

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Safford Ranger District

1. Larry G.
2. Resources

REPLY TO: 2210 Analysis and Plans
Deer Creek Allotment

October 16, 1979

SUBJECT: 1979 Range Inspection

TO: Files

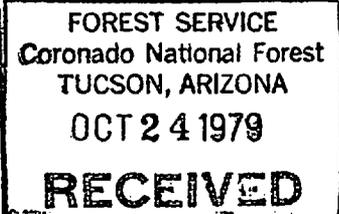


During the week of August 13-17, 1979, John Garland, Safford Range Staff and I rode the Deer Creek allotment for the purpose of a routine range inspection. Permittee, Mike Isley, did not accompany us during the inspection.

We started at the Deer Creek Administrative Site and rode southwest entering the Mud Springs Pasture, then on to Mud Springs. The area in the vicinity of Mud Springs showed good plant composition but plant vigor was low due to the lack of precipitation during the growing season. We left the Mud Springs area and rode west, entering the Isley Trail at the head of Sycamore Canyon, then continued up the trail to Horse Canyon. We met Mr. & Mrs. Isley part way, they were moving 10 head of cattle out of Rattlesnake Canyon to the ranch headquarters at Deer Creek.

From here we rode to Rattlesnake Canyon, then to Powers Garden. The administrative site was in good condition, the horse pasture fences were up and plant production has started to improve. Rattlesnake Riparian was damaged by the winter flooding, the bottom was scoured, removing most vegetation.

The next day, we rode west to Southfield Canyon, then along grassy ridge to Kilberg. The upper areas of Southfield grassy ridge and Kilberg showed good plant composition and vigor, production in these areas was approximately 400 pds per acre. From here we rode to the old Powers Mine and cabin. The cabin was still standing, the posts that were put in at the corners seem to help keep the cabin together. From here we rode back down Rattlesnake Canyon to Powers Garden. The next day we rode up north field and across the top by way of the west divide trail, the trail was recently worked which made travel easy. The upper area again looked good. The browse in this area is so dense that travel is restricted to the trail, utilization is light due to the heavy brush. We continued on across the head of Mailbox Canyon, Pepstem and Pipestem Canyon, ~~area~~ at the head of Pipstem, opens up and grass production was good. We also observed the only wildlife of the trip, four head of white tail deer.



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The next day we returned to Deer Creek by way of Corral Canyon. Corral Canyon looked good, plant composition and vigor was generally good.

In summary, the portion of the Deer Creek Allotment observed appeared to be in fair condition, plant composition and vigor is improving, production is higher than normal.

Of the improvements observed, the following need maintenance: Mud Springs (pipeline repaired), Sycamore Canyon Rock Dam (pipeline repaired), and most of the water gaps in the bottom of Rattlesnake Canyon need to be replaced. Permittee also needs to be reminded of the Coronado National Forest Salting Policy, Salt was observed on water.

We recommend that maintenance be complete and salt be moved before cattle be moved back.


Chuck Duncan
Range Conservationist