

	INT	ACT	INFO		INT	ACT	INFO
Director				D & F			
Willcox R.D.				A.S.			
Adm. Officer				Rev. Sec.			2
P.M. & Wk.	9		1	P.M.			
Rec & Lndg				Marans		May 22, 1974	
Tr. Wm & PG				Rangers			
Engineer							

JUN 1 1974

CORVADO N. F.

**2210 Analysis and Plans  
Deer Creek Allotment**

**1974 Production/Utilization Studies & Cattle Counts**

**The Files**

During the week of May 13-17, 1974 Jack McCombs and I rode the Deer Creek Allotment for the purpose of mapping forage production/utilization for the period, July 1, 1973 to May 1974. Permittee Bill Hamilton accompanied me during one day of the inspection. Cotton Gatlin camped with us at Power's Garden during this week while performing trail maintenance and installing registration boxes in the Galiuro Wilderness on trails.

Precipitation during the 1973 summer and fall period was very light. Consequently, forage production during the summer growing season was less than normal. Precipitation during the winter months was average or possibly less. No heavy storms occurred. There was approximately 1" of moisture during the middle of March, none in April or thus far in May. There was very little spring growth noted on plants during the inspection.

Reference is made to the allotment production/utilization map for the results of the inspection.

The actual use for the allotment, as provided by Mr. Hamilton, is as shown on the attached sheet. The actual use figures as estimated by our (F.S.) observations are also noted.

The heaviest concentration of livestock use was in the Mud Spring, Oak Creek and Sycamore drainages. The permittee probably never had more than 50 or 60 head in the back country; that is the area draining into Battlesnake Canyon during the period, July 1973 to May 1974. Mr. Hamilton blamed the shortage of livestock water plus the fear of loss of calves by predation as the main reasons why he did not obtain more use in the back country. Several of the key dams did not have water during this past season. They are Grassy Ridge Tank, Crooked Tank and Sonora Tank. Most of the springs did have water such as at Kielberg Dam, Corral Canyon, Upper Horse Canyon, Mailbox and Juniper Springs. During the inspection we found pothole water in Pipestem, Mailbox, Lower Battlesnake and Sycamore Canyons. Mr. Hamilton also stated that he was unable to obtain use in Holdout Spring and Kennedy Peak area because he was unable to drive cattle to Kennedy Peak and because cattle placed in Holdout Springs seemed to get around the fence and leave the area.

The conditions of the range water developments/improvements at the time of the inspection were as follows. Oak Creek Spring and Pipeline are running a good stream of water. Mud Spring and Pipeline in good condition

with plenty of water. Upper Horse Canyon Spring nearly dry. Cement Dam in Lower Horse Canyon  $1/2$  full of water with no cattle use. Cement Dam in Sonora Basin dry with small pothole water below dam. Green Dam on north slope of China Peak dry, appeared to have water earlier in the winter. Corral Spring nearly dry. Corral Cement Dam by Kennedy Peak nearly full of water with no livestock use. Holdout Spring, a normal amount of water with no livestock use. Kielberg Cement Dam, water seeping out and water in pipeline. A siphon at Gold Mountain in Rattlesnake drainage, not in use. Rattlesnake Well not in use. Grassy Ridge Tank was dry and apparently dry most of the winter. Apache Cement Dam full of water and no use. Power's Garden Spring and Pipeline, low, running about  $1/2$ " of water. South Field Canyon Spring plenty of water. Coffee Cement Dam nearly dry. Crooked Cement Dam, dry, apparently dry most of the winter. Mailbox Cement Dam plenty of water in watering trough. Juniper Spring running about a half to  $3/4$ " water. Cement Dam in Lower Pipestem Canyon appeared to be full of water.

The Mountain mahogany stands observed appeared to have 3-5" of growth. The only areas of heavy use were in the Mud Spring, Oak Creek, Sycamore and Corral Spring areas. The browse stands along the West Divide Trail had light to no use.

Wildlife observed were 1 Mule deer doe at Power's Garden, 10 Mule deer at the Deer Creek Administrative Pasture and 6 Mule deer on the State lease land. Relatively fresh bear signs were seen throughout the allotment. No lion sign was observed with the exception of one possible track which was not positively identified.

On May 14th while riding up Rattlesnake Canyon, Gatlin, McCombs and I heard a cow and calf bawling. As it was quite apparent the calf was in distress, we hurriedly rode to the site where we tied up our horses and I walked up the hill to locate the calf. I found the calf at a point about 50 yards east of the trail (near the center of Section 24, T 9 S, R 19 E). The calf was down on its back, and I found it had several puncture wounds in its back and sides. The calf was able to rise on its front feet but not on its hind feet because of a broken back. I had to destroy the calf. There were no other flesh wounds on the calf other than the puncture marks made by teeth. I followed the tracks back up the hill through the brush where the calf and the predator had traveled but could find no signs which could positively identify the predator. The only tracks we could see were fresh bear tracks along the trail in Rattlesnake Canyon. Later that afternoon Cotton Gatlin again checked the calf kill and found that the calf had been moved and partially eaten. There were fresh bear tracks and bear droppings near the calf. Therefore, we assumed the kill was made by a bear that morning.

The only salt observed on the allotment was at the east entrance to Sonora Basin, at the gate going into Kielberg drainage and on Grassy Ridge. When

questioned about salt, Mr. Hamilton said he had not put salt out on the allotment since last fall.

At the present time the majority of Mr. Hamilton's cattle are on his State lease land. His plans are to hold them around the headquarters for another month or two until after the summer rains when he will move them west into Sycamore and Rattlesnake drainages.

Other jobs accomplished during this week included the installation of a precipitation storage can at Deer Creek Cabin and another at Power's Garden Cabin. Trail Registration Boxes were installed at Power's Garden Cabin and at the junction of Power's Garden and Upper Rattlesnake Trails near Gold Mountain. Photographs were taken by Power's Cabin and Mine which will be submitted for the purpose of nominating the Cabin and the Mine as a National Historic Site. A fiberglass toilet was ferried by helicopter to Power's Garden as a replacement for the old deteriorated one presently in use.

*Harry G. Little*

**HARRY G. LITTLE**  
District Ranger

Enclosures

CC: S.O.-RSM ✓

**RECORD OF ACTUAL USE ON DEER CREEK ALLOWMENT  
July 1, 1973 - May 31, 1974**

<u>Pasture Number</u>	<u>Pasture Name</u>	<u>Permittee Records</u>			<u>F.S. Observations</u>
		<u>Number Cattle</u>	<u>Months</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>No. Cattle on Ranch, May 1974</u>
1	North Home	26	8	208	25
2	South Home	14	8	112	3
3	Oak Creek	34	7	240	5
4	Mud Spring	40	8	320	6
5	Kennedy	-	-	-	-
6	Upper Sycamore	26	8	210	4
7	Middle Sycamore	17	8	156	4
8	Lower Sycamore	13	7	91	2
9	Sonora	10	8	80	-
10	Ringtail-Horse Mountain	-	-	-	-
11	Juniyer Spring	4	2	8	-
12	Pipestem-Rhodes	10	10	100	4
13	Mailbox-North Field	11	10	110	10
14	South Field	4	10	40	2
15	Lower Rattlesnake	9	8	72	6
16	Upper Rattlesnake	5	8	40	-
17	Horse Canyon	20	7	140	5
18	Brushy-Corral-Douglas	18	11	195	10
19	Holdout Spring	-	-	-	-
20	Kielberg-Grassy Peak	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>5</u>
		(276)*		2,264	91
	State Pasture				<u>152</u>
					243

\* Includes duplication of some cattle in different pastures

**SUMMARY OF PRODUCTION/UTILIZATION STUDIES  
DEER CREEK ALLOTMENT**

**July 1, 1973 - May 31, 1974**

Pasture Number	Pasture Name	Total Acres of Range	Avg % Use	Avg % Use Excluding 0 - 5%	Actual Use A.M.	Proper Use A.M.	Lbs/Used A.M.
1	North Home	915	32	32	208	230	230
2	South Home	1070	10	15	112	260	180
3	Oak Creek	555	63	63	240	130	170
4	Mud Spring	665	66	66	320	170	170
5	Kennedy	500	-	-	-	-	-
6	Upper Sycamore	575	44	44	210	170	260
7	Middle Sycamore	355	40	50	156	110	180
8	Lower Sycamore	310	51	51	91	65	380
9	Sonora	625	10	25	80	110	160
10	Ringtail-Horse Mountain	690	-	-	-	-	-
11	Judger Spring	215	-	-	8	-	-
12	Papstern-Rhodes	1175	6	22	100	160	130
13	Mailbox-North Field	1380	10	29	110	130	240
14	South Field	570	8	18	40	80	160
15	Lower Rattlesnake	430	21	33	72	80	140
16	Upper Rattlesnake	1525	4	40	40	35	220
17	Horse Canyon	420	15	35	140	140	70
18	Brushy-Corral-Douglas	1305	21	32	195	215	250
19	Holdout Spring	240	-	-	-	-	-
20	Kielberg-Grassy Peak	1140	10	26	142	190	160
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>14,660</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2,264</b>	<b>2,275</b>	<b>210</b>