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Special Terms and Conditions

The Environmental Assessment (EA) and the April 22, 2003 Decision Notice (DN) for an Allotment Management Plan is incorporated by reference into the Special Terms and Conditions. Subject to the above DN this portion of Part 3 constitutes the Allotment Management Plan for the allotment identified in Part 1.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Goals and Objectives – Desired Future Conditions (DFC's) are the long-term management goals for a particular area. These goals include consideration of commodity production as well as other resource management requirements. Some portions of the allotment may already be in the desired condition, while others may require years of management to reach the stated objectives. Some objectives may not be met within the time frame of a 10-year Allotment Management plan. And, due to resource conditions, budget constraints or other factors, some objectives may never be met (EA page 4). The following are the Goals and Objectives for the Town Tank Allotment:

- (a) Grazing should be consistent with the land's capability to support such use, and use by wild ungulates (elk and deer) and permitted livestock should be in balance use with estimated capacity (EA page 3),
- (b) Maintain or improve full capacity range at or to fair or better condition. Potential Capacity range should be improving (EA page 3),
- (c) Fences and other range developments should complement management needs (EA page 3),
- (d) Fifth-code watersheds are in satisfactory condition by 2020 (EA page 4),
- (e) Satisfactory soil conditions should be maintained. Impaired soil condition should be in an upward trend within one decade on all areas where the potential exists to restore soil productivity and hydrologic function (EA page 4),
- (f) Cool season grass species should be represented within each habitat type where capacity exists. Browse stands should be healthy and diverse (EA page 4),
- (g) Wildlife populations should be consistent with the lands capability. A diverse mosaic of habitats for healthy and balanced wildlife populations should be present (EA page 4),
- (h) Road density will be reduced to two miles per section or less. Retained roads will be reconstructed/maintained to Forest standards and will adequately meet public and administrative needs. (EA page 4),
- (i) Prehistoric and historic sites are protected and preserved through management activities (EA page 4),

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- (j) A 30 acre parcel is identified as a Heritage Management Area (Pottery Hill) and will not be available for grazing (EA page 5), and
- (k) Potential conflicts between recreation use and livestock management will be minimized or eliminated (EA page 5).

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:

The management strategy is to graze 40-50 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) annually. A deferred pasture grazing system with an on-date of July 01 will be implemented. Entry into a given main pasture will be on a deferred cycle; the holding pasture will be entered at the end of each grazing season. The permittee has the option each year to graze 14 head. The stocking rate will determine the off date to annually authorize 40-50 AUMs (DN. page 2, EA page 9).

Following recovery from fire impacts, range condition and capacity have been reassessed. Fences have been rebuilt according to a schedule and is in maintain status. Because the fences are in place and all stock tanks are serviceable, additional days of use have become available. The total AUMs will be adjusted in accordance with forage production in the available pasture(s) (DN. page 2).

A decrease in permitted livestock numbers will begin one year from the implementation date of this decision notice, with one-third of the reduction occurring each succeeding year. The changes in AUMs are shown below (DN. page 2).

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permitted AUMs</u>
First (2003)	84
Second (2004)	63
Third (2005)	42
Fourth (2006)	20

- The different stages of reductions occurred, with the first 3 years (2003-2005) being rested due to the R-C Fire. And 2006 stocked with 9 head for 24 AUMs.

Livestock will not be permitted to graze until **vegetation and soil conditions** are satisfactory. The Permittee took temporary non-use of the allotment since July of 2002 to provide recovery. It was anticipated that most of the area would require a minimum of three years of rest. Most of the allotment has received watershed treatments. These areas will be evaluated to determine if the vegetation and soil conditions are satisfactory.

Grazing management will reflect a pasture deferred grazing system. Due to variation in weather conditions affecting annual forage production, grazing levels and/or schedules may be altered. Any such changes will be documented in the AOI.

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Table 1 displays how the pastures will be alternated:

Table 1. Grazing schedule.				
Grazing sequence, pasture in rotation	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	4 th Year*
1 st pasture	West	Polson	East	West
2 nd pasture	East	West	Polson	Polson
3 rd pasture		East	West	East
4 th pasture		Holding	Holding	Holding

*After 4th year, schedule returns to 2nd year

STANDARDS AND PRESCRIPTIONS:

Allowable forage utilization is based on the amount and kind of forage available to livestock on the allotment, plant needs, and range condition and trend. Forage utilization will be based on the monitoring of key areas. Allowable utilization levels of 25% of available forage will be implemented with the phased reduction of livestock numbers. These utilization standards will be applied regardless of scheduled grazing periods for each pasture and regardless of the number of livestock in each pasture. These standards are a point-in-time measurement upon which pasture moves will be based (DN. page 2). Point in time utilization monitoring will be conducted immediately after livestock are removed from a pasture. Utilization at that point in time, on key species in key areas, will be measured. Livestock will not be allowed to re-graze a pasture once the allowable use standard is met. When, for a particular period the scheduled pastures have been grazed through by livestock before the scheduled exit date, livestock will be removed from the allotment. The Permittee will need off-Forest arrangements if removal is necessary (DN. page 2).

The permittee will take action to insure proper livestock distribution occurs and that forage use levels are not exceeded. If forage use continues above or below the authorized use level, adjustments in the term grazing permit, allotment management plan, and/or other management actions will be necessary.

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Table 2. Grazing utilization standards for herbaceous species in key areas by pasture.

Pasture	Key Area (s)	Key specie(s)	Allowable forage utilization level (%)	Location
East	E-1	Blue Grama (Bogr), Western wheat (Agsm)	25%	T10N,R21E SE1/4, Sect 18
West	W-1	Western Wheat (Agsm) Blue Grama (Bogr)	25%	T10N,R20E SW1/4, Sect 24
Polson	P-1	Blue Grama (Bogr), Western Wheat (Agsm)	25%	T10N,R20E NW1/4, Sect 7
Holding	N/A	Monitor Duration		

MITIGATION MEASURES (DN page 3, EA App.C):

- Heritage resources determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places or any sites whose eligibility is currently unevaluated will be avoided by all ground-disturbing actions.
- Areas disturbed by approved actions will be seeded with desirable cool season species (e.g., western wheatgrass or wild rye) at the earliest feasible time, as defined by the occurrence of precipitation.
- Slash generated from woodland treatments will be treated appropriately relative to soil and topographic conditions in the immediate vicinity (see page 10 of the EA).
- Fences will be built in accordance with "wildlife-friendly" guidelines, in compliance with Forest Service standards.
- In all areas where post-fire vegetation treatments will take place per this decision, a minimum of two snags per acre and three downed logs per acre will be retained, in accordance with Forest Plan standards.
- Forage utilization will be monitored annually.

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RANGE DEVELOPMENT CONSTRUCTION:

Range Improvements – Water. The permittee has certain improvements assigned for maintenance on page(s) 7 in this permit. These improvements are on National Forest System lands within the allotment. The improvements include both stock tanks and springs. Issuance of this grazing permit and the permittee's acceptance of the permit **does not** convey any ownership of a water right to the permittee, but allows the use of a portion of it within terms of the appropriation. The Forests has filed for water rights on these waters with the State of Arizona. Grazing domestic livestock may not be possible without these water rights. The Forests will retain ownership of the water rights for current and future grazing permittees as well as for wildlife and recreation consumptive needs. Ownership of the water rights will assure that the use of the water will be appurtenant to the land and will be available for both current and future grazing permittees.

Range developments as listed under Alternative 3, EA page 7, shall be constructed or reconstructed (Table 3). Construction priority will depend on funding. Some of the improvements have been dealt with during R-C rehab efforts.

<u>Development</u>		Location	Maintenance responsibility	Improvement #
Type/name	Units			
Stock tanks Reconstruction	2	T10N,R20E SE1/4 Sect. 14 T10N,R21E NW1/4 Sect. 18	Smith	Germ – 7406** Town - 7408
Fence Reconstruction	1.8	NE 1/4 of Polson pasture	Smith	7535**
Fence Removal	0.5 0.8	Holding pasture NW 1/4 of East pasture	Smith	N/A**
New Fence	1.5	SE 1/4 of West	Smith	7856**
	2.1 1.5	NW 1/4 of East pasture Holding pasture		7534** 7404

**Indicates improvement has been completed

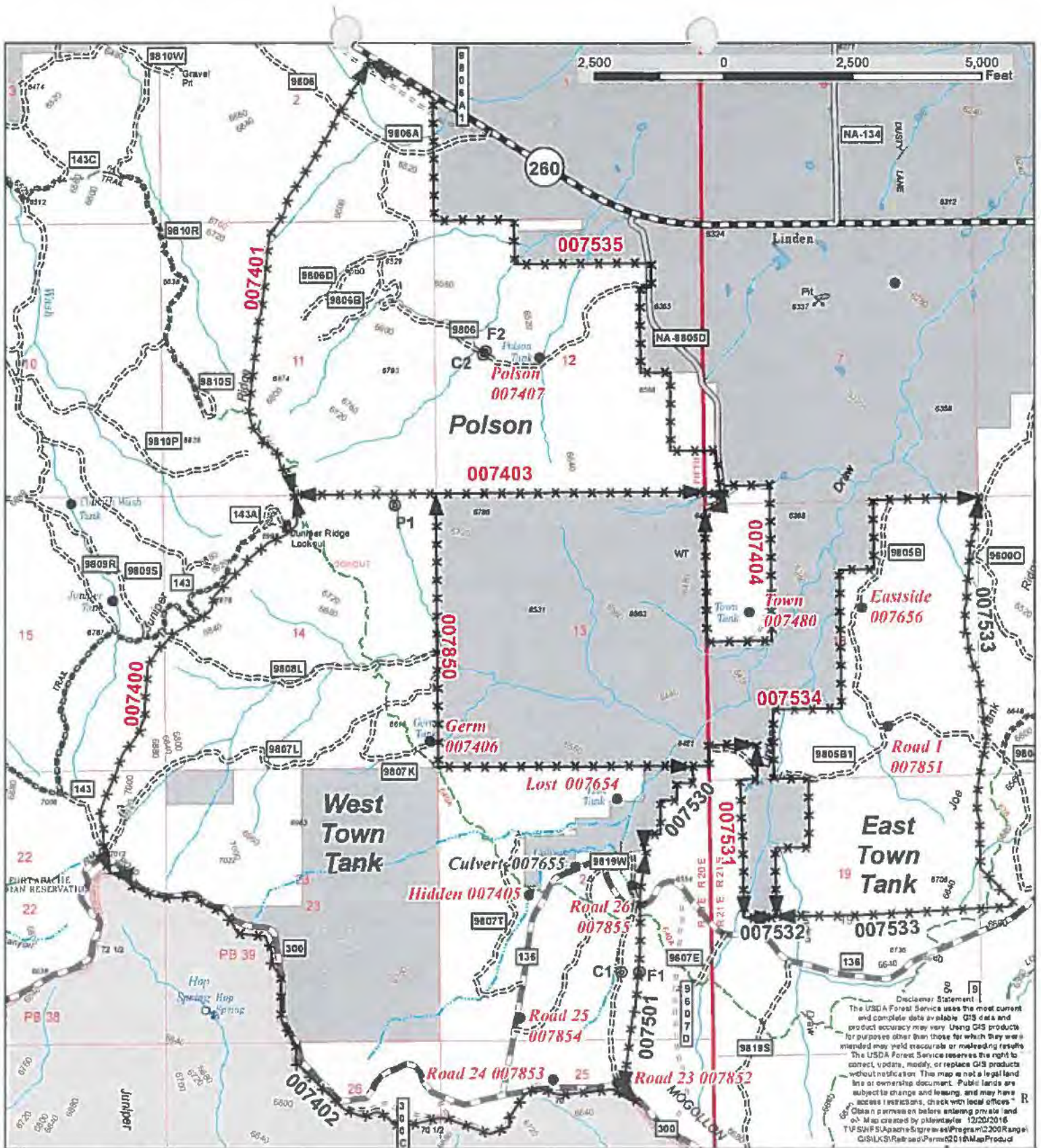
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OTHER:

Implementation of grazing utilization standards upon which pasture moves are made will provide for recovery of vegetation in terms of plant vigor, reproduction, and amount of herbaceous plant growth (forage production). Improvement of soil and watershed condition should also result.

Regardless of the number of livestock grazed, the actual use period in each pasture will be determined by the grazing utilization standard with livestock being moved from the pasture when it is reached. Improvement of soil and watershed condition should result.

Pre-livestock utilization checks of pastures to be grazed may be conducted to allow monitoring of wild ungulate use. This will provide data for future analysis of wild ungulate needs and population objectives. This will be conducted by Arizona Game and Fish.



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Town Tank Allotment Range Improvements

Lakeside Ranger District
 Apache-Sigreaves NFs

Map Legend: Improvements (Symbols in legend not to scale with symbols on map)

- Stock Tank
- ⊙ Monitor Point
- ⚡ Fence
- Trail
- ▭ Ranger District Boundary
- ▭ USFS
- ▭ Other Ownership
- Roads: Operational Maintenance Level**
- == HIGH CLEARANCE VEHICLES
- SUITABLE FOR PASSENGER CARS
- MODERATE DEGREE OF USER COMFORT
- HIGH DEGREE OF USER COMFORT



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