



United States  
Department  
of Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Safford RD

*Handwritten initials*

Reply to: 2210 Analysis & Plans

Date: November 7, 1983

Subject: Deer Creek Allotment Inspection

To: District Ranger, Safford RD

Monday, October 31, 1983, Cecil Sims, Bob Lefevre, Pete James, Walt Friauf, Jerry Abram and Chuck Duncan started a week's inspection of the Deer Creek Allotment.

Cecil, Bob, Pete and myself met at Deer Creek Administrative Site. Walt and Jerry drove to High Creek and rode in from there by the Holdout Trail.

When Cecil and I gathered the horses at Deer Creek Administrative Site, we found that the shoes had been removed from our horses. This caused a little delay in leaving. We got the horses shod and found the pack saddles were left in Safford. So, we returned to Safford and picked up the saddles. We saddled up and pulled out of the Administrative Site at 1630. We arrived at Powers Garden at approximately 2030.

Tuesday morning, we all saddled up and started out toward Crooked Dam. Utilization was very light and forage production was good because of the large amount of rain received the latter part of September and first three days of October. During this period, approximately 11 inches of moisture was recorded. Crooked Dam was approximately 1/3 full and water was still running into the dam. The dam appeared to be leaking. We counted three cows in this area. We then rode from Crooked Dam to Mailbox Well and Corral. There didn't appear to be any cattle in Mailbox Canyon up high. We rode on to Pipestem Canyon; we looked at the upper two rock dams and the upper corrals. The corrals need to be repaired. The middle rock dam had a cement water trough added and it looked good and working well. We looked at the Cienega Burn along the West Divide Trail. The burn looked great; there was very little erosion and grass production was heavy except for approximately 50 acres where the fire burned hot. We observed 17 cattle in or near the burn.

We looked at South Field Spring and rock dam. The spring was working good, but the dam was leaking. We returned to Powers Garden at 1730.

Wednesday, November 2, 1983, we all rode up the South Field Trail toward Tent Lookout. Walt and I dropped off and rode down to Apache Dam while the others rode on to Tent Lookout. We (Walt & I) observed two cows at the dam. The dam was full and running over. We then worked the trail back down to the bottom (Rattlesnake Canyon). We rode up the canyon to the old saloon where we took the trail to the West Divide Trail to meet up with the others who had ridden down the West Divide Trail from Tent Lookout. We met them around noon. We then rode down to inspect the mining activities around the old Power Mine and to look at the rock dam in upper Kielberg Canyon. Kielberg Dam was silted in, but water was running over the top and a large pool of water was below. The trap below the dam was in good shape. Grassy Peak Tank was also full as was the dirt tank north of the mine in Kielberg Canyon. We then rode back to Powers Garden.



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Thursday, November 3, 1983, Cecil and Pete left Powers Garden to return to Safford. They rode out through Corral Canyon and were to inspect the improvements in Corral Canyon and get a livestock count of the area. Cecil reported seeing 17 head coming out of Corral Canyon and that the area was heavily utilized.

The rest of us (Walt, Bob, Jerry & myself) rode into Sonora Basin where we observed 22 cattle and inspected the rock dam water development. The water development was silted full and water was running over the top. Utilization was heavy over and around most of this area. We rode on out through Sycamore Canyon when we saw two more cows. The improvements looked in fair condition in the canyon. We then rode down Rattlesnake Canyon back to Powers Garden. We observed ten mature cows and two calves in Rattlesnake Canyon. Total cattle counted for the day was 34 mature animals.

Friday, November 4, 1983, Walt, Bob, Jerry & I left Powers Garden to return home. We rode out by way of Sycamore Canyon Trail. We observed five cows in Rattlesnake Canyon and three in Sycamore Canyon; a total of eight head were seen.

Range conditions were good; forage production was heavy and utilization in all areas, with exception of Sonora Basin and Corral Canyon, was light. The condition of the cattle outside Rattlesnake Canyon was good, but the few head we saw in the canyon were poor. We also noticed that there wasn't any salt present on the allotment. Cattle had eaten large holes in the ground beneath old salt grounds trying to get salt. The total cattle counted on the Deer Creek Allotment during this inspection was 83 mature cattle; the calf crop appeared low, cattle were scattered in Field Canyon, Sycamore, Rattlesnake, Corral Canyon, and Sonora Basin. Also, Saturday, October 29, 1983, I rode the Willow Creek Allotment and counted eight mature cattle which belonged to the Deer Creek Ranch. While back in Powers Garden, I mentioned this to Mr. Ryff and told him that the Eureka is scheduled to go on with their cattle this week. He said he would see about getting them off.

We experienced a real nice ride and I would like to thank Bob Lefevre, Cecil Sims, Walt Friauf, Pete James and Jerry Abram for helping to make an enjoyable and useful range inspection.



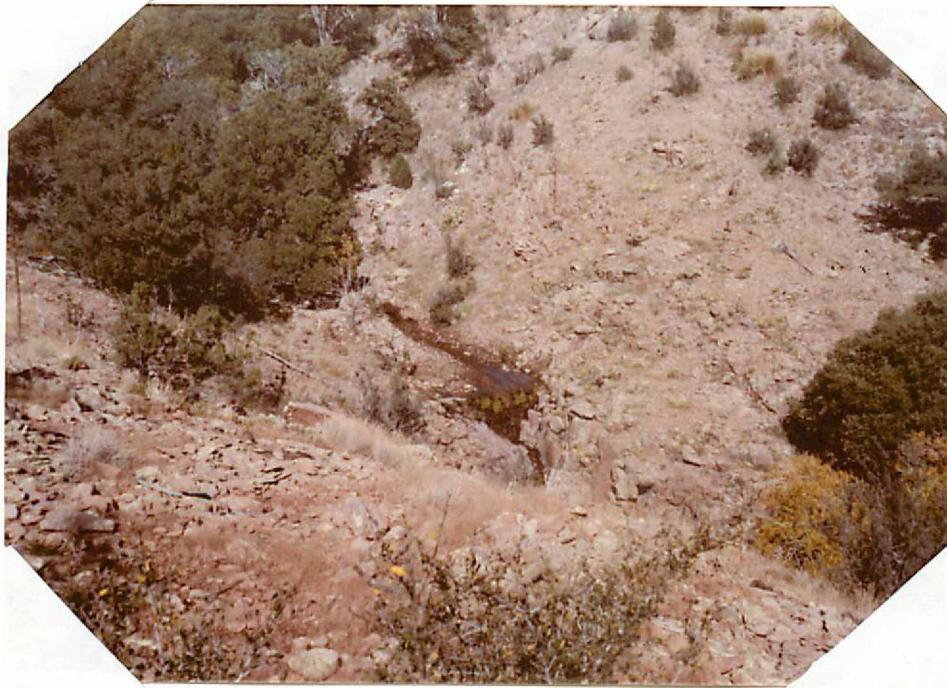
CHUCK DUNCAN  
Range Conservationist



Crooked Dam



Mud Springs



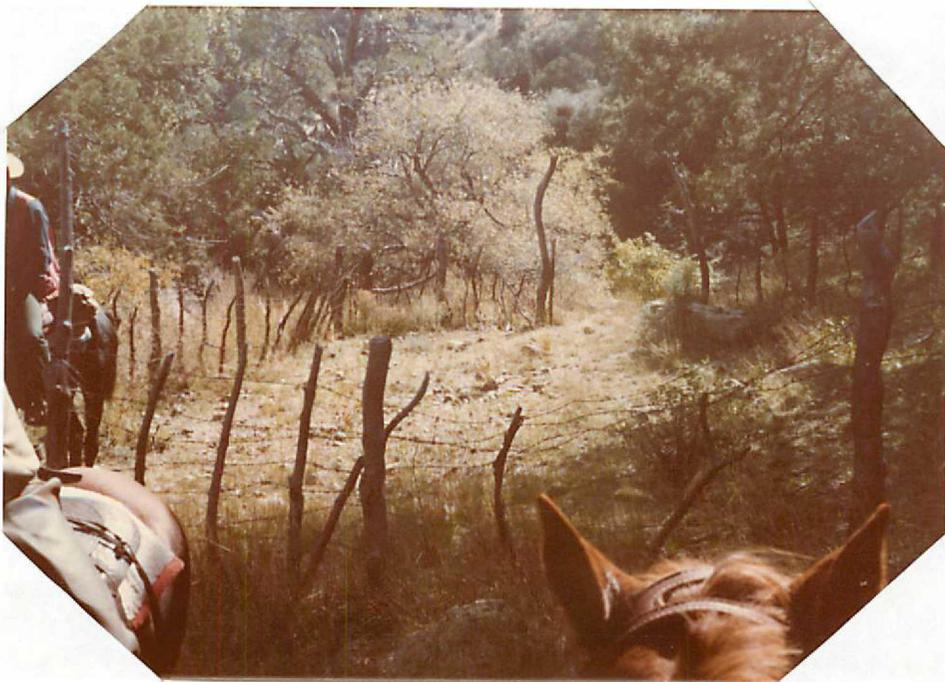
Upper Pipestem Rock Dam



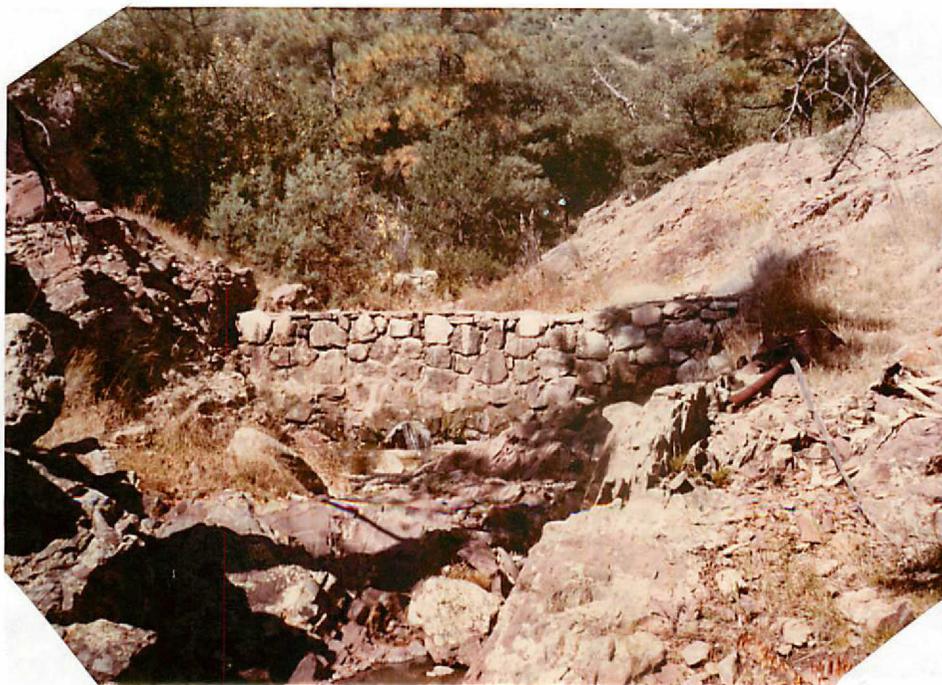
Fence at Mouth of Pipestem Canyon



Trap in Pipestem Canyon at Juniper  
Spring Trail Sign



Upper Pipestem Canyon Corral



Middle Cement Dam - Pipestem Canyon



New Water Trough Below Middle Dam in  
Pipestem Canyon



Steel Rim Tank - Upper Rattlesnake  
Canyon



Cattle in Lower Rattlesnake Canyon



Field Canyon Spring Trough



Field Canyon Spring



Sonora Basin



Sonora Basin Cement Dam



Kielberg Dirt Tank



Kielberg Rock Dam



Kielberg Trap



Cattle Looking for Salt



South Field Dam



Apache Dam

NOV 1983



Little Header in Mailbox Canyon



Mailbox Well