USDA

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Allotment Management Plan

Moqui Allotment

Tusayan Ranger District
Kaibab National Forest
Arizona

Prepared By: _____ 1/22/16
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Agreed to By: _____ 1/22/16
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Appoved By: _____ 1/22/16
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Date

I. Introduction and Background Information:

The Moqui Allotment is located approximately 18 miles southeast of Tusayan in the southeastern portion of the Tusayan Ranger District and contains approximately 55,250 acres. Adjacent grazing allotments include the Anita allotment to the north and west, and the Cameron allotment to the north and east.

The Moqui allotment is dominated by a pinyon/juniper woodland community (68%). Other vegetative communities present on the Moqui Allotment inlude: shrub/grassland (15%), ponderosa pine forest (13%), sagebrush (3%), and mountain grassland (1%). Red Horse Wash and Russell Wash are the two dominant topographic features on the allotment. Dominant grass species on the allotment include: blue grama, western wheatgrass, bottlebrush squirreltail, spike muhly, Arizona fescue, mountain muhly, and pine dropseed. Common shrub and herbacouse species include big sagebrush, black sagebrush, rabbitbrush, cliffrose, fourwing saltbush, winterfat, broom snakeweed, sandwort, globemallow, and various species of buckwheat.

II. Purpose and Objectives:

The purpose of this Allotment Management Plan (AMP) is to implement the October 8, 2004 Moqui Allotment 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 this allotment. This AMP as called for in the October 8, 2004 Moqui Allotment Decision Notice, provides for flexibility of the yearly stocking rates and scheduled allotment use periods on the Moqui Allotment 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 allotment by limiting the grazing use of forage plants to conservative or moderate levels and by providing periods of growing season rest or deferrement for forage plants.
2. Maintain watershed conditions at current levels on the allotment by managing for the ecological site potential level of herbaceous ground cover and allowing for residual plant materials to accumilate.
3. Maintain the current proper functioning riparian conditions at the springs/seeps on the allotment by not salting or placing supplements near the springs/seeps and by providing growing season rest or deferrment for the pasture where these spring/seeps are located.
4. Manage for possible drought conditions by maitaining forage plants at, or near, their highest potential for growth (vigor) and reserving unused forage when possible.
5. Implementing the approperate mitigating measures that are currently, or in the future, determined to be necessary.

III. Management:

Stocking Level and Class of Livestock

The October 8, 2004 Decision Notice for the Moqui Allotment found the capacity of the allotment to be 560 cattle, yearlings for up to 5.5 months annually. This would be equivalent to 2,155 Animal-Unit-Months (AUMs). The current or any future Term Grazing Permit(s) for this allotment will authorize 560 cattle, yearlings for up to 5.5 months annually equivalent to 2,155 AUMs. The class of livestock authorized to graze on the allotment will include yearlings only.

All yearlings will be considered as permitted livestock for billing and accounting purposes.

Frequency and Timing

The Moqui Allotment will be managed with a three pasture deferred-rotation system. Under this grazing system, livestock use within each pasture would be seasonally deferred, and all three pastures would be used each year with an average grazing period of 55 days in each pasture. Actual rotation for cattle will be created each grazing year through the Annual Operating Instructions (AOI). Modifications to the AOI may be implemented at any time throughout the grazing season in response to unforeseen environmental or management concerns.

Management systems will be designed to incorporate growing season rest or deferment to provide for grazed plant recovery. Timing of pasture moves will be dictated by utilization monitoring and management objectives specified in the AOI with the following design criteria:

1. Authorized livestock numbers would be adjusted annually to meet existing capacities of the allotment. Under extreme drought conditions, authorized livestock numbers would be adjusted accordingly.
2. The on off dates could be modified within the allotment. Later livestock entry dates and earlier livestock removal dates on the allotments would occur in order to promote the growth and reproduction of desired herbaceous plants. Changes in on/off dates would be required if utilization levels on primary forage grasses exceed allowable use levels, the frequency of these plants drops, or suitable progress toward desired vegetation conditions does not occur.

Use of Supplements

When there is a need to provide supplements to the livestock authorized on the allotment 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 place 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.

Portable Water Haul

When there is a need to haul water for livestock on the allotment the following practices will be followed:

a. Coordinate with the District Range Management Specialist to identify portable water haul locations for individual pastures prior to the grazing period.

b. To aid in livestock distribution, the portable water haul location should generally be in areas of light forage utilization.

c. Generally, portable water hauls will not be located at sites used in previous years or in areas with fragile and erosive soils.

d. Portable water haul locations will be moved when the desired utilization levels have been obtained.

e. Portable haul water storage tanks and troughs will be removed when livestock leave the pasture.

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.

- Monitoring of utilization in key areas will be conducted in each pasture at the end of the growing season to ensure compliance with the established utilization standard.
- There are no new improvements scheduled per the October 8, 2004 Decision Notice for the Moqui Allotment.
- Maintain all current range infrastructures to a satisfactory condition, such as fences and waters developments.
- 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.
- Ensure any ground disturbing range improvement maintenance activities have had an archeological survey and heritage clearances completed prior to beginning any maintenance work.

Any construction or reconstruction of range improvements on this allotment 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:

- Monitoring of utilization in key areas will be conducted in each pasture at the end of the growing season to ensure compliance with the established utilization standard.
- Using utilization cages, fenceline contrasts, and ocular estimates, grazing intensity will be assessed in key areas at least once during livestock use in each pasture. This is to assure that grazing intensity is not exceeded and to aid in identifying timing of cattle rotation through pastures.
- Parker clusters will be read approximately every 10 years to determine range condition and trend.
- Paced transects will be done at approximately 5 year intervals to assess range condition.

Allowable Utilization

The average allowable utilization in key areas on the allotment will be a light use of 30%. The average allowable utilization in the upland areas will be a light use of 20%.

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds a light use of 30% utilization on the allotment or an average light use of 20% utilization in the upland areas, 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 at maximum allowable use, livestock will be required to be moved early to the next scheduled pasture or even off the allotment if the allowable use is exceeded throughout.

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 map attached to this AMP and Term Grazing Permit.