

AMENDMENT #1

TANK CREEK ALLOTMENT

MANAGEMENT PLAN

BRADSHAW RANGER DISTRICT
PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST

Prepared by: Sandra F Brausch 2/3/97
Rangeland Mgmt Specialist Date

Agreed by: [Signature] 3/18/97
Permittee Date

Approved by: [Signature] 4/1/97
District Ranger Date

AMENDMENT TO THE TANK CREEK ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN DATED 12/9/82

I. PURPOSE AND NEED

This amendment will serve to guide allotment management based on a trial period for an alternate rotation plan and utilization monitoring that may be used in developing the new AMP. A new AMP is not scheduled until September 30, 2000. A verbal agreement to alter the rotation schedule was made between the permittee, ranch manager, and range consultant on 8/1/96.

II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives will remain the same as stated in the Allotment Management Plan dated on 12/9/82 AMP. These objectives include:

1. The short term objectives of management is to obtain proper utilization of forage (grass and browse) with regards to growing seasons and consideration given to wildlife habitat. Development of the necessary structural and non-structural range improvements are necessary to obtain proper utilization. This development coupled with a properly planned system of grazing should result in meeting the long term environmental goals.
2. The long term goals are to develop a proper grazing system whereby vigor, density, and composition of cool and warm season grasses and the browse species are improved. The long range production goals are to balance carrying capacity with forage production with proper utilization of the range resource.

III. MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- A. Permitted use = 522 head of cattle yearlong = 6264 Head Month's.
- B. The management prescription developed will consist of a rotational system as identified on the attached R3-2200-19.

IV. MONITORING & KEY AREAS

- A. The key areas and/or critical or sensitive areas are identified on the attached map dated 2/3/97. Other key areas will be identified when deemed appropriate.
- B. The Range Conservationist and/or District Range Staff in company with the permittee or representative of the permittee will monitor the pastures being grazed particularly the key areas for proper utilization as identified in the Region 3 Range Analysis Handbook. Before a decision is made to move the cattle to the next pasture because proper use has

been met in the pasture the cattle are presently in, the permittee will be notified and given a chance to meet with the District Range Staff and/or District Ranger to review and discuss the proposed action.

- C. Monitoring techniques used will be taken from the Region 3 Range Analysis Handbook, Rangeland Analysis and Management Training Guide, and/or the Interagency Technical References (1996) on Sampling Vegetation Attributes and Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements.

V. PROPER USE GUIDELINES

During the key growing season (March 1 through October 30), approved proper use guidelines in the most current Region 3 Range Analysis Handbook will be used to assess grazing impact on *key perennial grasses, mainly those classed as "decreaser" species. These guidelines may be adjusted based on range conditions. One such adjustment would be to allow higher levels of utilization on dormant grasses, that is, 60% outside the growing season.

*Key species will be defined as dominant perennial herbaceous forage species which usually provide the bulk of forage during any given season of use. In this case, (March 1 through October 30).

KEY SPECIES/PROPER UTILIZATION PERCENTAGES

Key species and proper utilization percentages for uplands include

	growing season	dormant season
Side Oats Grama (Boutelous curtipendula)	50%	60%
Blue Grama (Bouteloua gracilis)	50%	60%

Key species and proper utilization percentages for riparian areas include:

Sedges (Carex species all) 4" stubble height

Wire grass (Juncus species all) 4" stubble height

Woody Species - Proper allowable use within riparian areas will not exceed 20%.

VI. DISTRIBUTION AIDS

Herdling of livestock to lightly used areas in pastures by regular riding of the pastures, controlling access to water, temporary electric fencing, and location of salt not to be place within 1/4 mile of any riparian area or permanent or semi-permanent water source.

VII. FOLLOW-UP ACTION AND STUDIES

This plan will be evaluated by determining if management objectives are being met. Objectives will be evaluated by allotment inspections, permanent trend studies and photo points.

The proper use criteria of the key perennial grasses will be applied. Once the use is reached within the key areas of a pasture, livestock will be moved to the next scheduled unit. If it is determined that all pastures have met proper use and the rotation of all pastures is complete, then livestock will be removed earlier from the allotment.

Permanent Long Term Trend studies will include Parker 3 step studies.

Utilization and Follow-up studies will be completed upon the identified key areas. Photo points will also be established in conjunction with the utilization and follow-up studies.

This above data may determine the need to make adjustments in permitted livestock numbers during the analysis of the allotment.

VIII. RANGE IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

The range improvements listed on pages 7 and 8 of Part 3 of the Grazing Permit will be maintained by the permittee as needed to retain function.

IX. PERMITTEE ANNUAL PLAN OF USE

Each year prior to grazing, an annual grazing plan will be prepared. Deviation from the annual grazing plan i.e. rotation schedule will be determined on a case by case basis with approval by the District Ranger or Range Staff. The plan will deal with livestock distribution, livestock accountability, allotment examinations, the importance of salting and riding, maintenance of improvements, and fire prevention responsibilities.