

*COPY FOR CORONADO*  
 FOREST SERVICE, PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST, PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

*2210  
Deer Creek allotment*

C. E. McDuff, Assist. Regional Forester

D. C. Morrison, Zone Wildlife Technician

Surveys, Studies, Plans (Galuiros Mtns., Coronado)

	Date	Act	Init
Supervisor	2620		
Timber Staff			
Range Staff	Sept. 14, 1960	2	6
Lands-Rec Staff			
Engineer		+	2
Adm. Officer			
ORR Leader			
Adm. Ass't			
Range Ass't			
Payroll Clerk			
Voucher Clerk			
Lands Clerk			
Resources Clk.			
Steno-Receipt			
Ranger			

I spent the period of September 6 through 8 on an extensive survey of range and wildlife conditions in the Galuiros Mountains. The morning of September 6, I went with the permittee, Charles Prude, to set out some lion traps on the Deer Creek Allotment near Kennedy Saddle. Mr. Prude has lost about ten calves this year and has so far caught three lions. In the nine years he has been on the allotment, he knows of 49 lions having been taken from the Galuiros area.

Mr. Prude is a very hard worker and has built a good many little water developments, mostly concrete dams, as well as making good durable spring developments. He seems to have his cattle widely scattered and in spite of recent low rainfall, the sod on the soft country right back of his ranch and around Deer Creek cabin is in pretty fair shape and is probably holding its own. I did not see the bottom of Rattlesnake Canyon but understand from the Coronado staff and Ranger Williams that it is not in satisfactory condition. The generally favorable appearance of the parts of the allotment I did see are due almost entirely to Mr. Prude's energy in securing the use of small pockets of feed within the non-suitable range. The only example of actual damage occurring that I saw was on the steep slopes around Kielberg Tank where trailing damage is causing appreciable soil movement even without excessive use of the grass.

Mr. Prude has been carrying a few cattle under temporary but the Coronado has taken pains to insure that this does not become preference nor that it be transferred in case he should waive his preference. In view of the high percentage of non-suitable range within the Deer Creek Allotment, this appears very wise.

There is heavy use of the browse, mainly Mountain mahogany, on some parts of the range but the problem is not so pressing as in other places in the state.

The evening of September 6, I rode to Powers Garden and there met up with Chuck Ames, Dan Williams, Jack McCombs, Jim Higgs, and Bob Thomas, reporter from the Arizona Star. On September 7, we packed through to Jackson Cabin and on the 8th, on out to Brownings' Ranch.

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On the Redfield Allotment I did not see one foot of suitable range. The upper country is so steep, except for denuded canyon bottoms dominated by riparian trees and shrubs, and the lower country around Jackson Camp so destructively used, that it appears the whole outfit should be closed out. I believe the Coronado is in general agreement with this.

Deer populations seem to be relatively low. Ames, Williams, and party saw 11 deer between Deer Creek and Powers. I saw three possible duplicates. The second day, we saw seven head and the third day none.

There is evidence of heavy browse use in the past, whether by deer or cattle I could not determine, but at present, it seems to be somewhat less. A lot of the Mahogany is tall and partially unavail-able however and few young plants were noted. No areas of heavy deer sign were seen.

We discussed deer relationships at some length and about decided that the low population is due to a combination of predators and poorly distributed waters over most of the area.

We also felt that under present poor accessibility, it would not be desirable to increase the deer herd. If we had any more, we couldn't harvest them and as long as we have enough to furnish charm and interest to the few wilderness travelers, it is probably all we need.

*CEM*