

TERM GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3 (Reference FSM 2230) BENTON CREEK AND ST. MARY ALLOTMENTS	Page 6 of 13
	Permittee Number 06025
	Permit Number R06077

9. Management Practices. The management emphasis is to have riparian areas in satisfactory condition. Riparian Stubble Height guidelines are in effect. The permittee will take action to ensure proper livestock distribution occurs and that forage use guidelines are not exceeded (generally 30 to 40% see AMP). If forage use continues above desired use levels, adjustments in the Annual Operating Instructions, Term Grazing Permit, allotment management plan, or other management actions may be necessary. The Allotment Management Plan is part of the Term Grazing permit and identifies specific management objectives and requirements.

The scheduled rotation, grazing season, and livestock numbers will be in the annual operating instructions. Adjustments in numbers, rotation schedule, or season of use may be made to meet resource or management objectives and guidelines.

ADDITIONAL CONSERVATION PRACTICES

- Best management practices for soils and watersheds. Best Management Practices (BMP) will be implemented to meet soil and water quality issues. If an area with significant erosion is identified, grazing management may be adapted to enhance stabilization of the site. The permittee will insure that livestock do not congregate in riparian areas when soils are saturated.
- Ground Disturbing Activity. The Permittee will obtain written permission from the Forest Officer in charge of the allotment prior to implementing any ground disturbing activity.
- Livestock Supplements. Salt blocks, mineral concentrates or other supplements will be strategically placed to help distribute livestock away from water sources, improvements, riparian areas, high use recreation sites and trails, and roads. Actual placement will be at least ¼ mile from riparian areas or live water, unless otherwise approved by the Forest Officer in charge. Supplements are a tool to enhance overall livestock distribution and utilization patterns.
- Drought Guidelines. Stocking during and after drought will be adjusted in compliance with FSH 2209.13, Chapter10, 19.1.

BASE PROPERTY

Base Property is land owned and used by the permittee for a farm or ranch operation and cannot be leased to another entity. Base property shall include basic livestock management facilities. The permittee will immediately notify the Forest Officer in charge of any change in control of base property. The following land parcel is recognized as base property for the permit:

Apache County Parcel	Acreage	Legal Location	Property Assessed to:
	10 acres w/in	N ½ & SE ¼ Sec. 31 and SW ¼ Sec. 35 Township 9 N, Range 30 E, Gila & Salt River Base and Meridian	John Thompson and Cherylann Thompson

BENTON CREEK ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

CURRENT PERMIT AND NEPA HISTORY

The February 9, 1999, Environmental Assessment (EA) and the June 22, 1999, Decision Notice (DN) for the Benton Creek Allotment Management Plan is incorporated by reference into the Special Terms and Conditions. The proper livestock number and season of use was determined to be 19 cow/calf pairs or 82 AUMs from July 1 to October 31 (page 1-2 of the Benton Creek Allotment DN). The following actions have occurred since the DN was signed:

TERM GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3 (Reference FSM 2230) BENTON CREEK AND ST. MARY ALLOTMENTS	Page 7 of 13
	Permittee Number 06025
	Permit Number R06077

1. Grover B. LeSueur was issued a Term Grazing Permit on August 17, 2000, for 19 cow/calf pairs from July 1 to October 31.
2. Crosby and Sons Land and Cattle L.P. were issued a Term Grazing Permit on May 14, 2001, for Water Canyon and Murray Basin Allotments. Their new Term Grazing Permit no longer includes any cattle for the Benton Creek Allotment.
3. The Term Grazing Permit was waived to John and Cherylann Thompson in July of 2004.

Description of the Allotment

The Benton Creek Allotment is located in upper Milligan Valley. The elevation ranges from 8,100 to 8,600 feet. The allotment contains 873 acres. The Benton Pasture has ponderosa pine and rocky mountain juniper overstory. The Rose Pasture has a predominately pinyon-juniper overstory with blue grama understory. Associated upland species include Arizona fescue, muttongrass and mountain muhly. The cool season composition is comprised mostly of Kentucky bluegrass, Western wheatgrass, Intermediate wheatgrass, and Brome. Shrubs species consist of Cliffrose, Deerbrush, Skunkbrush, Wax currant and Mountain mahogany. Riparian areas are limited to Milligan Creek, Rudd Creek, and a few small springs.

Goals and Objectives

- a. Balance permitted livestock use with allotment capacity (page 2 of EA)
- b. Establish utilization standards and season of use that will provide for the physiological needs of the vegetation (page 4 of DN)
- c. Improve vegetation and range condition (page 10 of EA)
- d. Improve watershed and soil condition (page 18 of EA)

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The livestock operation will consist of a single cowherd operating within a three-pasture deferred-rotation grazing system under summer/fall grazing use. The number of livestock and season of use are:

- The permitted number of livestock is 19 cow/calf pairs or 82 AUMs.
- The season of use is from July 1st to October 31st.

Livestock may be trucked to the allotment in the summer and trucked off the allotment in the fall. Home and Rose Pastures may be combined when water is inadequate. The opportunity to rest a pasture will be based on the existing resource needs at the time. When prescribed fire or other vegetation management projects are planned for a particular area within the allotment, those pastures will be evaluated for adequate rest and recovery. Livestock stocking and/or season of use may be adjusted proportionally to the amount of forage affected.

Mitigation Measures

1. To avoid livestock concentration in riparian areas and to manage for Little Colorado Spinedace habitat, the southeast fence (6013, #6011) of Benton Creek Pasture will be realigned away from Rudd Creek to eliminate direct access to the creek.
2. Construct several improvements to improve livestock distribution and reduce forage use in key areas: 1) ~~Extend pipeline #6053 in Section 9, T.7N., R.29E. Approximately 200 feet and place one drinker with float box in the Home Pasture~~ (**completed**) and; 2) Develop the spring in Section 17, T.7N., R.29., to include 0.25 miles of pipeline, 1 drinker and protection fencing in the Benton Creek Pasture (EA, Section II. Pg.71, Biological

TERM GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3 (Reference FSM 2230) BENTON CREEK AND ST. MARY ALLOTMENTS	Page 8 of 13
	Permittee Number 06025
	Permit Number R06077

Assessment for the Benton Creek Allotment –09/17/98, Concurrence by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via the Guidance Criteria – 09/18/98).

- The following measurements were designed to improve watershed and riparian conditions on the allotment: 1) A shortened season of use and implementation of grazing utilization standards will result in improved upland conditions; 2) Construct of erosion control structures in the Milligan Creek drainage will help reduce sediment flow into Rudd Creek; and 3) Woodland treatments and prescribed burning projects to improve watershed and range conditions (EA. Section II. Pg 71, Biological Assessment for the Benton Creek Allotment – 09/18/98, Concurrence by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via the Guidance Criteria - 09/18/98).
- This decision will implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) that apply to the activities listed above to maintain/improve water quality and prevent accelerated soil erosion (EA. Appendix C).

Range Development Construction/Reconstruction

To fully implement this Allotment Management Plan, structural developments will be constructed to improve the distribution of livestock, reduce forage use in key areas and improve existing resource conditions (Table 1). Existing range developments throughout the Allotment will be re-constructed as necessary. All fence construction and reconstruction will utilize smooth wire on the top and bottom strands.

Table 1. Benton Creek Allotment planned range developments construction/ reconstruction (pages 71 of the EA).

DEVELOPMENT	UNITS	LOCATION	CONSTRUCTION RESPONSIBILITY	WHEN	MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY
Fence (remove)	0.125 mi.	Fence #6066, parallel to Crosby's private land	Permittee labor	Completed 2004	Permittee
Fence (remove)	0.125 mi.	Down fences within the Home Pasture	Permittee labor	Completed 2004	Permittee
Fence (realign)	0.25 mi.	Fence #6011 parallel to Rudd Ck to remove direct livestock effects to the riparian area.	USFS materials, permittee labor	Only if needed & as funding permits	Permittee
Collection system	4	Install a collection system on the spring in Sec. 17, T.7N., R.29E	USFS materials and labor	Completed	Permittee
Pipeline	0.25 mi.	In addition to the collection system, to construct pipeline to a 235-gallon drinker	USFS materials and labor	Completed	Permittee
Pipeline	200 ft.	Extend pipeline #6053 in Sec. 9, T.7N., R.29E and place one drinker with a float box	USFS materials and permittee labor	Completed	Permittee

TERM GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3 (Reference FSM 2230) BENTON CREEK AND ST. MARY ALLOTMENTS	Page 9 of 13
	Permittee Number 06025
	Permit Number R06077

Spring	1	Develop the spring in Sec.17, T.7N., R.29E and construct .25 mi. of pipeline, 1 drinker & protection fence	USFS materials and permittee labor	As funding permits	Permittee
Pit tanks	2	Clean Tank #6238 in Sec. 10, T.7N., R.29E & Rose Tank #6239 in Sec.9, T.7N., R.29E.	Permittee labor	Anytime	Permittee
Erosion Control Structures	6	In Milligan Creek drainage	USFS materials and labor	As funding permits	USFS
Prescribed Broadcast Burning		Throughout the entire allotment on a 10–15-year recurring interval.	USFS materials and labor	As funding permits	USFS

SAINT MARY ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

CURRENT PERMIT AND NEPA HISTORY

The May 15, 1998, Environmental Assessment (EA) and the March 23, 1999, Decision Notice (DN) for the Rudd Creek Summer and Voigt Allotment Management Plans are incorporated by reference into the Special Terms and Conditions. The pasture configuration in the DN was never implemented. Changes that occurred after the DN was signed are summarized below:

1. On June 6, 2000, Harold and Amelia LeSueur waived the Rudd Creek Allotment to the Forest Service. At this time, the Allotment consisted of the following pastures: St. Mary's, Old Horse (San Salvador), Pat Knoll, Salt House, Red Hole, and OD.
2. On June 21, 2000, Arthur and Kathleen Lee were issued a Term Grazing Permit for the new Saint Mary Allotment, that includes the Saint Mary and San Salvador pastures.

Subject to the above DN this portion of Part 3 constitutes the Allotment Management Plan for the Saint Mary Allotment identified in Part 1.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ALLOTMENT

The Saint Mary Allotment is a small allotment approximately nine miles south of Springerville, Arizona. The Allotment contains 3,159 acres. The elevation ranges from approximately 8,240 to 9,408 feet. Terrain is variable, mostly gentle rolling hills on the west side and ridges and steep canyons on the east side. The primary vegetation types on the allotment are Pine bunchgrass grassland and mixed conifer forest on the west side and Ponderosa pine forest on the east side. Common herbaceous species are Arizona fescue, Mountain muhly, Pine dropseed, Muttongrass, Sedges and Spike muhly. Common woody species are Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, Blue and Engelmann spruce, Gambel oak, Aspen, Wild currant and Skunkbrush sumac. Alders, willows, sedges, hairgrass, bluegrass, Rocky Mountain iris and rushes are found in riparian and wet meadow areas.

TERM GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3 (Reference FSM 2230) BENTON CREEK AND ST. MARY ALLOTMENTS	Page 10 of 13
	Permittee Number 06025
	Permit Number R06077

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. Balance permitted livestock use with allotment capacity (page 25 of EA).
- b. Improve watershed and soil condition (page 25 and 28 of EA).
- c. Establish utilization standards and season of use that will provide for the physiological needs of the vegetation (page 113-114 of EA, 1 of DN).
- d. Improve vegetation and range condition (page 27 and 28 of EA).
- e. Increase density and distribution of cool-season forage species (page 27 and 28 of the EA).
- f. Achieve PFC in riparian areas within 10 years. Riparian areas are in satisfactory condition or better with an upward trend. Woody riparian vegetation exhibits a diversity of age classes (page 28 of EA).

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The livestock operation will consist of a single cowherd. The allotment will be grazed with a rotational grazing system.

- The permitted number of livestock is 40 cow/calf pairs (136 AUMs)
- The season of use is July 1 to October 10.

The allotment will be grazed with a two-pasture rotational grazing system. Scheduling of pastures will alternate to give each pasture as much deferment as possible. The planned grazing system shall be implemented to maintain or improve plant cover for the purpose of maintaining existing plant cover while properly using the forage available, increasing efficiency by uniformly using all suitable part of each grazing unit, reducing erosion and improve water qualities, ensuring a supply of forages throughout the grazing season, increasing production with improved quality of forage, enhancing wildlife habitat, promoting flexibility in the grazing program and buffer the adverse effects of drought. Proper stocking and improved distribution of cattle will be the major consideration when evaluating the effects of implementing a system.

Due to the unequal amounts of forage in each pasture, true warm-season deferment will only be possible in the St. Mary Pasture. Cattle will be either trucked to the allotment or trailed up the Water Canyon Road (FR 285).

MITIGATION MEASURES

1. Construction and reconstruction of enclosure fencing around St. Josephs Reservoir, St. Mary's Lake, and San Salvador Reservoir (Little Colorado Spinedace) (Biological Assessment for Voigt & Rudd Creek Summer Allotments - 07/09/98, Concurrence by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via the Guidance Criteria - 09/18/98). As of 01/12/2024 this measure, except for the St. Josephs Reservoir fence see page 11, was never completed so appears not a necessary mitigation. When new allotment analyses are initiated, the mitigation should be re-analyzed at that time. These reservoirs are dry regularly.
2. This decision will implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) that apply to the activities listed above to maintain/improve water quality and prevent accelerated soil erosion (EA. Appendix C).

RANGE DEVELOPMENT CONSTRUCTION/RECONSTRUCTION

To fully implement this Allotment Management Plan, structural developments will be constructed to improve the distribution of livestock, reduce forage use in key areas and improve existing resource conditions (Table 1). Existing range developments throughout the Allotment will be reconstructed as necessary (Part 3 of the Term Grazing Permit). All fence construction and reconstruction will utilize smooth wire on the top and bottom strands.

TERM GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3 (Reference FSM 2230) BENTON CREEK AND ST. MARY ALLOTMENTS	Page 11 of 13
	Permittee Number 06025
	Permit Number R06077

Table 1. Saint Mary Allotment planned range developments – construction/reconstruction (pages 36 and 37 of Rudd Creek/Voigt EA).

DEVELOPMENT	UNITS	LOCATION	CONSTRUCTION WHEN RESPONSIBILITY	MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY
Fence (reconstruction)	1.2 mi.	Allotment boundary fence, throughout the Allotment	Completed 90% of entire boundary through contract 2012 post Wallow Fire	Permittee
Fence (reconstruction)	1.0 mi.	Allotment interior fence, throughout the allotment	Completed 100% interior fence through contract 2012 post Wallow Fire	Permittee
Fence (reconstruction)	1.0 mi.	Exclosure fence around St. Joseph Reservoir, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec 24, T7N, R28E, Sec 19, T7N, R29E	Completed approximately 2015 FS funded fence materials AZGFD funded labor.	AZGFD

ALLOTMENT STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS

All range improvements will be maintained to original construction standards. Any work requiring ground disturbance, other than routine replacement of fence posts and "H" braces, and minor pipeline repair, requires prior approval in writing. Structural and non-structural improvement construction work will follow written instructions and standards provided by the Forest Service.

Structural and/or non-structural range improvement work may be done to maintain watershed stability and allow optimum forage utilization levels. Annual work schedules will be agreed on in the Annual Operating Instructions. The existing range improvements on the Greens Peak Allotment, and permittee responsible for maintenance, are:

BENTON CREEK ALLOTMENT

IMPROVEMENT #	IMPROVEMENT NAME	LOCATION				RESPONSIBILITY
		1/4	SEC	T	R	
066192	Benton Creek Allotment Boundary Fence (ABF)	SW	9	7N	29E	Benton Ck. Permittee
066053	Lesueur Pipeline		8,9	7N	29E	Benton Ck. Permittee
066239	Rose Tank	NE NE	9	7N	29E	Benton Ck. Permittee
066238	Section 10 Tank	SW NW	10	7N	29E	Benton Ck. Permittee
066244	Water Cyn. /Benton Ck. ABF		9,10	7N	29E	Benton Ck. Permittee
R66237	Water Cyn. /Benton Ck. ABF	S	4	7N	29E	Water Cyn. Permittee
R66232	Crosby Private Land Boundary		3,4 9,10	7N 7N	29E	Private Landowner
R66241	Milligan/Water Cyn. ABF		4,9	7N	29E	Water Cyn. Permittee
R66249	Milligan Private Land	SE NW	4	7N	29E	Private Landowner
066273	Water Cyn. /Benton Ck. ABF		8,9	7N	29E	Benton Ck. Permittee
066049	Lesueur Spring Development	SE	8	7N	29E	Benton Ck. Permittee
066231	Milligan Valley Tank #1	SW	9	7N	29E	Benton Ck. Permittee

TERM GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3 (Reference FSM 2230) BENTON CREEK AND ST. MARY ALLOTMENTS	Page 12 of 13
	Permittee Number 06025
	Permit Number R06077

		NE			
066234	Ponderosa Solar Well	NW	10		Water Cyn. Permittee

ST. MARY ALLOTMENT

IMPROVEMENT #	IMPROVEMENT NAME	LOCATION				RESPONSIBILITY
		1/4	SEC	T	R	
066155	St. Mary/Rudd Creek ABF		29	7N	29E	St. Mary Permittee
066137	St. Mary/Old Horse Allotment Interior Fence (AIF)			7N	29E	St. Mary Permittee
066138	Pat Knoll Corral	NW	30	7N	29E	St. Mary Permittee
066164	St. Mary/Rudd Knoll ABF		17,18,19	7N	29E	St. Mary Permittee
066166	St. Mary ABF			7N	29E	St. Mary Permittee
066342	St. Joseph's Reservoir	NESE	24	7N	28E	AZGFD
066526	St. Joseph's Reservoir exclosure fence		24 19	7N 7N	28- 29E	AZGFD
066547	St. Mary's Lake Spring	NWNE	19	7N	29E	AZGFD (Sipes)
066548	St. Mary Tank	NESW	20	7N	29E	St. Mary Permittee
066549	San Salvador Reservoir	SWSW	19	7N	29E	AZGFD (Sipes)
066746	St. Mary Ditch		19	7N	29E	AZGFD (Sipes)
R66080	St. Mary/Rudd Knoll ABF			7N	28- 29E	Rudd Knoll Permittee
R66156	Rudd Creek/St. Mary ABF			7N	29E	Rudd Ck. Permittee
R66192	St. Mary/Benton Creek ABF		16,17	7N	29E	Benton Ck. Permittee
R66200	Rudd Creek/Rudd Knoll ABF			7N	28- 29E	Rudd Knoll Permittee
R61115	St. Mary/Colter Ck. ABF		28,29			Colter Ck. Permittee

*Refer also to map. Your assigned responsibilities as listed here are underscored in color on the map.

Permittee Review

"I have reviewed the provisions of the term grazing permit, the standards and guidelines, and management required by the Forest Management Plan applicable to the allotment and the Allotment Management Plan with the grazing Permittee."



 Rangeland Management Specialist

1/17/24

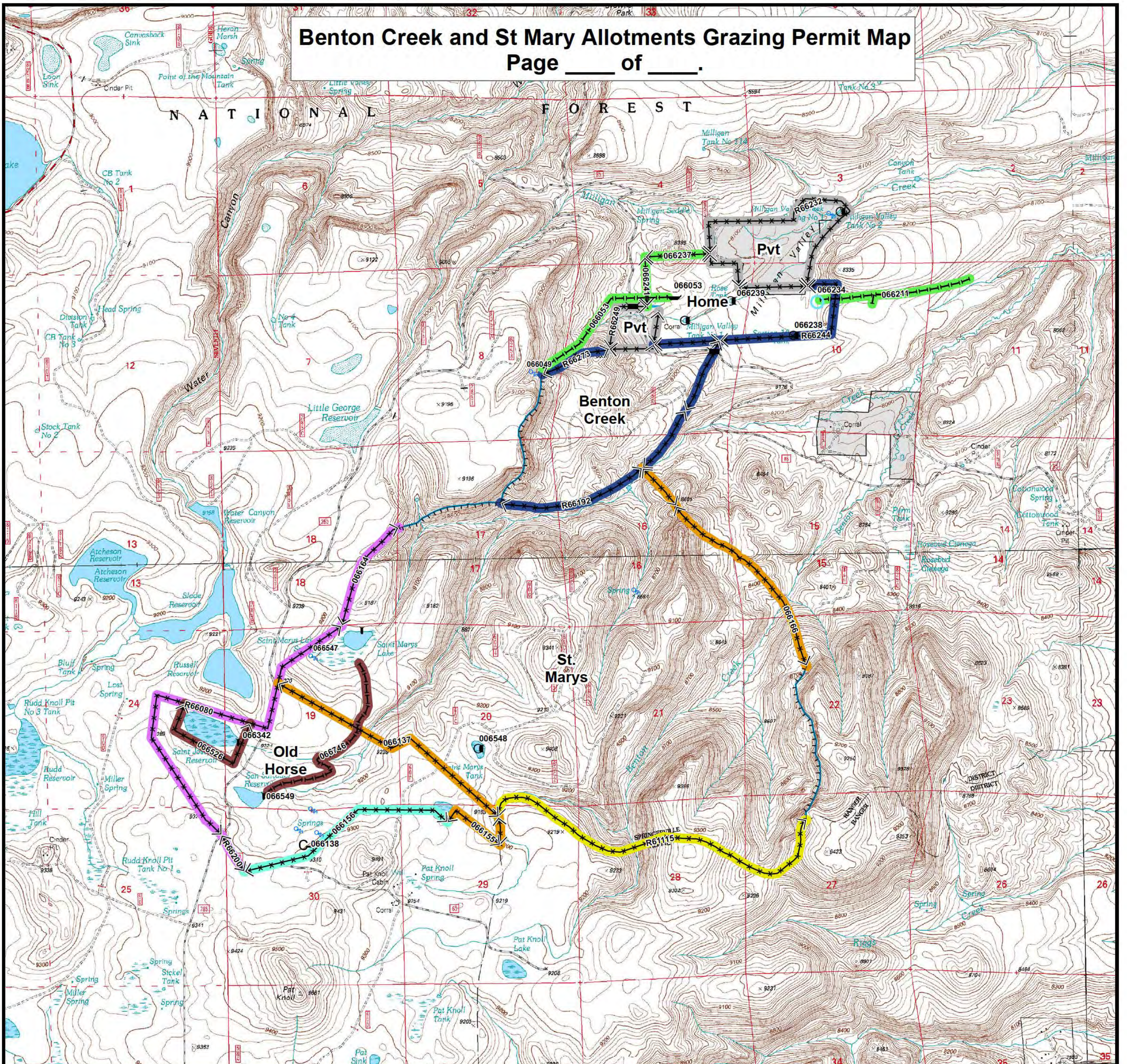
 Date

TERM GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3 (Reference FSM 2230) BENTON CREEK AND ST. MARY ALLOTMENTS	Page 13 of 13
	Permittee Number 06025
	Permit Number R06077

MAP OF
BENTON CREEK AND ST. MARY ALLOTMENT(S)
GOES HERE

Benton Creek and St Mary Allotments Grazing Permit Map

Page ____ of ____.



Legend

- SPRING
- CORRAL
- DAM
- PIT TANK
- STANDARD
- WATER TROUGH
- WELL
- NATURAL BARRIER
- FENCE
- PIPELINE

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests
Springerville Ranger District
Range Improvement Map

Benton Creek and St Mary Allotments



0 0.5 1 Miles

MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY

- 26 Bar Permittee
- Water Canyon Permittee
- Rudd Creek Permittee
- St Mary Permittee
- Arizona Game and Fish Dept
- Benton Creek Permittee
- Colter Creek Permittee
- Private Land Owner

This map is part of Grazing Permit No. _____
issued to Benton Creek and St Mary Permittee
on _____ by _____
and shows the Benton Creek and St Mary Allotments.