Juniper Allotment

Allotment Management Plan

Prescott National Forest

Chino Valley Ranger District

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Agreed to/Reviewed by: _____ Date: 3/27/09
Permittee

Approved by: Linda L Jackson Date: 3/27/09
Chino Valley District Ranger

Introduction

The Juniper Allotment Grazing project is located on the Chino Valley Ranger District of the Prescott National Forest and involves the area west of the Walnut Creek Work Center. The project area is situated in T 18 N, R 5 & 6 W Gila and Salt River Meridian and involves approximately 8, 875 (GIS) acres of National Forest System lands on the Prescott National Forest

Goals and Objectives of Management

Desired conditions for this project are derived from the general Prescott Forest Plan goals of "managing forest lands with a primary emphasis on healthy, robust environments with productive soils, clean air and water, and diverse populations of flora and fauna.

Resource goals and objectives on the Juniper Allotment are:

- Protect and improve soil resources to sustain long-term productivity where the potential exists.
- Restore and maintain watershed in satisfactory condition.
- Manage for diverse populations of flora.
- Improve all riparian areas and maintain in satisfactory condition with 3 age-classes of woody riparian species where potential exist.
- Hydrologic function that contributes to maintenance/improvement of state water quality standards.
- Manage for vegetative communities of diverse composition that provide for watershed health, wildlife habitat, and forage for herbivores.

Grazing Management Strategy

Grazing Period/Duration

- Permitted livestock use will not exceed 119 cattle (1,428 Head Months) year-long. Grazing will occur through a deferred-rest rotational grazing system.
- Annual authorized livestock numbers will be based on current available water and forage and predicted forage production for the year.
- Adjustments to the annual authorized livestock numbers (increase or decrease) may occur during the grazing year, and will be initiated through Annual Operating Instructions (AOIs).

Grazing Frequency and Timing

- The Juniper Allotment's grazing rotation system will continue to emphasize allotment-wide summer growing season deferment in order to provide for grazed plant re-growth and plant health.
- Timing of livestock use will be determined through an assessment of adequate available forage. Pasture moves will be directed by utilization monitoring and management objectives specified in the allotment's AMP and AOI.
- Generally pastures will be grazed only once during the grazing year. However, if the need arises to provide rest (or deferment) for other pastures, a pasture may be used twice provided there has been sufficient vegetative growth/re-growth and grazing is managed within the intensity and utilization guidelines.

Grazing Intensity

- Livestock grazing during the spring (cool-season, April 1 to May 30) growing period and the summer (warm-season, July 15-September 30) will be managed at conservative (31-40%) use intensity on key herbaceous species identified within key areas on the allotment.
- Livestock grazing during the dormant season will be managed at moderate (41-50%) use intensity on key herbaceous species identified within key areas on the allotment.
- Sites identified with reduced soil function and/or reduced herbaceous condition will be managed for light use (0-30%) during the growing season and will not exceed moderate use (41-50%) during the dormant season. Sites identified with a loss of soil function and poor herbaceous condition will be managed for incidental use.
- Livestock grazing use levels will be managed at moderate (51-60% leaders browsed) average use intensity on selected upland key browse species.
- Proper allowable use within riparian areas will not exceed 20 percent on woody species.

Grazing Monitoring

Two types of monitoring will be used, implementation and effectiveness monitoring. Both qualitative and quantitative monitoring methods will be used in accordance with the Interagency Technical References, Region 3 Rangeland Analysis and Management Training Guide, and the Region 3 Allotment Analysis Handbook.

1. **Implementation monitoring** will be conducted by the Forest Service and/or permittee and may include but is not limited to: livestock actual use data, grazing intensity evaluations during the grazing season (within key and critical areas), utilization at the end of the growing season (within key areas), and visual observation of vegetation and ground cover.

2. **Effectiveness monitoring** to evaluate the success of management in achieving the desired objectives will occur within key areas on permanent transects at an interval of ten

(10) years or less. Effectiveness monitoring may also be conducted if data and observations from implementation monitoring (annual monitoring) indicate a need. Initial baseline monitoring will occur.

Key Area Locations*	Pasture	Key Species	Use levels	Period of Use
KA 1	South	Blue Grama & Side Oats	Moderate 41-50%	October -March
KA 1	South	Blue Grama & Side Oats	Conservative 31-40%	April - September
KA 2	North	Blue Grama & Side Oats	Moderate 41-50%	October -March
KA 2	North	Blue Grama & Side Oats	Conservative 31-40%	April - September
KA 3	East	Blue Grama & Side Oats	Moderate 41-50%	October -March
KA 3	East	Blue Grama & Side Oats	Conservative 31-40%	April - September

Critical Area Locations*	Pasture	Key Species	Use levels	Period of Use
CA 1	North	Blue Grama, Deer Grass	Conservative (31-40%)	
CA 1	North	Woody Species	Not to exceed 20%	
CA 2	South	Blue Grama, Deer Grass	Conservative (31-40%)	
CA 2	South	Woody Species	Not to exceed 20%	

***** see attached map for locations.***

Adaptive Management

If monitoring indicates that resource objectives are not being achieved, management will be modified in cooperation with the permittee. Adaptive management allows the Forest Service to adjust: the timing, intensity, frequency and duration of grazing; the grazing management system, and livestock numbers. If adjustments are needed, they are implemented through the Annual Operating Instructions. Adaptive management will also allow for the optional construction of rangeland improvements if they have been identified and are determined, through monitoring, to be necessary for achieving resource objectives. An example of a situation in which adaptive management may be utilized is prolonged drought.

Livestock Distribution Aids

Application of standard management practices such as salting, herding, and controlling access to water to achieve proper distribution or lessen the impact on areas which are sensitive or are natural concentration areas will be applied by the permittee.

Protein, salt, and other supplements will not be placed within ¼ mile of water or any identified sensitive plant population or areas with a loss of soil function.

Range Improvements

All new fencing will be built to LRMP standards (LRMP, page 35) to provide for wildlife passage through the fence. At a minimum, this will be a 4-strand fence with a smooth bottom wire 16 inches off the ground and a total fence height of 42 inches or less with a minimum spacing between the top wire and second wire of 12 inches.

An exclosure fence will be constructed at Lee Seep by the end of FY 2009. This fence will be designed and constructed to protect the important riparian vegetation. The maintenance of the fence will be the responsibility of the USFS Chino Valley Ranger District.

Construction Priority

1. Structural; None planned at this time.
2. Non-Structural; None planned at this time.

Range Improvement Maintenance Schedule

Existing improvements are shown on the allotment map and range improvement inventory sheets of the permit.

All maintenance must be done annually whether the allotment is actually grazed or not.

Maintenance must occur throughout the season and cannot be a one time action.

Damage resulting from big game, wind, other acts of nature, or human caused actions, must be repaired in a timely manner so as to ensure the integrity of the structures.

All maintenance of exterior fences must be completed prior to turn on each year. *(It is the responsibility of the permittee to ensure that the necessary coordination occurs between adjacent allotments to ensure maintenance is completed in a timely manner).*

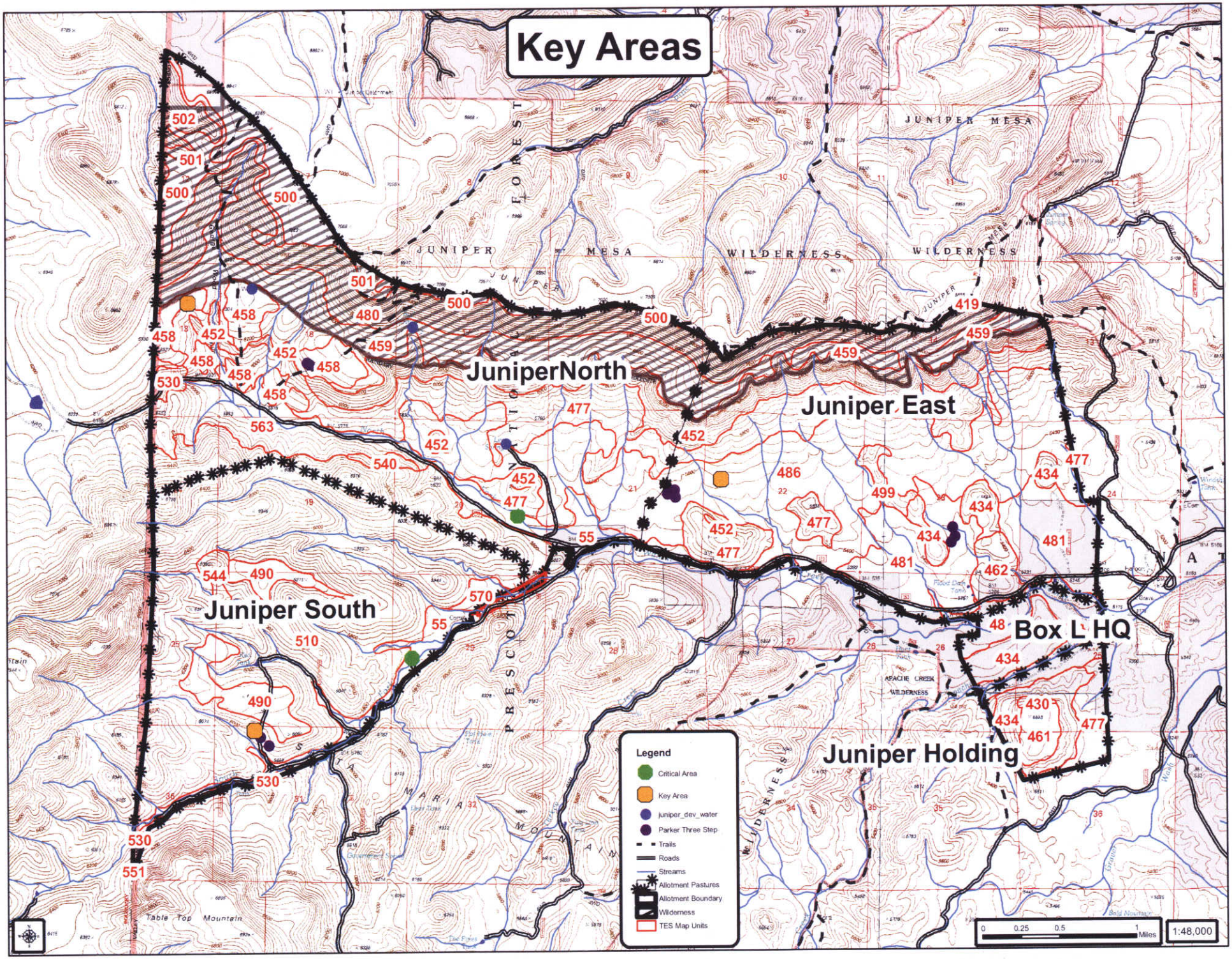
Mitigation Measures

Suitable Northern Goshawk habitat exists within the ponderosa pine habitat. In the event a nest site or post-fledgling area is identified, the following mitigation measures will be incorporated.

1) Wildlife and livestock utilization of grasses and forbs should average 20% by weight and not exceed 40% in any area, and shrub utilization should average 40% by weight and not exceed 60% in any area. These levels of utilization should maintain native food and cover for many of the prey species.

2) No adverse management activities as identified in the *Management Recommendations for the Northern Goshawk in the Southwestern United States* will occur within active nest areas at any time.

There will be minimal human presence in active nest areas during the nesting season March 1 – September 30.


Key Areas
JuniperNorth
Juniper East
Juniper South
Juniper Holding
Box L HQ
JUNIPER MESA
WILDERNESS
PRESCOTT NF
Table Top Mountain
Legend
Critical Area
Key Area
juniper_dev_water
Parker Three Step
Trails
Roads
Streams
Allotment Pastures
Allotment Boundary
Wilderness
TES Map Units
0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles
1:48,000