



United States Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

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Allotment Management Plan

Garland Prairie / Pomeroy Allotments

Williams Ranger District
Kaibab National Forest
Arizona

Prepared By:



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12/12/14
Date


Agreed to By:



Manterola Sheep Company, Inc.
Jose Manterola
Permittee

12-12-14
Date

Approved By:



Danelle D. Harrison
District Ranger
Williams Ranger District

12/12/14
Date

I. Introduction and Background Information:

The Garland Prairie and Pomeroy Allotments are located in the southeastern portion of the Williams Ranger District. The Garland Prairie Allotment is bordered on the west by the Big Springs Allotment, on the east by the Arizona National Guard's Camp Navajo, and on the south by the Coconino National Forest. The Pomeroy Allotment is situated immediately to the southwest of the Garland Prairie Allotment, and is bordered on the south by Sycamore Canyon, and on the north by the Big Springs Allotment. The Garland Prairie Allotment is 10,470 acres in size (including 2,880 acres of private land), and the legal description is: T21N, R4E, Sec. 11-16, 21-29, 33-36. The Pomeroy Allotment is 2,240 acres in size, and the legal description is: T20N, R3E, Sec. 1 and 2; T20N, R4E, Sec. 5-8; T21N, R3E, Sec. 36; T21N, R4E, Sec. 31 and 33. Topography is generally flat in the allotments. Sycamore Canyon, which borders the allotments on the south, contains steep, broken malpais cliffs. Both northern goshawk and Mexican spotted owl habitat exist within the allotments. In addition, four riparian areas have been identified in the allotments. The drainage below LO Springs, lower Big Springs drainage, and Pomeroy Tanks occur within the Pomeroy Allotment. In addition, a short segment of Volunteer Wash occurs in the southeast corner of the Garland Prairie Allotment.

II. Purpose and Objectives:

The purpose of this Allotment Management Plan (AMP) is to implement the October 3, 1995 Garland Prairie / Pomeroy Allotments NEPA Decision Notice. This AMP will be incorporated into, and be made part of, the current and any future Term Grazing Permit(s) that authorize livestock grazing on these allotments. This AMP as called for in the October 3, 1995 Garland Prairie / Pomeroy Allotments Decision Notice, provides for flexibility of the yearly stocking rates and scheduled allotment use periods on the Garland Prairie / Pomeroy Allotments in order to be responsive to annual fluctuations in resource conditions and permittee requirements. Annual adjustments in management will be developed with permittee input and documented in the Annual Operating Instructions (AOI).

The objectives of this Allotment Management Plan (AMP) are to:

1. Maintain or improve range conditions on the allotments by limiting the grazing use of forage plants to conservative or moderate levels and by providing periods of growing season rest or deferment for forage plants.
2. Maintain watershed conditions at current levels on the allotments by managing for the ecological site potential level of herbaceous ground cover and allowing for residual plant materials to accumulate.
3. Maintain the current proper functioning riparian conditions at the springs/seeps on the allotments by not salting or placing supplements near the springs/seeps and by providing growing season rest or deferment for the pasture where these spring/seeps are located.
4. Manage for possible drought conditions by maintaining forage plants at, or near, their highest potential for growth (vigor) and reserving unused forage when possible.
5. Implementing the appropriate mitigating measures that are currently, or in the future, determined to be necessary.

III. Management:

Stocking Level and Class of Livestock

The October 3, 1995 Decision Notice for the Garland Prairie / Pomeroy Allotments found the

capacity of the allotments to be up to 1,840 head of sheep for a 45 day grazing period. This grazing period will occur during the 06/01 to 10/15 period of use. This would be equivalent for up to 552 Animal Unit Months (AUM's¹). An additional 400 head of sheep and 8 Burros are also authorized for a 45 day grazing period on the Garland Prairie / Pomeroy Allotments under a Term Private Land Grazing Permit. The period of use will occur during the 06/01 to 10/15 period of use, which coincides with the authorized grazing period for the Term Grazing Permit under the same October 3, 1995 NEPA Analysis/Decision Notice. This would be equivalent for up to 120 AUM's for sheep and up to 7 AUM's for burros.

Management Description

Best Management Practices (BMPs) and mitigation measures that maintain existing range management practices at an acceptable level would continue. BMPs that contribute to controlling livestock number and season of use include stock counts, forage utilization measurements, rangeland assessment, and stream bank assessments. BMPs used to achieve proper distribution include proper maintenance of fences and water developments, riding and herding to shift livestock and location of salt or supplement feed. Periodic field checks and range inspections would be made and documented.

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds 40% utilization, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than allowable use. If all the remaining key areas are maximum allowable use, livestock will be required to be moved early to the next scheduled pasture or even off the allotments if the allowable use is exceeded throughout.

Use of Supplements

When there is a need to provide supplements to the livestock authorized on the allotments the following practices will be followed:

- a. Locate supplement sites 0.25 mile or more from waters except where prior written approval has been obtained from District Ranger.
- b. Place salt and mineral supplements where forage is abundant and current grazing use levels are low. Supplements should not be placed at any one location more than once during the grazing season to prevent the concentration of livestock.
- c. Limit routine supplement types to salt, protein, and mineral blocks to reduce risk of spreading noxious weeds and to reduce the risk of creating areas of concentrated livestock use.
- d. If there is a need to feed energy supplements such as grain, hay, surplus milk products, ethanol production by-products or molasses based products; a supplemental feeding plan will need to be developed and approved by the District Ranger prior to placing these energy type supplements on National Forest lands.

IV. Improvements:

As specified in the current Term Grazing Permit(s) and any future grazing permits, the permittee will be required to maintain all assigned range improvements.

- Maintain all current range infrastructures to a satisfactory condition, such as fences and water developments.

¹ Animal Unit Months are calculated by multiplying the number of sheep and burros by the number of months they are on the allotments by a factor of 0.2 for sheep and 0.6 for burros.

- Ensure all future range fence reconstruction would be designed as wildlife friendly including appropriate installation of elk crossings, use of smooth bottom wire, standard spacing to prevent entrapment, maximum height limits, and locations.
- Ensure all future range water developments would be designed as wildlife friendly including wildlife escape ramps and provide access to wildlife on existing and proposed water troughs.

Any construction or reconstruction of range improvements on these allotments by the permittee will be authorized as a modification of the Term Grazing Permit, which is the standard policy and procedure for doing this type of work.

V. Monitoring and Inspections:

As part of the administration of any current or future grazing permit(s) issued for use of these allotments, monitoring will be conducted through periodic utilization checks, P/U studies, and permanent photo points. Monitoring will be conducted to determine if the terms of the grazing permit(s), this AMP, and the current AOI are being followed (Implementation Monitoring). Monitoring will also be conducted to determine if the resource conditions on the allotments are meeting, or moving towards the objective of this AMP and the broader Forest Plan objectives and goals (Effectiveness Monitoring). Should monitoring indicate a need for a change in management, the appropriate adjustments will be initiated anytime throughout the grazing year utilizing Adaptive Management practices.

Forage use levels during or at the end of a scheduled grazing period should not exceed an average light use of 20% and a maximum conservative use level of 40% throughout the allotments and within Northern Goshawk and Spotted Owl habitat as is spelled out in the decision documents for these allotments. This is necessary to provide for the protection of the soils and to maintain forage plant vigor. If the forage use level exceeds the conservative use level during a scheduled grazing period, an adjustment in livestock numbers or the pasture use schedule will be initiated and the pasture where the over-use occurred will not be scheduled for use until sufficient growth of the forage plants has occurred to ensure plant vigor has not been impaired. Forage use monitoring will occur at areas identified yearly based on the current patterns of livestock use. Utilization monitoring sites will be selected that represent areas of similar range condition, trend, or level of use. The forage species monitored will be selected based on the species importance as a forage species and as an indicator of the degree of use on associated species.

VI. Revisions:

This plan is intended to be flexible and may be revised if the objectives and goals are not being met or management changes are necessary to meet required changes in policy, regulations or laws. Any revision of this AMP will be carried out in close cooperation with the permittees.

VII. Attachments:

The established key areas for utilization checks and the improvements to be maintained/reconstructed or newly constructed are shown on the allotment maps attached to this AMP and Term Grazing Permit.