

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Willcox R.D.

REPLY TO: 2210 Analysis & Plans - Deer Creek Allotment

April 4, 1974

SUBJECT: Management - McCombs & Gatlin Inspection



TO: The Files

On April 1, 1974 Bill Hamilton, Permittee on the Deer Creek Allotment, stopped by the office to visit and discuss management on the allotment. I informed Mr. Hamilton that Jack McCombs and Cotton Gatlin had ridden the Mud Spring, Oak Creek and Upper Sycamore areas of the allotment during the past week. They had reported to me these areas had been fairly heavily stocked with cattle, and the utilization was at least 50% or over in practically all areas observed. I asked Mr. Hamilton, now that this area had been fully utilized, what he planned to do with his cattle. He said he planned to gather the cattle and move them to the front pastures and the State pastures within the next two weeks. He said he had been saving this front country since last fall in order to hold his cattle there for a month or two during the spring when the cows would be calving.

During our discussion Mr. Hamilton mentioned several times the Mud Spring and Oak Creek Areas had been fully utilized, that is, the cattle had taken all the forage which was available. He estimated there were approximately 150 head of cattle including replacement heifers on the area from Sycamore east.

Mr. Hamilton said he had just returned from Power's Garden where he spent three or four days riding the back country. He said he observed no cattle in the Juniper Spring or Lower Pipestem areas. He saw a few sign in Maverick Mountain area, very little sign in Mailbox area, a fair amount of sign in Field and South Field Canyon. He had about 14 head in Horse Canyon, an unknown number of head in Corral Canyon, nothing in Upper Rattlesnake or Holdout areas, and an unknown number in Kielberg. Mr. Hamilton estimated altogether there were approximately 50 or 60 head in the back country.

He said, except for the approximate 1.0 inch of rain in mid-March, there had been very little moisture in the Galiuros during this past fall and winter. Presently, he said there is a very little amount of water in Kielberg, and the Power's Garden Spring is nearly dry. There is water in Corral, Horse Canyon and some water in Lower Rattlesnake and Lower Pipestem.

I asked him if he saw any lion sign during his recent ride in the back country. He replied, no, he has seen very little lion sign this winter. However, he did see quite a bit of bear sign especially in the Upper Rattlesnake area. He says he has been and remains very hesitant in placing cows with baby calves in the back country for the fear of predation by lion.

I informed Mr. Hamilton our tentative plans were to ride the Deer Creek Allotment in mid-May to make our annual production/utilization studies. I said if he were available, he would be welcome to accompany us on the ride.

Harry G. Little

HARRY G. LITTLE
District Ranger

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CC: S.O.-R&W