

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

TULE ALLOMENT

WILLIAMS RANGER DISTRICT – KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST

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Agreed to and Accepted by:  Date 2-17-06
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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 allotment with special attention being placed on increasing range and watershed health in May pasture.

II. Management Strategy

An eight pasture rest-rotation grazing system will be employed with 20 horses authorized from 02/01 until 12/15 and a range of cow/calves going from a low of 280 to a high of 300 approved from 05/15 to 12/15. Normally, one of the rim pastures (Wagner or Pocket) will be rested every year and one or more of the five of the summer units (Pine, Tule, Lee, White Horse, or Sycamore). 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

Pasture Name	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
May	1 ¹	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Wagner	R	5	R	6	R	6	R	6	R	6
Pocket	5	R	5	R	5	R	5	R	5	R
Tule	R	2	R	2	R	2	R	2	R	2
Pine	2	R	2	R	2	R	2	R	2	R
Lee	R	3	3	3	R	3	3	3	R	3
White Horse	3	R	4	4	3	4	R	4	3	4
Sycamore	4	4	R	5	4	5	4	5	4	5

The May pasture is allocated for 14 days in the spring months when the livestock are moving off of the Prescott National Forest. Also, on or about February 1 up to 20 horses shall be placed within this pasture to prevent problems associated with grazing on locoweed that has been found within the Sandflat Allotment. Livestock will enter May pasture between May 1 and May 15, depending on range readiness.

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

Numbers of adult livestock permitted (Cows/calves) is between 280 and 300 head and up to 20 horses. The livestock will exit the Kaibab on December 15 and be placed onto the Sandflat Allotment.

The allowable use in the key areas is authorized at 40 percent whereas in the upland areas that are considered full capacity is set at 20 percent. 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. The allowable use factor is 30 percent within May pasture. 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 R3-2200-19 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

This allotment is considered fully developed with no outstanding improvement work identified.

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.

Mitigation measures specific to Alternative 5 related to wildlife include:

1. Limit human activities associated with livestock grazing within northern goshawk nesting areas during the nesting season.
2. Limit human activities or construction actions associated with livestock grazing in Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers (MSO PACS)) or other protected or restricted habitat during MSO breeding season (March 1 through October 30).
3. Erect livestock enclosure fence around no less than 30 percent of the deeper portion of the shoreline around Deadman Tank to help promote establishment and growth of rooted aquatic vegetation for use by northern leopard frogs.
4. Livestock management activities (beyond livestock presence) will not occur within .25 miles of the two bald eagle winter roost sites during occupation.
5. Management actions to avoid TES plants.

Utilization monitoring will occur prior to, during, and after livestock use in each pasture. No salt or supplements are allowed in protected activity centers (PAC's) or restricted habitat for Mexican Spotted Owl. Utilization will not exceed 20 percent in either the PAC's or restricted habitat.

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.

Approximately every 10 years, the long term existing range plots will be inventories, and a range analysis done to determine changes in range conditions and trend.

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.