

BOARD CREEK ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

BRADSHAW RANGER DISTRICT

PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST

Prepared by: Sandra J Braasch for Alan Kelso 12/14/95
Alan Kelso, Grazing Permit Adm. Date
Chino Valley and Bradshaw Districts

Reviewed by: Cornell Christensen 12/14/95
Cornell Christensen, Implementation Staff Date
Officer, Chino Valley and Bradshaw Districts

Approved by: John W. Holt 12-19-95
John W. Holt, District Ranger Date
Bradshaw Ranger District

Agreed to by: William E. Dumont 12-14-95
William E. Dumont, for William E. Dumont Date
Revocable Trust, DBA Rancho Santa Ynez

Board Creek is a cow-calf operation on a winter seasonal basis. Cattle are moved from other lands and non-Forest permits held by the current permittee.

Permitted numbers are 120 head from 11-16 to 5-15, 720 head months. The two pastures, Box and Upper Forest, are used concurrently. The number of head moved to each unit is at the permittee's discretion, subject to proper use monitoring in each unit. The common mix has been 40 head to Box and 80 to Upper Forest. The number is set each year in the Annual Operating Plan.

Cattle can graze in a unit until proper-use utilization levels in key areas were reached. Key areas for upland grasses are generally 1/4 to 1/2 mile from permanent water on gentle slopes with deeper soils. Such areas in this allotment are listed above. Key-area locations were established in early 1990's inspections. Areas were mapped, photographed, and measured for utilization during times of grazing.

Key areas are shown on the Range Improvement Map. They reflect the scattered grassy areas most likely to be used by cattle. # 4 is a riparian utilization point on upper Board Creek. Additional key areas may exist in the desert grassland of the western Box Unit but previous inspections have not surfaced any. This is the only substantial area of grass on this browse-dominated allotment.

Key species are assigned to each area as follows:

Key Area number and location	Key Species	Abbr	Proper-use levels	
			Growing season	Dormant
1--NE of Telegraph Well	blue grama	Bogr	30%	45%
	sideoats grama	Bocu	35%	52%
2--E of Rd 59	blue grama		30%	45%
	black grama	Boer	35%	52%
3--Road 59 jct w/ 9402 J (rd from E)	sideoats grama		35%	52%
	black grama		35%	52%
4--Board Creek above Hwy 89	deergrass	Muri-1	30%	45%
	sideoats grama		35%	52%
	Fremont cottonwood	Pofr	20%	20%
5--N of White Spar	sideoats grama		35%	52%

The objective of management is to keep utilization in key areas below the levels specified above. Season of use is the main tool, with salting location, water management at Telegraph and Lee Wells, number control (total and between units), and locating cattle away from key areas also viable tools. Further inspection may surface other key areas. Utilization levels shown above would apply.

The woody riparian utilization limit is browsing on 20% of the shoots which are reachable by livestock. Only those shoots within 5 feet of the ground are considered when evaluating utilization. This standard is the permit-issuance team's interpretation of a "20% riparian utilization" standard in the current Forest Plan. This standard will be superseded whenever the Forest Plan riparian standards are amended, revised, or replaced. This will keep all allotments on the same standard and allow for increased riparian-management knowledge to be applied.

Woody upland utilization limit is defined as a level which will ensure the vigor rating, per R3 Range Handbook, is at medium or high on the preferred "A" species such as mountain mahogany, cliffrose, and ceanothus. No specific key areas for woody upland species have been identified. Extensive recon is used instead. Ridge tops in grassy areas are the most likely areas for heavier utilization.

If any of the above utilization levels are exceeded, permittee will be required to shift cattle between units to reduce utilization in key areas, and/or reduce numbers and/or de-stock the allotment. Credit for significant amounts of unused grazing fees will be granted upon submission of a credit application.

No new range improvements are specified by this plan. Existing improvements are to be maintained. Mothballed structures, such as the two wells shown on the range improvement map, are to be kept in a manner safe to the public. Abandoned troughs and storage tanks are to be removed or buried. Such work is required at Lee Well. Burial requires 2 months lead time for heritage clearance. Range improvements are listed with the permit.