

Reavis and Tortilla Allotments

Allotment Management Plan and NEPA Sufficiency Review

TO: Matt Lane, Mesa District Ranger

We have reviewed the 1985 Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice. I have met with Kelly Kessler, Jason Scow, Terrin Lane, and Kimberly Cole, to review the existing AMP, EA and DN for Reavis and Tortilla allotments. The following concerns were identified:

- Arizona Game and Fish has an experimental of threatened Gila Topminnow stocking location in upper Tortilla Creek. The AMP and NEPA did not consider this.
- The AZ 88 road (currently closed) at Fish Creek Hill and Apache Marina following the Post-Woodbury Fire flood events.
- The FS 213 road (open road) to Tortilla Ranch has become extremely rough and nearly impassible by truck and trailer.
- ADOT has concerns about the amount of fencing that will be required along AZ 88 and public safety as it relates to livestock on the road.
- Woodbury Fire impacts (2019): We have completed the first round of monitoring with University of Arizona and have conducted several post fire vegetation inspections. Adequate growth has occurred since the Woodbury Fire and documented in inspection reports. The most notable outcomes were the improvements needing attention.

Findings: After reviewing the AMP, I recommend that we remove the portion of the pasture containing Tortilla Creek from the rotation schedule. We can do this utilizing natural boundaries. Horse Mesa Unit will continue to be excluded as stated in the 1985 EA. There are many fences and water developments on the ground and would need to be repaired before using and recommend a phased approach. ADOT concerns were explained, cattle would not be in the immediate area of the AZ 88 and fences will be fixed to keep cattle away from road. Access to the allotment can be facilitated.

Recommend issuing permit with existing terms and conditions and not schedule the portion of Tortilla Creek within Tortilla Pasture for use. All other conditions would remain the same.

Matt Kilford

Cave Creek and Mesa District Range Staff