Seven Bar C

Allotment Management Plan

2014

I. Introduction and Background Information:

The Seven C Bar Allotment is on the Williams Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest. The allotment consists of 177 Forest Service acres, all in one pasture. The allotment occurs approximately three miles south of Interstate 40 off Devil Dog exit, approximately four miles west of Williams, *AZ.* It is located just west of Forest Service Road 108 (Williams Loop Road), within all or portions of: T21N, R1E, Sections 15 and 22.

Grasslands and ponderosa pine dominate the vegetation on the Seven C Bar Allotment at an elevation ranging from 6,640 to 6,570 feet. This vegetation varies from open grasslands to ponderosa pine trees. There are approximately 165 acres of grasslands and 12 acres of ponderosa pine forest on the allotment. No major canyons or riparian areas exist on the allotment.

II. Purpose and Objectives:

The purpose of this Allotment Management Plan (AMP) is to implement the September 26, 2008, Seven C Bar Allotment NEPA Decision Notice. This AMP will be incorporated into, and be made part of, the current and any future Term Grazing Permit(s) that authorize livestock grazing on this allotment. This AMP as called for in the September 26, 2008, Seven C Bar Allotment Decision Notice, provides for flexibility of the yearly stocking rates and scheduled allotment use periods on the Seven C Bar Allotment in order to be responsive to annual fluctuations in resource conditions and permittee requirements. Annual adjustments in management will be developed with permittee input and documented in the Annual Operating Instructions (AOI).

The objectives of this Allotment Management Plan (AMP) are to:

1. Maintain or improve range conditions on the allotment by limiting the grazing use of forage plants to conservative or moderate levels and by providing periods of growing season rest or deferment for forage plants.
2. Maintain watershed conditions at current levels on the allotment by managing for the ecological site potential level of herbaceous ground cover and allowing for residual plant materials to accumulate.
3. Maintain the current proper functioning riparian conditions at the springs/seeps on the allotment by not salting or placing supplements near the springs/seeps and by providing growing season rest or deferment for the pasture where these spring/seeps are located.
4. Manage for possible drought conditions by maintaining forage plants at, or near, their highest potential for growth (vigor) and reserving unused forage when possible.
5. Implementing the appropriate mitigating measures that are currently, or in the future, determined to be necessary.

III. Management:

Stocking Level and Class of Livestock
The September 26, 2008, Decision Notice for the Seven C Bar Allotment found the capacity of the allotment to be up to 20 head of cattle (yearlings), which is equivalent to 57 AUM's from July 1 through October 31, every other year. The current or any future Term Grazing Permit(s) for this allotment will authorize up to 20 head of cattle (yearlings) equivalent to 57 AUM's from July 1 through October 31, every other year.

Grazing Utilization Monitoring
The current utilization guideline[1] would continue to allow up to 35% use by cattle and/or wildlife at the end of the grazing season. This includes "conservative" grazing intensity which is measured before the end of the growing season and is used in determining when cattle need to move off the allotment, in consideration of other factors such as weather patterns, likelihood of plant regrowth, and previous years' utilization levels. Cattle would move off the allotment when grazing intensity approaches a conservative level 40% before August 30th. The allotment would not be grazed again during the grazing season.

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds 35% and 40% utilization before August 30th, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than allowable use. If all the remaining key areas are at maximum allowable use, livestock will be required to be moved early to the next scheduled pasture or even off the allotment if the allowable use is exceeded throughout.

Use of Supplements
When there is a need to provide supplements to the livestock authorized on the allotment the following practices will be followed:

a. Locate supplement sites 0.25 mile or more from waters except where prior written approval has been obtained from District Ranger.
b. Place salt and mineral supplements where forage is abundant and current grazing use levels are low. Supplements should not be place at any one location more than once during the grazing season to prevent the concentration of livestock.
c. Limit routine supplement types to salt, protein, and mineral blocks to reduce risk of spreading noxious weeds and to reduce the risk of creating areas of concentrated livestock use.
d. If there is a need to feed energy supplements such as grain, hay, surplus milk products, ethanol production by-products or molasses-based products; a supplemental feeding plan will need to be developed and approved by the District Ranger prior to placing these energy type supplements on National Forest lands.

[1]Utilization is the proportion or degree of current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by animals (including insects). It is a comparison of the amount of herbage left compared with the amount of herbage produced during the year. Utilization is measured at the end of the growing season when the total annual production can be accounted for, and the effects of grazing in the whole management unit can be assessed. Utilization guidelines are intended to indicate a level of use or desired stocking rate to be achieved over a period of years.

IV. Improvements:
As specified in the current Term Grazing Permit(s) and any future grazing permits, the permittee will be required to maintain all assigned range improvements.

- Maintain all current range infrastructures to a satisfactory condition, such as fences and waters developments.
- Ensure all future range fence reconstruction would be designed as wildlife friendly including appropriate installation of elk crossings, use of smooth bottom wire, standard spacing to prevent entrapment, maximum height limits, and locations.
- Ensure all future range water developments would be designed as wildlife friendly including wildlife escape ramps and provide access to wildlife on existing and proposed water troughs.

Any construction or reconstruction of range improvements on this allotment by the permittee will be authorized as a modification of the Term Grazing Permit, which is the standard policy and procedure for doing this type of work.

V. Monitoring and Inspections:

As part of the administration of any current or future grazing permit(s) issued for use of this allotment, monitoring will be conducted through periodic utilization checks, P/U studies, and permanent photo points. Monitoring will be conducted to determine if the terms of the grazing permit(s), this AMP, and the current AOI are being followed (Implementation Monitoring). Monitoring will also be conducted to determine if the resource conditions on the allotment are meeting or moving towards the objective of this AMP and the broader Forest Plan objectives and goals (Effectiveness Monitoring). Should monitoring indicate a need for a change in management, the appropriate adjustments will be initiated anytime throughout the grazing year utilizing Adaptive Management practices.

Forage use levels during or at the end of a scheduled grazing period should not exceed conservative use levels of 35% and 40% before August 30th as is spelled out in the decision documents for this allotment. This is necessary to provide for the protection of the soils and to maintain forage plant vigor. If the forage use level exceeds the conservative use level during a scheduled grazing period, an adjustment in livestock numbers or the pasture use schedule will be initiated and the pasture where the over-use occurred will riot be scheduled for used until sufficient growth of the forage plants has occurred to ensure plant vigor has not been impaired. Forage use monitoring will occur at areas identified yearly based on the current patterns of livestock use. Utilization monitoring sites will be selected that represent areas of similar range condition, trend, or level of use. The forage species monitored will be selected based on the species importance as a forage species and as an indicator of the degree of use on associated species.

Adaptive Management

If adaptive management adjustments are needed, the range specialist will develop these modifications in collaboration with the permittee(s), and others as appropriate. Livestock management would be modified to improve the downward trend through a possible reduction of numbers, shorter grazing periods, increasing pasture rest periods, or eliminating livestock grazing entirely. Such changes will not exceed the limits for timing, intensity, duration, and frequency defined in this Decision Memo. The modifications _would be implemented through the Annual Operating Instructions. An example of a situation that could call for adaptive management adjustments is drought conditions. Another example would allow cattle grazing in mid-June if range readiness was reached and utilization was not exceeded in the previous grazing period.

VI. Revisions:

This plan is intended to be flexible and may be revised if the objectives and goals are not being met or management changes are necessary to meet required changes in policy, regulations, or laws. Any revision of this AMP will be carried out in close cooperation with the permittees.

VII. Attachments:

The established key areas for utilization checks and the improvements to be maintained/ reconstructed or newly constructed are shown on the allotment map attached to this AMP and Term Grazing Permit.