

Schoolhouse
Allotment Management Plan

Tonto Basin Ranger District
Tonto National Forest
Region III

Prepared By: Rhonda O'Byrne
Rhonda O'Byrne
District Range Conservationist

1/26/93
Date

Linny Warren
Linny Warren
District Range Staff

1/26/93
Date

Black Brush Ranch Ltd. Part.
Permittee

Date

Dwight H Cooper
Manager

1-25-93
Date

Submitted By: Dennis P. Roy
Dennis P. Roy
District Ranger

1/26/93
Date

Approved By: Eddie Ruffel
br Judith A. Miller
Acting Forest Supervisor

1/27/93
Date

SCHOOLHOUSE
ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Allotment Description and Background

The Schoolhouse Allotment consists of approximately 8,306 acres south of Theodore Roosevelt Lake. It is adjacent to the Bar V Bar Allotment to the north and east, and the Roosevelt Allotment to the west. Less than 100 acres in the southwest part of the allotment lies within the Superstition Wilderness. The Schoolhouse Allotment is within the Tonto Basin Ranger District, Tonto National Forest in Gila County. Elevations run from 5286 feet in the upper watersheds of Pinyon Mountain to 2200 feet along the shore of Roosevelt Lake. Topography consists of rolling mountains with areas that are steep and rough. Soils are shallow and mostly a sand loam with some heavy clays along the top of ridges. Vegetation consists mostly of desert-scrub and Interior Chaparral. Besides the shore of Roosevelt Lake and several perennial springs, Cottonwood Creek, an ephemeral stream, is the other major riparian area running through a portion of the allotment.

The present permittees have been very cooperative in contributing money and labor for the construction of range improvement projects. They understand the importance and necessity of meeting Land Management Plan goals and objectives through the Integrated Resource Management process as presently directed by the Forest Supervisor.

Ranch and Livestock Operation

The Schoolhouse Allotment is strictly a cattle operation. This operation consists of a commercial cow-calf herd. Mother cows are kept yearly with calves usually held over to take advantage of winter and spring annuals in the desert ecosystem. The herd generally consist of mixed breed cattle. The allotment has a permit for 150 cattle year long plus 117 yearlings.

Throughout the years, water developments (springs) have been constructed on the allotment to relieve some of the distribution problems. There are several existing fences in place to form pastures, but these pastures can not be utilized until a more diverse watering system is developed. Extensive management has been very limited as a result of insufficient water. The permittees have instigated an extensive pumping and hauling system to compensate for the lack of water and to improve livestock distribution. During drought periods, they have voluntarily removed some animals to help relieve grazing pressure.

Management Goals and Objectives

The basic goal of this management plan is to improve resource conditions on the Schoolhouse management unit while maintaining a viable livestock operation. Based on this goal, the management objectives, formulated by the Interdisciplinary Team, are:

- accommodate riparian recovery on Cottonwood Creek.
- improve management to increase the area of distribution of livestock from 50% to 80-90% of suitable acres on the allotments using Forest Service Guidelines and Standards.
- achieve proper use of rangeland vegetation on a greater percentage of allotment acreage to improve rangeland resource objectives.
- use smaller pastures and more intense grazing for a shorter time period as a tool to accomplish more unified distribution.
- through better resource management, improve water based recreation opportunities, and Resource Access Travel Management (RATM) with minimal conflicts between livestock and recreation.
- manage livestock to achieve multiple resource objectives while maintaining an economical livestock operation.
- manage wilderness for its special values and monitor use through the limits of acceptable change (LAC), to conform to the standards of the Wilderness Act of 1964.
- improve and provide for forage for wintering geese along Roosevelt Lake from November 15 to February 15.

Grazing System and Schedule

The Schoolhouse Allotment utilizes a modified "Santa Rita" Grazing System. This system utilizes one herd in a 12 pasture rest-rotation grazing system. The lower country will be managed in 9 pastures, with short duration grazing treatments of about 1 month. The upper country is divided into 3 pastures. These pastures, Honey Butte, Cottonwood, and Pinyon, will be grazed for approximately 2 months each. The timing of grazing will be rotated throughout the year, with each pasture being grazed at different times each rotation. There are four holding pastures on the allotment, Highway, Bull, Steer, and Horse. These will be utilized as needed by management at different times and for varying lengths each year. The technical advantage of this system is the improved amount of annual growing season rest which it affords. The grazing schedule and intended numbers of cattle in each unit are displayed on form R3-2200-18.

The grazing schedule is intended to be flexible enough to allow for minor shifts in livestock movements between units to adjust for moisture conditions and available water. Major changes or shifts in movement dates must be jointly agreed upon by the permittee, and the Tonto Basin District Ranger.

Implementation of each unit grazing system will occur upon installation of necessary water developments and fences. Any change in current management practices will be jointly agreed upon and documented in the annual plan of instructions.

Range Development and Improvements

Fencing and extensive water developments are critical to the effectiveness of this management plan. Presently there are only five grazing pastures and two holding pastures on the Schoolhouse Allotment.

Implementing the grazing management system will require the construction of 25 structural projects, including spring developments, pipelines, fences, cattleguards, storage tanks and drinkers. Non-structural projects include one prescribed burn.

Range developments and improvements will be constructed under permit modification using the following procedure:

- 1) Forest Service and Permittee (or representative) will locate improvement or development on-the-ground and flag the site.
- 2) Forest Service will review, or if necessary, prepare additional NEPA documentation and permit modification authorizing the work.
- 3) Upon completion of the work and acceptance by the Forest Service, the permittee will provide the Forest Service an itemized invoice of his costs associated with the improvements if/when ASCS monies are used.

Generally, range improvements will be a cost-share effort between the Forest Service and the permittee. Due to the Central Arizona Project, Plan 6, those improvements already existing on the lower one-third of the Schoolhouse Allotment will need to be replaced. The replacement of these projects will be funded by the Bureau of Reclamation. A separate schedule attached itemizes the improvements along with the share to be paid or supplied by the Forest Service and that of the Permittee.

Each improvement will be constructed under a permit modification which will outline specific details of cost-share and details of construction. When funding limitations exist in any fiscal year, water developments will have priority over fence construction.

Range Improvement Schedule

See appendix - Range Improvement Schedule

Range Improvement Maintenance

The attached list of range improvements will be maintained by the permittee to a functional standard throughout the life of the plan. Emphasis will be placed on maintaining allotment boundary fences and maintaining existing spring developments.

The use of heavy equipment such as crawler tractors must be approved in advance by District Ranger.

Cleaning dirt stock tanks is considered a maintenance item and will require only advance notice via phone call. Any major work which significantly alters the structure, spillway or increases the original capacity of the tank is considered reconstruction and will require a joint on-site inspection to determine the extent of work to be done.

General Management ConsiderationsA. Actual Use Records

The permittee will keep accurate accounting of cattle numbers entering each unit and the length of time the unit was grazed. These records will be presented to the District at the end of each grazing season.

B. Annual Plan

The Annual Operating Plan will be the action plan that implements management decisions for the current year. These instructions will serve as a working understanding with the permittee for carrying out actions described in the management plan. The annual plan will outline items of permittee responsibility such as salting, range improvement construction and maintenance, and livestock movement between units.

C. Followup Action and Monitoring

Follow-up action and monitoring will be consistent with the Interagency Review Team's Monitoring Plan for Plan 6 allotments (See Appendix) and base data collected prior to new management agreements. This Monitoring Plan is an integral part of the Allotment Management Plan. Designated photo points will be taken every year by either the permittee or a Forest Service official. Vegetative sampling associated with the Monitoring Plan will be conducted in FY95. The purpose of this is to determine the effectiveness of the management plan and the location of the range improvements. The effective implementation of this management plan and the availability of adequate waters in the different grazing units will improve both the resource condition and the grazing capacity on the Schoolhouse Allotment.

Reports of the monitoring results will be sent to the Bureau of Reclamation. The status of new improvements, whether completed and/or their progress, will be noted after the four year monitoring review and the preparation for the modification of the 5-year plan. The status of these improvements is important when determining their usefulness and effectiveness as it pertains to the monitoring results.

Fiscal Year 1993

PASTURE PROJECT	UNIT	EST. COST		PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY		COMMENT
		MATERIALS	LABOR	FS/SCS/BOR	COST SHARE ECT. PERMITTEE(P)	
<u>House</u> East House Pasture Fence	Conv. 4 strd barbed wire fence.	\$4,000	N/A	S.C.S.	Labor Cost @50% (P) \$4,000	Construct 2 miles of fence to F.S. wildlife standards.
House Cattleguard	12' cattle guard with cement bases	NF \$1,500	N/A	BOR	N/A	Install 1 Cattleguard.
Horse Cattleguard	12' cattle guard with cement bases	NF \$1,500	N/A	BOR	N/A	Install 1 Cattleguard.
House Wildlife Pipeline	1" 250 psi black pipe	\$425		Wildlife only.	BOR	Install .25 mi pipeline.
<u>Monument</u> Windmill Extension Pipeline	1" PVC sched 40 pipe w/ 2cement 2metal	\$2,060		BOR		Install 1 miles of pipeline.
<u>Road</u> Road Division Fence	Conven 4 strd barbed wire fence	\$4,000	N/A	S.C.S.	Labor Cost @50% (P) \$4,000	Construct 2 miles fence to F.S. & wildlife standards.
Road Cattleguard	12' w/ cement bases	NF \$1,500	N/A	BOR	N/A	Install 1 Cattleguard.
Road Pasture Pipeline Extension	1" 250 psi black pipe with 3 cement trough	\$2,250	N/A	BOR		Install 1 mile of pipeline.

Fiscal Year 1993

PASTURE PROJECT	UNIT	EST. COST		PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY		COMMENT
		MATERIALS	LABOR	COST SHARE ECT.	PERMITTEE(P)	
<u>Horse</u> Horse Pasture Pipeline	1" Galv- enized pipe w/ 1 metal trough	\$1,200		S.C.S.		Install .25 miles of galvenized pipe with 1 trough.
<u>Center</u> Center Cattleguard	12' cattle guard with cement bases.	\$1,500		BOR (contract #2-AA-32- 0150)	N/A	Install 1 Cattleguard.
<u>Pinyon</u> Pinyon Pump	Myers Piston Pump	\$5,000	N/A	BOR		Install a Pumping station at Pinyon.
Muhley Extension Pipeline	3/4" galv- enized pipe with 3 metal trough	\$4,100		BOR		Install 1 mile galvenized pipe and 3 metal drinkers

Fiscal Year 1994

PASTURE PROJECT	UNIT	EST. COST		PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY		COMMENT
		MATERIALS	LABOR	COST SHARE ECT. FS/SCS/BOR	PERMITTEE(P)	
<u>Corner</u> Corner Pipeline	PVC Sched- ule 40 plas- tic w/ 4 cement trough	\$2,500			BOR	Install 1.5 miles of PVC pipe and bury it.
<u>Center</u> East Center Pasture Fence	Conven 4 strd barbed wire fence.	\$2,000	N/A	S.C.S.	Labor Cost @50% (P) \$2,000	Construct 1 mi fence to F.S. and wildlife standards.
Center Corral		N/A Rge improv. replac- ement proj.	N/A	BOR (contract #8-07-32- L2112)	N/A	Construct pipe and panel corral.
<u>Pinyon</u> Mountain Extension Pipeline	3/4" galv- enized pipe with 1 metal trough	\$2,100			BOR	Install .5 mi pipeline with 1 metal trough.
<u>Monument</u> E. Monument Fence	Conven 4 strd barbed wire fence.	\$1,500	N/A	S.C.S.	Labor Cost @50% (P) \$1,500	Construct .75 miles fence to F.S. & wildlife standards.
<u>Cottonwood</u> Pipe Extension off Pinyon Mtn Pipeline	3/4" galv- enized pipe with 1 metal trough	\$2,000			BOR	Install .5 miles of pipeline.
<u>Cut & Cover</u> Windy Hill Pipeline Extension	1" PVC sched. 40 w/1 cement trough	\$1,000	N/A		BOR	Install .75 miles pipe and bury it.
<u>Lake</u> Schoolhouse Pipeline Extension	1" PVC scd 40 1"267 psi bk pipe & 2 cem. 1metal trough	\$2,550	N/A		BOR	Install .75 mi PVC pipe and bury it, and install .5 mi black pipe. 2 cement and 1 metal trough.

Fiscal Year 1995

PASTURE PROJECT	UNIT	EST. COST		PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY COST SHARE ECT.		COMMENT
		MATERIALS	LABOR	FS/SCS/BOR	PERMITTEE(P)	
<u>Honey Butte</u> E. Honey Butte Pasture Fence	Conven 4 strd barbed wire fence	\$2,500	N/A	S.C.S.	Labor Cost @50% (P) \$2,500	Construct 1.25 miles fence to F.S. & wildlife standards.
S. Honey Butte Pasture Fence	Same as above	\$1,000	N/A	S.C.S.	Same as above. \$1,000	Same as above. .5 miles
Honey Butte Pipeline Extension	3/4" galv- enized pipe with 3 metal trough	\$5,000		S.C.S.	Same as above. \$5,000	Install 1.25 miles of pipeline.
<u>Pinyon</u> E. Pinyon Pasture Fence	Conven 4 strd barbed wire fence.	\$6,000		S.C.S.	Labor Cost @50% (P) \$6,000	Construct 3 mi fence to F.S. and wildlife standards.
W. Monument Pasture Fence	Same as above.	\$1,500	N/A	S.C.S.	Labor Cost @50% (P) \$1,500	Construct .75 miles fence to F.S. & wildlide standards.

NON-STRUCTURAL RANGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

Fiscal Year 1993/1994

PASTURE PROJECT	UNIT	EST. COST		PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY COST SHARE ECT.		COMMENT
		MATERIALS	LABOR	FS/SCS/BOR	PERMITTEE(P)	
<u>Honey Butte</u> Cave Burn	3500ac	\$3,500		RBF		Burn 3500 acres to meet wild-life and live-stock objective