ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

ANITA/CAMERON ALLOTMENTS

TUSAYAN RANGER DISTRICT – KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST

Prepared by: _____ 9/5/06 **Date:**
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Agreed to and Accepted by: _____ **Date**
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I. Goals and Objectives

As articulated in the Environmental Analysis the goals and objectives of this plan are to:

1. Maintain both the current diversity in understory species composition, vegetative ground cover, and generally stable or slightly upward direction in soil stability.
2. Ensure that structural improvements distribute livestock throughout the acres capable of supporting livestock grazing and facilitate rotation of pastures.
3. Improve soil function to enhance soil conditions.
4. Provide forage for domestic livestock production when this is not in conflict with other multiple use objectives.
5. Maintain or improve range conditions within the allotments.

II. Management Strategy

Management actions have been proposed based on an analysis of the differences between current and desired resources condition. The selected alternative would change existing resource condition over time and progress toward the desired future conditions.

I. Anita/Cameron Allotments

Both allotments would be combined into a single grazing unit to improve efficiency of the ranching operation and reduce the amount of time livestock are allowed to graze in a pasture. A term grazing permit would be issued that allows from 3600 animals months to 7860 animals months annually (600 head to 1310 head of livestock). The level of stocking within that range of livestock numbers in any given year would be depend on annual forage production in full capacity rangelands and the resulting utilization levels that occur. Adjustments in livestock season of use, utilization levels, and rotation strategy would occur based on monitoring of utilization and changes in range conditions. Specific connected actions include the following.

A. Implement a rest-rotation grazing strategy where 20 percent of the Ponderosa pine/Gamble oak and 20 percent of the Pinyon pine/Juniper or shrub grassland ecosystems are excluded from grazing each year in order to promote regeneration of grass species. This would also promote desirable levels of liter for prescribed fire activities.
B. Adjust the season of use from yearlong to summer seasonal with the use period being approximately May 1 to October 31 in any given year in order to increase browse plants in the winter rangelands and improve the frequency of cool season grasses. These approximate dates could vary based on monitoring of range readiness conditions and forage utilization levels.
C. Change the class of livestock from yearlings to cow/calf to improve the economics of the ranching operation.

D. To promote native forage plants, improve watershed conditions and expand habitat for wildlife, utilization standards would allow 35 percent use of total forage in the key areas (grassland or shrub/ grassland at least ¼ mile from depend water sources). A 20 percent allowable use value would be assigned to the full capacity lands found in the uplands outside of the alluvial bottomlands.

Adaptive management is included in the proposed action for Anita/Cameron Allotments and could include the following adjustments if monitoring indicates desired conditions are not being met.

1. Authorized livestock numbers would be adjusted to meet existing capacities of the allotments. This variation would normally be between the previously identified minimum and maximum number for the Anita/Cameron Allotments. Under extreme drought conditions, authorized livestock numbers could drop below the minimum.
2. The On and Off dates could be modified within the allotments. Later livestock entry dates and earlier livestock removal dates would occur in order to promote the growth and reproduction of desired herbaceous plants. Change in On/Off dates would be required if utilization levels on primary forage grasses exceed allowable levels, the frequency of these plant drops, or suitable progress towards desired vegetation condition does not occur.

Table – 1 projects the anticipated rotation sequence over the next 10 years. This information is also displayed on form R3-2200-18.

Table – 1: Projected Rotation – CY 2006 to 2015 for Anita/Cameron Allotments

Pasture Name	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Dillman, Red Butte, East and West Skinner	1[1]	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Upper and Lower south Anita	R	5	R	6	R	6	R	6	R	6
Headquarters	5	R	5	R	5	R	5	R	5	R
Tusayan	R	2	R	2	R	2	R	2	R	2
*Buckler	2	R	2	R	2	R	2	R	2	R
*LeeStrip/cabin	R	3	3	3	R	3	3	3	R	3
W/E basin, *Trash Dam, Deer	3	R	4	4	3	4	R	4	3	4
*Muggs Castle, E/W Willow,	4	4	R	5	4	5	4	5	4	5
*Navajo										

* indicates Cameron Allotment

[1] Pasture rotation sequence as identified in FS Form R3-2200-18.

Utilization will be measured on a seasonal basis once livestock are removed from a pasture as well as at the end of the grazing season to determine. All range improvements assigned to the permittee (see attached list) need to be maintained in order to facilitate the proper management of livestock. If improvements are considered surplus to the needs of the allotment they shall be removed.

The grazing schedule as identified on form R3-2200-18 is a guide and should be followed as close as possible in order to obtain the goals and objectives specified above.

III. Livestock Distribution Aids

In order to meet the objectives of this plan, adequate herding, proper use and maintenance of waters, and salting practices will need to be undertaken to achieve the proper distribution of livestock activities. No more than 3 blocks of salt should be used at one time and they should be a minimum of ¼ mile from the water source and preferably more than ½ mile. They need to be placed in areas where light use has been observed and removed where use is determined to be at a high level.

Water hauls within a pasture are warranted when existing tank capacities are low. Both the permittee and Forest Service will identify these sites prior to implementation of a water haul plan.

All pasture and allotments fences need to be checked and maintained when problems are identified. All maintenance costs are the responsibility of the permittee whereas new or reconstruction will be split 50/50 between the Agency and the permit holder.

IV. Range Improvement Construction Priority

Reconstruct 21.5 miles of forest boundary fence adjacent to the Navajo Nation.

V. Range/Wildlife Monitoring and Mitigation

Collection and interpretation of utilization information is based on two documents including *Principles of Interpreting Utilization Data* (University of Arizona, 2005) and the *Draft Kaibab National Forest Guidelines for Obtaining and Analyzing Use Information* (2005). During years when low annual precipitation takes place the Forest will continue to use the *Kaibab National Forest Drought Policy Guidelines* that were developed in 2002.

Monitoring would include the following actions:

1. Assessment of forage utilization in full capacity rangelands.

2. Ability of the permittee to make timely pasture moves, deferment or rest schedules, and maintenance of improvements.

A. Within five years after implementation, all key area clusters will be inventoried and determined of changes in range resources conditions identified. If desired objectives are met then current management would be maintained. If not, grazing activities would be adapted by changing the season of use, rotation strategy, authorized numbers or allowable use to meet desired conditions.

Utilization monitoring will occur prior to, during, and after livestock removal when necessary. Ocular monitoring of use or reading utilization cages in key areas will be accomplished periodically during the grazing season in each pasture. If the allowable use criteria are met (seasonal) prior to the scheduled rotation date, livestock will be removed.

VI. Flexibility

Flexibility including adjustments of the grazing sequence or approved numbers due to weather, wildfire events, or overstory removal is an important component of this plan. Any change in the anticipated use patterns or numbers will occur only after close coordination with the grazing permittee.