

Decision Notice

and

Finding of No Significant Impact

Sears-Club--Chalk Mountain Allotment Management Plan

Tonto National Forest

Cave Creek Ranger District

An environmental assessment that evaluates alternative grazing management systems for the Sears-Club--Chalk Mountain Allotment has been prepared.

It is my decision to adopt Alternative C which will create a 5-pasture rest-rotation grazing system on the recent combination of the old Sears-Club and Chalk Mountain Allotments, while retaining only those livestock numbers associated with the old Sears-Club Allotment. Other alternatives considered were: no action - that is, continuous yearlong grazing on the Sears-Club portion and winter seasonal grazing by yearlings on the Chalk Mountain portion; use of Chalk Mountain as a yearling pasture for the Sears-Club herd; and creation of a 6-pasture rest-rotation system. Alternative C includes the best combination of improving vegetation condition through an improved management system and retention of Wilderness character of the area through use of natural boundaries to create grazing units.

I have determined that this action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. This determination was made considering the following factors: a) fence construction and spring development will have only a slight effect on the ecosystem, b) there are no irreversible resource commitments, c) there are no apparent adverse or cumulative secondary effects, d) proposed grazing management is within the intent of the Wilderness Act and direction in FSM 2230, and e) proposed improvements and management will not adversely affect threatened or endangered plants or animals within the affected area. Any necessary mitigation measures will be addressed in future project-specific EA's.

Management implementation will take place upon approval of this document.

(b)(6)

James L. Kimball  
Forest Supervisor

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3/15/85

Date