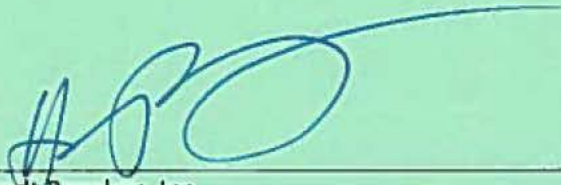


Pinyon Allotment

Allotment Management Plan

Lakeside Ranger District
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests
USDA, Forest Service, Region 3
Apache County, Arizona



Earnhardt Ranches, Inc.
Permittee

8/1/2023

Date



District Ranger

8/15/2023

Date

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Authorized grazing would be at an appropriate level and timing such that it improves unsatisfactory resource conditions and perpetuates satisfactory resource conditions in order that long-term sustainability of grazing can be maintained, specifically:

- (a) Provide consistent multiple use goals and objectives, there is Congressional intent to allow livestock grazing on suitable lands (EA page 1),
- (b) To manage range vegetation to protect basic soil and water resources, provide for ecological diversity, improve or maintain environmental quality, and meet public needs for interrelation resource uses (EA page 2),
- (c) Provide for livestock forage, wildlife food and habitat, outdoor recreation, and other resource values dependent on range vegetation (EA page 2),
- (d) Contribute to the economic and social well being of the people by providing opportunities for economic diversity and by promoting stability for communities that depend on range resources for their livelihood (EA page 2).
- (e) Make forage available to qualified livestock operators from lands suitable for livestock consistent with land management plans (EA page 2)

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

The management strategy is to graze 90 head of yearling cattle, or 315 Animal Unit Months(AUM's), during the summer/fall period, June 1 to October 31 (DN.page 1, EA page 1).

Grazing management will reflect a two pasture deferred rest rotation system. The grazing schedule may be adjusted annually to account for variability in environmental conditions.

Livestock will not be permitted to graze until vegetation and soil conditions are satisfactory. Range readiness checks will be made in advance of the scheduled entry date. They will be conducted on designated key forage species in key areas, being done with the permittee whenever possible (EA Appendix D pg 11).

Management emphasis will be to have riparian areas in satisfactory condition. Livestock will not be moved between pastures along the length of riparian areas except on approved routes specified in the annual operating plan. Approval will be granted only where it is determined that there is no alternative route and it can be shown that riparian areas will not be damaged (EA App. D – pg 12)

In areas of unsatisfactory riparian condition where livestock grazing has been determined to be a significant factor, this allotment management plan will: 1) implement intensive management systems which limit grazing and provide adequate rest for riparian areas; 2) reduce stocking to a level that will allow degrading areas to recover; 3) use site specific exclusion fencing (EA App. D – pg 12).

Management practices such as livestock distribution, pasture use, and placement of salt will be in the Annual Operating Instructions (AOI). If change becomes necessary, the permittee first will discuss it with the District Ranger or Range Staff. If emergency conditions require making a change immediately, the permittee will notify the District Ranger or Range Staff as soon as possible (EA App. D - pg 12).

STANDARDS AND PRESCRIPTIONS:

Allowable forage utilization is based on the amount and kind of forage available to livestock on the allotment, plant needs, and range condition and trend. Allowable forage use will average 20%, not to exceed 40% in any one area, in the ponderosa pine type; and 40% in meadows, woodland areas, and grasslands associated with the woodland ecosystem. The maximum allowable forage use in riparian area is not to exceed 40% on grass and shrubs (DN pg1 & EA App. D pg 11).

Monitoring forage utilization will be done as part of the normal range inspection program. Permittees are encouraged to conduct monitoring as well. Monitoring also will occur as part of the on-going elk-livestock forage monitoring program for the Woolhouse Elk Herd Unit. The purpose of the monitoring will document actual forage use to insure proper forage use is not exceeded. The frequency and intensity of normal range inspections is determined in the Allotment Analysis Handbook R-3 FSH 2209.21 (EA pg 8).

The permittee will take action to insure proper livestock distribution occurs and that forage use levels are not exceeded. If forage use continues above the authorized use level, adjustments in the term grazing permit, allotment management plan, and/or other management actions will be necessary.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:

- (a) Archeological approval will be obtained prior to ground disturbing activities.
- (b) Disturbed sites associated with the range development program will be immediately seeded with desirable native cool season species (e.g. western wheatgrass, wildrye, and fourwing saltbush).
- (c) Slash from piñon/juniper treatments will be treated in accordance with Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs are found in EA Appendix B.
- (d) Structural range improvements, such as fences, water developments, trails and corrals, will be planned, constructed, and used in a manner to enhance or maintained water quality..
- (e) Soil and water BMPs will be followed. BMPs are found in EA Appendix B.

In addition, fencing, herding, supplemental feeding and water developments are BMPs if they are a factor in keeping livestock out of riparian areas or streams or improve livestock distribution. Traditionally erosion control activities such as erosion control structures and maintenance, stream bank protection and revegetation are BMPs that also can be utilized in rangeland situations.

RANGE IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE STANDARDS:

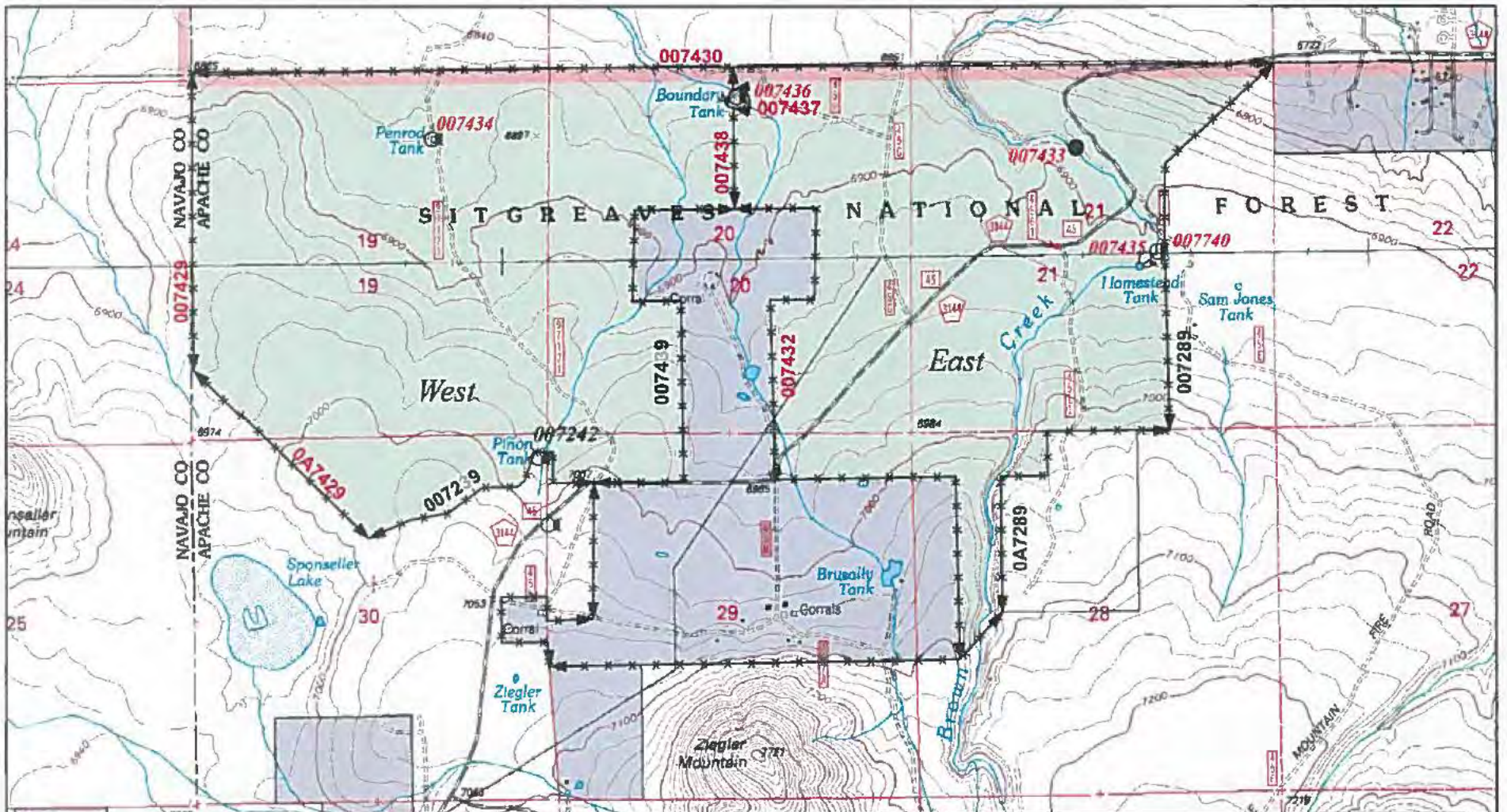
All assigned range improvements will be maintained by the permittee to insure the improvements are functioning properly. Specific maintenance standards will be placed in the Annual Operating Instructions (AOI). Forest officers periodically will inspect assigned improvements to insure compliance with maintenance standards.

Range Improvements – Water. The permittee has certain improvements assigned for maintenance which can be found in the permit for this allotment. These improvements are on National Forest System lands within the allotment. The improvements include both stock tanks and springs. Issuance of this grazing permit and the permittee's acceptance of the permit **does not** convey any ownership of a water right to the permittee, but allows the use of a portion of it within terms of the appropriation. The Forests has filed for water rights on these waters with the State of Arizona. Grazing domestic livestock may not be possible without these water rights. The Forests will retain ownership of the water rights for current and future grazing permittees as well as for wildlife and recreation consumptive needs. Ownership of the water rights will assure that the use of the water will be appurtenant to the land and will be available for both current and future grazing permittees.

Pinyon Allotment, Lakeside Ranger District
Range Improvement List

Page 15 of 16
Permit # 07056

| Improvement Number | Improvement Name | Improvement Type | Maintenance Responsibility |
|--------------------|---|------------------|----------------------------|
| 007239 | Brown Creek / Pinyon Allotment Boundary Fence | Fence | Brown Creek |
| 007289 | Lake Mounatin / Pinyon Allotment Boundary Fence | Fence | Lake Mountain |
| 007429 | Pinyon / Sponseller Allotment Boundary Fence | Fence | Pinyon |
| 007430 | North Forest Boundary Fence | Fence | Pinyon |
| 007432 | East Pasture / Private Fence | Fence | Pinyon |
| 007437 | Boundary Stock Tank Waterlot | Fence | Pinyon |
| 007438 | East Pasture / West Pasture Division Fence | Fence | Pinyon |
| 007439 | West Pasture / Private Fence | Fence | Private |
| 0A7289 | Lake Mounatin / Pinyon Allotment Boundary Fence | Fence | Lake Mountain |
| 0A7429 | Pinyon / Sponseller Allotment Boundary Fence | Fence | Pinyon |
| 007433 | Rock Stock Tank | Pit Tank | Pinyon |
| 007434 | Penrod Stock Tank | Pit Tank | Pinyon |
| 007435 | Homestead Stock Tank #1 | Pit Tank | Pinyon |
| 007740 | Homestead Stock Tank #2 | Pit Tank | Pinyon |
| 007436 | Boundary Stock Tank | Pit Tank | Pinyon |
| 007242 | Pinon Tank | Pit Tank | Brown Creek |



Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests
 Lakeside Ranger District
 Range Improvement Map

Pinyon Allotment

Permittee's Maintenance Responsibility
 are Improvement Numbers in Red.

This map is part of Grazing Permit #07056
 issued to Permittee # 831933010602
 It shows the Pinyon Allotment
 specified in the permit and the improvements
 assigned to the permittee for maintenance.

July 19, 2023

Legend

- Fence
- Stock Tank
- Private Land
- Natural Tank

