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Environmental Assessment
Decision Notice
and
Finding of No Significant Impact
New River Allotment Management Plan

The New River Allotment has been grazed as a cow-calf operation under continuous yearlong use. A Production-Utilization Survey conducted in 1984 indicated that the allotment was severely overstocked and that continuous yearlong grazing was unacceptable.

The purpose of an allotment management plan for the New River Allotment is two-fold; to implement improved grazing management and upon implementation of management, to determine an estimated grazing capacity associated with improved management and ultimately balance the grazing permit obligation with the estimated grazing capacity.

Three alternatives were considered and evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Does the alternative provide for opportunity of range, wildlife habitat and watershed resource improvement:
2. Is the alternative realistic and workable on-the-ground in terms of livestock grazing management?
3. Does the alternative allow for practical future intensification of management?

The three alternatives considered are:

- A) No change in existing management of the New River Allotment.
- B) Implement a one herd-four pasture rest-rotation grazing system - - balance grazing permit obligation with estimated grazing capacity after implementation of improved management (est. 1990).
- C) Implement a three herd system utilizing 9 pastures under deferred and modified rest-rotation grazing systems - - balance grazing permit obligation with estimated grazing capacity after implementation of improved management (est. 1990).

Evaluation of Alternatives

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Alternative</u>		
	A No Change	B 1 herd-three pasture rest rotation	C 3 herd-modified rest rotation & deferred
1. Range, wildlife hab. and watershed improvement	No	Yes	Yes
2. Realistic and workable for livestock management	Yes	No	Yes
3. Allow for future intensification of management	Yes	Yes	Yes

It is my decision to adopt Alternative C, which will create nine pastures within the New River Allotment to be grazed as three units, each under a modified rest rotation grazing system or deferred grazing system. This alternative provides the best combination of range, wildlife habitat and watershed resource improvement and practicality with an opportunity to further improve management in the future.

I have determined that this action will not significantly alter the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. This determination was made considering the following factors: a) fence construction and spring developments will have only a slight effect on the ecosystem; b) there are no irreversible resource commitments; c) there are no apparent adverse or cumulative secondary effects and; d) proposed improvements and management will not adversely affect threatened or endangered plants or animals within the affected area. Any necessary mitigation measures will be addressed in future project-specific NEPA documents.

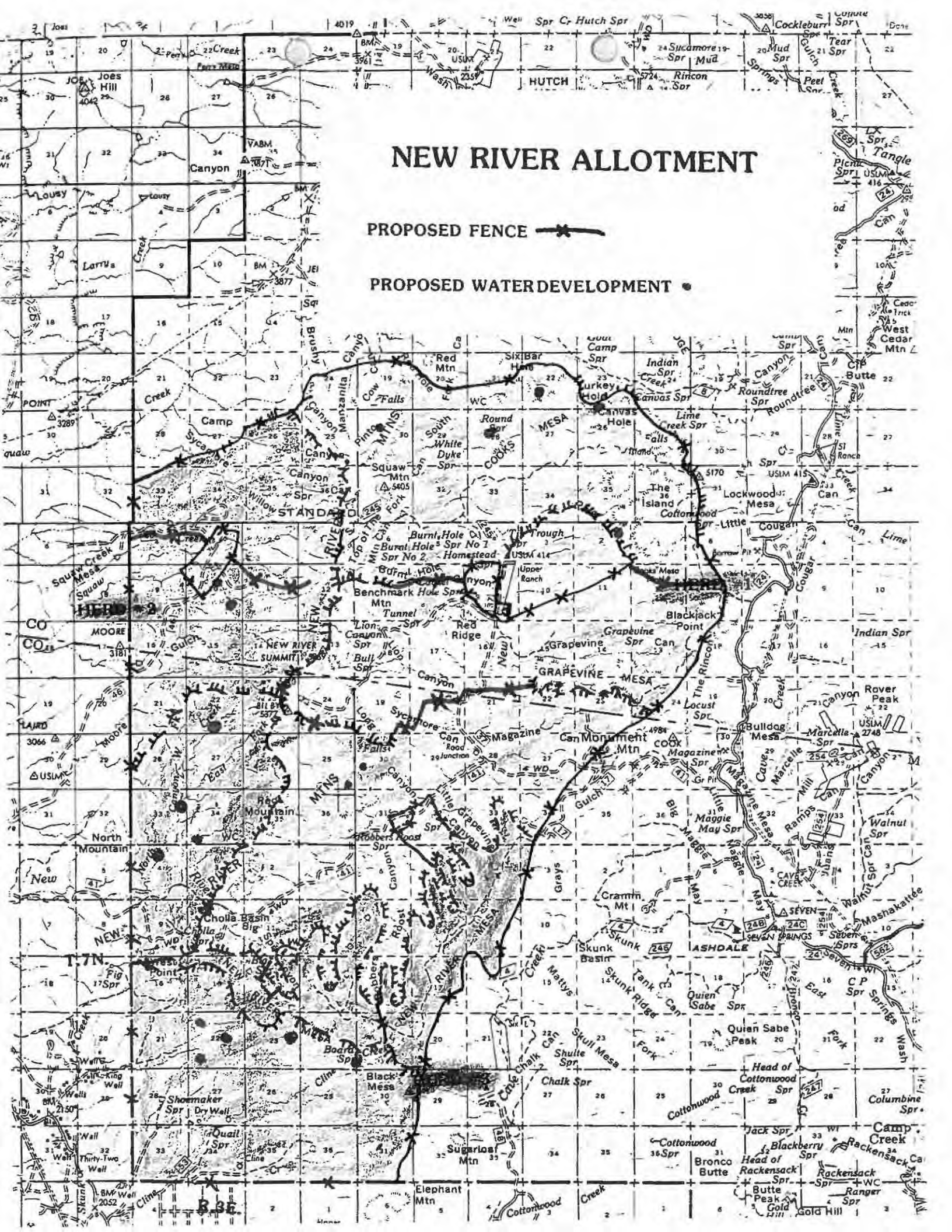
Management implementation will commence immediately.

Agencies and Individuals Consulted

- Arizona Game & Fish Dept. - Sue Morganson
- Vanderwey Ranches Inc. - John Vanderwey, President
- Don Pock, Ranch Foreman
- Dick Rhea, Range Consultant
- Tonto National Forest - Don Pollock, Zone WL Biologist
- Dave Stewart, Range & WL Staff - S.O.
- Douglas McKinney, Range Conservationist
- Patti Fenner, Range Conservationist
- Richard Kvale, Range & WL Staff, CCRD
- L. T. Cartwright - District Ranger, CCRD

Charles C. Wilder
 for JAMES L. KIMBALL, Forest Supervisor

10-8-85
Date



NEW RIVER ALLOTMENT

PROPOSED FENCE 

PROPOSED WATER DEVELOPMENT 

