

PROCTOR
(WHITEHOUSE/MADERA)
ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Nogales Ranger District
Coronado National Forest
Pima County Arizona
Santa Cruz County Arizona

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Allotment Description and Background

The Whitehouse and Madera grazing allotments contain approximately 8,200 acres of National Forest land along the west side of the Santa Rita mountains. Elevations range from 3,500 to 8,000 feet. The lower elevations contain desert grassland and mesquite bosque. The higher elevations support pinyon-juniper and encinal woodland.

The Forest Plan identifies four management areas on the allotment; MA 3, MA 4, MA 7 and MA 9. Management Area 3 includes two partially overlapping 1/4 mile wide corridors from the Madera Canyon Recreation Area to the Forest Boundary. One corridor is centered along Madera Canyon Road and the other is centered along Madera Canyon Wash. The management emphasis for this area is dispersed recreation. Although mapped within this management area, Madera Wash should be managed with attention to the existing riparian resources. Most of the 4,000 acres of suitable range is in MA 4, where the emphasis is to manage for a sustained harvest of livestock forage and fuelwood, while maintaining and improving game animal habitat. The mesquite bottom in Chino Canyon has been identified as a unique resource (MA 7). The Mt. Wrightson Wilderness (MA 9) includes most of the higher and steeper regions of the allotments.

Current Range Management

Both allotments are permitted to Robert O. Barber for a combined total of 990 animal unit months. The permit for the Madera allotment was only recently issued to Mr. Barber. The herd size was increased to match the permitted numbers in 1993.

Present management consists of a deferred rotation pattern. Chino and Mountain pastures are used primarily during the winter months and the cattle rotate through the lower pastures and private property during the warm seasons. The herd consists mainly of crossbreds and is strictly a cow/calf operation.

Goal:

Manage livestock to obtain sustainable multiple use resource objectives that are compatible with the standards and guidelines in the Forest Plan and the principles of ecosystem management.

Objectives:

Maintain the majority of the riparian ecosystem conditions along Madera Wash, while improving age class diversity, density, vigor and composition of riparian dependent species near the Forest boundary.

Maintain or improve the riparian ecosystem conditions within the recently acquired lands and Chino Canyon.

Improve livestock distribution with fencing and water developments.

Improve vigor, density and composition of forage grasses by providing total summer growing season deferment at least once every three years in each pasture, and by controlling utilization levels.

Grazing Program

The Whitehouse and Madera grazing allotments will be managed as a single allotment. New improvements will include one lane to a developed well on adjacent private land.

There will be six pastures within the allotment: Annex, Chino, Elephant Head, Madera, Missile and Mountain. Annex includes the recently acquired state land (Conservation Act). Elephant Head will include the west portion of the existing Madera pasture, with an east adjacent to FR 4074. The new west boundary for Madera pasture will match the east boundary of Elephant Head pasture. The boundaries for Chino, Mountain and Missile pastures will be unchanged. Approximately 90 acres of National Forest System land will remain within a pasture of primarily private property.

The grazing program will consist of a deferred rotation pattern with grazing occurring between September 15 and June 30. The rotation pattern will be determined each year, during the annual permit validation meeting. The following considerations will be included in rotation pattern development.

Livestock will be excluded from Annex and Madera pastures from April 1 through June 30, each year.

Livestock will be excluded from Missile pasture from September 15 through February 28, each year.

The 55% maximum utilization level may be exceeded in Annex and Missile pastures on all but desirable plants. This is part of an effort to promote native grass species through increased utilization of Lehmann lovegrass during a season when most native grass species are dormant.

Maximum utilization levels will be established for each pasture annually, based on management objectives and season of use. Livestock will be removed from a pasture before the maximum utilization level is reached in the key areas.

Salt and supplement blocks will be used to help control livestock movements. Both will be placed away from water and other low areas where livestock tend to congregate. Salt and supplement areas will be moved periodically to help move livestock and to keep utilization levels within desired levels.

Range Improvements

The following improvements will be (re)constructed to improve livestock distribution, within the first three years of plan implementation.

Missile Tank (243002) - Clean tank and repair silt trap

Madera Tank (243008) - Clean tank and repair silt trap

Madera/Elephant Head Fence (243013) - New Construction. This fence will be located west and north of FR 4074. It will terminate along steep terrain at the south end, and the private lane along the Forest Boundary fence at the north end.

Chino Tank (243016) - New Construction

Annex Dam (243017) - New Construction. A pipeline will be established from a low masonry collection dam to a storage tank and trough in Annex Pasture. The collection dam, tank and trough will be installed as part of this improvement.

Annex Corral (234020) - New Construction

Monitoring

Key areas will be identified in each pasture. These areas will be used to monitor ground cover and species composition, density, dispersion and production. Key area designations may be changed to reflect adjustments in management.

Riparian areas will be monitored by visual observations and photographs documenting stand density, age-class diversity and recruitment.

Utilization will initially be monitored by the Permittee and a Forest officer. After both parties believe the Permittee is competent to visually monitor the areas, s/he will be responsible for monitoring and determining livestock movements.

Annual inspections will be completed by a Forest officer to ensure that Forest Service management direction is being followed and to determine if adjustments need to be made in the management direction or stocking rate.

Administrative Decisions

The District Ranger will determine the class of permitted livestock, the number of permitted livestock, and season of use; based on resource issues, management objectives and the management goals. The District Ranger will review these decisions periodically (annual minimum) and make any adjustments necessary to guarantee consistency with the Coronado Forest Land Management Plan, this allotment management plan or any new legal requirements.