

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

2210

HAYSTACK BUTTE MANAGEMENT PLAN



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Globe Ranger District

Tonto National Forest

Region 3

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6/21/82
Date

Agreed to by: Rey M. Kerby
KERBY FURNITURE, INC. - Permittee

6-24-82
Date

Submitted by: Larry P. Widmer
LARRY P. WIDMER, District Ranger

6/24/82
Date

Approved by: James L. Kimball
JAMES L. KIMBALL, Forest Supervisor

7/22
Date

HAYSTACK BUTTE ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. DESCRIPTION

The Haystack Butte Allotment, located approximately 25 air miles northeast of Globe, is bordered on the south by the Sedow Allotment; the east and north by the Chrysotile Allotment, and the west by the Salt River. Ranging from mixed grasslands of low to moderate composition and density west of Forest Road 303 to steeper chaparral slopes east of 303, approximately 16,000 acres are contained within the allotment.

Elevation variation is from 2,800 feet along the Salt River to 6,300 feet south of Bronson Canyon. Topography varies from gently rolling mesas on the west to steep rugged sidehills dropping into Ash Creek.

There is no patented land within the allotment boundary. The commensurate property headquarters is under a special use permit to Rex Kerby, Kerby Furniture, Inc., permittee.

A. Management Units

The allotment is currently fenced into four main pastures plus a steer pasture. The main pastures are of unequal size and capacity; therefore, additional fencing is necessary to balance pasture capacity as well as create additional bull pastures needed for the implementation of the cow/calf operation.

When fencing is complete, the allotment will be stratified into the following management units:

Bronson	<u>Bull Pastures:</u>
Ash Creek	Breeding
Cottonwood	East Steer
River	West Steer

B. Current Management

The present system of management entails a 6-month flip-flop grazing schedule. The Bronson and Ash Creek pastures have received winter and spring use since approximately 1973. The remaining range has been utilized during the summer and fall months.

This system of management is not conducive to providing growing season rest to forage plants at staggered times during the year. It is also deficient in providing two out of three growing seasons back-to-back rest.

Bulls remain with the cow herd year-round; therefore, calves are essentially produced on a year-round basis. However, the majority are dropped January through March. Late calves are held over as natural increase and sold in May as yearlings. The January through February calves are sold after the fall roundup in November. Mother cows are generally replaced after 7 to 8 years, with replacements coming from within the herd. Bull replacement varies with

individual performance, but bulls are usually not kept over 8 years. Bulls are generally replaced from outside the herd in order to keep the herd relatively free from line breeding.

C. Permit

Currently, 280 cattle plus 80% NI, January 1 through May 31, and 20% NI to November 30, are permitted on the Haystack Butte Allotment.

An agreement has been reached between Kerby Furniture, Inc. (permittee), and the Forest Service, permitting 210 head on a cow/calf operation. Calves born after November 1 of each year will be held over as calves, and not more than 30 head will be carried to 5/31 at any one given year. Thirty head of cattle will be placed under a resource protection nonuse agreement for a 5-year period. This agreement becomes effective in May of 1983, and is contingent upon the placement of the necessary improvements needed to initiate an acceptable range management system.

Actual stocking, during the life of this plan, will be 180 cattle yearlong with no NI, or any combination which will equate to approximately 2,150 AUM's.

The term permit is subject to modification in terms of relative numbers of grown breeding stock and yearlings, if any; the total of which must equate to 2,500 AUM's.

D. Problems and Conflicts

Historic heavy livestock use, combined with continuous yearlong grazing, have led to the current resource conditions present on the allotment. A four-pasture rotation management system will be initiated, combined with the aforementioned adjustment in stocking in an attempt to remedy the situation.

A management system which provides spring/summer rest, back-to-back, 2 years out of 3, should allow adequate plant phenological recovery time.

There is a need for additional water development on the allotment in order to achieve proper distribution and utilization within individual units.

Four horizontal well sites are proposed. In addition, White Ledges Spring will be horizontally drilled, approximately 20 feet, using a rock drill.

A pipeline from Cottonwood Spring, extending approximately one-half mile, will be installed in order to provide water to the area covered by Cottonwood Box Spring, which is an unreliable water source.

Five new stock tanks, along with the relocation of two existing tanks, are proposed. Exact locations will be field staked following soil scientist review of sites. Tank construction is contingent upon the identification of suitable sites.

A water lot at Yellowjacket Spring is planned to provide water to two pastures.

Approximately 5 miles of fence are necessary to initiate the rotation system. The need for an additional 2 miles of Priority III drift fence will be evaluated after the system is initiated. (See attached map for location of improvements and fencelines.)

It is essential when converting to a cow/calf operation that the breeding cycle of the cows be synchronized. In order to accomplish this, Mr. Kerby will begin controlled breeding this spring. This will allow him to "slide" into the operation, and hopefully augment the initial reduction in calf crop that is expected.

Recreational use on the allotment is limited to hunting. No major conflicts are foreseen, as there will be no additional gates needed for vehicular access.

Problems with cattle walking fencelines are expected until livestock become accustomed to being moved. Containing bulls within pastures during the "off season" is expected to create some problems. Keeping bulls as far away from cows as possible will reduce the inherent problems with a cow/calf operation.

II. GOALS

The long-term goals for the Haystack Butte Allotment are:

- A. Improve productivity while protecting and enhancing the biological and physical integrity of range ecosystems.
- B. Foster a permanent, increasing productive range livestock industry.
- C. Enhance conservation of range, soil and water resources, and maintenance of environmental quality.
- D. Bring the range under proper stocking.
- E. Provide forage, without impairing land productivity, to the extent benefits are commensurate with costs.
- F. Improve deteriorated watershed conditions through increased plant density, litter accumulation, and reduction of soil loss.
- G. Maintain or improve visual quality.
- H. Provide increased quality recreational experiences to those who seek them (wildlife and visual resources).

In order to accomplish the described goals, an intensified four-pasture rest/rotation system will be initiated, along with the construction of structural range improvements and development of nonstructural range improvements, where possible.

The following short-range objectives will serve to accomplish the long-range goals:

- A. Provide rest during critical plant growth periods.
- B. Balance the availability and utilization of forage by controlling the season of use.
- C. Allow plants to meet their physiological growth requirements through a rest/rotation management system.
- D. Limit utilization of key forage species in key areas to 60%.

III. MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The management system to be employed is a four-pasture rest/rotation with a breeding and bull pasture.

Since Mr. Kerby intends to breed cattle in March and April, calving will take place the following January and February. Approximately 30 cows will be left with the bulls in the breeding pasture for 10 days, at which time they will be turned out to the pasture scheduled for spring grazing.

IV. DISTRIBUTION AIDS

Improved livestock distribution is essential to accomplish the established objectives. Some of the more apparent techniques which will aid in distribution include the following:

A. Water Facilities

Construction of new water developments will improve distribution by enabling livestock to graze greater distance from existing waters.

Reconstruction of existing facilities will help assure water is available when livestock enter a pasture.

B. Salting Techniques

The proper placement of salt will enhance distribution of livestock. Salting areas should be selected jointly by the permittee and range conservationist. All salt should be located away from waters and heavily used areas. Salt locations should be changed periodically.

C. Livestock-Proof Fences

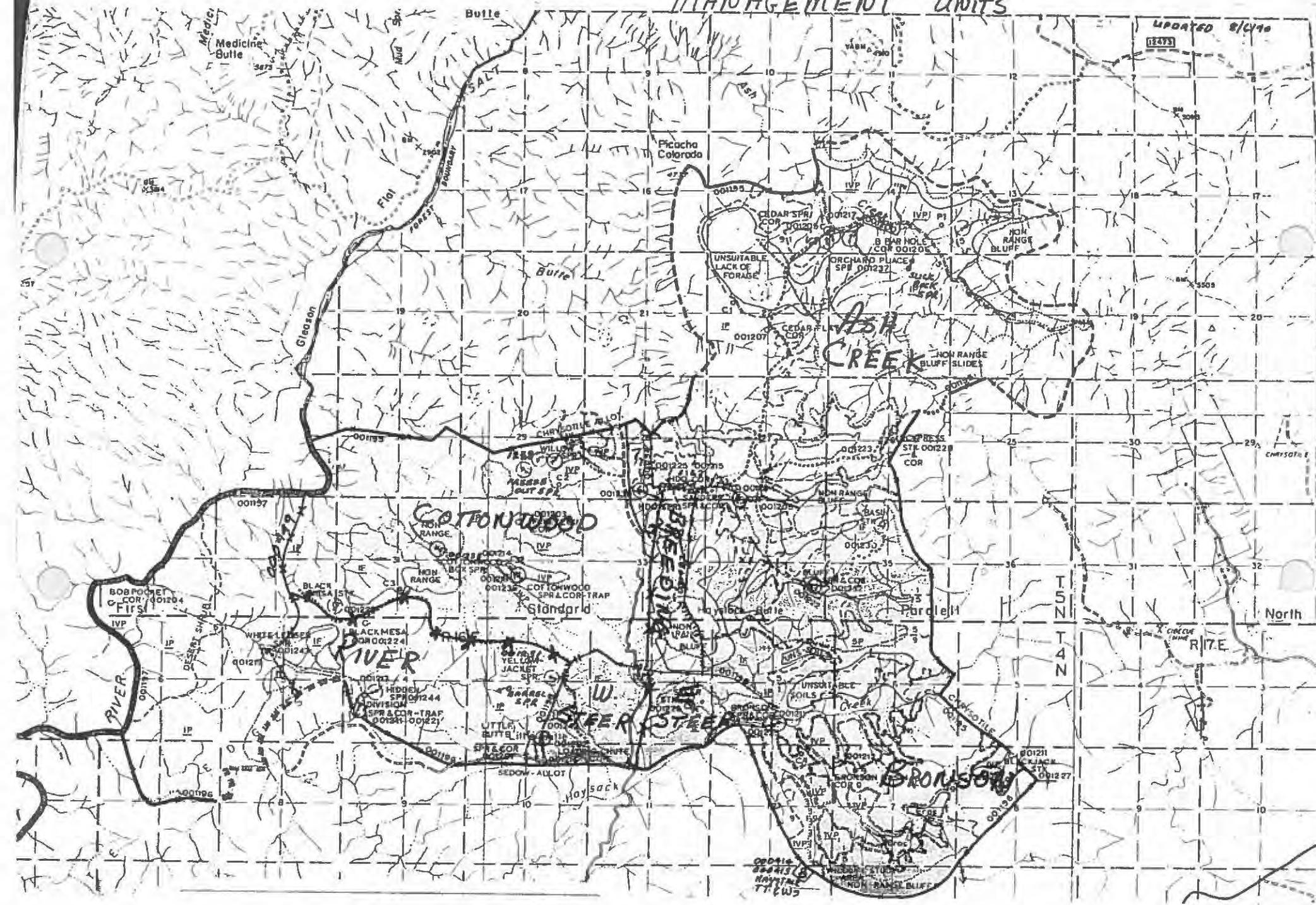
In an effort to contain livestock within the specific unit and obtain the objective of improved distribution, all interior and exterior fences need to be in such condition that they will turn cattle.

D. Horseback Distribution

The physical movement of cattle goes hand-in-hand with the use of salt, water, and fences to improve distribution. As livestock are moved into a

MANAGEMENT UNITS

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fresh unit, they should be located on the various salting and watering areas.

V. RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION

A. Priority I

<u>Year</u>	<u>Improvement Name</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1982	Turkey horizontal well Yellowjacket horizontal well Saddle horizontal well Rock horizontal well	Forest Service to contract access trails and drilling. Permittee to install pipelines and troughs.	\$14,200
1982	Cottonwood/River division fence	Forest Service to purchase materials and construct approximately 2.5 miles.	\$10,000
1983	Breeding pasture fence	Forest Service to purchase materials. Permittee to construct approximately 1.75 miles.	\$4,000
1983	Steer pasture division fence	Forest Service to purchase materials and construct approximately 1 mile.	\$4,000

B. Priority II

<u>Year</u>	<u>Improvement Name</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
1983	Cottonwood Spring pipeline <i>Change to Bronson Park</i>	Forest Service to contract trenching and purchase materials. Permittee to connect system and install trough.	\$5,000
1983	<i>Hod's White Ridge spr.</i>		
1984	Stock tank construction	Forest Service to contract cat work (five new tanks, two tanks relocated).	\$14,000

VI. MAINTENANCE OF IMPROVEMENTS

All improvements listed as maintenance responsibility under the terms of the permit should be maintained throughout the life of this plan.

Improvements should be in a workable condition when livestock enter into a fresh unit.

Specific improvements needing maintenance will be identified in the annual permittee plan.

FOLLOWUPA. Annual Permittee Plan

On a yearly basis, the annual plan of management will be prepared jointly between the permittee and range conservationist. The plan should address the subsequent items:

1. Rotation Schedule

The planned rotation should be based on the Grazing System (2200-18) contained in this plan, subject to modification.

Specify the pastures, moving dates, and numbers of livestock.

2. Salting Techniques

Specify locations or areas where salt should or should not be placed.

3. Range Improvements Maintenance

Specify the type of maintenance needed and followup.

4. Range Improvement Construction

Identify what improvements are planned and identify time frame for construction by the responsible party.

5. Livestock Accountability

Specify the method by which livestock numbers and tag numbers on the allotment will be confirmed annually.

6. Range Inspections

Identify the specific inspections which will be conducted to monitor utilization levels, livestock numbers, salting techniques, and compliance with permit terms and conditions.

B. Monitoring Objectives

1. Annual inspections are the key to effective evaluation of this plan. Inspections should be conducted as a minimum when livestock are moved out of a unit and in the company of the permittee. Normally, this would require three inspections per year. Problems with salting techniques, maintenance, excessive utilization levels, and/or poor distribution should be mentioned to the permittee while on the allotment. A written report of findings should be presented to the permittee. The need for amending this plan can only be determined through close supervision.
2. Remeasurement of Conditions and Trend Clusters will serve to evaluate the success of this plan. These should be done during the fourth year

the plan and nonuse agreement is in effect. A determination should be made by the fifth year if the plan has served to improve conditions and/or justify any change in stocking rate.

3. Production-utilization studies should be conducted during the fourth year in order to: (a) verify if the allotment can sustain the current numbers and (b) to explore the opportunity for increased stocking.