

Allotment Management Plan

China Dam Range Allotment

USDA, Forest Service
Prescott National Forest
Chino Valley Ranger District,
Yavapai County, Arizona

Introduction

The 15,947 acre China Dam Allotment is located approximately 12 miles east of Chino Valley near the center of the western half of the Chino Valley District. The allotment contains nearly 3 miles of the Verde River. Elevations on the allotment range from 4,100 ft. at the Verde River to 4800 ft on Little Black Mesa.

Pinyon-juniper woodlands are found on a majority of the allotment with small inclusions of grasslands and the generally narrow band of riparian vegetation bordering the Verde River.

9,250 acres (58% of the allotment) are considered capable of supporting grazing and all the acres are in satisfactory Rangeland Management Status (RMS), although there is the opportunity for improvement in vegetative ground cover on grasslands of alluvial soils.

This Allotment Management Plan (AMP) implements the decision (supported by the Chino Grazing Project Environmental Assessment) made by Linda L. Jackson, Chino Valley District Ranger on February 2, 2004.

Objectives

- Maintain both the current diversity in understory species composition and vegetative ground cover on the allotment.
- Increase the diversity of perennial grass species and vegetative ground cover on the grasslands of alluvial soils scattered throughout the allotment.
- Improve soil function to enhance soil conditions.
- Ensure that structural improvements distribute livestock throughout the acres capable of supporting livestock grazing and facilitate deferred rotation management system on the allotment.

Grazing Management

A. Permitted Numbers, Season of Use, and Head Months

Permittee	Permit Type	# of Livestock	Season of Use	Head Months
Billy Wells	Term (10 years)	160 cattle (cow / calf)	Winter/Spring 11/1 - 05/31	1,120

The period of grazing and the stocking numbers on NFS lands will be determined by monitoring, designated in the Annual Operating Instructions, authorized in the annual grazing application and validated by payment of grazing fees designated in the Bill for Collection.

B. Grazing Management and Allowable Use

Grazing Management

Apply deferred rotation in the four upland pastures of the allotment.

The Verde River corridor will not be used for livestock grazing.

Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) will be prepared each year in cooperation with the permittee to allow for consideration of current allotment conditions and management objectives. This AOI will detail the current season's grazing schedule, the stocking level, the improvement maintenance needs, needed improvements, and the allowable use levels on key forage and browse species.

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. New improvements (e.g. pipelines, troughs, tanks, or fences) will be designed to avoid adverse impacts to any such populations.

All new or reconstructed fencing will be built to accommodate wildlife passage using a 4-strand fence with a smooth bottom wire 18 inches off the ground and a total fence height of 42 inches or less.

All new or reconstructed water developments will include wildlife access and escape ramps.

Cooperation of the permittee will be sought to make stock water supplies available for wildlife needs during critical periods, if water is available at the sources (e.g. storage tank).

No round-ups, drives, or construction activities (e.g. fence building) will occur within 1/4 mile of any bald eagle nest site when eggs and/or young chicks (less than 3 weeks old) are present in the nest.

No round-ups, drives, or construction activities (e.g. fence building) will occur within 1/4 mile of any bald eagle roost site during roosting December through April.

The permittee will ensure that structural range improvement maintenance is completed to standard; that livestock do not enter the allotment or a pasture prior to the approved entry date; that livestock are removed from pastures and the allotment as specified in the AOI. And permitted livestock do not enter or re-enter pastures that either have already been grazed, or that are planned for rest.

Allowable Use

Site	Use of Herbaceous Plants	Use of Shrubs
Upland sites	40% on key forage plants in key areas at the time livestock are moved from the pasture	40% of leaders

The herbaceous plant utilization levels above represent the percentage of last season's growth, if grazed during the dormant season, or the percentage of the current season's growth, to date, if grazed during a growing period (relative or seasonal utilization).

C. Rangeland Improvement Program

One (1) well, two (2) 10 thousand gallon storage tanks, eight (8) miles of pipeline and eight (8) drinkers will be installed as located on the ground and approved by the Forest Officer in Charge. (See attached map for approximate locations and the attached list of proposed completion dates).

Additional boundary fence along the Verde River breaks is also authorized but need not be installed unless livestock drift from the uplands to the Verde River.

D. Maintenance Responsibility

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

All maintenance of assigned structural improvements must be done annually by the permittee, 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).*

E. Drought Management

Perennial grasses and major browse species need deferment/rest in order to provide time to recover from drought induced stress.

Move cattle when utilization in pastures scheduled for use are met.

Livestock numbers will be permitted to the level commensurate to rangeland conditions and water availability. If removal of livestock is necessary, they may be authorized to return to the allotment once conditions improve; meaning sufficient recovery from the effects of drought stress has occurred and there has been enough herbaceous production to support livestock numbers. Potential return of livestock will be evaluated no earlier than the current year's summer growing season.

Monitoring and Evaluation

A. Implementation (Compliance) Monitoring

--- Periodic field checks will be conducted by the Forest Officer and/or the grazing permittee to measure forage use to determine if allowable use levels are being reached and determine any needed pasture movements.

(Monitoring of allowable use on key forage species in key areas is the joint responsibility of the Forest Service and the permittee. Although the Forest Service will make every effort to assist the permittee in ensuring compliance with standards, the permittee has the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the allowable use standards are met).

--- Periodic field checks will be conducted by the Forest Officer to assess vegetation health and trends as well as soil function to identify needed adjustments in season of use and/or livestock numbers.

Field Checks will include informal inspections, formal inspections, and permittee compliance monitoring.

Informal Inspections

Informal inspections conducted by the Forest Officer will be made as the opportunity arises, such as when the Forest Officer is working in the area or is passing through the allotment.

The permittee will be notified by telephone of any significant observations needing immediate attention. Significant observations will be documented in writing by the Forest Officer and a copy of the inspection notes will be sent to the permittee in a timely manner.

Formal Inspections

Formal inspections conducted by the Forest Officer will be made as time and competing duties allow with an attempt to inspect each of the pastures.

The permittee will be requested to accompany the Forest Officer during the inspections. Significant findings from these inspections will be documented in a letter or inspection report sent to the permittee in a timely manner.

Permittee Compliance Monitoring

The permittee will:

- Monitor the allotment continuously throughout the grazing season to determine current resource conditions and to ensure the terms of the permit are being met.
- Document all findings through notes, photographs, or other means decipherable by the Forest Officer
- Share monitoring information with the Forest Officer, and
- Coordinate with the Forest Officer to resolve any problems that arise.

B. Effectiveness Monitoring

The permittee is encouraged to participate in any effectiveness (e.g. long term condition and trend) monitoring and evaluation conducted on the allotment.

Permittee Review / Agreement

Reviewed by/ agreed to Billy Wells Date 8-25-09
Billy Wells, China Dam Permittee

Forest Officer Approval

Approved By Linda L Jackson Date 8-26-09
Linda Jackson, Chino Valley District Ranger

**ALTERNATIVES 4 and 5
China Dam Allotment
Chino Valley Ranger District
Prescott National Forest**

T.18 N.
R.01 E.

T.17 N.
R.01 W.

T.17 N.
R.01 E.

T.16 N.
R.01 E.

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Purpose: To Display selected features within the China Dam Allotment.

Disclaimer: GIS data and products accuracy may vary. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, modify, update, or replace GIS products without notification. Use of this product for purposes other than that for which it was intended may yield inaccurate or misleading results.

Date: August 5, 2003

Legend

- Allotment Boundary
- ++++ Fence or Natural Boundary
- x—x Proposed Fence
- Existing Water
- Proposed Water
- Verde River