2006 Pickett Lake and Padre Canyon Allotment Management Plan (AMP)

Mormon Lake Ranger District

Coconino National Forest

1

Prepared by: District Range Specialist

Date 3/20/06

Agreed to/Reviewed by: Permittee

Date 3-22-06

Approved by District Ranger

Date 4-28-06

Page 8 29

Record of Decision Summary

This Allotment Management Plan follows the "Record of Decision for the Pickett Lake and Padre Canyon Allotment Management Plans" and the "Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Pickett Lake and Padre Canyon" signed on 8/25/05 which include the following:

- Issue 10-year grazing permit for the Pickett Lake and Padre Canyon Allotments.
- This permit will allow up to 913 head of cattle (3,652 head months) under a Deferred Rest Rotation over 12 pastures from June 1 and September 30.
- There would be a 35 percent utilization guideline for cattle and/or wildlife. There would be a "moderate" seasonal utilization guideline which is measured before the end of the growing season and is used when determining pasture moves. Cattle will move from one pasture to another when seasonal utilization approaches a "moderate" level, approximately 21-50 percent.

Wetland Exclosures

- Exclosure fences will be built to protect the hardstem bulrush and surrounding upland buffer at Post and Perry Lakes from cattle grazing, with a lane to the stock tank accessing the permittee's water right at Perry Lake. Two short forest system road segments will be obliterated to construct these fences.
- Exclosure fences will also be built around the emergent vegetation and surrounding upland buffer at Ducknest and Indian Tank Lakes, with a lane to the stock tank accessing with the permittee's filed water claim at Indian Tank Lake.

Water Developments

• Four miles of pipeline (connected to wells on private land) and five drinkers will be constructed to improve water distribution below the Anderson Mesa rim on the Padre Canyon Allotment.

Range Improvements

• Up to one and a half miles of fence, in sections, will be constructed along the Anderson Mesa rim to keep cattle from moving past the rim (including the possibility of fencing the two springs), and for a small holding pasture in the western corner of the Elliot Driveway pasture.

Page 9 of 29

Existing Improvements

 There will be continued management and maintenance on all real property as listed on the Deferred Maintenance Inventory and Certification for Range Improvements list.

Adaptive Management

• This management plan includes an adaptive management option to fence Boot, Breezy, West Breezy and Indian Lakes, with a lane accessing the stock tanks associated with the permittee's current water claims at Boot and Indian Lakes.

There are two triggers for implementing this option. One is monitoring for condition and trend in the upland vegetation on the Padre Canyon Allotment, Railroad, Ducknest, Morgan, and Woodland pastures to determine if they are being used too much at the same time of year, year after year. If monitoring indicates a downward trend in native plant community abundance and diversity in these pastures, then these wetlands will be fenced.

The second trigger is if the permittee requests increased flexibility in pasture rotations, then these wetlands would be fenced. Boot and Breezy pastures would only be grazed from June 1st to July 15th if the Boot, Breezy, West Breezy, and Indian Lake exclosures around the emergent vegetation and surrounding upland buffer are built.

 Another adaptive management option is to fence two springs, Boot and Billy Back. Cattle would be managed in the Elliott Driveway pasture where these springs are located to move through quickly. If the cattle are driven through the pasture, it is anticipated that the emergent and woody vegetation at these springs will be minimally affected. However, if cattle grazing results in a 20 percent or higher utilization on emergent and woody vegetation at these springs, fencing would be constructed by the permittee to exclude cattle.

Monitoring

• The monitoring section of this AMP is given near of end of this document.

Mitigation

The Forest Service would apply the following mitigation measures to any action alternative to minimize and reduce potential impacts from proposed activities.

1. Watershed Protection: The current and proposed cattle grazing system incorporates Best Management Practices (BMP) and constitutes compliance with Arizona State and Federal Water Quality Standards. The following BMP,

Page 10 of 29

applicable to this project, are designed to protect resource values, uses, and maintenance of soil productivity, stability and water quality.

- Monitor ground conditions before and during construction activities to avoid wet ground conditions that can negatively affect soil condition and water quality.
- Grazing systems are alternately rested and grazed in a planned sequence. Cattle rotate in a planned grazing system that alternates rest and graze periods throughout a given year and from year to year. An 8 to 12 pasture rest-rotation grazing meets this practice.
- Grazing at a level that would maintain enough cover to protect the soils and maintain or improve the quantity and quality of desired vegetation. This practice would be applied through the utilization guidelines.
- Provide watering facilities for animals at selected locations. The new pipeline and drinker construction is intended to increase distribution of wildlife and livestock.
- Fencing to improve cattle management, control access, prevent soil loss, and improve water quality. Fencing specifics are described under each action alternative. Existing and proposed fencing is improving cattle and wildlife management and controlling access. Fencing was not designed to prevent soil loss and improve water quality.
- 2. Noxious Weeds: State-listed noxious weeds located in these allotments would be treated as necessary. The permittee and Forest Service would coordinate the weed inventory and treatment with responsibilities identified through the AOI. Noxious weed monitoring is carried out at the same time allotment inspections are conducted. As noxious weed populations are found they are mapped, monitored and, in some areas, manually removed. Other treatment methods will follow guidelines established in the Coconino National Forest Plan.
- 3. Threatened and Endangered Species: Mitigation measures or implementation parameters are required to minimize the impacts on bald eagles and Mexican spotted owl species and habitat.
 - Bald Eagle

Livestock management activities such as salting, herding and construction actions associated with grazing operations within the project area would not occur within one-quarter mile of a bald eagle roost or nest site during any time of occupation by bald eagles.

11 29

 Mexican Spotted Owl Seven acres of one Mexican spotted owl protected activity center (PAC) occurs on the Pickett Lake Allotment.

4

• No human disturbance or construction activities associated with cattle grazing operations would occur within this PAC during the breeding season (March 1 through August 31).

• Continue to monitor grazing use by cattle and wildlife in the ponderosa pine gamble oak type. The utilization guideline for cattle and/or wildlife is 35 percent in this key area within the 7 acres of this PAC. Monitoring would be completed to ensure utilization is below this level. Cattle would move from the Railroad pasture to another pasture when seasonal utilization approaches a "moderate" level, approximately 21-50 percent.

- Livestock distribution techniques, such as salting and herding should be used, to provide for better use of a pasture.
- The following guidelines would be used for placing salt, mineral blocks, or supplements:
 - Do not place these items in riparian areas, mountain meadows, or non-riparian drainages in ponderosa pine.
 - Do not place these items in spotted owl PACs.
 - Rotate salt and mineral supplement sites regularly, at least every 2 weeks, within spotted owl restricted habitat.
 - Follow best management practices as listed under "Watershed Protection."
 - Follow utilization guidelines to provide for favorable growth of forage species.
 - If utilization guidelines are exceeded, stocking and management may need to be adjusted to maintain productivity of the pasture for the future.
- 4. Sensitive Plant Species: Sensitive plant surveys would be completed before the implementation of range improvement projects. If sensitive plant species are located, coordination with a wildlife biologist or botanist would occur to mitigate impacts as needed (i.e. flagging specific plants and adjusting the location of the improvement).
- 5. **Cultural Resources:** Archeological sites located adjacent to proposed structural improvement areas have been marked for avoidance and would be avoided by all project activities. The district would periodically monitor the sites to ensure that they have been avoided. Such inspections are to be reported in writing to the forest archeologist, indicating the date of inspection, site number of the site(s) inspected, and condition of the site(s).

Page 12 of 29

Goals and Objectives of Management

Background

The Pickett Lake Allotment runs from the eastern boundary of the Coconino National Forest below the Anderson Mesa rim, up the Anderson Mesa rim, and approximately 3 miles west of Forest Highway 3 (Lake Mary Road) between Upper Lake Mary and Mormon Lake. The Padre Canyon Allotment runs along the eastern edge of the Coconino National Forest boundary from the Pickett Lake Allotment on the south end to 3 miles south of the Twin Arrows/I-40 Highway junction on the north end. Refer to the location map.

The Pickett Lake and Padre Canyon Allotments consist of 34,814 and 20,993 acres, respectively. The allotments are located within all or portions of T20N, R10E, Sections 7-10, 15-22, 27-35; T19N, R10E, Sections 1-36; T19N, R9E, Sections 1-36; T19N, R8E, Sections 12-14, 23, 24; and T18N, R10E, Sections 1-3; T18N, R9E, Sections 4-5.

Purpose and Need

There is a need to maintain and/or improve rangeland conditions and to maintain and protect seasonal and semipermanent wetlands with emergent vegetation on the two allotments. Each of these needs responds to direction from the Forest Plan. There is also a need to maintain the permittee's access to their water right and consider current water claims within the allotments, as per Arizona State law.

New fencing and water installation is needed for better cattle distribution on these allotments. Fence improvements would keep cattle from leaving the north side of Elliot pasture and walking down the Anderson Mesa rim to unscheduled pastures. If needed, these fences would also keep cattle from grazing Billy Back and Boot Springs. Water improvements would provide water to cattle and wildlife and improve cattle distribution on the Padre Canyon Allotment where there is currently no reliable water source.

The purpose and need is consistent with applicable Forest Plan standards and guidelines, as detailed in the "Management Direction" section in this chapter.

Where consistent with other multiple-use goals and objectives there is Congressional intent to allow grazing on suitable lands (Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960, Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and National Forest Management Act of 1976).

This allotment contains lands identified as suitable for domestic livestock grazing in the Coconino National Forest Plan. Continued domestic livestock grazing is consistent with the goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines of the Forest Plan.

Page 13 no 29

It is Forest Service policy to make forage available to qualified livestock operators from lands suitable for grazing consistent with forest plans (FSM 2203.1).

It is Forest Service policy to continue contributions to the economic and social well being of people by providing opportunities for economic diversity and by promoting stability for communities that depend on range resources for their livelihood (FSM 2202.1).

By regulation, forage-producing lands will be managed for livestock grazing where consistent with forest plans (36 CFR 222.2 (c)).

A 10-year period is allowed by law (FLPMA Sec. 402 (a) & (b) (3)). A permit may be issued for a shorter term under several circumstances, including when the best interest of sound land management is served.

Management Strategy

- This permit will allow up to 913 head of cattle (3,652 head months) under a Deferred Rest Rotation over 12 pastures from June 1 and September 30.
- There would be a 35 percent utilization guideline for cattle and/or wildlife. There would be a "moderate" seasonal utilization guideline which is measured before the end of the growing season and is used when determining pasture moves. Cattle will move from one pasture to another when seasonal utilization approaches a "moderate" level, approximately 21-50 percent.

Wetland Exclosures

- Exclosure fences will be built to protect the hardstem bulrush and surrounding upland buffer at Post and Perry Lakes from cattle grazing, with a lane to the stock tank water accessing the permittee's water right at Perry Lake. Two short forest system road segments will be obliterated to construct these fences.
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Water Developments

• Four miles of pipeline (connected to wells on private land) and five drinkers will be constructed to improve water distribution below the Anderson Mesa rim on the Padre Canyon Allotment.

Range Improvements

14 29

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Existing Improvements

• There will be continued management and maintenance on all real property as listed on the Deferred Maintenance Inventory and Certification for Range Improvements list.

Adaptive Management

• This management plan includes an adaptive management option to fence Boot, Breezy, West Breezy and Indian Lakes, with a lane accessing stock tank waters associated with the permittee's current water claims at Boot and Indian Lakes.

There are two triggers for implementing this option. One is monitoring for condition and trend in the upland vegetation on Padre Canyon Allotment, Railroad, Ducknest, Morgan, and Woodland pastures to determine if they are being used too much at the same time of year, year after year. If monitoring indicates a downward trend in native plant community abundance and diversity in these pastures, then these wetlands will be fenced.

The second trigger is if the permittee requests increased flexibility in pasture rotations, then these wetlands would be fenced. Boot and Breezy pastures would only be grazed from June 1st to July 15th if the Boot, Breezy, West Breezy and Indian Lake exclosures around the emergent vegetation and surrounding upland buffer are built.

• Another adaptive management option is to fence two springs, Boot and Billy Back. Cattle would be managed in the Elliott Driveway pasture where these springs are located to move through quickly (driveway). If the cattle are driven through the pasture, it is anticipated that the emergent and woody vegetation at these springs will be minimally affected. However, if cattle graze results in over a 20 percent or higher utilization on emergent and woody vegetation at these springs, fencing would be constructed by the permittee to exclude cattle.

Page 15 of 29

Additional Management Items

Annual Operating Instructions: Annual operating instructions (AOI) make adjustments to cattle numbers and time and duration of pasture use based on current climatic and range conditions. The AOIs are established at the beginning of each grazing season (spring) and published on the Coconino National Forest Web site (www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino/publications). Annual operating instructions may be adjusted throughout the grazing season as conditions change.

The AOIs are the means by which adjustments of cattle numbers, change of season of use, and pasture rest periods are made in response to monitoring information such as frequency, canopy cover, Parker Three-Step plots and allotment inspections. Cattle numbers may go up or down annually but would not exceed the maximum number permitted. The annual minimum cattle number is zero.

Cattle Guards: Common to all action alternatives is the need to keep cattle contained to pastures and prevent forest users from leaving pasture gates open. Where roads are open for public use, cattle guards would be maintained. Where roads are identified for closure, in past and future road decisions, no cattle guards are necessary. If gates are left open more often, new cattle guards may need to be installed.

Cattle guard maintenance is shared between the Forest Service and the permittee for level 3 roads (main surfaced roads). Cattle guard maintenance on level 2 roads (smaller, secondary roads) is the responsibility of the permittee.

Structural Improvements: Common to all action alternatives is the need for cultural, wildlife and recreation coordination when implementing construction of structural improvements for the grazing system. Structural improvements, such as the proposed fencing, pipelines, and drinkers would be used to implement the grazing plan. During the life of the permit, there may be additional or fewer improvements needed based on adapting to changes and meeting the goals of the new system.

Utilization: Long-term condition and trend monitoring is the primary standard for monitoring of this cattle grazing management system. Utilization is used as a tool to understand and achieve the goals of long-term management. Utilization guidelines are intended to indicate a level of use or desired stocking rates to be achieved over a period of years.

The definition of utilization and seasonal utilization come from standard protocols established by the Society of Rangeland Management and the new guidelines established by Region 3 Regional Forester.

Utilization is the proportion or degree of current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by animals (including insects). It is a comparison of the

Page 16 of 29

amount of herbage left compared with the amount of herbage produced during the year. Utilization is measured at the end of the growing season when the total annual production can be accounted for and the effects of grazing in the whole management unit can be assessed. Utilization guidelines are not intended as inflexible limits.

Utilization measurements would be taken in key areas which reflect grazing effects within an entire pasture. One key area would be established within each large pasture, at existing long-term monitoring sites if possible, to represent overall pasture utilization. Utilization measurements can indicate the need for management changes prior to this need being identified through long-term monitoring. Utilization data would not be used alone, but would be used along with climate and condition and trend data, to set stocking levels and pasture rotations for future years.

Cattle would move from one pasture to another when seasonal utilization in a pasture approaches a "moderate" level. Moderate seasonal utilization is an approximate value because it takes into account any additional growth which might occur later that year and considers season of use, wildlife use, weather conditions, availability of forage, and water in pastures. This moderate seasonal utilization level leaves residual cover for wildlife and soils and provides for long-term health of the grazed plants.

If monitoring shows utilization rates exceed the utilization guideline in a pasture in a given year, the grazing schedule and/or cattle numbers would be adjusted the following year so the utilization guidelines are not exceeded again. If utilization is exceeded after these adjustments are made, then the grazing management system would be changed to ensure this does not happen in the future.

Mormon and Jacket Fire Recovery: The 2003 Mormon and 2004 Jacket Fires burned on the Padre Canyon Allotment and would need to recover before cattle are allowed to graze these areas again. A full carrying capacity rating averaging 100 pounds of forage per acre for cattle would be required across the burned areas on the allotment.

Water Rights: There is one water right for livestock use, held by the permittee, on the Pickett Lake Allotment for Perry Lake and 23 filed water claims for livestock use throughout the Pickett Lake and Padre Canyon Allotments. For proposed exclosure fences around seasonal or semipermanent wetlands, access to the water rights and/or claims would be provided via lanes designed by the Forest Service and the permittee.

Fencing: All new fencing would have a smooth bottom wire at an 18-inch height for wildlife passage. Where possible, fences would be located within tree lines to limit impacts to visual quality. Elk jumps and goat bars (PVC pipes placed on the bottom two strands and on the top strand at a crossing point) would be constructed along new fences or along existing fences on game trails and known migration corridors as volunteers and funding are available. As fence inventories are completed, those fences that are complete barriers to wildlife would be modified to meet the fencing standards identified in the Forest Plan.

Page 17 at 29

Stock Tanks: Stock tanks located within seasonal and semipermanent wetlands would not be maintained for the next 10 years. Stock tanks that are not in seasonal or semipermanent wetlands may be maintained as needed. A separate NEPA analysis will occur before stock tank maintenance is undertaken in temporary wetlands.

Stock tank maintenance outside of seasonal and semipermanent wetlands will meet the following standards:

- maintenance would be limited to the original boundary of the stock tank;
- maintenance would be limited to removal of sediment that has accumulated in the stock tank and maintenance of the tank berm and spillway;
- equipment that would be used includes but is not limited to a dozer, backhoe, or front end loader;
- maintenance frequency would range from no maintenance to whenever needed, depending on the amount of sediment flowing into the stock tank;
- maintenance would be done when the stock tanks are either dry or the water level is low enough so that the equipment would not get stuck in the mud;
- any requirements or timing restrictions related to water quality, wildlife, archaeology, or Forest Plan standards and guidelines would be followed.

Monitoring

Monitoring includes the following activities: permit compliance, allotment inspections, range readiness, forage production, rangeland utilization, condition and trend, soil condition, noxious weeds, and threatened and endangered species. Monitoring frequency varies by each activity and may be accomplished by either the permittee and/or Forest Service personnel.

Permit Compliance: Throughout each grazing season Forest Service personnel would monitor to determine accomplishments of the permit terms and conditions, the AMP, and the AOI.

Allotment Inspections: Allotment inspections are a written summary done each fall by Forest Service personnel to document compliance monitoring and to provide an overall history of that year's grazing. This document may include weather history, the year's success, problems, improvement suggestions for the future, and a monitoring summary. Range Readiness: Each spring, Forest Service personnel and/or the grazing permittee would assess range readiness prior to cattle coming on the allotment to determine if vegetative conditions are ready for cattle grazing. The range is generally ready for grazing when cool season grasses are leafed out, forbs are in bloom, and brush and aspen are leafed out. These characteristics indicate the growing season has progressed far enough to replenish root reserves so that grazing will not seriously impact these forage plants.

Forage Production: Production surveys for these allotments would be done every 9 to 13 years. Methods used for these surveys would use the best available methods at that

Page 18 of 29

time. These values would be used as tools to manage this allotment, but will not be the sole measurement to establish carrying capacity. The most recent forage production surveys were done as part of this analysis in 2001. The next survey is scheduled to occur after 2010.

Rangeland Utilization: Long-term condition and trend monitoring is the primary standard for monitoring of this cattle grazing management system. Utilization is used as a tool to understand and achieve the goals of long-term management. Utilization guidelines are intended to indicate a level of use or desired stocking rates to be achieved over a period of years.

Utilization is the proportion or degree of current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by animals (including insects). It is a comparison of the amount of herbage left compared with the amount of herbage produced during the year. Utilization is measured at the end of the growing season when the total annual production can be accounted for and the effects of grazing in the whole management unit can be assessed. Utilization guidelines are intended to indicate a level of use or desired stocking rate to be achieved over a period of years.

Utilization measurements will be taken in key areas which reflect grazing effects within an entire pasture. One key area would be established within each large pasture, at existing long-term monitoring sites if possible, to represent overall pasture utilization. Utilization guidelines are not intended as inflexible limits. Utilization measurements can indicate the need for management changes prior to this need being identified through long-term monitoring. Utilization data would not be used alone, but would be used along with climate and condition/trend data, to set stocking levels and pasture rotations for future years.

Condition and Trend: Watershed and vegetative condition and trend monitoring will help determine the effectiveness of the allotment management plan, and long-term range and watershed trends.

Parker Three-Step and paced transect monitoring points were established throughout this allotment in the 1950-60s. These transects are one of best historic records of range condition and trend. The photo points and vegetative ground cover data show how the site has changed over time. Canopy cover and frequency plots were placed with the Parker Three-Step transects in 2001 to add to this historic data.

Ocular plant canopy cover 0.10-acre plots were used to compare existing conditions with potential and desired vegetative community conditions. Over time, these plots will show how canopy cover changes. Canopy cover will provide an indication of how plants are growing, assuming that if they are getting bigger and occupying more space, then they are doing well and can be a relative gauge of vigor.

Page 19 of 29

Frequency and ground cover data were collected using the widely accepted plant frequency method (University of Arizona, Extension Report 9043, 1997). These plots will monitor trends in plant species abundance, plant species distribution and ground cover. This will provide information on plant composition and additional information on regeneration.

These transects will be read at least every 10 years by Forest Service personnel. These plots will help determine the effectiveness of current management. Precipitation: Precipitation is currently recorded at the Flagstaff National Weather Service Office at Bellemont. Precipitation data may be recorded within or near the allotments for more localized information. Precipitation data may be recorded throughout the year and summarized in the annual inspection. This data assists managers with forage utilization and production data collection.

Soil and Riparian Condition: The Intergovernmental Agreement between the Forest Service and the State of Arizona that controls water quality and the Clean Water Act requires implementation and effectiveness monitoring. The objectives of monitoring are to: (1) collect data sufficient to evaluate effects of management activities on soil and water resources; and (2) support changes in management activities to protect soil and water quality. Monitoring will help determine how successfully managers are implementing guidance practices and how effectively those practices are protecting soil and water quality. The current and proposed cattle grazing system incorporates best management practices (BMPs) and grazing practices (GPs) and constitutes compliance with Arizona State and Federal Water Quality Standards. Arizona Department of Water Quality (ADEQ) will continue to monitor water quality in the area.

Watershed condition can be assessed using information from the monitoring schemes above. Monitoring of plant abundance, ground cover, species diversity and estimates of overall soil condition (using the methods described throughout this monitoring section) will indicate whether or not management practices are effectively meeting management goals. Trends toward improvements in species abundance and diversity should indicate that management practices are effectively improving soil condition and by inference, maintaining or improving downstream water quality and complying with water quality standards. Conversely, decreases in plant abundance and species diversity may indicate that management practices are not effective and need to be changed. Environmental factors, especially precipitation, will be considered when evaluating monitoring results.

Condition and trend monitoring was established at the following wetlands using photo point and plant inventories in the fall of 2003: Indian Lake, Long Lake, Al's Lake, Antelope Tank, Pickett Lake, Boot Lake, Ducknest Lake, Grass Lake, Indian Tank Lake, Long Lake, Perry Lake, Deep Lake, West Breezy Lake, and Breezy Lake. Additional monitoring of these plots may occur in the next 10 years if funding is available.

Canopy cover, frequency and composition plots were established at Perry Lake, Boot Lake, Ducknest Lake, Breezy Lake, West Breezy Lake, Indian Lake, Post Lake, Long

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Lake, and Deep Lake. Additional monitoring of these plots may occur in the next 10 years if funding is available.

Residual cover monitoring will occur at Antelope Tank Lake, Picket Lake, Indian Tank Lake, and Ducknest Lake to determine the height and density of wetland vegetation: (1) from cattle grazing after July 15; (2) within wetland exclosures; and (3) combination of cattle grazing after July 15 with yearlong rest. This monitoring would be established after the exclosures are built at Indian Tank and Ducknest Lakes. Monitoring would occur during the waterfowl nesting season as funding is available.

Wetland monitoring exclosures established in Boot, Breezy, Ducknest, Long, and Post Lakes along with monitoring exclosures from adjacent allotments would provide detailed information on the effects grazing has on hydrophytic emergent vegetation. Monitoring has been completed annually since 2002 in these areas. Cattle management in these wetlands would be adjusted when condition and trend, frequency and canopy cover monitoring indicates vegetation is not positively responding. Any changes would most likely be made before the next grazing season.

Noxious Weeds: State-listed noxious weeds located in these allotments would be treated as necessary. The permittee and Forest Service would coordinate the weed inventory and treatment with responsibilities identified through the AOI. Noxious weed monitoring is carried out at the same time allotment inspections are conducted. As noxious weed populations are found they are mapped, monitored and in some areas, manually removed. Other treatment methods will follow guidelines established in the "Final Environmental Impact Statement for Integrated Treatment of Noxious or Invasive Weeds" (USDA 2005b).

Threatened and Endangered Species: Threatened and endangered species are monitored in compliance and consultation with the USFWS. Vegetation monitoring points (key areas) have been established on the allotment and are monitored according to consultation requirements.

These key areas would normally be one-quarter to 1 mile from water, located on productive soils on level to intermediate slopes, and be readily accessible for grazing. Size of the key forage monitoring areas could be 20 to 500 acres. In some situations such as high mountain meadows with perennial streams, key areas may be closer than one-quarter mile from water and less than 20 acres. Within key forage monitoring areas, select appropriate key species to monitor average allowable use (USDA 1987a, p. 66-1)

One Mexican spotted owl (MSO) key area plot is already established on the Pickett Allotment and monitored annually:

- Management Area: Ponderosa pine/oak
- Pasture: Railroad
- Location: Southwest portion of this pasture
- Key Species: Squirreltail, June grass, Blue grass, Carex

Example Grazing Schedules

The following grazing schedules are examples that may be followed for this Allotment Management Plan. However, they are only examples and are not intended to be exact. Many things could change these schedules including but not limited to: forage production, climate, livestock management goals, prescribed burning, land treatments, insects, and water availability.

Year A Schedule

| Pasture | Graze Dates | Pasture Days | Cattle Number |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Railroad | 6/1-6/26 | 26 | 913 |
| Ducknest* | 6/27-7/22 | 26 | 913 |
| Breezy | 7/22-8/6 | 15 | 913 |
| Boot | 8/7-8/21 | 15 | 913 |
| Woodland/Morgan | 8/22-8/27 | 6 | 913 |
| Padre | 8/28-9/10 | 13 | 913 |
| Mormon/Cabin Draw | 9/11-9/30 | 20 | 913 |
| Elliot | Yearlong Rest | 0 | 0 |
| Ashurst | Yearlong Rest | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 121 | |

*After Ducknest, Indian Tank and Perry Lakes are fenced.

Year B Schedule

| Pasture | Graze Dates | Pasture Days | Cattle Number |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Mormon/Padre | 6/1-6/19 | 20 | 913 |
| Elliot | 6/20-6/29 | 10 | 913 |
| Morgan | 6/30-7/2 | 3 | 913 |
| Boot* | 7/3-7/15 | 13 | 913 |
| Breezy | 7/16-7/28 | 13 | 913 |
| Ducknest | 7/29-8/22 | 24 | 913 |
| Ashurst | 8/23-9/17 | 27 | 913 |
| Elliot Driveway | 9/18-9/24 | 7 | 913 |
| Woodland/Corral | 9/25-9/30 | 6 | 913 |
| Railroad | Yearlong Rest | 0 | 0 |
| Cabin Draw/Morgan | Yearlong Rest | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 121 | |

*After Boot and Indian Lakes are fenced.

Page 22 of 29

| Pasture | Graze Dates | Pasture Days | Cattle Number |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Morgan | 6/1-6/3 | 3 | 913 |
| Woodland | 6/4-6/6 | 3 | 913 |
| Elliot Driveway | 6/7-6/9 | 3 | 913 |
| Ducknest* | 6/10-7/5 | 26 | 913 |
| Railroad | 7/6-7/31 | 26 | 913 |
| Ashurst | 8/1-8/24 | 24 | 913 |
| Elliot Driveway | 8/25-8/27 | 3 | 913 |
| Padre | 8/28-9/10 | 13 | 913 |
| Cabin Draw/ Morm | 9/11-9/30 | 20 | 913 |
| Elliot | Yearlong Rest | 0 | 0 |
| Breezy | Yearlong Rest | 0 | 0 |
| Boot | Yearlong Rest | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 121 | |

Year C Schedule

*After Ducknest, Indian Tank and Perry Lakes are fenced.

Year D Schedule

| Pasture | Graze Dates | Pasture Days | Cattle Number |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Mormon/Cabin Drw | 6/1-6/20 | 20 | 913 |
| Elliot | 6/21-6/30 | 10 | 913 |
| Woodland | 7/1-7/3 | 3 | 913 |
| Boot* | 7/4-7/18 | 15 | 913 |
| Ashurst | 7/19-8/15 | 25 | 913 |
| Breezy | 8/16-8/31 | 15 | 913 |
| Railroad | 9/1-9/27 | 27 | 913 |
| Elliot Driveway | 9/28-9/30 | 3 | 913 |
| Morgan | Yearlong Rest | 0 | 0 |
| Padre | Yearlong Rest | 0 | 0 |
| Ducknest | Yearlong Rest | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 121 | |

*After Boot and Indian Lakes are fenced.