

~~John W. McDonough~~

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2210

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN
For
EAST EAGLE ALLOTMENT
CLIFTON RANGER DISTRICT
APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

Prepared by Jerry A. Dent District Ranger 11/15/82 Date

Agreed to by _____ Permittee _____ Date

Approved by Nick W. McDonough Forest Supervisor 1-11-83 Date

I. INTRODUCTION

The East Eagle Allotment is located in the northwest corner of the Clifton Ranger District, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. The terrain, with the exception of several long broad ridgetops; is steep, rocky and contains dense stands of pinyon-juniper, oak, mahogany, garrya and scattered stands of ponderosa pine.

The grazing permit for the allotment is for 420 head of cattle and horses, yearlong. The permittee is currently practicing rest rotation management with his cow-calf operation. The cattle are wintered each year in the East Eagle pasture and summered in one of three summer pastures. The majority of the calves are sold in the fall, and the remaining short age calves are sold in the spring.

There are several chronic problems on the allotment that are in need of a remedy in order to enhance or sustain the existing operation:

1. All of the areas with the highest production potential are covered with heavy stands of pinyon and juniper. These are the flat areas with good soil, limited rock, and ready accessibility.
2. Another problem is the need to split the winter pasture into two units. At the present time the entire area is used year after year and is not receiving the rest that it should.
3. Water is fairly abundant along the rim, but the problem is there is little dependable water in the lower country.
4. Access to much of the allotment is limited due to dense brush. Improved access is necessary to achieve better livestock distribution, increased use in underutilized areas and take advantage of available water.
5. Predation has historically been a problem with the East Eagle. Calves are vulnerable to bears and lions, especially during the first six months after birth. This can be partially offset by concentrating the cattle where they can be more closely watched.

The proposed system of management described in this plan, combined with the necessary improvements, will produce a significant change in the condition of the allotment; a change that will enhance the resources of the allotment and insure the continuation of a viable livestock operation.

The permittee is also the holder of the permit for the Big Dry Allotment. Discussion has already taken place that could eventually lead to utilizing both allotments together, to further enhance the management opportunities available to the permittee. The option is feasible and will be entered into once the East Eagle management is stabilized.

II. GOALS OF MANAGEMENT

The long range goals that will be strived for by the proposed management are:

1. To protect and enhance the soil and watershed resources of the allotment.
2. To maximize livestock production to a level compatible with the resources of the allotment.
3. To improve the wildlife habitat through a reduction of competition from livestock for browse and forage.
4. To reduce the effects of predation on calf crop.

III. MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

A. Proposed Management System

The proposed management system will consist of a five pasture rest rotation system. Salt House or East Eagle pastures will be used every other year; thus, providing eighteen months between each use period. McBride, Malay and Sawmill pastures will receive six months of winter use every third year and six months of summer use every third year. They will receive one year's rest between each use period and thirty months rest between each summer use period. A graphic outline of the system is shown on Form 2200-18 in the appendix. Three small holding traps will receive incidental use during gathering; and also be used for breeding, sick animals, horses, etc. Cattle would be concentrated for calving and would allow the permittee to keep a close watch on them.

B. Santa Rita System (Alternative 1)

A three pasture Santa Rita System could also be used with the same fences needed in the proposed system. The three pasture system would use Malay-McBride as one unit, Salt House-Dry Prong as a second, and East Eagle-Saw Mill as the third. This system involves spreading out in two pastures after shipping for the winter and utilizing one (previously rested) pasture for the summer. This would also concentrate cows before calving into one unit where they could be watched.

This system provides for two growing seasons of rest on both cool season and warm season grasses.

IV. DISTRIBUTION AIDS

Much of the allotment has proven to be very difficult to herd cattle on. These areas are generally steep, rocky or brushy; thus, access by the permittee and livestock is greatly restricted.

There are numerous trails that have evolved through the years, leading to both feed and water, that need to be cleaned out. Some fence construction and relocation will provide for pastures that are better balanced in size and capacity. They will also combine areas that are more logically suited to a given pasture. The terrain does not lend itself to easy fencing; thus, careful consideration must be given to all fence proposals.

Pinyon-juniper control and brush removal will also greatly improve the access and distribution of livestock. These control projects, along with expanded watering facilities, will be a major factor in achieving improved management on the allotment.

Aids to be used from existing facilities include:

A. Water

1. Clean existing tanks
2. Clean developed springs
3. Install additional troughs in pipelines
4. Fence tanks to allow better control of use

B. Trails

1. Brush existing cow trails to improve access to feed and water.
2. Provide additional access by clearing brush from fence lines being maintained or reconstructed.

C. Salting

1. Improve on overall salting procedure.

V. Range Improvements - Construction or Reconstruction

A. Structural

1. Waters

a. Warren Springs - Reconstruction of pipeline from springs to mouth of Warren Canyon and New Tank.

b. Squirrel Spring - Extension of pipeline from spring down east ridgetop of Squirrel Canyon.

c. Dogwood Springs - Extension of pipeline down both ridgetops on each side of canyon.

2. Fences

a. East Eagle Division Fence - Construction of fence from Sawmill Cabin along ridgetop on the south rim of Salt House Canyon, and west side of burn to the boundary fence.

b. East Eagle-Strayhorse Boundary Fence - Reconstruction of fence from Crabtree Park south to Rattlesnake Corral.

c. McBride Pasture Fence - Reconstruction of McBride pasture fence from McBride Springs northeast along ridge to McBride-East Eagle Division fence.

d. Malay-McBride Division Fence - Reconstruction of fence and relocation of Squirrel Corral between Saunders Traps and Four Corners to west ridgetop of Squirrel Canyon.

e. Saunders Cabin Holding Pasture - Reconstruction of fence, making pasture smaller and changing alignment on south side.

f. East Eagle-Mud Springs Boundary Fence - Construction of new boundary fence between East Eagle and Mud Springs Allotments, along south rim of Robinson Mesa in War Finance pasture.

B. Non Structural

1. Steer Pasture Maintenance - Tordon 10K maintenance of old push.

2. Sawmill P. U.

3. Robinson Mesa PJ Control - PJ push of suitable areas on Robinson Mesa with planned 10K follow-up.

4. McBride Pasture PJ Control - PJ push of suitable areas in McBride pasture with planned 10K follow-up.

5. Steer Pasture PJ Control - PJ push of remaining suitable areas in the Steer Pasture with planned 10K follow-up.

6. Malay Pasture PJ Control - PJ push of suitable areas in Malay pasture with planned 10K follow-up.