

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR THE

LEWIS ALLOTMENT

SIERRA VISTA RANGER DISTRICT

CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST

Prepared By: Sharon Biedenbender
Sharon Biedenbender
Rangeland Management Specialist

Date: 5/22/06

Agreed To By: Wanda De La Ossa
Oscar De La Ossa
Oscar and Wanda De La Ossa Family Trust
Permittee

Date: 6/26/06

Approved By: Stephen L. Gunzel
Stephen L. Gunzel
District Ranger

Date: 06/29/06

Lewis AMP

- Provide habitat for wildlife populations consistent with the goals outlined in the Arizona and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Comprehensive Plans and consistent with other resource values.
- Provide for ecosystem diversity by at least maintaining viable populations of all native and desirable nonnative wildlife, fish and plant species through improved habitat management.
- Improve the habitat of and the protection for local populations of Threatened and Endangered species to meet the goals of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The grazing permit and allotment management plan for the Lewis Allotment support these goals with the following specific objectives, which constitute the desired condition on the allotment:

- Grazing activities contributing to impaired soil quality are corrected through improved distribution.
- Ecological condition as expressed by the number of acres in fair or better condition is maintained or improved.
- Range production and movement toward site potential for each soil/vegetation site is increased.
- All grazing improvements on all allotments are in proper working order.
- Develop reliable upland waters to improve livestock distribution and pasture reliability.
- Ensure regular partial or complete growing season (July through September) rest in all pastures.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The purpose of this AMP is to describe on-the-ground management practices designed to achieve the above goals and objectives.

Grazing Strategy. The AMP incorporates an adaptive management strategy under which the number of cattle, season of use and pasture rotations will vary from year to year depending on resource conditions and management objectives. Specific numbers of authorized livestock will be identified each year in Annual Operating Instructions. Initial stocking rates will be based on existing resource and infrastructure conditions. Changes in stocking may follow successful infrastructure development and documented improvement in resource conditions. The permittee will provide the Forest Service with records of livestock numbers, movement dates, shipping dates and numbers, and rainfall dates and amounts.

Duration and timing of grazing. Use on the allotment will be authorized year-round using rotational grazing. Grazing management will be designed to insure that pastures receive periodic growing season rest or deferment in order to provide for grazed plant recovery. The sequence and timing of pasture moves will be based on monitoring of range readiness, ecological condition, water availability and utilization.

Lewis AMP

Wildlife and Plants. The objective is to mitigate impacts to wildlife and sensitive plants from livestock grazing and from disturbance associated with construction of range facilities.

- All new or reconstructed water developments will include wildlife access and escape ramps.
- All new fencing will be built to LMP standards (LMP, p. 35) to provide for wildlife passage through the fence. At a minimum, this will be a 4-strand fence with smooth bottom wire 16 inches off of the ground and a total height of 42 inches or less.
- All proposed range facilities will be surveyed for threatened, endangered or sensitive species prior to any ground-disturbing activities. Facilities will be designed and constructed to have no adverse effect on listed species.
- Range construction projects will be designed to avoid the destruction of agaves and disturbance of lesser long-nosed bat roosts. If impacts to agaves are unavoidable, the Forest will insure that no more than 1% of agaves within 800 meters of a project are impacted.
- Within areas meeting the definition of high quality Mearns' quail habitat, herbaceous vegetation will be managed to maintain a minimum of 6 inches of herbaceous stubble height, which is generally interpreted as less than 45% utilization of key herbaceous species with desired use targeted at 35-40%. The objective is to provide herbaceous vegetation as cover for quail and other wildlife.

Monitoring. Monitoring will be used to determine whether management is being properly implemented and whether the actions are effective at achieving or moving toward desired conditions. Annual utilization will be measured on key species in key areas. Key areas have been established and are identified in the Allotment Management Plan (Fig.2). Over time, implementation of the proposed action is expected to result in changes in livestock use patterns. As livestock use patterns change, new key areas may be established and existing key areas may be modified or abandoned.

Key species will be native perennial grasses that are palatable to livestock. These may include, but are not limited to, plains lovegrass (*Eragrostis intermedia*), sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), hairy grama (*B. hirsuta*), blue grama (*B. gracilis*), Texas bluestem (*Andropogon cirratus*), wolftail (*Lycurus phleoides*), cane beardgrass (*Bothriochloa barbinodis*), green sprangletop (*Leptochloa dubia*) and three awn (*Aristida sp.*). Utilization will be measured after the growing season; however, grazing intensity will be monitored throughout the grazing period in order to practice adaptive management and make necessary management changes needed for plant development and recovery. The Sierra Vista District Range Staff Officer and the permittees will be responsible for monitoring livestock grazing intensity.

Long term trend monitoring will include, but is not limited to measurements to track upland range condition and watershed condition (hydrologic function). Techniques may include, but are not limited to dry weight rank, comparative yield, pace transects, Parker 3-step, repeat photography, grazed plant count, Grazing Response Index and clipping and weighing. Permittees will be encouraged to participate in the monitoring activities. Records of livestock numbers, movement dates, shipping records, and rainfall dates and amounts will be kept by the permittee and will be provided to the USFS annually.

Figure 2. A four-pasture deferred rotation schedule in which three pastures are grazed for four months each in a given year and the fourth is rested. All pastures receive partial growing season rest two year in four, complete growing season rest two years in four, and complete rest two years in four.

Lewis Rotation Guide

YEAR 1														YEAR 2													
Pasture	Months	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Months	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
West Red Mountain	4.0													4.0													
South Lewis	4.0													2.5													
East Lewis	2.5													1.5													
North Red Mountain	0.0													4.0													

YEAR 3														YEAR 4													
Pasture	Months	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Months	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
West Red Mountain	2.5													1.5													
South Lewis	1.5													4.0													
East Lewis	4.0													4.0													
North Red Mountain	4.0													2.5													

- GROWING SEASON USE
- DORMANT SEASON USE
- REST

Figure 3. A four-pasture rotation schedule in which North (East) Lewis Pasture is used for calving February through April every year. The other three pastures are grazed for two to five months, receiving growing season rest three years in four and complete rest two years in four.

Lewis Rotation Guide

YEAR 1														YEAR 2																
Pasture	Months	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Months	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN				
West Red Mountain	3.5															3.5														
South Lewis	3.5													3.5																
East Lewis	3.0											CALVING						3.0							CALVING					
North Red Mountain	2.0															2.0														

YEAR 3														YEAR 4																
Pasture	Months	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	Months	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN				
West Red Mountain	2.0															3.5														
South Lewis	3.5													3.5																
East Lewis	3.0											CALVING						3.0							CALVING					
North Red Mountain	3.5															2.0														





- GROWING SEASON USE
- DORMANT SEASON USE
- REST
- CALVING EAST LEWIS PASTURE

Figure 4. A four-pasture rotation schedule in which North (East) Lewis Pasture is used for calving February through April every year. West and South Red Mountain Pastures are used together for 5 1/2 months, and South Lewis Pasture is used for 3 1/2 months, each receiving partial growing season rest every year.

Lewis Rotation Guide

Pasture	Months	YEAR 1												Months	YEAR 2													
		JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN		JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN		
North & West Red Mountain																												
South Lewis																												
North (East) Lewis																												

Pasture	Months	YEAR 3												Months	YEAR 4													
		JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN		JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN		
North & West Red Mountain																												
South Lewis																												
North (East) Lewis																												

-  GROWING SEASON USE
-  DORMANT SEASON USE
-  REST
-  EAST LEWIS PASTURE