



**DECISION NOTICE AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
QUARTZ WASH GRAZING ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
CHINO VALLEY RANGER DISTRICT, PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST
YAVAPAI COUNTY, ARIZONA**

DECISION NOTICE

Based upon my review of the Chino Small Grazing Allotments Management Environmental Assessment (EA), I have decided to implement Alternative 1, which includes the following elements and resource protection measures for the Quartz Wash Allotment:

Summary of specific components of Alternative 1, Quartz Wash Allotment

Number of Livestock	Grazing System	Grazing Intensity Guidelines
<p>Authorize seasonal grazing from November 1st through May 31st for a range of cattle numbers typically between 75-120 adult cattle. Under adaptive management, less than 75 cattle may be authorized in a given season depending on resource conditions and forage and water availability. The total authorization in a given season would not exceed 845 AUMs¹.</p>	<p>The three pastures on the allotment are the Quartz, Center, and Fritsche pastures and they would be used in a deferred rotation grazing system to give pastures some deferment while cool-season plants are actively growing. Pastures would receive warm-growing season rest every year.</p>	<p>For upland areas meeting desired conditions:</p> <p>A management guideline of 35-45% utilization of key forage plants in upland key areas as measured at the end of the seasonal use period;</p> <p>Up to 50-60% leaders browsed on key upland woody species;</p> <p>For riparian areas: Minimum stubble height on key riparian herbaceous species: four to six inches where sedges and rushes are key and eight inches where deergrass is the key species.</p> <p>Up to 20% use by weight on key woody species within riparian areas; or less than 50% of terminal leaders browsed on woody species less than 6 feet tall.</p>

There was a typographical error in the final EA and draft Decision Notice (DN) dated 6/26/2015 that incorrectly listed the range of cattle numbers as 75-125 and the upper limit at 875AUMs. The error was pointed out in an objection that was filed per 36 CFR 218. An errata page was

¹ An AUM is an Animal Unit Month, defined as a measure of the average amount of forage consumed by one cow-calf pair over the course of one month.

created for the final EA to reflect where the corrections were made to the range of numbers for the Quartz Wash Allotment under Alternative 1. The calculated grazing capacity for the allotment is correctly stated as 845 AUMs on page 38 of the Vegetation and Range Management Specialist Report for the Quartz Wash Allotment (Project Record document #39). The correct range of 75-120 cattle seasonally and an upper limit of 845 AUMs is stated in this final DN. The typographical error does not affect the outcome of the analysis. The upper limits of grazing that could be achieved under the best growing conditions and once soil conditions improved in TEUI 412 would be equal to the calculated capacity that is 845 AUMs. The various specialists documented the effects of grazing whereby the yearly stocking level is adapted to current resource conditions, and allowable use levels are not exceeded. The actual stocking is likely to be near the lower end of this range until forage production improves on areas that are experiencing soil compaction in TEUI 412. Yearly fluctuations in forage production and the occurrence of prolonged drought could result in actual stocking levels being below the stated range. Yearly stocking will be adjusted so that the allowable use levels as stated above will not be exceeded, and resource conditions can achieve improvement where needed.

Site-specific Resource Protection Measures

The management objective for TEUI 412 in the Center and Fritsche Pastures is to improve the vegetative groundcover towards site potential, reduce spatial distance (gap) between herbaceous plants, and reduce soil compaction. To achieve these objectives, incidental use of 0-30% would be allowed in this soil map unit until satisfactory progress towards groundcover objectives has been achieved. There will be no salting or supplementation allowed in this soil map unit, and use would be discouraged when soils are wet (typically mid-December through mid-March). Complete rest would be incorporated to allow freeze/thaw and wet/dry cycles to break up compaction and allow accumulation and incorporation of soil organic matter. The need to better define when rest would be incorporated was also stated in the objection received for this project. The schedule for rest would be as follows: In Center and Fritsche Pastures in areas of incidental use (0-30%) in TEUI 412, if use is exceeded in a given year, it will result in rest of that pasture the following year. After the first 5 year period of implementing incidental use in Center and Fritsche Pastures TEUI 412, if measurable improvement in soil compaction has not occurred, then Center and Fritsche Pastures will receive a full year of rest during 1 out of 4 years to achieve the freeze/thaw effect to alleviate compaction of soils.

Although the cover and species composition shows mid-similarity to the potential plant community in TEUI 412 in the Center and Fritsche Pastures, the vegetation condition is trending down. Promoting incidental use (0-30%) in TEUI 412 in both the Center and Fritsche Pastures and incorporating warm-growing season rest every year should improve the vigor and abundance of perennial grasses and provide for an upward trend.

An adjacent grazing allotment trails cattle through the Quartz Wash Allotment using Forest Roads 9878A and 664. Cattle are being herded through TEUI 412 where there are concerns with soil condition and compaction. If it is determined that the continuation of trailing through the allotment is preventing soils in TEUI 412 from improving and moving towards desired conditions, then the practice of trailing through the allotment would be discontinued. Currently

cattle trail through in two bands during the October-November timeframe when soils are typically dry.

In the event that monitoring of the riparian vegetation at Walnut Creek shows that allowable use levels are often exceeded, and the riparian vegetation is not able to meet desired condition, then a fence would be constructed to exclude cattle from Walnut Creek at the southern end of the Center Pasture. Additionally there are portions of Walnut Creek in sections 13 and 7 that lie outside the allotment boundary but are accessible from private lands to the south that are grazed by cattle. To protect the riparian resources on Forest system lands, a fence would be built that would exclude cattle from accessing Walnut Creek from adjacent private land. Livestock would not be authorized to graze these parts of Walnut Creek from the Quartz Wash Allotment.

In the event that the above resource protection measures do not accomplish site-specific resource objectives, additional management options may be implemented. These measures will be designed to address site-specific resource concerns and may include, but are not limited to, such things as temporary fencing, electric fencing, drift fences, additional livestock enclosures, water pipelines, storage and troughs; reconstruction of non-functional improvements and construction of new improvements such as spring boxes, drift fences, and water gaps.

Range Structural Improvements

The following new structural improvements have been developed to improve grazing management. If some of these improvements are not implemented over the life of the term grazing permit, the upper limit of permitted livestock numbers may not be achievable on a sustained basis, or seasonal use periods may be shortened.

- Construct a water catchment and storage tank (trick tank) in the north half of section 15 in the Quartz Pasture; provide an additional water source in the Center Pasture by laying a pipeline from the Quartz Pasture trick tank to section 14 in the southern part of the Center Pasture and providing additional water storage and a trough at that location.
- Fence accessible portions of Walnut Creek if grazing management adjustments in timing and season of use do not adequately provide for attainment of desired condition in the riparian area.
- Portions of Walnut Creek in sections 13 and 7 that lie outside the allotment boundary but are accessible from private lands to the south that are grazed by cattle. To protect the riparian resources on Forest system lands, a fence would be built that would exclude cattle from accessing Walnut Creek from adjacent private land. These excluded sections of Walnut Creek would not be used by the Quartz Wash Allotment livestock.

Other Components of Alternative 1

Adaptive Management

Adaptive management is designed to provide sufficient flexibility to allow livestock management to address changes in climatic conditions, seasonal fluctuations in forage production, and

other dynamic influences on the ecosystem in order to effectively make progress toward or maintain desired conditions of the rangeland and other resources. Under the adaptive management approach, regular/annual monitoring of short-term indicators determines if there is a need for administrative changes in livestock management. If monitoring indicates that progress toward desired conditions is not being achieved on the allotment, management will be modified. Modifications can include adjustments in timing, intensity, and duration of grazing. Timing is the time of year the livestock are present in a pasture. Intensity is the degree to which forage is removed through grazing and trampling by livestock. Duration is the length of time livestock are present in a given pasture. These modifications would be made through administrative decisions such as: the specific number of head stocked on the allotment annually or in a particular season; the class of animals stocked (cow/calf pairs vs. yearlings, steers or heifers, etc.); specific dates of grazing; livestock herd movement; and periods of rest, deferment, or non-use of portions or all of the allotment for an appropriate period of time, as conditions warrant. Such changes will not result in exceeding the AUMs authorized for livestock use that is included in the selected alternative.

Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are a practice or combination of practices determined to be the most effective, practicable means of preventing or reducing the amount of pollution generated by nonpoint sources to a level compatible with water quality goals, and are developed to comply with the Clean Water Act (FSH 2509.22_10.5). The Interdisciplinary Team followed the guidance in the Southwest Region Forest Service Handbook 2509.22, Chapter 20, and the National Core BMP Technical Guide, FS-990a, in the formulation of resource protection measures related to range management that also function as BMPs to address water quality and watershed concerns. These resource protection measures will be implemented in order to comply with the Clean Water Act.

New Range Improvements: The list of new range improvements that are authorized for construction is shown on page 3.

Maintenance of Range Improvements: The Term Grazing Permit includes a list of all improvements which the permittee will continue to maintain at a level that effectively provides for their intended uses and purposes. Range improvements will be inspected periodically during the term of the permit to document condition. Annual Operating Instructions (AOIs) will identify range improvements in need of maintenance. Existing improvements may be replaced as conditions warrant. All improvements identified on allotment maps have been evaluated and determined necessary to the management of the allotment through the life of this plan.

Access to Improvements: Authorization for cross-country motorized travel is provided for the permittee to administer the livestock operation and maintain improvements under the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit.

Annual authorization for actions implementing management direction in the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) will be included in the Annual Operating Instructions (AOI), such as a description of the anticipated level of cross-country travel, travel needed for improvement

maintenance, new improvement construction, or reconstruction of existing improvements.

All authorizations for cross-country motorized travel are subject to existing regulations intended to protect natural and/or heritage resources. Cross-country travel is not allowed when such travel would cause unacceptable resource damage. Approval is granted at annual authorization meetings or on a case by case basis.

The permittee may be authorized to maintain forest systems road to facilitate the maintenance, replacement, or installation of range improvements. Maintenance activities will adhere to Forest Service standards and be authorized through a road use permit.

Monitoring

In order to evaluate whether grazing management is making progress towards meeting desired resource conditions, two types of monitoring will be conducted:

1. Implementation monitoring will be conducted by the Forest Service, with possible assistance from the permittee, and may include but is not limited to the following: livestock actual use data, compliance with pasture rotation schedules, grazing intensity evaluations during the grazing season (within key and critical areas), utilization at the end of the growing season (within key areas), and visual observations of vegetation and ground cover.
2. Effectiveness monitoring to evaluate the success of management in achieving the desired objectives will occur within key areas at an interval of ten (10) years or less. A smaller subset of key areas may be evaluated that are in the areas needing improvement as identified in the EA. Areas already meeting desired conditions can be visually assessed to determine if conditions are being maintained. Effectiveness monitoring may also be conducted if data and observations from implementation monitoring (annual monitoring) indicate a need. This type of monitoring can include species composition, plant cover, frequency or density, and/or vegetative ground cover monitored at key areas and at areas identified with site-specific resource concerns. Both qualitative and quantitative monitoring methods can be used. Methods for monitoring and inventory that are standard, accepted protocols can be found in the following publications: Region 3 Rangeland Analysis and Management Training Guide (USDA 2013 revised), Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (Technical Reference 1730-37, 2010), and the Guide to Rangeland Monitoring and Assessment (Smith et al. 2012).

Monitoring activities would be focused on those resources that need improvement or where there is a concern for an important habitat type. For this project, there are soil and vegetation condition concerns in the Center and Fritsche Pastures in TEUI 412. Range readiness inspections prior to cattle being turned out onto the allotment would evaluate whether grazing will occur in these pastures for the season, and what number of cattle should be authorized so that the allowable utilization levels for this area of concern (0-30%) will not be exceeded. Walnut Creek would be monitored for utilization when cattle have access to the creek from the Center Pasture.

Decision Rationale

I have selected Alternative 1 because it meets the purpose and need for action described in the EA and allows desired conditions to be met while still providing the opportunity to support a

local ranching operation. Existing vegetation condition in the Quartz Pasture is satisfactory, and will be maintained by implementing conservative use levels. Vegetation condition trend is in need of improvement in the Center and Fritsche Pastures in TEUI 412 where incidental use of 0-30% and warm-growing season's rest should provide for improvement in the vigor and abundance of perennial grasses. Soil condition needs improvement in TEUI 412 in both the Center and Fritsche Pastures and that should be attained by limiting grazing use to 0-30% and discouraging use when soils are wet. Alternative 1 implements dormant season grazing whereas the current term grazing permit allows for yearlong grazing. The effects of implementing Alternative 1 have been disclosed in Chapter 3 of the EA for Rangeland Vegetation, Soils, Watersheds and Water Resources, Wildlife, Aquatic Species, and Rare Plants; Recreation, and Heritage. I have reviewed these summary findings in the EA as well as the specialist reports in the project record, and conclude that the design of the alternative and the associated resource protection measures will allow for desired conditions to be met and will be in compliance with the Prescott National Forest Land Management Plan.

Alternative 3, No Grazing, would also allow desired conditions to be met, but it would not meet the Congressional intent to allow grazing on suitable lands. Nor would it comply with Forest Service policy to make forage available to qualified livestock operators from lands suitable for grazing while contributing 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 2203.1, 2202.1).

The Chino Small Grazing Allotments Management EA and the project record document the environmental analysis and conclusions upon which this decision is based.

Public Involvement

Notice of the intention to initiate the present analysis of the proposed action for this allotment was provided in the Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) at <http://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/> beginning in January of 2015 and updated regularly. A letter dated 12/19/2014 describing the proposed action was sent to the permit holder of the allotment and to members of the public, non-profit groups, and other entities who have expressed interest in livestock grazing activities. It was also sent to State and Federal government entities and to six Native American Tribes interested in activities in the area inviting them to provide information regarding concerns or opportunities related to the proposal. The content of the scoping responses was reviewed by the ID Team and Deciding Official and resulted in the identification of no additional issues for the Quartz Wash Allotment that were not addressed within the design criteria of the proposed action. One additional alternative was developed as a result of public scoping, but it did not change the proposed management for the Quartz Wash Allotment from what was presented in Alternative 1.

The *Environmental Assessment for the Chino Small Grazing Allotments Management* was mailed to scoping respondents and the grazing permittees, and a legal notice announcing the start of the 30-day comment period was posted in *The Daily Courier* newspaper on May 8, 2015. There were six responses received during the 30-day comment period. The responses were reviewed by the ID Team Leader, resource specialists, and the Deciding Official to determine if any new

information was received that would have bearing on a decision between the three alternatives. No new concerns were raised by the comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The significance of environmental impacts must be considered in terms of context and intensity. This means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human and national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. Significance varies with the setting of the proposed action. In the case of a site-specific action, significance usually depends upon the effects in the locale rather than in the world as a whole. Intensity refers to the severity or degree of impact. (40 CFR 1508.27)

Context

The Quartz Wash Allotment is located in the northwestern portion of the Prescott National Forest on the Chino Valley Ranger District, approximately 15 miles northwest of Paulden. The allotment comprises approximately 7000 acres in a corner of the Prescott National Forest adjacent to private land on the east and south, private and Arizona State Trust on the north, and the K Four Allotment on the west.

The predominant ecotypes on the allotment are pinyon-juniper woodland or P-J with evergreen shrubs. Common perennial grasses include blue grama, sideoats grama, tobosa, threeawn, black grama, and vine mesquite. Overall, slopes are gentle to moderate with 59% of the allotment acreage being under 10% slope.

Precipitation is bi-modal with monsoon events occurring during the summer and a period of precipitation occurring within the winter season with a high degree of variation from year to year. Average annual precipitation across the allotment varies somewhat with elevation and is estimated to be in the approximate 14-16 inch range.

The allotment contains parts of two 6th code subwatersheds, both nested within the Lower Big Chino 5th code watershed. Walnut Creek is within this allotment, passing west to east with a ¼ mile segment just inside the south boundary of the Center Pasture. It is intermittent, but becomes ephemeral shortly downstream. Quartz Lead Wash, an ephemeral drainage, flows from northwest to southeast and joins Walnut Creek just south of the allotment. The allotment watersheds discharge to the upper Big Chino during storm runoff and through infiltration in ephemeral streamcourses.

Intensity

The intensity of effects was considered in terms of the following:

Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that, on balance, the effect will be beneficial. Consideration of the intensity of environmental effects is not biased by beneficial effects of the action.

The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety. There will be no significant effects on public health and safety because rangeland management activities

similar to those described in the EA have occurred in this area, as well as over most of the Forest, without issues related to public health and safety.

Unique characteristics of the geographic area, such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas. There will be no significant effects on unique characteristics of the area. The allotment does not contain any Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs). There are no wilderness areas within the allotment. There are no eligible or designated Wild and Scenic River reaches. The allotment is known to contain cultural resources of both prehistoric and historic periods. The level of need and extent of new field surveys or inspections for grazing impacts will be determined by the Forest Archaeologist. If new surveys are determined necessary, these surveys will be conducted prior to the signing of the NEPA decision. Complete field survey of any given allotment or grouping of allotments will not be required. These procedures comply with the First Amended Programmatic Agreement Regarding Historic Property Protection and Responsibilities between the USDA Forest Service Region 3, the State Historic Preservation Officers of AZ, NM, TX, and OK, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, signed 12/24/2003, and specifically, Appendix H: the Standard Consultation Protocol for Rangeland Management, signed 05/17/2007. A no adverse effect on the cultural resources is based on the Forest Service's proposal to continue the authorization of livestock grazing under an adaptive management system and in a manner consistent with the goals and objectives and the standards and guidelines of the PNF Land and Resource Management Plan. If cultural resources are located where new range improvements are proposed then the resources will be avoided during the implementation of the projects.

The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial. The effects on the quality of the human environment are not likely to be highly controversial. There is no known credible scientific controversy over the impacts of the proposed action. This environmental analysis is tiered to the Land Management Plan (LMP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Forest-wide effects of LMP's standards were disclosed in that EIS. The selected alternative with the identified resource protection measures meets LMP standards. In addition, extensive scoping was completed during the analysis in order to identify areas of potential controversy. The scoping activities are identified in the EA, this Decision Notice, and the project record. There has been no information presented that would demonstrate that the action would cause adverse impacts that could not be mitigated. I conclude that it is very unlikely that the environmental effects associated with the action will be highly controversial.

The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. The Agency has considerable experience with actions that are similar to the selected alternative. The analysis shows the effects are not uncertain, and do not involve unique or unknown risk. This action is similar to many past actions, both in this analysis area and adjacent areas. Effects of this action will be similar to the effects of past, similar actions. Livestock grazing has occurred on the Prescott National Forest for over 100 years. The Interdisciplinary Team that conducted the analysis used the results of past actions as a frame of reference, and combined that insight with scientifically

accepted analytical techniques and best available information to estimate effects of the proposal (See EA Chapter 3).

The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects, or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration. The action is not likely to establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects because it is a stand-alone decision and each grazing allotment is evaluated independently on its own merits. Major follow-up actions will not be necessary. I conclude that this action does not establish precedent for future actions.

Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts. The cumulative impacts have been displayed in this analysis in both the EA and in specialist reports contained in the project record. Chapter 3 of the EA discusses the combined effects of the project with other past, current and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Based on the discussions in the EA, specialist reports, and information identified during public review, I have concluded that there are no significant, cumulative impacts.

The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources. The action will have no significant adverse effect on districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Areas proposed for ground-disturbing activities will be surveyed and all cultural resources or historic sites will be avoided. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act will be completed prior to signing this decision.

The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. There are no Federally-listed Threatened or Endangered species or habitat within the project area. The Wildlife, Fisheries, and Rare Plants Report serves as the Biological Evaluation for the Quartz Wash Allotment and documents the effects on species and habitat.

Whether the action threatens to violate Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. The action will not violate Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. This project is fully consistent with the Prescott National Forest Land Management Plan and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA), Clean Water Act, and the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976.

After considering the effects of the actions analyzed, in terms of context and intensity, I have determined that these actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

This decision is consistent with the Prescott National Forest Land Management Plan (LMP). The project was designed in conformance with LMP direction concerning resources including range management; soils, watershed and riparian areas; wildlife, rare plant, fish, and aquatic species; and heritage resources.

The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and EA were evaluated to determine if further analysis is needed. I determined these actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared.

The National Environmental Policy Act provisions have been followed as required by 40 CFR 1500 and 36 CFR 220. The EA discloses the expected impacts of each alternative and discusses the identified issues. This document describes the decision I have made and my rationale for the decision.

The selected alternative complies with the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and any potentially affected tribes have been consulted. Documentation of surveys conducted for new range improvements that will be implemented within 2 years of this decision will be submitted to the SHPO for concurrence prior to finalizing this decision.

Water quality standards will be met. There are no classified floodplains or wetlands within the project area.

Administrative Review (Objection) Opportunities

The Chino Small Grazing Allotments Management project is an activity implementing a land management plan and not authorized under the HFRA and is subject to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

How to file an Objection and Timeframe

Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment in accordance with §218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities.

Objections, including attachments, must be filed via mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, express delivery, or messenger service (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays) to: Reviewing Officer Teresa Chase, Forest Supervisor, 344 South Cortez, Prescott, AZ 86303, FAX: (928) 443-8008, or electronically at: objections-southwestern-prescott@fs.fed.us. Electronically filed objections may be submitted by email in word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), and hypertext markup language (.html). Please include Quartz Wash Grazing Allotment in the subject line.

Objections must be submitted within 45 calendar days following the publication of the legal notice in the Prescott Courier. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection.

At a minimum, an objection must include the following (36 CFR 218.8(d)):

1. The objector's name and address, with a telephone number, if available;
2. A signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for email may be filed with the objection);
3. When multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request);
4. The name of the proposed project, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name(s) of the National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s) on which the proposed project will be implemented;
5. A description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and
6. A statement that demonstrates connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection.

Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to §218.9. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

The decision is appealable under 36 CFR 214.4(a) by the grazing permit holder only.

Implementation Date

If no objections are filed within the 45-day time period, implementation of the decision may occur on, but not before, the 5th business day from the close of the objection filing period. When objections are filed, there will be a 45-day period to resolve the objection.

Contact

For additional information concerning this decision, contact: Christine Thiel, ID Team Leader, Chino Valley Ranger District, (928) 777-2211.



Signature

District Ranger

9-29-15

Date

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