

1995 PERMITTEE/COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT
Windmill Range Allotment
Peaks, Mormon Lake, and Sedona Ranger Districts
Coconino National Forest
Coconino County and Yavapai County, Arizona

This document is an agreement between the Coconino National Forest and the Windmill permittee to follow certain range management practices over the next two years or until new recommendations are reached thru joint talks between the permittee, Forest Service and AZ Game and Fish Department, or until a comprehensive NEPA analysis is complete.

Listed below are specific features of the agreement including a description of the grazing system. This agreement also identifies a few site-specific actions to maintain current protection of some riparian areas and to improve efficiency of the grazing system.

Specific features

- o Existing range structures: Maintain existing barbed wire and electric fences, cattleguards, stock tanks, pipelines, and holding areas. ~~Repair the fence in the Oak Creek Riparian Pasture.~~ The Forest Service will continue pursuing a volunteer agreement with a private landowner for the Spring Creek fence. The Forest Service will continue working with horse groups in Sedona to install horse gates and provide signing on gates and fences. SM
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- o New range structures: If the Gyberg Pasture is needed between August 1 and March 31 to meet the overall goals of the grazing system on the Winter Division, construct 2 miles of barbed wire fence and 1 1/2 miles of electric fence around populations of the rare plant Purshia subintegra present in that pasture. Install a cattleguard and a self-closing horse gate at the south end of Black Tank Pasture on the road near Miller Tank. The Forest Service will provide materials and the permittee will install these items.
- o Livestock grazing: During summer, livestock graze in the Munds Pocket/Foxboro Division of the Mormon Lake Ranger District and the Mill Park Division of the Peaks Ranger District as described below. The dates below are approximate and may be adjusted somewhat each season depending on range conditions.

Graze the Mill Park Commercial Herd of 635 animals on the Mill Park Division in a 7-pasture deferred-rest rotation system that uses each pasture for 20 to 40 days between June 1 and October 31.

Graze the Foxboro Herd of 250 animals on the Munds Pocket/Foxboro Division in a 7-pasture deferred rotation system that uses each pasture for 30 to 45 days between May 1 and November 30.

Graze the Munds Pocket Herd of 200 to 250 animals on the Munds Pocket/Foxboro Division in a 5-pasture deferred-rest rotation system

that use each pasture for 30 to 60 days between June 1 and October 31.

During winter, graze livestock on the Winter Division of the Sedona District as described below.

Graze the Mill Park Commercial Herd of 635 animals in a 14-pasture deferred-rest rotation system that uses each pasture for 20 to 60 days between November 1 and May 31.

Graze the Foxboro Herd of 250 animals in the Foxboro area in a 7-pasture deferred-rest rotation system that uses each pasture for 20 to 60 days between December 1 and April 30.

Graze the Munds Pocket Herd of 200 to 250 animals on the DK and Malpais Units and on state lands in a 5-pasture deferred-rest rotation system that uses each pasture for 20 to 60 days between November 1 and May 31.

Graze a Bull Herd of 80 to 100 animals for about 75 days on each of the two Cornville Pastures between October 15 and March 15.

After culling cows, either ship them out with steer calves or combine them with one of the other four herds so that they do not form a separate herd. In addition, heifers will be combined with the Mill Park Commercial Herd after they calve.

When necessary, combine the three cow herds on some pastures to reduce the number of days the Foxboro pastures are grazed. Also, do not graze the Oak Creek Riparian and Lower Oak Creek/White Flat Pastures to prevent direct impacts from cattle on Oak Creek. In addition, adjust rotations to ensure that spring deferment occurs as much as possible throughout the winter range.

During both summer and winter, follow the management practices described below.

Do not graze the Gyberg and Duff Flat Pastures from April 1 to July 31 to avoid indirect effects to Southwestern willow flycatcher (Empidonax traillii extimus) habitat during the flycatcher's breeding season.

Use all holding pastures for holding only. Keep cattle in holding pastures for 10 days or less.

One or two days after driving cattle up the Mooney Trail from winter range to summer range, send a rider through the drive area to move cattle out of the north end of Black Tank Pasture if any have remained there. Likewise, one or two days after driving cattle down the Mooney Trail from summer range to winter range, send a rider through the drive area to move cattle out of the upper end of Spring Creek if any have remained there.

Annually adjust the grazing system to meet the goals and objectives of management on the allotment.

- o Monitoring: Forest Service personnel will continue elk/livestock forage utilization monitoring. This monitoring, in conjunction with strict adherence to the annual schedule, will provide good information on which to base future decisions. The Forest Service will continue on-going conversations and project-level consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service if interagency review of monitoring of critical habitat reveals that herbaceous and woody species composition is insufficient for Mexican spotted owl prey.

Also, Forest Service personnel will monitor Purshia subintegra populations in the Gyberg Pasture for the two-year permit period regardless of whether livestock graze this pasture.

In addition to the grazing management items listed above, the permittee and Forest Service agree to meet in the future and discuss other aspects of the allotment. The AZ Game and Fish Department will participate in these discussions also. Below are examples of issues to be addressed.

improve conditions in meadows above the rim

improve conditions of riparian areas

balance forage consumption by elk and livestock with forage production in places that are currently out of balance.

maintain sustainable elk winter range.

Clyde W. Thompson
Clyde Thompson, Peaks District Ranger
Coconino National Forest

12/19/95
Date

Glen Morrison
Glen Morrison,
Windmill Allotment Permittee

12/19/95
Date