

Safford RD

Reply to: 2210 Analysis & Plans

Date: May 20, 1986

Subject: Deer Creek Allotment Inspection

To: District Ranger

On May 5 - 8, 1986, the Deer Creek Allotment was inspected by Cecil Sims, District Ranger, Pete James, R & L Staff, Chuck Duncan, Range Staff, Darrell Tersey, Range Conservationist and Bob Lafever, Forest Hydrologist. On May 5, we rode into Powers Garden by way of the Toñilla Trail. The new fence above Deer Creek looks good and the corral and spring at Mud Springs are in fair condition. Sycamore Dam is working and the trough is full, but the pipeline has a hole in it near the trough. Seven head of cattle were seen above the trough. The trap on Topout Ridge is in good condition. There were five campers at the Garden, three on horseback and two backpackers.

On May 6, we rode up the South Field Canyon Trail to South Field Spring, where a riparian transect was run. The pipeline to the trough was plugged up with only a drip going into the trough, otherwise the spring is in good condition. Topping out on the West Divide Trail, we rode north into the old Cienega burn. The grasses appear to be more vigorous inside the burn than out, and the Juniper and Oak stands that the fire opened up have a good ground cover of grasses and forbs coming back in. Heavy cattle use was noted in the burn at the head of North Field Canyon, but no cattle were seen. No further signs of cattle were located until the head of Pipestem Canyon. The allotment boundary fence between Sombrero Butte and Deer Creek Allotments is in poor shape but does not appear to receive much pressure from either side. Upper Pipestem Corral is in fair condition but upper Pipestem dam is full of dirt. Another riparian transect was run in Pipestem Canyon starting at the mouth of the creek holding upper Pipestem Dam. Turning up ^{ee}Pipestem, a riparian transect was run in its lower end. Livestock use was light to moderate in the area. Crossing a saddle, we dropped into Mailbox Canyon at the corral. A riparian transect was run here. Mailbox Canyon Dam was full of dirt and the trough was working and full of water. Livestock use was moderate around the dam and corral. The trail to Crooked Dam is hard to locate but passable. Salt was located in the saddle just west of Crooked Dam on good feed. Crooked Dam was dry. Dropping into North Field Canyon a riparian transect was run at the first trail crossing. Continuing down the canyon, we returned to Powers Garden. Eight White-tail Deer and one fresh bear sign were seen during the day.

On May 7, we rode up Rattlesnake Canyon to the old saloon.

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Browse in the bottom of the canyon show sign of heavy use from Corral Canyon north to Powers Garden. Rattlesnake Corral was in fair shape but the storage tank was dry. The Kielberg division fence is in poor shape but will still turn a cow. Dropping back into rattlesnake, we rode up to holdout spring. The trough was full and overflowing and a good flow was going into the collection trough. A riparian transect was run in rattlesnake at the mouth of Holdout Canyon. Returning to the Garden, Chuck and Bob rode onto the mouth of Sycamore Canyon to conduct a riparian transect there. Cecil, Pete and Darrell conducted two more transects, one in Horse Canyon at the narrows and one in rattlesnake starting at the end of the horse pasture fence. No livestock were seen on the ride, two bats were in holdout cave. Three more backpackers walked up rattlesnake and camped somewhere above Corral Canyon.

On May 8, we rode out by way of Corral Canyon. Use was heavy in the bottom of the canyon up to the area round Corral Spring, but no livestock were seen. A riparian transect was run at the lower spring, which is undeveloped. The Corral Spring needs some repair, a very large juniper, to which the fence was tied, has fallen over pulling down some of the fence. Only light use by livestock was observed from the top of Kennedy Peak down into Oak Canyon. Chuck and Bob conducted two more riparian transects in Oak Canyon below Mud Spring and on Deer Creek on the way out. Three White-tailed deer were seen above Corral Spring.

Darrell Tersey

DARRELL TERSEY
Range Conservationist

*Saw lion tracks
Near Brushy Canyon
in bottom of Rattlesnake
DJ*

May 1986



Powers Garden, Deer Creek Allotment. Chuck and Charlie



Crooked Dam, Deer Creek Allotment

GD-USPG00000132



South Field Dam, Deer Creek Allotment



South Field Spring, Deer Creek Allotment.
Pete & Ichabod