

TERM GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3 (Reference FSM 2230) WATER CANYON & MURRAY BASIN ALLOTMENTS	Page 9 of 16
	Permittee Number SPR13RGE
	Permit Number R06063

MURRAY BASIN ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Current Permit and NEPA History

The February 9, 1999 Environmental Assessment (EA) of Milligan Valley Grazing Allotments and the June 22, 1999 Decision Notice (DN) for an Allotment Management Plan are incorporated by reference into the Special Terms and Conditions. The decision was made to implement alternative 2 of the EA, which included the permitted number of livestock to be 89 yearlings with a season of use from 07/01 to 10/31 (page 1 of DN). Changes that occurred after the DN was signed are summarized below:

1. On March 1, 2000, Aldrice and Sybil Burk waived the Saffel Springs portion of their permit back to the Forest Service. The Saffel Springs Allotment was a small, two-pasture allotment that did not fit in well with the Burks' livestock operation. Murray Basin Pasture of the Saffel Springs Allotment was added to the new Murray Basin Allotment.
2. On May 22, 2000, Flying Box Ranch, Inc. waived the Murray Basin Allotment back to the Forest Service and Flying Box was issued a Term Grazing Permit for the Rudd Creek Allotment. The Murray Basin Allotment was then added to the Water Canyon Term Grazing Permits on May 14, 2001. The 89 yearlings were converted to 62 cow/calf pairs.
3. The result is that the Murray Basin Allotment now includes two additional pastures from adjacent allotments: Rudd from the old Rudd Creek Winter Allotment and Murray Basin from the old Saffel Springs Allotment. It will be managed in conjunction with the new Water Canyon Allotment. The new Term Grazing Permits allow 62 cow/calf pairs on Murray Basin Allotment and 74 cow/calf pairs on Water Canyon Allotment. The animal numbers are split evenly between the two permittees. These numbers are in compliance with capacity determinations in the Milligan Valley EA allotment analysis. These actions created more logical, compact grazing units for the permittees, and added the Murray Basin Allotment to the permittees' operation.

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

Description of the Allotment

The Murray Basin Allotment is located approximately two miles south of Springerville, Arizona. The Allotment contains 4,244 acres. The elevation ranges from approximately 7,300 on the north end to 8,268 feet in the southern portion of the allotment. Topography is relatively flat except for a basalt rim that separates Ted Springs and Racetrack Pastures from a large basin. Blue grama dominates the understory and open grasslands with bottlebrush squirreltail, three-awn, spike muhly, wolftail and snakeweed as associated upland species. Cool season species are limited to wet swales, ephemeral drainages and springs. In drainages and on the north facing slopes of Picnic Mesa, ponderosa pine co-dominates the overstory. Sleepygrass occurs in small but significant stands within the basin. The shrubs composition is moderate density with a medium to low vigor rating in any given area.

Pinyon-juniper canopies are dense with a sparse herbaceous understory. Picnic Creek is the main drainage that flows the allotment. This watershed is in a summer dominated precipitation zone with a mean annual rainfall of 12.58 inches of which 8.48 inches falls during April through September, mostly in the form of short-duration, high-intensity summer thunderstorms.

TERM GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3 (Reference FSM 2230) WATER CANYON & MURRAY BASIN ALLOTMENTS	Page 10 of 16
	Permittee Number SPR13RGE
	Permit Number R06063

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 allotment will be grazed in combination with the Water Canyon Allotment in a deferred rotational grazing system. The livestock operation will consist of both permittees combining their livestock into a single cowherd. The new number of livestock and season of use for each permit are:

- The permitted number of livestock is 31 head of cattle.
- The season of use is July 1 to October 31.

MITIGATION MEASURES

1. Glen Livet Reservoir located to the east of the Sipes Wildlife MR headquarters and surrounded on the north, west and south sides by Arizona Game and Fish (AGFD) property will continue to be managed for a waterfowl and wetland emphasis area. The 155-acre Glen Livet Reservoir Waterfowl Management Area will be fenced to prevent livestock access and will not be grazed by livestock. Future projects are anticipated to improve upland cover and nesting habitat on the land adjacent to the reservoir.
2. To meet big game critical range habitat objectives, the Ted Springs and Rudd Pastures. The Terrace Pasture was non-contiguous to the main allotment and was later removed from livestock grazing for winter use by big game. The forage in these pastures will be pre-conditioned by livestock early in the grazing season between 07/1 and 08/15 and then livestock will be removed, typically by 08/15 and 08/30 depending on the operational grazing sequence. The early removal of livestock will allow for herbaceous recovery within these pastures prior to the onset of winter use by big game. The management objective will be to provide big game forage of a sufficient quality and quantity that improves wintering big game distribution within the identified critical winter range habitat across this area of the Rudd Creek.
3. In accordance with the term and conditions of the Cooperative Agreement (Agreement) between the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (FS) and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) for the White Mountain Hereford Ranch and Surrounding National Forest Lands (Agreement, Section A.3. and B.2.) riparian exclusion fencing will be constructed on Rudd Creek to provide protection of streamside riparian habitats to meet habitat management objectives for Little Colorado spinedace and other fish and wildlife species. Specific activities included in the Decision are: 1) Construction of 2.5 miles of new allotment/pasture boundary fence to create the new Rudd Pasture and 2) Construct of 1.7 mile of new interior pasture fence to create the new Terrace Pasture.

Table 1. Murray Basin Allotment planned range developments – construction/reconstruction (pages 72-73 of EA).

DEVELOPMENT	UNITS	LOCATION	CONSTRUCTION RESPONSIBILITY	WHEN	MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY
Mechanical treatment	126 acres	To maintain previous treated woodland pushes	USFS equipment and labor	As funding permits	USFS

TERM GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3 (Reference FSM 2230) WATER CANYON & MURRAY BASIN ALLOTMENTS	Page 11 of 16
	Permittee Number SPR13RGE
	Permit Number R06063

Thinning and/or burning	344 acres	Potential sites on the Allotment	USFS equipment and labor	As funding permits	USFS
Boundary fence	2.5 miles	Sec.1,2,10,11, T.7N., R.29 E. To create Rudd Pasture. <i>This fence is located in Water Canyon.</i>	USFS materials & Permittee labor	<i>completed</i>	Permittee
Boundary fence (reconstruct)	.40 miles	Forest boundary/Allotment boundary #6144	USFS materials/ Permittee labor	As funding permits	Permittee
Interior fence (reconstruct)	1.5 miles	#066182 in Sec. 35 & 36. T8N., R.29E.	USFS materials/ Permittee labor	As funding permits	Permittee
Boundary fence (reconstruct)	0.0.94 mi.	AB fence #066117 in Sec. 30 & 31, T.8N., R.30E. <i>This fence is not found on this allotment.</i>	USFS materials/ Permittee labor	As funding permits	Permittee
Trick Tank (new)	1	Construct a tank in Sec.2, T.8N., R.29E. <i>Replaced with a new water development (well, pipeline).</i>	Permittee labor & equipment	<i>completed</i>	Permittee
Broadcast burning	10-15-year interval	Potential sites on the Allotment	USFS equipment & labor	As funding permits	Permittee
Interior fence (new)	1.7 miles	Construct fence to create the new Terrance Pasture. <i>This pasture was withdrawn from livestock grazing.</i>	USFS materials/ Permittee labor	As funding permits	Permittee
Fence (remove)	1.9 miles	Fence #6224 to combine the Murray Basin Pasture with Basin Pasture	Permittee labor	As funding permits	Permittee
Water trough (replace)	1	Trough #6278 on Picnic Well pipeline. New # 066277	USFS materials & permittee labor	As funding permits	Permittee
Watershed Restoration Project	Combination	In Murray Basin/Saffel Canyon areas	USFS equipment & labor	<i>completed</i>	USFS
Road Closure & wing fence	3 mi.	Sec.30, 36, 35, T.8N., R.29E. Construct wing fence with locking gate	USFS materials, equipment & labor	<i>completed</i>	USFS

TERM GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3 (Reference FSM 2230) WATER CANYON & MURRAY BASIN ALLOTMENTS	Page 12 of 16
	Permittee Number SPR13RGE
	Permit Number R06063

WATER CANYON ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Current Permit and NEPA History

The February 9, 1999 Environmental Assessment (EA) of Milligan Valley Grazing Allotments and the June 22, 1999 Decision Notice (DN) for an Allotment Management Plan are incorporated by reference into the Special Terms and Conditions. The decision was made to implement alternative 2 of the EA, which included the permitted number of livestock to be 86 cow/calf pairs with a season of use from 07/01 to 10/31 (page 1 of DN). Changes that occurred after the DN was signed are summarized below:

4. Water Canyon and Tabletop Allotments were combined into a new Water Canyon Allotment.
5. On March 1, 2000, Aldrice and Sybil Burk waived the Saffel Springs portion of their permit back to the Forest Service. The Saffel Springs Allotment was a small, two-pasture allotment that did not fit in well with the Burks' livestock operation. Slade Springs Pasture of the Saffel Springs Allotment was added to the new Water Canyon Allotment.
6. On May 22, 2000, Flying Box Ranch, Inc. waived the Murray Basin Allotment back to the Forest Service and Flying Box was issued a Term Grazing Permit for the Rudd Creek Allotment. The Murray Basin Allotment was then added to the Water Canyon Term Grazing Permits on May 14, 2001.
7. Since the Water Canyon Allotment permittees gained the Murray Basin Allotment, the OD pasture was taken from the Water Canyon Allotment and combined with the new Rudd Creek Allotment. OD Pasture is not contiguous to the Water Canyon Allotment but is better managed as a part of the Rudd Creek Allotment.
8. The final result is that the Water Canyon Allotment now includes five additional pastures from adjacent allotments: South, Ponderosa, Lane and Cottonwood from the old Rudd Creek Winter Allotment and Slade Springs Pasture from the old Saffel Springs Allotment. It will be managed in conjunction with the new Murray Basin Allotment. The new Term Grazing Permits allow 74 cow/calf pairs on Water Canyon Allotment and 62 cow/calf pairs on Murray Basin Allotment. The animal numbers are split evenly between the two permittees. These numbers are in compliance with capacity determinations in the Milligan Valley EA allotment analysis. These actions created more logical, compact grazing units for the permittees, and added the Murray Basin Allotment to the permittees' operation.

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

Description of the Allotment

The Water Canyon Allotment is located approximately two miles south of Springerville, Arizona. The Allotment contains 13,094 acres. The elevation ranges from approximately 7,400 on the north end to 8,800 feet in the southern portion of the allotment. Topography is rugged with several steep dissecting canyons in the northern pastures. A large, basalt rim that runs east to west dissects the allotment. The rim splits the Water Canyon Allotment into lower and higher elevation pastures.

The dominant vegetation type in lower elevation pastures includes pinyon/juniper woodlands with a blue grama dominated understory. Other associated species are snakeweed, spike muhly, bottlebrush squirreltail and wolftail. Cool season species are limited to wet swales, ephemeral drainages and drainages. Shrub species consist of cliffrose, deerbrush, skunkbrush, wax currant and mountain mahogany.

TERM GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3 (Reference FSM 2230) WATER CANYON & MURRAY BASIN ALLOTMENTS	Page 13 of 16
	Permittee Number SPR13RGE
	Permit Number R06063

Vegetation types in higher elevation pastures ranges from pinyon pine/blue grama to ponderosa pine/Arizona fescue to Douglas-fir/mountain muhly habitat type. Cool season species are more abundant than in the lower elevation pastures but are still limited to both wet and dry meadows and perennial and ephemeral drainages. The dominant vegetation in the wet meadow and streamside riparian habitats is a mosaic of Kentucky bluegrass, redtop and sedges.

Riparian habitat is limited in all pastures. Most significant is Water Canyon Creek that runs through Water Canyon Pasture.

Goals and Objectives

- e. Balance permitted livestock use with allotment capacity (page 2 of EA)
- f. Establish utilization standards and season of use that will provide for the physiological needs of the vegetation (page 1 of DN)
- g. Improve vegetation and range condition (page 10 of EA)
- h. Improve watershed and soil condition (page 18 of EA)

Management Strategy

The allotment will be grazed in combination with the Murray Basin Allotment in a deferred rotational grazing system. The livestock operation will consist of both permittees combining their livestock into a single cowherd. The new number of livestock and season of use for each permit are:

- The permitted number of livestock is 37 cow and calf pairs.
- The season of use is July 1 to October 31.

MITIGATION MEASURES

4. To meet big game critical range habitat objectives, the Cottonwood, South and Ponderosa Pastures will have an emphasis for management of a forage standing crop for winter use by big game. The forage in these pastures will be pre-conditioned by livestock early in the grazing season between 07/1 and 08/15 and then livestock will be removed, typically by 08/15 and 08/30 depending on the operational grazing sequence. The early removal of livestock will allow for herbaceous recovery within these pastures prior to the onset of winter use by big game. The Cottonwood Pasture is non-contiguous to the main allotment and will be scheduled as an early or late pasture to make logical grazing sequences as they swing and out of the grazing rotation. The management objective will be to provide big game forage of a sufficient quality and quantity that improves wintering big game distribution within the identified critical winter range habitat across this area of the Rudd Creek Winter Allotment (DN, 06/22/99).
5. In accordance with the term and conditions of the Cooperative Agreement (Agreement) between the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (FS) and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) for the White Mountain Hereford Ranch and Surrounding National Forest Lands (Agreement, Section A.3. and B.2.) riparian exclusion fencing will be constructed on Rudd Creek to provide protection of streamside riparian habitats to meet habitat management objectives for Little Colorado spinedace and other fish and wildlife species. Specific activities included in the Decision are: 1) Construction of approximately 6.25 miles of new interior fences to create the new South Pasture, Ponderosa Pasture and Cottonwood Pasture.
6. Alternative 2 proposes construction of several structural improvements to improve livestock distribution and reduce forage use in key areas.

TERM GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3 (Reference FSM 2230) WATER CANYON & MURRAY BASIN ALLOTMENTS	Page 14 of 16
	Permittee Number SPR13RGE
	Permit Number R06063

7. Alternative 2 has several measures designed to improve watershed and riparian conditions on the allotment, which are proposed in the Murray Basin/Saffel Canyon Watershed Restoration Projects and Riparian exclusion fencing along Rudd Creek.
8. Livestock will be trailed to and from the current Tabletop Allotment to the Lane and Cottonwood Pastures along Forest Road 85. Livestock will cross Rudd Creek on the road upstream of occupied Little Colorado spinedace habitat.
9. Implement soil and water conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs) that apply to the activities listed above to maintain/improve water quality and prevent accelerated soil erosion.

Table 1. Water Canyon Allotment planned range developments – construction/reconstruction (pages 71-72 of EA).

DEVELOPMENT	UNITS	LOCATION	CONSTRUCTION RESPONSIBILITY	WHEN	MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY
Trick Tank (new)	1	Construct a tank in Sec.18, T.8N., R.28E. In saddle on the SW slope of Flat Top Mountain.	USFS material/labor and Permittee labor	As funding permits	Permittee
Pit tank	1	Sec. 22, T.8N., R.29E. Eastside of Flat Top Mountain.	USFS equipment and labor	As funding permits	Permittee
Trick Tank	1	Sec. 20, T.8N., R.29E. North end of Water Canyon Pasture.	USFS materials & Permittee labor	As funding permits	Permittee
Interior fence (new)	1.75 miles	Within Middle Pasture of RCW to protect riparian areas creating South Pasture	AG&FD material/labor	7/2000, RMEF <i>completed</i>	Permittee
Interior fence (new)	2.0 miles	Within Middle Pasture of RCW to protect riparian areas creating Ponderosa Pasture.	AG&FD materials/ labor	7/2000, RMEF <i>completed</i>	Permittee
Interior fence (new)	2.5 miles	Within Middle Pasture of RCW to protect riparian areas creating Cottonwood Pasture.	AG&FD materials/ labor	7/2000, RMEF <i>completed</i>	Permittee
Trick tank	1	Section 2, T.7N., R.29E. in South Pasture. <i>Replaced with a well, pipeline, & etc,</i>	USFS materials/ Permittee labor	<i>completed</i>	Permittee
Broadcast burning	452 acres	Woodland treatments w/ a 10-15-year maintenance burn.	USFS equipment & labor	As funding permits	USFS
Interior fence (reconstruct)	11.3 miles	#6024-1.3 mi., **6072-1.5 mi., #6073-1.9 mi., **6143-2.3 mi., #6181-1.5 mi., #6189-5.0 mi., #6223-1.8 mi.	USFS materials/ Permittee labor	As funding permits	Permittee
Drift fence (new)	1.0 miles	Sec. 1 and 2, T.7N., R.29E.	USFS material/Permittee labor	As funding permits	Permittee

TERM GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3 (Reference FSM 2230) WATER CANYON & MURRAY BASIN ALLOTMENTS	Page 15 of 16
	Permittee Number SPR13RGE
	Permit Number R06063

Pipeline	1.7 miles	Extend #6053 from Benton Creek Allotment to proposed Ponderosa Pasture and install a drinker. <i>Replaced with a well, pipeline, &etc,</i>	USFS materials & permittee labor	<i>completed</i>	Permittee
Watershed Restoration Project	Combination	In Murray Basin/Saffel Canyon areas	USFS equipment & labor	<i>completed</i>	USFS
Pit tanks	existing	Clean existing pit tanks on the Allotment.	Permittee equipment & labor	As funding permits	Permittee

#6024 & #6223 - not found on the map.
 *#6072 - number changed to #066417
 **6143 - combined with #066142

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 Water Canyon and Murray Basin Allotments and the Allotment Management Plan with the grazing Permittee."



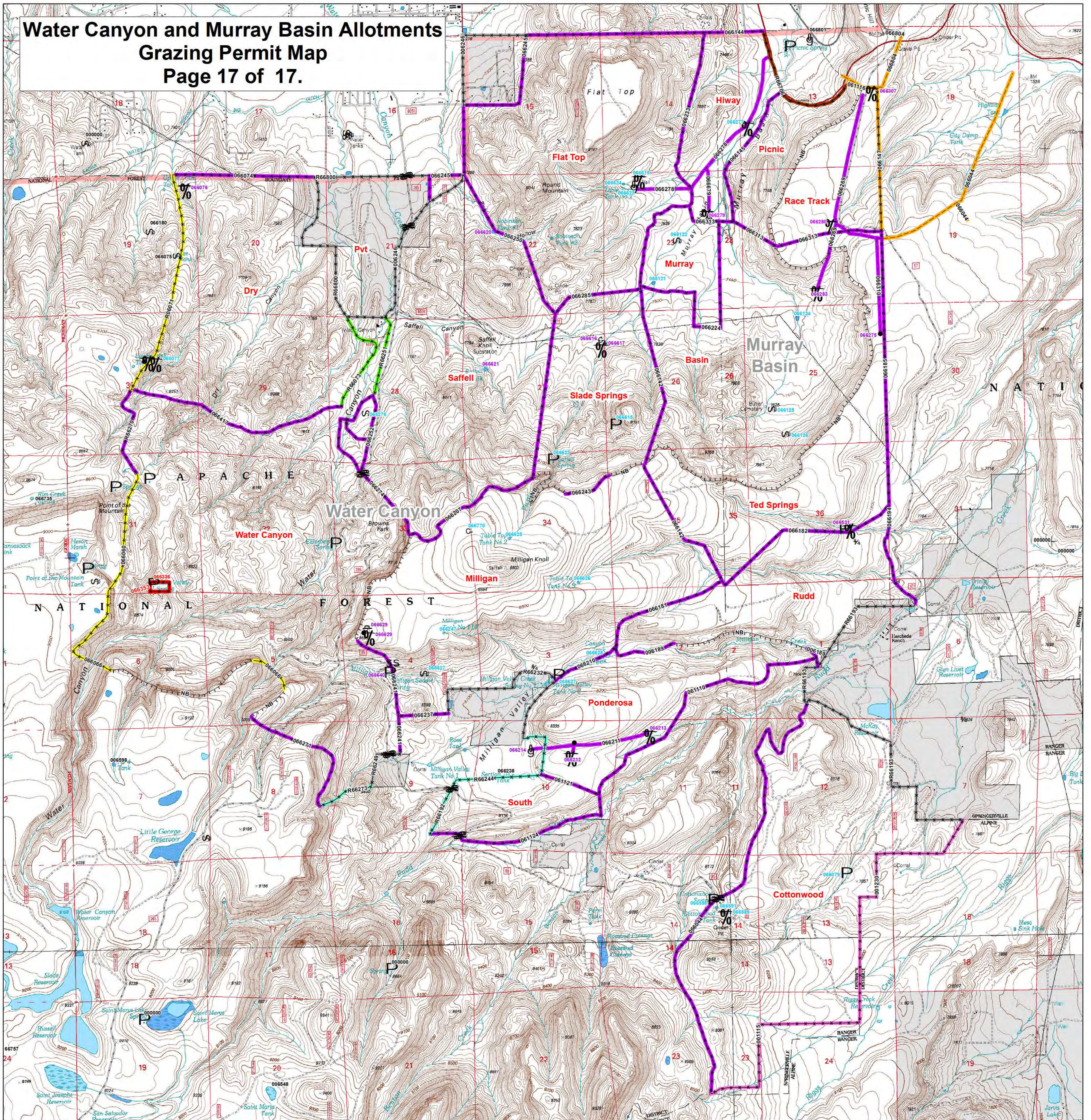
 Rangeland Management Specialist

03/08/2021
 Date

TERM GRAZING PERMIT - PART 3 (Reference FSM 2230)	Page 16 of 16
	Permittee Number SPR13RGE
	Permit Number R06063
WATER CANYON & MURRAY BASIN ALLOTMENTS	

WATER CANYON & MURRAY BASIN MAP GOES HERE

**Water Canyon and Murray Basin Allotments
Grazing Permit Map
Page 17 of 17.**



Legend

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------|--------------|
| P | Spring | | Cattleguard |
| S | Stock Tank | SS | Gate |
| ⊕ | Trick Tank | ⊙ | Corral |
| ⊕ | Well | ⊘ | Trough |
| ⊕ | Windmill | —+—+— | Fence |
| • | Storage Tank | --- | Pipeline |
| ⋯ | Natural Barrier | | Tanks |
| | | | Private land |

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests
Springerville Ranger District
Range Improvement Map
**Water Canyon
and
Murray Basin Allotments**

Maintenance Responsibility

- James P. (Jack) & Bette McCall
- Benton Creek Permittee
- Colter Creek Permittee
- Picnic Permittee
- 26 Bar Permittee
- Private Land Owner
- USFS
- ADOT
- Turkey Federation

This map is part of Grazing Permit No. SPR13RGE issued to Water Canyon and Murray Basin Permittees on _____ by _____ and shows the Water Canyon and Murray Basin Allotments

