

1950 Forest Service
National Environmental Protection Act

Sept. 25, 1984

Scoping Session
V-Bar Allotment Management Plan

Forest Supervisor, All Participants

The scoping analysis of the V-Bar allotment grazing program was completed on September 20, 1984. An initial session was conducted on August 24, 1984, and documented by the memo dated August 28.

Time-control grazing is new to the Prescott NF but is being applied at other locations in Arizona. We do not feel it appropriate to evaluate the validity of time-control grazing but instead have concentrated on identifying possible conflicts. The two obvious conflicts are, 1) the impact of the necessary level of development on public access, and 2) the effect of concentrated grazing on wildlife.

Public access will be affected by the increased fencing required for time-control grazing. This is not an item that can be reconciled by planning and has not been determined to be significant enough to influence the proposal. An education program that includes signs, news articles and other contacts will be used to inform users of the fencing and of the programs objectives. Signing will be similar to that on Date Creek Ranch where the signs explained the program.

Wildlife concerns will be addressed through the development of guidelines for use in the planning process. Adherence to these guidelines in alternative development will ensure that livestock/wildlife conflicts will be minimized as far as possible. A meeting will be held October 2 with Region VI, AG&F, Arizona Wildlife Federation, Prescott National Forest and possibly Arizona State Land Department. Rough draft guidelines will be written and sent to ID Team members for comment.

As a result of the NEPA scoping process a need for further analysis has been identified. An Environmental Analysis would evaluate the impacts of time-control grazing on sensitive soils and the benefits and costs of that level of management as opposed to existing management. The effect of time-controlled grazing on the vegetation, wildlife, runoff characteristics, etc., cannot be adequately predetermined at this time and will be monitored if a TCG is implemented.

THOMAS D. BONOMO
District Ranger

DTMacPHEE:mt

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