the producer.

#### 4. Trend

Trend in rangeland condition will be measured using the Pace Frequency Method. Photographs will be taken at each trend location. General views of the site will serve as the appropriate photo recordation of trend. Trend data will be collected by NRCS, ASLD, CES, and the producer.

### Timetable for Data Collection

Data collection will occur every fall for the 1<sup>st</sup> three years and then every 2 – 5 years subsequently.

### Location of Key Areas

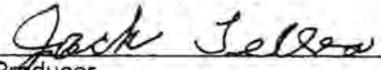
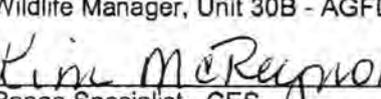
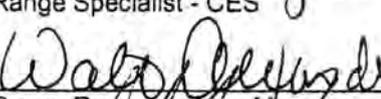
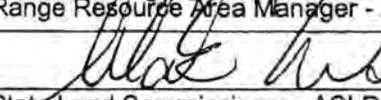
KA #	Pasture # and Name	Ecological Site	Location (UTM coordinates)
1	1 – Mountain Pasture	Granitic Hills 12-16" p.z.	TBD in fall 2006
2	6 – Big Pasture	Sandy Loam Upland 12-16" p.z.	TBD in fall 2006
3	8 – South Pasture	Sandy Loam Upland 12-16" p.z.	TBD in fall 2006
4			

## Evaluation and Revision

A review of the plan will be conducted at least once each year in cooperation with the rancher, the NRCS, the ASLD, the AGFD, and the CES. This review will typically be at the time of monitoring in the fall of each year, and the records of actual use data and rainfall data will be updated. Data collected from the monitoring sites will be used to aid in management decisions. The ranch may also wish a spring review at times – requesting this will be left to the discretion of Mr. Telles.

## Concurrence

Accepted by:

 Producer	<u>2-7-06</u> Date
 NRCS Conservationist	<u>3/16/06</u> Date
 Wildlife Manager, Unit 30B - AGFD	<u>2-March-2006</u> Date
 Range Specialist - CES	<u>3/13/06</u> Date
 Range Resource Area Manager - ASLD	<u>3/23/06</u> Date
 State Land Commissioner - ASLD	<u>4/3/06</u> Date

## APPENDIX AND LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

1. Selected ranch photographs, summer 2006
2. Conservation Plan map
3. Ecological Site Map
4. Grazing Distribution map
5. NRCS carrying capacity calculations, by pasture
6. NRCS specification sheet for Prescribed Grazing

Customer(s): JOHN (JACK) TELLES  
TELLES ENTERPRISES

# Conservation Plan Map

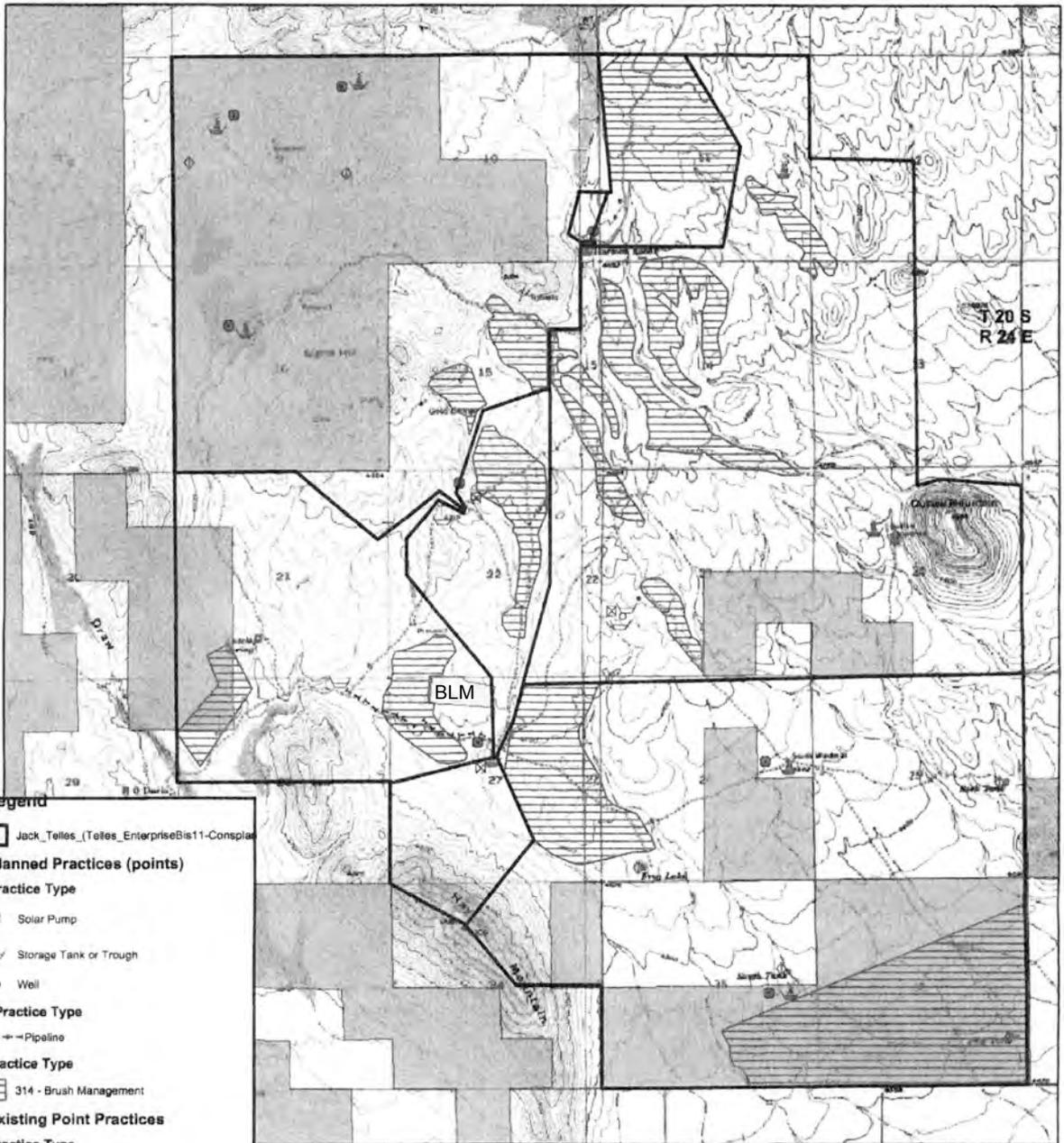
Agency: USDA-NRCS

District: WHITEWATER DRAW NRCD

Field Office: DOUGLAS SERVICE CENTER

Approximate Acres: 10650

Assisted By: Art Meen



**Legend**

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**Planned Practices (points)**

Practice Type

- X Solar Pump
- Storage Tank or Trough
- Well

Practice Type

- Pipeline

Practice Type

- 314 - Brush Management

**Existing Point Practices**

Practice Type

- 378 - Pond
- 574 - Spring
- 614 - Storage Tank
- 642 - Windmill and Trough

**Practice Code**

- 314 - Brush Management

**Land Ownership**

**NAME**

- BLM
- PRIVATE
- STATE

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