

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN  
FOR THE  
SEARS CLUB-CHALK MOUNTAIN GRAZING ALLOTMENTS

CAVE CREEK RANGER DISTRICT  
TONTO NATIONAL FOREST.  
REGION 3

PREPARED BY:

(b)(6)

4-10-85  
Date

PATTI R. FENNER, Range Conservationist

(b)(6)

4/10/85  
Date

DOUGLAS R. MCKINNEY, Range Technician

REVIEWED BY:

(b)(6)

Apr. 10-1985  
Date

RICHARD N. KVALE, District Range & Wildlife Staff

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED BY:

(b)(6)

4/10/85  
Date

L. I. CARTWRIGHT, District Ranger

AGREED TO BY:

(b)(6)

July 2 85  
Date

APPROVED BY:

(b)(6)

JAMES L. KIMBALL, Forest Supervisor

8/22/85  
Date

## Introduction

The Sears Club-Chalk Mountain Allotment are grazed under term grazing permit issued to (b)(6). The two allotments are grazed as one unit providing for pasture rotation and deferment.

The Sears Club Allotment has been recognized in the past as being severely overstocked with severe range resource, watershed and riparian habitat deterioration. The Chalk Mountain Allotment was a winter seasonal sheep operation until 1982, when it became a winter seasonal yearling operation. In 1984, (b)(6) acquired the base property for the Chalk Mountain Allotment and waived the grazing privilege back to the United States in an effort to significantly reduce grazing pressure and enter into an improved management system. This action reduced the stocking rate from 4.6 suitable acres/AM to 8.1 suitable acres/AM..

## Management Goals and Objectives

The basic goal of this management plan is to meet physiological requirements of the vegetation by providing seasonal rest for all parts of the allotment. At the same time, any new management plan must take into consideration the Wilderness character of the allotment. Based on these goals, management objectives are:

- 1) Create a simple rest-rotation grazing system with a minimum of fence construction.
- 2) Remove cattle from along the river during summer months.
- 3) Create a system that will complement and/or benefit the permittee's current animal husbandry practices.
- 4) Achieve even distribution of livestock over the full capacity range.
- 5) Graze "key areas"\* in summer-use pastures at levels no higher than 30%. Graze key areas in winter-use pastures at levels no higher than 40%. An allowable use of 30-40% will equate to approximately 50-55% use on key species, i.e., sideoats grama, in key areas.

\*Definition of "key area": "A portion of range which, because of its location, grazing or browsing value, and/or use, serves as an indicative sample of range conditions, trend or degree of use seasonally." from A Glossary of Terms Used in Range Management 2nd ed. compiled and edited by the Range Term Glossary Committee. Soc for Range Management 1974. Parker 3-Step clusters are located in key areas.

### Allotment Description

The Sears Club-Chalk Mountain Allotment covers 120,723 acres. Of this 364 acres are private land - (b)(6) (base property for the allotment), (b)(6) (base property for the allotment), and HK Ranch (owned by Joe Manterola of Manterola Sheep Co.). Approximately 70% of the range is classified as "full capacity"; the remainder is either too steep or too far from water to be practically grazed. The east side of the allotment is mainly mountain browse and juniper-dominated grassland vegetation types. The western (and major) portion of the allotment is classified as semi-desert shrub. Other vegetation types represented are riparian (2% of the area), mesquite bosque (1%), creosote flats (1%), grassland (1%), and barren land (1%).

Nearly 2/3 of the allotment is inside the boundaries of the Mazatzal Wilderness. Being a Wilderness allotment places certain constraints on intensity of grazing system and types of range improvements. Because of this, and the fact that the Sears Club has only been used in the past as a continuous yearlong allotment, this first management plan will be relatively simple.

Cross-fences now in place consist of the Sears-Chalk fence (the previous allotment boundary fence), the Club-Sears fence, and the Sheep Creek fence.

### Ranch Operation

The Sears Club has been and will continue to be grazed by one herd as a cow-calf-yearling operation. Calves are weaned from October through February at the KA Ranch and put back on the allotment as yearlings until the end of May. Yearlings and cull cattle are shipped in May or early June, and additional culling is done in the fall in conjunction with round-up.

The south part of the old Chalk Mountain Allotment was incorporated with the Sears-Club into the new Sears Club-Chalk Mountain Allotment in May 1984. Chalk Mountain has been a sheep allotment since the Forest was created, and the portion west of the river is still designated Tangle Creek Sheep Driveway. (b)(6) (Tonto permittee) and (b)(6) (Coconino permittee) are authorized to run bands of sheep on the driveway during April.

### Management System

Topographic features lend themselves to use as natural barriers so that a minimal amount of gap-fencing is needed to create 5 separate pastures (see map): Upper Chalk, Lower Chalk, Club, Davenport, and Lion.

These five pastures will form the basis for a rest-rotation grazing system. The two eastern, higher elevation pastures (Upper Chalk and Club) will be summer use pastures; two of the desert pastures adjacent to the river (Lower Chalk and Davenport) will be winter use pastures; and the largest desert pasture (Lion) will be used once in five years during the summer. Summer pastures

are grazed from mid-May through mid-December and winter pastures are grazed the remaining five months. Order of pasture moves is displayed on the Grazing System Pasture Plan form. Pasture moves in May and December should fit in well with weaning and shipping dates that have been part of the ranch operation in the past. Cattle will be on pastures adjacent to the river and close to the ranch in December, so the drive to the private land to wean calves should never be a difficult one. The West Unit (the portion of Lower Chalk west of the river) will be used as a shipping/or special use pasture for cull cattle in the spring. Grazing will be monitored so that there is adequate forage available for sheep when they are driven through in April. Location of salt, herd-riding, and future development of springs will be used to prevent cattle from congregating in Lime Creek.

#### Distribution Aids and Range Improvement Construction

Division of the allotment into pastures will create a need for dependable water developments, especially in summer use pastures. Upper Chalk has already been used for the late part of the summer grazing period in 1984. Livestock were able to remain in the area for a few months since precipitation levels were above normal, but heavy concentration and trampling were problems at Mountain Spring. There was no fence to keep cattle from drifting toward the river, so they naturally moved into Lower Chalk, where they are now. The next move into Upper Chalk will occur in May 1986, so both spring development and construction of the Chalk division fence should be completed by that time.

The small amount of gap fencing necessary to make grazing units tight should be complete early in the system. The section of fence between Bear and Mazatzal Canyons is not crucial for the first season that cattle are in the Club pasture since Club will be used in conjunction with a portion of the Lion pasture for its first season of use by the entire herd.

Maintenance of the allotment fence along the river is a continuing problem, made difficult by frequent recreational use. River fences will be maintained before cattle are moved into the Davenport or Lion pastures.

Eight spring developments are planned for the 1986 fiscal year (October 1, 1985 - September 30, 1986). Eight additional springs will be developed in 1987.

Fence and spring construction will be accomplished with Wilderness values and visual quality objectives as guidelines. Fences will be located away from trails as much as possible, natural topographic barriers will be used to reduce fence needs, and vegetation will be used for screening. Spring developments will make use of native rock with cement. Spring sources will be fenced where damage by livestock trampling is likely.

Two springs located in T7N, R7E, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 17, have been identified as highly desirable wildlife habitat. If funds become available in the future, District personnel will construct a fence excluding livestock from the springs. Water from the springs will be made available for livestock use by piping it to a trough located away from the channel.

## Range Improvement Construction Schedule

Year 1 (10/1/85 - 9/30/86) FY86

New spring construction (8 springs), extend pipelines on Round and old Sheep Creek springs.

Gap fence construction. - <sup>for '5</sup> Pastured Midway - Old fence. completed Deadman CapTones 5/86

✓ Chalk Division Fence construction. - completed 6/86  
Horse Mtn. Holding Pasture - 2 mi.

Year 2 (10/1/86 - 9/30/87) FY87

✓ Complete construction of Chalk Division Fence and Chalk Holding Pasture.

New spring construction (8 springs).

✓ Construct holding pasture and corral at Mountain Spring. done

✓ Maintenance on Sears/Pole boundary fence (.2 mile). —  
maint SB Corral

Year 3 (10/1/87 - 9/30/88)

Reconstruct Middle Deadman Corral.

Reconstruct and relocate Dutchman's Grave Corral (Imp. #2075).

Maintenance on Sheep Creek Corral (Imp. #301), corral at (b)(6) cabin, (b)(300)  
and Davenport Wash Corral (Imp. #1987). (Midway)

✓ Construct holding pasture at Horse Mountain (2 miles). - moved up to year 1

Year 4 10/1/88 - 9/30/89)

Maintenance of SB and (b)(6) cabins (Imp. #330 and 331).

Reconstruct Deadman Creek Corral (Imp. #308) and Holding Pasture (Imp. #2080).

## General Management Considerations

### A. Actual Use Records

The permittee will keep accurate accounts of cattle numbers entering each pasture and the length of time the pasture was grazed. These records will be presented to the District Ranger after each pasture move.

### B. Forest System Trails

After each pasture move, the permittee will repair the following types of damage caused by livestock to system trails (those trails indicated on the permit map):

- 1) Trail signs knocked down will be reset.
- 2) Knocked down cairns will be rebuilt.

General trail maintenance will be done by the Forest Service. If ranch workers do trail maintenance, it must be done to Forest Service specifications, which will be provided upon request.

C. 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 between the District and permittee in carrying out actions described in the management plan over the next 5 years. The annual plan will outline items of permittee responsibility such as salting, range improvement construction, and livestock movements between units.

D. Plan Revisions

It is the intent of this management plan to be flexible enough to allow slight adjustments in management for changing conditions such as seasonal moisture, relative pasture capacity, and current use patterns. The permittee is responsible for making decisions of this nature.

This plan may be revised or amended when allotment conditions require a change. After cattle begin using the allotment by pastures, need for adjustments in pasture boundaries or move dates may become apparent. In this case the District and permittee will jointly review the situation and modifications to the plan will be made in writing by District personnel.

E. Followup Action

The District will monitor success of the new rest-rotation grazing system by pasture inspections at various points in the grazing cycle. District personnel will inspect the new range improvements called for in the plan during construction and upon completions.

F. Fire

The careful use and control of fire is the responsibility of the permittee, and his agents and employees. All wildfires should be reported promptly. Fire use restrictions and/or Forest closures occasionally occur during periods of high to extreme fire danger. The permittee should be prepared to work with the District to conduct necessary operations in the event restrictions are imposed.

ADDENDUM TO THE  
SEARS CLUB-CHALK MOUNTAIN  
ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Range Improvement Schedule

Add to FY 86:

Deadman Gap Fences 0.5 mile

Several short sections of fence to supplement the natural cliff barrier along the north side of Deadman Wash will serve to create a small pasture for use during pasture moves, and will also prevent cattle in the Upper Chalk Pasture from locating themselves in the small area south of Deadman in an attempt to return to other pastures.

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Forest Supervisor

3/19/86  
Date

Add as page 5a in the Sears Club-Chalk Mountain AMP approved 8/22/85.



Inventory & Maintenance Responsibility

Permittee Name: (b)(6)  
 Allotment Name: Sears Club-Chalk

<u>Name</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Imp. No.</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Assignment</u>						
				Maintained by	Bartlett	Permittee				
Bartlett Sears Fence	Fence, ABF	R00105	2.0							
Sears Pole Bdry. Fence	Fence, ABF	R03442	.2	"	"	Sears-Club-Chalk	"			
Sears Rye Fence	Fence, ABF	R03473	3.2	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Sears St. Clair Fence	Fence, ABF	000281	15.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Sears Chalk Fence	Fence, AI	000282	12.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Copper Cr. Past. Div. Fence	Fence, AI	000283	1.3	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
River Past. D. Fence	Fence, AI	000285	3.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Canyon Cr. Past. Fence	Fence, AI	000286	2.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Sheep Cr. Past. Fence	Fence, AI	000287	2.25	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Club Past. Fence	Fence, AI	000288	2.5	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Divide Past. Fence	Fence, AI	000289	.9	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Dvpt. Wash Past. Fence	Fence, AI	000290	1.3	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Verde River Fence	Fence, AI	000291	1.5	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Club Sears D. Fence	Fence, AI	000292	5.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Middle Past. Fence	Fence, AI	000293	1.0	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Middle Trap Stk.	Dam/Resvor.	000294	12	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Copper Cr. Stk.	Dam/Resvor.	000295	10	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Tom's Stk.	Dam/Resvor.	000296	12	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

<u>Name</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Imp. No.</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Cholla Stk.	Dam/Resvor.	000297	9	Maintained by Sears Club-Chalk Permittee
Red Stk.	Dam/Resvor.	000299	15	" " " " " "
J. Martin Corral	Corral	000300		" " " " " "
Sheep Cr. Corral	Corral	000301		" " " " " "
Copper Cr. Corral	Corral	000302		" " " " " "
Fire Corral	Corral	000303		" " " " " "
Davenport Mtn. Cor.	Corral	000304		" " " " " "
Verde Shipping Cor.	Corral	000305		St. Clair/Sears Chalk Joint Maint.
Middle Sheep Cor.	Corral	000306		Maintained by Sears Club-Chalk Permittee
Club Past. Cor.	Corral	000307		" " " " " "
Deadman Cr. Cor.	Corral	000308		" " " " " "
Stone Canyon Cor.	Corral	000309		" " " " " "
Club Corral	Corral	000310		" " " " " "
Trail Jct. Cor.	Corral	000311		" " " " " "
Middle Trap Cor.	Corral	000312		" " " " " "
Trail Jct. Spr.	Spring Dev.	000313		" " " " " "
Basin Spr.	Spr. Dev.	000314		" " " " " "
Pat's Shoe Spr.	Spr. Dev.	000315		" " " " " "
Jack Spr.	Spr. Dev.	000316		" " " " " "
Canyon Cr. Spr.	Spr. Dev.	000317		" " " " " "
Hackberry Spr. 1	Spr. Dev.	000318		" " " " " "

<u>Name</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Imp. No.</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Rattlesnake Spr.	Spr. Dev.	000319		Maintained by Sears Club-Chalk Permittee
Sheep Cr. Seep Spr.	Spr. Dev.	000320		" " " " " "
Red Rock Spr.	Spr. Dev.	000321		" " " " " "
Deadman Spr.	Spr. Dev.	000322		" " " " " "
Chalk Spr.	Spr. Dev.	000323		" " " " " "
Blackberry Spr. 2	Spr. Dev.	000324		" " " " " "
Cholla Spr.	Spr. Dev.	000325		" " " " " "
Trail Spr.	Spr. Dev.	000326		" " " " " "
Wire Cor. Spr.	Spr. Dev.	000327		" " " " " "
SB Cabin	Cabin	000330		" " " " " "
Joe Martin Cabin	Cabin	000331		" " " " " "
Club Cabin	Cabin	000334		" " " " " "
Sears Cross F Fence	Fence, ABF	000542	6.5	From Bartlett/Cross F Corner (Sec. 18) North to Black Ridge, Also FM. Saddle Mtn. N. to Bluffs near Mt. Peeley
Sheep Bridge Cabin	Cabin	556		Maintained by Sears Club-Chalk Permittee
Sheep Bridge Corrals	Corral	557		" " " " " "
Willow Spr.	Spr. Dev.	560		" " " " " "
Sheep Cr. Fence	Fence, AI	001969	3.0	" " " " " "
Little Spr.	Spr. Dev.	001980		" " " " " "
Dog Spr.	Spr. Dev.	001981		" " " " " "
Rock Spr.	Spr. Dev.	001982		" " " " " "
Mesquite Spr.	Spr. Dev.	001983		" " " " " "

<u>Name</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Imp. No.</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Midway Spr.	Spr. Dev.	001984		Maintained by Sears Club-Chalk Permittee
Wash Spr.	Spr. Dev.	001985		" " " " " "
Davenport Spr.	Spr. Dev.	001986		" " " " " "
Midway Cor.	Corral	001987		" " " " " "
Lizard Spr.	Spr. Dev.	001988		" " " " " "
Martin Past. Fence	Fence, AI	001997	1.75	" " " " " "
Martinez Past. Fence	Fence, AI	002007	1.5	" " " " " "
Chalk-Red Hills Fence	Fence, AI	002062	2.75	Maintained by Sears-Chalk Permittee from 269 RD. Cattleguard W. to ABF. FM. Natural boundary in E $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 20, T9NR7E, East to Red Hill
Dry Spr.	Spr. Dev.	002073		Maintained by Sears Club-Chalk Permittee
Mtn. Spr.	Spr. Dev.	002074		" " " " " "
Dutchman's Cor.	Corral	002075		" " " " " "
Club Spr.	Spr. Dev.	002077		" " " " " "
Club Shed	Barn	002078		" " " " " "
Sheep Cr. Cor.	Corral	002079		" " " " " "
Deadman Cr. Trap Fence	Fence, AI	002080	.2	" " " " " "
SB Corral	Corral	002086		" " " " " "
Coyote Cor.	Corral	002088		" " " " " "
Fig Spr.	Spr. Dev.	002093		" " " " " "
Horse Corral	Corral	002095		" " " " " "
Deadman Cor.	Corral	002096		" " " " " "

<u>Name</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Imp. No.</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Lost Corral	Corral	002097		Maintained by Sears Club-Chalk Permittee
Lost Spr.	Spr. Dev.	002098		" " " " " "
Lime Cr. Fence	Fence, ABF	6703	2.0	From boundary w/Cartwright east to corner w/fence 281
Deadman Holding Pasture	Fence, AI	6702	1.5	Maintained by Sears Club-Chalk Permittee
Deadman Shipping Corral	Corral	6701		" " " " " "
Air Strip Corral	Corral	6700		" " " " " "