INTERIM MANAGEMENT PLAN

1978

LONG GULCH-TURRET PEAK ALLOTMENT

Verde Ranger District
Prescott National Forest

Prepared By:	Lyle L. Hancock Range Conservationist	6/22/78 Date
Submitted By:	William L Russell Jr District Ranger	7/3/78 Date
Agreed to By:	_____ Permittee	_____ Date
Reviewed By:	J W Schuring Range Staff	07-06-78 Date
Approved By:	Donald W. Bolander Forest Supervisor	7-12-78 Date

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INTRODUCTION

The goal of allotment management planning is to provide for livestock grazing and sustained forage yield, compatible with the multiple use concept on National Forest lands. Primary objectives are to improve range conditions while providing for the needs of the livestock and the allotment permittee.

Allotment Analyses for the Long Gulch and Turret Peak Allotments were approved in 1969. The permitted numbers on the Long Gulch Allotment were 116 head for six months and 150 head yearlong on the Turret Peak Allotment.

ALLOTMENT DESCRIPTION

The Long Gulch-Turret Peak Allotment is currently separated into three primary units: Long Gulch, and the East and West Units of Turret Peak.

Upon combination of the herds (as proposed) the Allotment will be managed as a yearlong cow-calf operation with a term permit for 200 head. Calving will be in the spring and calves will be sold in late fall. The fall pasture move will be correlated with the fall shipping dates.

The main problem inherent to this allotment is poor distribution of livestock due to lack of permanent water and rough topography. Conflict with other uses is primarily apparent in the eastern part of the East Unit, within the Pine Mountain Wilderness area. Allowable use in this area should be 30% of the desirable forage species. Poor distribution may result in low levels of allowable use over much of the East Unit.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The long-range goal for this allotment would be to combine it with the Rice Peak-Robert's Mesa Allotment and establish a three-pasture, rest-rotation grazing system. This situation would be most beneficial

for the resource and would provide for a more economical ranching operation.

Under the present circumstances, the primary objectives are as follows:

1) Combine the two herds from Long Gulch and Turret Peak

2) Develop and implement a modified three-pasture, rest-rotation grazing system

3) Construct range improvements that provide for proper livestock distribution

4) Preserve the wilderness quality of the Pine Mountain Wilderness area

5) Increase forage production and provide for sustained forage yield

6) Increase calving percentages and calf weights.

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A modified three-pasture, rest-rotation grazing system is proposed. All 200 head will graze one of the Turret Peak units from March through October, when they will move into the Long Gulch Unit for four months. Then, in March, they will all move into the other Turret Peak unit (see attached 2200-18).

Although this grazing system is somewhat primitive, it will provide for scheduled periods of rest that will allow forage species to regain vigor and increase production. Concentrating the entire herd in each pasture will facilitate livestock management and increase distribution.

DISTRIBUTION

Distribution of livestock is the main grazing management problem on the Allotment. As more permanent waters are developed, distribution will improve, but other means to improve distribution should be used at all times.

Salt and supplement will be placed at least one quarter mile from water, in areas of light use, where soils and vegetation are compatible with livestock use. Herding livestock into these areas will also improve distribution.

In the rugged terrain, stock trails may be helpful for improving distribution.

PROPOSED RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Completion of proposed improvements will be planned commensurate with available finances, but those with highest priority will be completed first. Responsibility for project construction will be worked out on a project by project basis.

Structural Improvements	Location
Stock tank	NW 1/4, Sec. 26, T11N, R4E
Stock tank	SE 1/4, Sec. 28, T11N, R4E
Stock tank	NE 1/4, Sec. 35, T11N, R4E
Stock tank	SE 1/4, Sec. 29, T11N, R4E
Trick tank	SE 1/4, Sec. 26, T11N, R4E
IM Spring development	NW 1/4, Sec. 6, T11N, R4E
Masonry dam (Tonto N.F.)	NE 1/4, Sec. 3, T10N, R4E
Salt or bentonite Buck Basin Tank (should be shown as maintenance)	SW 1/4, Sec. 5, T10N, R5E
Stock trails (hand-cleared)	Wherever necessary
Pipeline from Grapevine Well	SE 1/4, Sec. 28, T11N, R4E

MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

All range improvements must be maintained regularly and kept in effective working order by the permittee. Any reconstruction will be considered for cooperative development as funds become available. See attached form 2200-5 and the map for maintenance responsibility.

Maintenance of water developments is crucial to the success of this management plan. All waters should be usable at all times, even when livestock are absent from a pasture.

INSPECTIONS AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION

Periodic inspections will take place to evaluate compliance with the management plan. After at least two years, a Production-Utilization Survey will be initiated to evaluate the success of the plan. An Allotment Analysis is scheduled for 1983, and the Interim Allotment Management Plan will be updated.

This management plan is designed to be flexible in order to compensate for special problems. Any changes must be approved by the District Ranger in advance, with minor adjustments to be included in the Annual Permittee Instructions. Major changes will call for a revision of the entire plan.

This is an interim management plan and is therefore only a step towards quality management on this allotment. If the resource is being damaged through over use, a reduction in stocking may be necessary. Even the best management system cannot improve an overstocked range.

The use of the Long Gulch Unit for four winter months by 200 head may prove to be unreasonable. Use in this unit should be monitored closely to make sure the resource is not being damaged and that cattle remain thrifty. This unit should provide the most flexible link in the grazing system.

USDA—FOREST SERVICE

GRAZING SYSTEM
MANAGEMENT UNIT ALLOCATIONS

REGION	FOREST
3	Prescott
DISTRICT	**DATE PREPARED**
Verde	6/78

ALLOTMENT
Long Gulch-Turret Peak

PERMITTEE
Bruce Merrill
Mgr. Dwight Bilyk

LEGEND:
- ▨ Long Gulch
- ▨ West Unit - Turret Peak
- ☐ East Unit - Turret Peak
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

MANAGEMENT UNIT	MONTH												NOTES
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
First Year - 1978													
Long Gulch													
West													Rest
East													
Second Year - 1979													
Long Gulch													
West													
East													Rest
Third Year - 1980													
Long Gulch													
West													Rest
East													
Fourth Year - 1981													
Long Gulch													
West													
East													Rest
Fifth Year - 1982													
Long Gulch													
West													Rest
East													

REMARKS: