

**RYAN ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**USDA FOREST SERVICE  
KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST  
NORTH KAIBAB RANGER DISTRICT**

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## I. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This Allotment Management Plan (AMP) updates the 1977 Ryan Allotment Management Plan. It outlines the approach that the permittees and the Forest Service will take to provide proper management for livestock grazing on the Ryan Allotment. Management objectives for this allotment are to provide a coordinated resource based grazing system to improve range conditions. The grazing system authorized by this plan is made up of two parts: the summer pastures and the winter pastures.

The Houserock, Suicide, and Ryan Allotment Management Environmental Assessment (September 2006) found that the majority of the summer pasture acres in the fair range condition class with static to upward trends while the winter pastures mostly fell in the poor condition class. The poor condition class rating for the winter pastures can mostly be attributed to encroachment by pinyon-juniper.

This AMP seeks to continue or accelerate an improvement towards a higher condition class and trend for all pastures by establishing the following goals and objectives:

- Provide a grazing strategy that will allow resource utilization while improving ecosystem components and maintaining or improving natural plant communities.
- Provide dependable water sources strategically located across the pastures minimize livestock impacts by properly distributing cattle.
- Increase the percent of composition of native ground cover.
- Improve watershed conditions and reduce soil erosion.
- Reduce conflicts with wildlife and improve habitat.
- Manage livestock to minimize impacts on cultural resources.

## II. HISTORY

The Ryan Allotment is located on the northwest side of the North Kaibab Ranger District, Kaibab National Forest, contains approximately 59,629 acres and is divided into three summer pastures, two winter pastures, and three small holding pastures. The three summer pastures are Wildhorse, Warm Springs, and Hi-way and are grazed in a rest deferment system. The two winter pastures are North and South winter and follow a deferment grazing system. The holding pastures consist of the North and South Burn pastures that are used to gather livestock from Wildhorse pasture. The third holding pasture falls between the Warm Springs and Wildhorse Pasture and is to be used to aid in transferring livestock between these two summer pastures. It is currently under reconstruction and should be functional by 2008.

Records of the stocking rates on the Ryan Allotment go back to 1939 and indicate that livestock numbers on the summer range have averaged 1,500 to 1,800 Animal Unit Months (AUM's) since the 1950's. The Highway Pasture was added to the allotment when it was removed from the Central Summer Allotment in 1977. Portions of Snake Gulch were added to the allotment in the 1970's and then removed by transfer in 1998.

The current management practices on the summer pastures are indicating improvements in vegetative and watershed conditions. The winter range is stable. The goals established in the 2006 EA were to maximize the potential for the winter range to improve.

### **III Management Strategy**

The Following actions were approved in the 2006 Ryan Houserock EA:

- Construction of a Trick Tank north of the Willis Burn Holding Pasture.
- Construction of a Trick Tank in the South Winter Pasture at T39N, R1E, section 29.
- Construction of a dirt tank in LeFevre Canyon at T39N, R 2E, section 6
- Construction of a fence across LeFevre Canyon that creates the LeFevre Pasture by separating this area for a spring/fall transition pasture.
- Maintenance to the existing boundary fences along State Highway 89A need to occur to reduce potential public safety risks.

#### Summer Pastures

The Wildhorse, Warm Springs, and Highway pastures will utilize a deferred rotation system for an annual season of use from April 15 to November 1 for a total of 186 head. With the added flexibility provided in the spring/winter/fall rotations, the annual on date for the summer pastures will occur after the summer range is ready. The basic rotation is to start the majority of livestock in one summer pasture in May and then move into the other two pastures over the course of the year. The following year, the rotation pattern will go the opposite direction.

Adaptions to the rotation pattern can include spreading up to half of the permitted livestock out across all three pastures in small bunches while continuing to keep the majority of the herd following the rotation pattern. The rationale for this adaptive management strategy is for summers with below average moisture. The ability to keep small livestock numbers spread out reduces the overall impacts, given the lack of reliable waters in those drier years.

Adaptive management can also facilitate resting one of the summer pastures on an "as needed" basis. If pasture needs a full to multi-year rest, it can occur. The LeFevre Pasture can also be utilized in the late spring or early fall within the summer pasture dates to help facilitate rest or deferment options.

### Winter Pastures

The North and South Summer Pastures have a season of use from October 15 to May 15 for 65 to 85 head. The new LeFevre Pasture will primarily be utilized for fall and spring transitions, but can also be utilized during the winter season. Livestock will be spread across both pastures from the start of the winter grazing season until the start of the cool season grass growing season which typically occurs around the middle of March. At that point livestock would be moved into one of the three possible pastures to give the other two a "spring deferment".

The 2006 Environmental Assessment also identified BLM Suicide Allotment to be part of the winter rotation system. With the Suicide Allotment, the three winter range pastures were to be in a rotation system that would allow up to 105 head per pasture for a shorter duration. This allotment has since been transferred to a different permittee. If another pasture became available that could complement the existing winter pastures, the stocking rate on the winter pastures could be increased to 105 head in a rest rotation system.

The allowable use rate is 40 percent of the current year's growth in identified key areas. If and/or when an 40 percent utilization rate is achieved in a key monitoring area, livestock need to be herded to other areas of the pasture or move to the next pasture.

#### **IV. LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION**

Salt and supplement are valuable distribution aids and contribute to livestock health. Place supplement at least ¼ mile away from water.

In drier years, the existing dirt tanks dry up in the Highway and Warm Springs Pastures. If the opportunity arises to construct more reliable water systems or modify existing water sources in these pastures, improved distribution can be achieved.

#### **V. FUTURE PROJECTS**

Discussions have been ongoing with the Arizona Department of Transportation towards fencing strategic sections along State Highway 89A. This effort would require a new NEPA document with the benefit of reducing the number of livestock hit by cars on the highway.