



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Arizona Strip Field Office  
345 East Riverside Drive  
St. George, Utah 84790  
[www.az.blm.gov](http://www.az.blm.gov)

In Reply Refer To:  
AZ-010:

Certified #  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED DECISION

Dear Interested Party:

The reflected changes are as follows below and would be reflected in the permits. A Formal Allotment Evaluation was completed to address the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration for the C&M Grazing Allotments, Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run. On April 28, 1997, Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (S&Gs) were approved by the Secretary of the Interior and adopted into all Land Use Plans (LUPS) in Arizona as indicated by the Decision Record for the Statewide Amendment. The Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run allotment evaluations were conducted in accordance with the direction set forth in the Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 98-91 for implementation of Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. The evaluations revealed that issuing these grazing permits for a period of 10 years conformed to the applicable land use plans and amendments and that the existing NEPA documentation (EA-AZ-110-2005-0003) adequately addresses the proposed action.

In accordance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations 4130.2, and based upon the allotment evaluations, consultation with affected permittees, interested publics, rangeland resource team and recommendations from the interdisciplinary assessment team, my proposed decision is to offer the grazing permit for the Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run Grazing Allotments for a period of 10 years with the following terms and conditions, which become effective upon acceptance of the permit.

1. The Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Rider and Cedar Ridge allotments would be managed as Custodial allotments under less intensive management. Brown & Shumway and Johnson Run allotments are maintain category allotments.
2. A utilization study would be read each March at the key areas.

**Authorized Permitted use is as follows: Kind and number of Livestock, period(s) of use, and the amount of use, in animal unit months (AUMS)**

Allotment Name	# Livestock	Period of Use	% Federal Range	Active AUMs
Lost Spring Gap	12 cattle	1/1-4/30	100	47
Button	54 cattle	11/15 to 5/31	79	278
Shinarump	17 cattle	7/1 to 10/31	61	42
Cedar Ridge	91 cattle	4/20 - 5/15	100	78
Rider	28 cattle	11/1 - 4/30	64	107
Brown&Shumway	19 cattle	11/16 - 5/15	100	113
Johnson Run	32 cattle	3/1 to 2/28	66	253

**RATIONALE:**

The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 provide for livestock grazing use of the public lands which have been classified as proper for grazing. Grazing use must be consistent with good range management aimed at conservation and protection of the natural resources.

Arizona Standards and Guidelines (S&G) for grazing administration were developed through a collaborative process involving the Bureau of Land Management, State S&G Team and the Arizona Resource Advisory Council. Together, through meetings, conference calls, correspondence, and Open Houses with the public, the BLM State Team and RAC prepared Standards and Guidelines to address the minimum requirements outlined in the grazing regulations. The Standards and Guidelines, criterion for meeting Standards, and indicators are an integrated document that conforms to the fundamentals of rangeland health and the requirements of the regulations when taken as a whole.

The BLM has also reviewed the legal concerns and has concluded that the Standards and Guidelines evaluation and term permit renewal is supported by the National Environmental Policy Act and Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations. The proposed action of renewing leases/permitted use conforms to the Arizona Strip Resource Management Plan (Land Use Plan) dated January 31, 1992, as amended.

The NEPA documentation covers the proposed action and alternatives which constitute BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA, and procedural requirements as provided in the CEQ regulations. This is demonstrated by the following background information:

In December of 1996 a ("draft") Statewide Plan Amendment of Land Use Plans in Arizona for implementation of Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, and preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact, and supporting Environmental Assessment was sent out to 900 interested publics.

On April 28, 1997, Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration (S&Gs) were approved by the Secretary of the Interior and adopted into all LUPs in Arizona as indicated by the Decision Record for the Statewide Amendment.

The BLM has followed the mandate of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, which requires the Secretary of the Interior to develop, maintain, and revise land use plans. The Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement guides the BLM's management of public lands and all resources.

The BLM has complied with the grazing regulations, Washington Office and Arizona BLM policies for permit/lease renewals and fundamentals of Rangeland Health as specified in 43 CFR 4180.

The Bureau of Land Management's grazing regulations contain many provisions for public participation in the decision making process. Consultation, cooperation and coordination (CCC) are the core of the public participation process and provides the BLM decision-maker the opportunity to consider the most complete information before making decisions.

Mar. 11, 1999, the public was notified that the Cedar Ridge, Lost Spring Gap, Brown & Shumway and Rider grazing allotments would be evaluated during that year to determine if the resource conditions were meeting the Arizona standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. March 14, 2001 the public was notified about the Button allotment evaluation with the associated field visit November 28, 2001. Jan. 14, 2003 the public was notified about the Johnson Run allotment evaluation with the associated field visit Feb. 19, 2003. Jan. 29, 2002 the public was notified about the Shinarump allotment evaluation with the associated field visit May 17, 2002. This initial notification was provided to allow for public participation in the CCC process. Different individuals, groups, organizations and agencies were contacted from the general Resource Management Plan mailing lists to determine specific interest in the Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run allotments and to solicit interest in the decision making process for grazing term permit renewal and Standard and Guideline evaluation.

The assessment fulfilled its purpose of determining if the existing soil, water, and vegetative resources on public lands within the Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run allotments, meet, or are making significant progress toward meeting the standards. These resources are managed according to the resource management plan and other associated activity plans which identify terms and conditions for management on public lands. A thirty-day comment period on the draft report was afforded to the Permittees, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona State Land Department, Natural Resources Conservation Service, other Agencies and interested public.

The S&G assessment was conducted by an interdisciplinary assessment team (IAT) of resource specialists from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The IAT was assisted by the Rangeland Resource Team (RRT). The RRTs were established under the charter of the Resource Advisory Council (RAC) and are involved during the S&G assessment process for permit/lease renewals. Recommendations were considered from the (RRTs) which represented a variety of commodity, environmental and recreational interests to assist in the interdisciplinary assessment of Standards for Rangeland Health.

In accordance with Bureau policy and regulations, all applicable monitoring data were examined and evaluated in order to determine progress in meeting Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and other land use plan objectives. Analysis of data indicated that the Land Use Planning (LUP) Objectives are being met. LUP Objectives pertaining to DPC's are being met and they assure rangeland health, state water quality standards, and habitat for endangered, threatened, and sensitive species, as well as other wildlife is being maintained or improved. It was determined that current management is not a factor in preventing attainment of Standards. A review of the resource data revealed that the allotments meet, or progressing towards meeting Standards 1, and 3, Standard 2 is not applicable (there are no Riparian areas in the allotments).

The IAT completed the rangeland health assessment to determine if renewal of the term grazing permits would preclude the attainment of Arizona's S&Gs and determine if the proposed action (permit renewal) was in conformance with the documented Land Use Plan and adequately covered under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The EA/FONSI, EA-AZ-110-2005-0003, which analyzed the livestock grazing permit renewal action, based on the S&G evaluations, that were completed March 9<sup>th</sup> 2007. This referenced EA/FONSI is considered a public document and is available upon request. S&G evaluations were completed September 20, 2004, for Brown & Shumway and Rider. S&G evaluations were also completed September 20, 2005 for Cedar Ridge and Shinarump, August 29, for Johnson Run and finally August 6, 2006 for Lost Spring Gap.

The Environmental Assessment reaffirmed the present grazing management, and determined that the present grazing management program would continue to allow improvement to the health of public land resources, such as soil, water, vegetation, wildlife habitat, and wildlife and other resource values. Further, the Authorized Officer made a determination that issuing grazing permits for a period of 10 years conformed to the applicable land use plans and amendments and the existing NEPA documentation adequately addresses the proposed action.

The Code of Federal Regulations (43 CFR 4130.2(a) requires that, "Grazing permits or leases shall be issued to qualified applicants to authorize use on the public lands and other lands under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management that are designated as available for livestock grazing through..." the Arizona Strip Field Office Resource Management Plan, which adopted the Shivwits Resource Area Grazing Environmental Impact Statement.

The Arizona Strip Field Office is currently involved in a planning process to develop a new RMP for the Public Domain outside of the Monuments. Some modifications to current grazing practices may result from this new RMP. The 10-year grazing permit, in part, states “This permit is subject to (A) modification, suspension or cancellation as required by land plans and applicable law; (B) annual review and to modification of terms and conditions as appropriate;..”. BLM may use these permit conditions to implement any changes required under the new RMP.

Also, the renewal of grazing permits are allowed: As provided for in 43 CFRs 4100 where the objectives of regulations are to promote healthy sustainable rangeland ecosystems; to accelerate restoration and improvement of public rangelands to properly functioning conditions; to promote the orderly use, . . . ; to establish efficient and effective administration of grazing of public rangelands; . . .”, and as provided for in the Land Use Plans in accordance with multiple- use objectives, requirements and provisions of established laws, regulations and BLM policies incorporating Desired Plant Community Objectives using the Ecological Site Index approach.

Renewal of the grazing permit would comply with Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act and ARS§ 49-202 of the State Environmental Quality Act Certification. The management practices of the allotment are in conformance with Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, and are designed to assist management in meeting these Standards for Rangeland Health through guideline consistency on the Lost Spring Gap (#5300), Button (#5308), Shinarump (#5301), Cedar Ridge (#5303), Rider (#5305), Brown & Shumway (#5302), and Johnson Run (#5330) allotments.

As required by Bureau Instruction Memorandum No. 2002-052 renewal of these grazing permits would not result in an adverse effect on energy development, production or distribution.

**Authority:** The authority for this proposed decision is contained in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which states in pertinent parts:

4100.0-8 “The authorized officer shall manage livestock grazing on public lands under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield and in accordance with applicable land use plans. Land use plans shall establish allowable resource uses (either singly or in combination), related levels of production or use to be maintained, areas of use, and resource condition goals and objectives to be obtained. The plan also sets forth program constraints and general management practices needed to achieve management objectives. Livestock grazing activities and management actions approved by the authorized officer shall be in conformance with the land use plan as defined at 43 CFR 1601.0-5(b).”

4110.3 “The authorized officer shall periodically review the permitted use specified in grazing permits or leases and shall make changes in the permitted use as needed to manage, maintain or improve rangeland productivity, to assist in restoring ecosystems to

properly functioning condition, to conform with land use plans or activity plans or to comply with provisions of subpart 4180 of this part.”

4130.2(a) “Grazing permits or leases shall be issued to qualified applicants to authorize use on public lands and other lands under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management that are designated as available for livestock grazing through land use plans. Permits or leases shall specify the types and levels of use authorized, including livestock grazing, suspended use, and conservation use. These grazing permits or leases shall also specify terms and conditions pursuant to 4130.3, 4130.3-1, and 4130.3-2.”

4130.2(b) “The authorized officer shall consult, cooperate and coordinate with affected permittees or lessees, the State having lands or responsible for managing resources within the area, and the interested public prior to the issuance or renewal of grazing permits and leases.”

4130.3 “Livestock grazing permits and leases shall contain terms and conditions determined by the authorized officer to be appropriate to achieve the management and resource condition objectives for public lands and other lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, and to ensure conformance with the provisions of subpart 4180 of this part.”

4130.3-1(a) “The authorized officer shall specify the kind and number of livestock, the period(s) of use, the allotment(s) to be used, and the amount of use, in animal unit months, for every grazing permit or lease. The authorized livestock grazing use shall not exceed the livestock carrying capacity of the allotment.”

4130.3-2 “The authorized officer may specify in grazing permits or leases other terms and conditions which will assist in achieving management objectives, provide for proper range management or assist in the orderly administration of the public rangelands...”

4130.2(f) “The authorized officer will not offer, grant or renew grazing permits or leases when the applicants, including permittees/lessees seeking renewal, refuse to accept the proposed terms and conditions of a permit or lease.”

4160. 1 (a) “Proposed decisions shall be served on any affected applicant, permittee, or lessee, and an agent and lien holder of record, who is affected by the proposed actions, terms or conditions or modification relating to applications, permits and agreements (including range improvement permits) or leases, by certified mail or personal delivery. Copies of proposed decisions shall also be sent to the interest publics.”

4160.2 “Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other affected interests may protest the proposed decision under Sec. 4160.1 of this title in person or in writing to the authorized officer within 15 days after receipt of such decision.”

4180.2(c) The authorized officer shall take appropriate action as soon as practicable but not later than the start of next grazing year upon a determination that existing grazing

management practices or levels of grazing use on public lands are significant factors in failing to achieve standards and conform with the guidelines that are made effective under this section...”

**Protests:**

Any applicant, permittee, lessee, or other affected interests may protest the proposed decision under 43 CFR 4160.1 in person or in writing to the authorized officer, Becky Hammond, at 345 East Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah, 84790 within 15 days after receipt of such decision. The protest, if filed, should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) as to why the proposed decision is in error.

In the absence of a protest, the proposed decision will become the final decision of the authorized officer in 30 days from the date of the proposed decision without further notice.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee or other person whose interest is adversely affected by the final decision may file an appeal and petition for stay of the decision pending final determination on appeal under 43 CFR 4160.4, 4.21 and 4.470. The appeal and petition for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer, as noted above, within 30 days following receipt of the final decision or 30 days after the date the proposed decision becomes final.

The appeal shall state the reasons, clearly and concisely, why the appellant thinks the final decision is in error.

Should you wish to file a motion for stay, the appellant shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors the stay.

As noted above, the petition for stay must be filed in the office of the authorized officer.

Sincerely,

Becky Hammond  
Arizona Strip Field Manager

## **Bureau of Land Management**

Arizona Strip Field Office

Environmental Assessment

Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run  
Allotments Grazing Permit Renewal

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EA-AZ-110-2005-0003

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

This Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzes the proposed grazing permit renewal for the Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run allotments. These allotments are analyzed in the same EA because they are maintain or custodial category allotments: present range condition is satisfactory or not a paramount factor, limited resource-use conflicts/controversy exist, and present management appears satisfactory. The authorized number of livestock is low or the period of use is limited on each of these allotments.

The action culminates an evaluation conducted on the allotments under the Arizona BLM Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management (S&Gs). In addition, this Environmental Assessment (EA) looks at the present Allotment Management Plans (AMPs), and determines if current grazing management practices would maintain desirable conditions and continue to allow improvement of public land resources, or if changes in grazing management for the allotments are necessary. This EA is intended to evaluate the findings of these seven allotment assessments as they relate to vegetation conditions and resource values in the allotments. This is done in an effort to balance demands placed on the resources by various authorized uses within the allotments.

Analysis of existing allotment data indicates that ecological condition trends and pace-frequency trends are within normal limits. It was determined by the Interdisciplinary Assessment Team (IAT) during the assessment process, that resource conditions on the allotments are progressing toward meeting Standards for Rangeland Health.

#### **Purpose and Need**

The purpose and need of this action is to renew the grazing permits for the Lost Spring Gap (#5300), Button (#5308), Shinarump (#5301), Cedar Ridge (#5303), Rider (#5305), Brown & Shumway (#5302), and Johnson Run (#5330) allotments. These allotments are located in Coconino County near Fredonia, Arizona on lands managed by the Arizona Strip Field Office.

#### **Conformance with Land Use Plan**

The proposed action and alternatives described below are consistent with the Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan (RMP) dated January 31, 1992, as amended April 1997, and are consistent with Federal, State and local laws, regulations, and plans to the maximum extent possible. Rangeland management was considered in the Vermillion Grazing EIS of 1979, which was subsequently adopted as management direction in the Arizona Strip District RMP of 1992 (I-1).

### **Relationships to Statutes, Regulations, or other Plans**

This action is in conformance with Arizona's Standards and Guides, which were developed through a collaborative process involving the Arizona Resource Advisory Council and the Bureau of Land Management State Standards and Guidelines team. The Secretary of the Interior approved the Standards and Guidelines in April 1997. The Decision Record, signed by the BLM Arizona State Director (April 1997) provided for full implementation of the Standards and Guides in all Arizona BLM Land Use Plans

Grazing permit renewals are also provided for in 43 CFRs 4100 where the objectives of regulations are "...to promote healthy, sustainable rangeland ecosystems; to accelerate restoration and improvement of public rangelands to properly functioning conditions; to promote the orderly use,....; to establish efficient and effective administration of grazing of public rangelands;....", and as provided for in the Land Use Plans in accordance with multiple-use objectives, requirements and provisions of established laws, regulations and BLM policies incorporating Desired Plant Community (DPC) objectives using the Ecological Site Index approach.

Grazing management practices of the Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run AMPs are in conformance with Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. These practices are intended to assist management in meeting the Standards for Rangeland Health.

Renewal of the Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run grazing permits conforms to the President's National Energy Policy and would not have adverse energy impacts. This action would not deny energy projects, withdraw lands, close roads or in any other way deny or limit access to mineral materials to support energy actions.

### **Issues raised relating to Standards for Rangeland Health**

The issues relating to rangeland health were identified by the Rangeland Resources Team (RRT), Interdisciplinary Assessment Team (IAT), and livestock permittee during the respective allotment scoping meetings. Conclusions to these issues can be found in Standards and Guidelines Assessment Reports. The issues identified through the process described above were:

Lost Spring Gap Allotment (scoping meeting March 11, 1999).

- At the north end of the allotment is an area around the base of the ridge that shows impacts from recreationists, i.e., trash, fire rings, vehicle tracks, etc. There are volunteered roads and trails leading from high impact areas.

Button Allotment (scoping meeting March 14, 2001).

- Scattered pockets of *Pediocactus sileri*.
- Approximately 470 acres of Jocity and Clayhole soils with very little vegetative ground cover.

Shinarump Allotment (scoping meeting January 29, 2002).

- Off highway vehicles.
- Woody species buildup.

Cedar Ridge Allotment (scoping meeting March 11, 1999).

- Failed plow and seed project on the east side of the allotment is vegetated mostly by annuals, sagebrush, lycium, and cactus.
- Four-wheeler use.

Rider Allotment (scoping meeting March 11, 1999).

- Species diversity is lacking, but potential is also limited.
- Vigor, plant health: grass absent from Ephemeral wash bank where trampled.

Brown and Shumway Allotment (scoping meeting March 3, 1999).

- Four wheeler use.

Johnson Run Allotment (scoping meeting September 13, 2000).

- Noxious weeds, scotch thistle and salt cedar (Walker).
- Soil erosion in Johnsons Wash at the north end of the allotment (Smith).
- Lack of herbaceous understory in sagebrush (Langley).

### **Current Planning Process**

The Arizona Strip Field Office is currently involved in a planning process that will result in three stand alone RMPs, one for each new National Monument and one for the Public Domain on the Strip outside of the monuments. No grazing changes are currently anticipated for the aforementioned allotments. However, there may be modifications as a result of the new RMPs. The 10- year grazing permit, in part, states “This permit is subject to (A) modification, suspension or cancellation as required by land plans and applicable law; (B) annual review and to modification of terms and conditions as appropriate; ...”. BLM may use these permit conditions to implement any changes required under the new RMPs.

## **II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

## **Proposed Action (Renewal of 10 Year Grazing Permit)**

The Proposed Action is to renew the grazing permits for the Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run allotments and respective grazing AMPs for a period of ten years with current terms and conditions. Renewal of the 10 year grazing permits proposes no change from the present grazing permits. Livestock numbers would be limited to the current active preference. Livestock grazing would be in accordance with existing AMPs. New range improvements to assist in grazing practices and promote rangeland health would be considered through the NEPA process.

## **Alternatives Considered But Rejected For Further Analysis**

Alternatives are tiered to the Arizona Strip District RMP (January, 1992) and the Vermillion Grazing EIS of 1979 which was adopted into the RMP and are basically the same for this action. The Grazing EIS addressed four alternatives: No Action, Elimination of Grazing on Public Lands, Stocking Level by Condition Class, Grazing and Benefit/Cost.

The following three alternatives were considered for this EA but rejected because they were analyzed in the RMP, to which this document is tiered.

- **Stocking Level by Condition Class alternative** would set the stocking level in relation to the average condition and apparent trend of the allotment.
- **Benefit/cost alternative would alter proposed actions to make them cost effective.** In the EIS only two AMPs would have to be changed to have their benefit/cost ratios equal to or greater than 1.0. These were Muggins Flat and Sage allotments.
- **No Action Alternative (Elimination of Livestock Grazing on Public Lands).** The decision to authorize livestock grazing in this area is documented in the approved land use plan. In the absence of any new information indicating that continued livestock grazing would preclude BLM from either achieving or making significant progress toward achieving established land health standards, the land use plan decision authorizing grazing remains valid. Since an alternative of no grazing or not renewing a grazing permit would not conform to the land use plan, a plan amendment would be required prior to closing an allotment to livestock grazing.

## **The grazing system as identified in the AMPs**

Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Rider, and Cedar Ridge allotments are less intensively managed or custodial category allotments because they are believed to be producing near their potential and, as a result, no specific grazing systems are used. The objective for these allotments is to obtain not more than an average of 45 percent utilization of the current year's growth of key species. Though no specific grazing systems are used, the allotments are monitored to avoid exceeding the 45 percent maximum utilization objective.

Brown & Shumway and Johnson Run allotments are maintain category allotments, as present range condition is considered satisfactory. A two-pasture, deferred rotation grazing system is used on the Brown & Shumway allotment, allowing spring rest in each pasture on a biennial basis. A yearlong three-pasture, rest-rotation grazing system is used on the Johnson Run allotment, allowing one pasture to be rested through the growing season every year.

### **Grazing Preference and Current Use on the Allotments**

Allotment Name	# Livestock	Period of Use	% Federal Range	Active AUMs
Lost Spring Gap	12 cattle	1/1-4/30	100	47
Button	54 cattle	11/15 to 5/31	79	278
Shinarump	17 cattle	7/1 to 10/31	61	42
Cedar Ridge	91 cattle	4/20 - 5/15	100	78
Rider	28 cattle	11/1 - 4/30	64	107
Brown&Shumway	19 cattle	11/16 - 5/15	100	113
Johnson Run	32 cattle	3/1 to 2/28	66	253

### **Terms and Conditions of Grazing Permits**

Grazing would be in accordance with the respective AMPs. Billing for grazing use would be based on the actual use report or grazing application which is submitted to BLM each year by the grazing permittees. Actual use reports are submitted at the end of the period of use for the Lost Spring Gap, Button, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run allotments; and a grazing application is submitted prior to the period of use for the Shinarump allotment.

### **Desired Plant Community (DPC)**

This EA also incorporates by reference the “Implementation of Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run Allotments S&G Assessments.”<sup>1</sup> These allotment assessments list and evaluate achievement of the allotments DPC objectives, expressed in terms of species composition by weight, as summarized below.

#### Lost Spring Gap Allotment DPC Objectives (Ecological Site: Loamy Upland, 10-14" pz.)

- maintain grasses between 35 and 50 percent,
- maintain forbs between 1 and 5 percent, and
- maintain shrubs about 50 percent.

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<sup>1</sup> Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run Allotments S&G Assessments, available at the Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Strip Field Office, 345 E. Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah 84790.

Button Allotment DPC Objectives (Ecological Site: Gypsum Upland 7 to 11 inch pz)

Key Area #1

- Maintain perennial grasses which include galleta, sand dropseed, squirreltail, and Indian ricegrass-between 60 and 75 percent composition by weight.
- Maintain shrubs-which include shadscale and prickly pear-between 15 and 25 percent composition by weight.
- Maintain annual grasses and forbs between 0 and 10 percent composition by weight.

Key Area #2 Gypsum Upland 7 to 11 inch pz

- Maintain perennial grasses which include galleta, squirreltail, sand dropseed, and Indian ricegrass-between 45 and 65 percent composition by weight.
- Maintain shrubs which include shadscale, rabbitbrush, and sagebrush between 40 and 50 percent composition by weight.
- Maintain annual grasses and forbs between 0 and 10 percent composition by weight.

Key Area #3 Loamy Upland 10 to 14 inch pz

- Maintain perennial grasses which include galleta, squirreltail, and Indian ricegrass-between 50 and 75 percent composition by weight.
- Maintain shrubs which include sagebrush, fourwing saltbush, and snakeweed between 20 to 35 percent composition by weight.
- Maintain annual grasses and forbs between 0 and 10 percent composition by weight.

Shinarump Allotment DPC Objectives (Ecological Site: Loamy Upland 10-14" PZ)

The following objectives are contingent on completing pinyon-juniper and sagebrush reduction treatments.

- Increase grasses to 70 to 80 percent.
- Maintain forbs between 1 and 5 percent.
- Decrease shrubs to 15 to 20 percent.

Cedar Ridge Allotment DPC Objectives (Ecological Site: Shallow Loamy, 10-14" PZ)

- Maintain grasses between 16 and 40 percent and shrubs between 30 and 36 percent (shrubs are currently 40 to 57%, and these objectives are contingent on completion of vegetation treatments to reduce sagebrush competition).

Rider Allotment DPC Objectives (Ecological Site: Loamy Upland 10-14" PZ)

- Maintain the 0-4cm size class for Siler Pincushion Cactus at 20-23% indefinitely
- Maintain desirable grasses between 41 and 65 percent, and desirable shrubs between 5 and 10 percent.

Brown & Shumway Allotment DPC Objectives (Ecological Site: Loamy Upland 10-14")

- Maintain grasses between 35 and 55 percent,
- forbs between 1 and 5 percent, and
- shrubs between 15 and 25 percent.
- (sagebrush is currently 39 to 65% of the vegetation component, and these objectives are contingent on completion of vegetation treatments to reduce sagebrush competition).

Johnson Run Allotment DPC Objectives (Ecological Site: Loamy Upland 10-14")

Key Area #1 (Highway Pasture) Shallow Loamy 10 to 14 inch pz

- Maintain perennial grasses between 75 and 95 percent composition by weight.
- Maintain forbs between 0 and 5 percent composition by weight.
- Increase shrubs between 5 and 20 percent composition by weight.

Key area #2 (Johnson Run Pasture) Shallow Loamy 10 to 14 inch pz

- Increase perennial grasses to 60 - 75 percent composition by weight.
- Maintain forbs between 1 and 5 percent composition by weight.
- Reduce shrubs to 5 - 30 percent composition by weight.

Key area #3 (Johnson Run Pasture) Shallow Loamy 10 to 14 inch pz

- Maintain grasses between 15 and 25 percent composition by weight.
- Maintain forbs between 1 to 5 percent composition by weight.
- Maintain shrubs between 65 and 75 percent composition by weight.

Key area #11 (Highway A Pasture) Sandy Loam Upland 10 to 14 inch pz

- Maintain grasses at 55 to 85 percent composition by weight.
- Maintain forbs between 1 and 5 percent composition by weight.
- Maintain shrubs between 15 and 40 percent composition by weight.

## **Monitoring**

The goals of monitoring are to determine if the fundamentals or conditions of Rangeland Health are being met within the AMP area under 43 CFR 4180. These conditions of Rangeland Health are:

- (a) Watersheds are in, or are making significant progress toward, properly functioning physical condition, including their upland, riparian-wetland, and aquatic components; soil and plant conditions support infiltration, soil moisture storage, and the release of water

that are in balance with climate and land form and maintain or improve water-quality, water quantity, and timing and duration of flow.

(b) Ecological processes, including the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow, are maintained, or there is significant progress toward their attainment, in order to support healthy biotic populations and communities.

(c) Water quality complies with State water quality standards and achieves, or is making significant progress toward achieving, established BLM management objectives such as meeting wildlife needs.

(d) Habitats are, or are making significant progress toward being restored or maintained for Federal threatened and endangered species, Federal Proposed, Category 1 and 2 Federal candidate and other special status species.

To monitor rangeland health conditions, key areas as defined in the *Monitoring "Planning for Monitoring"*, "TR 4400-1", (1984) would be used. The key area would be used as an indicator area to reflect what is happening on the terrain they represent, subsequent of on-the-ground management. Each key area would be established based on a Range Site/Ecological Site (developed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, (NRCS) with a specific Potential Natural Community (PNC) and specific physical site characteristics. Knowing the PNC of the area, and using the ecological site descriptions as a guide, DPC objectives can be developed. The DPC then becomes the objectives by which management actions would be measured.

Dry Weight Ranking (DWR) studies would be used to measure attainment of the key area DPC objectives. In addition, Pace Frequency studies would be used at each key area to detect changes of individual species which determines a trend or change in vegetation composition. Pace Frequency and DWR would be completed on each key area every 3-6 years. DWR and Pace Frequency study methodologies are described in *Sampling Vegetation Attributes*, "Interagency Technical Reference 1734-4" (1996).

Livestock use on forage plants would continue to be determined by conducting grazing utilization studies using the Grazed-Class Method as described in the *Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements* "Interagency Technical Reference 1734-3" (1996). Utilization studies would be completed annually by BLM, when livestock are removed from the pasture. Study data would be compiled each year. Other information collected and compiled would include precipitation, actual use, etc. All monitoring data would continue to be used to evaluate current management and assist BLM in making management decisions that helps achieve vegetation objectives on the allotment.

Based on analyses of allotment monitoring data and supporting documentation contained in the Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run S&G Assessment Reports, resource conditions on the allotments meet or are making significant progress toward meeting all applicable standards for rangeland health.

### **III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

The affected environment is tiered to the Arizona Strip District RMP (January 31, 1992), Affected Environment pages III-1 to III-58, and pages 2-1 to 2-47 of the Vermillion Grazing EIS (1979) which was adopted by the RMP and are essentially the same for this action. Chapter 2 of the Vermillion Grazing EIS describes the environmental components likely to be impacted by the proposed action. Environmental components discussed in the EIS that might affect or be affected by the proposal are: Climate, Vegetation, Threatened and Endangered Plant Species, Riparian Vegetation, Soils, Water Resources, Animals (wildlife), Cultural Resources, Visual Resources, and Land Uses including livestock grazing and recreation.

This EA also incorporates by reference the “Implementation of Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run Allotments S&G Assessments.”<sup>2</sup> The introduction, grazing Use, and allotment profile sections in the respective S&G Assessments describe the resources and issues applicable to the allotment areas. Also, see the respective S&G Assessment Appendices for other resource data and associated information.

#### **Climate**

Precipitation in the vicinity of the subject allotments is very erratic, both in area and in occurrence. Readings taken from 2 rain gauges less than 3 miles apart, at similar elevation, show ~1 inch difference in average annual precipitation. Toward the west side of the allotments average annual precipitation is ~10 inches, and toward the east side it is ~11 inches. At the west side of the allotments average annual precipitation has varied from 3.37 to 20.04 inches over a 65 year period. Over a 22 year period average annual precipitation has varied from 6.62 to 17.02 inches toward the east side of the allotments. Approximately 17% of the annual precipitation comes in the fall, 30% in comes in winter, 21% comes in spring, and 32% comes in summer. Average Fahrenheit temperatures range from the 30’s in winter to the 80’s in summer. Due to low humidity and high summertime temperatures, the potential evaporation rate is about 18 inches for every inch of precipitation.

#### **Vegetation**

There are four principal vegetative types<sup>3</sup> within the allotments: sagebrush, pinyon-juniper, desert shrub, and saltbush.

- The sagebrush type is present on all seven allotments and includes big sagebrush, squirrel tail, blue grama, galleta, sand dropseed, mormon tea and cliffrose.
- The pinyon-juniper type includes pinyon, juniper, sagebrush, cliffrose, desert holly, blue

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Vermillion Grazing Environmental Impact Statement

grama, galleta, and squirrel tail. The pinyon-juniper type also occurs to some extent on all seven allotments

- The desert shrub vegetative type is present on portions of the Johnson Run and Button allotments in Doak fine sandy loam soils and consists of ephedra, wolfberry, yucca, fourwing saltbush, galleta and annual species.
- Gypsiferous soils on the south side of Button allotment support the saltbush type. The saltbush type includes shadscale, winterfat, galleta, and sand dropseed.

These vegetative types make up the different ecological sites<sup>4</sup> that are part of the Major Land Resource Units, as defined by the NRCS. The four ecological sites on the allotments are: Shallow Loamy, Loamy Upland, Gypsum Upland, and Sandy Loam Upland.

Four principal vegetative types can occur at the Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run allotments: sagebrush, pinyon-juniper, desert shrub, and saltbush.

### **Water Sources**

Water is supplied to Lost Spring Gap and Johnson Run allotments through pipelines connected to the Fredonia city water supply. Also, a catchment water source is shared between the Johnson Run allotment and an adjacent allotment, and a well provides water on a portion of the Button allotment. Ephemeral ponds supply part of the water needs for the Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Button allotments; with permittees hauling water to supplement any shortfall.

All of the above artificial water sources are available to wildlife, although some of them may not actually hold water yearlong. All of the water rights are held by the permittee. It is a requirement of the agreements to make the water accessible to wildlife, for the time that water is available. While livestock and wildlife share these waters, BLM is not aware of any issues or problems related to competition for this resource.

### **Wetlands/Riparian Areas**

The ephemeral Johnson Wash courses through Button, Johnson Run, and Rider allotments. Most of Johnson Wash is infested with saltcedar (*Tamarix spp.*), a noxious weed introduced into the U.S. from Europe in the early 1800's. The intermittent availability of water, along with competition from saltcedar, effectively excludes other riparian vegetation. Saltcedar forms into

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<sup>4</sup> An ecological site is a distinctive kind of land that differs from other kinds in its ability to produce a characteristic plant community. Each ecological site is a product of all environmental factors responsible for its development. Each site is capable of producing and supporting a plant community typified by an association of species that differs from other ecological sites in species kind, proportion and total production.

monocultures and out-competes native vegetation mainly by depleting soil moisture and through allelopathy. By way of a massive root network, saltcedar transpires large amounts of water, drying the soil and lowering the water table. Also, in conjunction with transpiration, salt is exuded and deposited on the soil surface. This allelopathic process effectively elevates soil pH and excludes, for the most part, all other vegetation.

### **Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species**

The Threatened Siler pincushion cactus is present in the Rider and Button allotments. The population at Rider allotment grows on the Schnabkaib member of the Moenkopi Formation, a more favorable soil than the middle red member of the Moenkopi found on the Button allotment. No critical habitat has been designated, and the apparent trend is stable.

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), and peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus alatum*) may occasionally fly over the allotments. There are no riparian areas that would provide foraging habitat for peregrine falcon, bald eagle, or southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii eximus*). An experimental non-essential population (as defined under section 10J of the Endangered Species Act) of California condors was established on the Vermillion Cliffs in 1996. While these birds may forage on carrion within the allotments they have not yet been observed doing so.

### **BLM Sensitive and State Species of Concern**

Ferruginous hawks (*Buteo regalis*) are known to forage over grassland habitat similar to that found on the allotments, though specific sightings have not been recorded for the area. Black-crowned night Heron (*Nysticorax nycticorax hoactli*) and snowy egrets (*Egretta thula brewsteri*) have occasionally been observed using stock tanks in the area, but have not been recorded on the Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run Allotments. A variety of sensitive bat species have been captured on these and neighboring allotments including Townsend's big-eared (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), spotted bats (*Euderma maculatum*), small-footed myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*), fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*), and big free-tailed bats (*Nyctinomops macrotis*).

No other, Special Status species are known to occur in the area covered by this EA.

### **Wildlife**

Pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*) have recently migrated to the east side of Kanab Creek into the area of the subject allotments. In addition, the east part the Rider allotment is in recognized mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) habitat, which is considered winter range for these animals.

Non-game wildlife found on the allotments is typical of the area, including a variety of small mammals, grassland birds, raptors, and reptiles. All water sources within this arid area are

important for wildlife.

## **Soil**

The only soils monitoring data for this area is the Phase 1 Watershed Conservation and Development Inventory of 1971-1973 (See Field Office Files 7300). It was based upon a general soils map and thus ended up as broad interpretations and averages over large areas. Other more specific and detailed soils information is as follows:

SCS Soil Survey of Coconino County Area 629, Arizona, North Kaibab Part, 1991

4. Barx gravelly loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes, (fan terraces), mixed, Loamy Upland, 10 to 14 inches ppt

5. Barx-Pensom complex, 1 to 6 percent slopes, (fan terraces), mixed-sandstone, Barx-Sandy Loam Upland, 10 to 14 inches ppt; Pensom=Sandy Upland, 10 to 14 inches ppt

6 Bidonia-RO complex, 1 to 15 percent slopes, (plateaus), sandstone, Sandstone Upland (PJ), 10 to 14 inches ppt

8. Clayhole silty clay loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes, (fans), mixed, Gypsum Upland, 7 to 11 inches ppt

10 Curhollow-Mellenthin complex, 2 to 12 percent slopes, (fan terrace, hill) limestone, Shallow Loamy, 10 to 14 inches ppt

16 Glenyon silty clay loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, (stream terraces), mixed alluvium, Saline Upland (loamy), 7 to 11 inches ppt

19. Jocity clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes, (stream terraces), mixed, Clayey Upland, 7 to 11 inches ppt

20 Keeseha loam, 1 to 6 percent slopes, (fan terraces), mixed alluvium, Clay Loam Upland, 10 to 14 inches ppt

23 Klondike sandy clay loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes, (hills), sandstone, siltstone, shale, Shallow Loamy, 10 to 14 inches ppt

24. Manikan silty clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes, (stream terraces), mixed, Clayey Upland, 10 to 14 inches ppt

37. Pensom fine sand, 2 to 16 percent slopes, (dunes), sandstone, Sandy Upland, 10 to 14 inches ppt

40 Pits, borrow

47. Torriorthents, 3 to 50 percent slopes, (scarps, hills), gyp-shales and mudstones, Gypsum Hills, 7 to 11 inches ppt

48. Torriorthents-Rock outcrop complex, 25 to 65 percent slopes, (scarps, hills), sandstone, shale, conglomerate, Breaks, 10 to 14 inches ppt

Soil condition evaluations were accomplished by field inspections. Most of the soils are in good erosion condition. Meaning they are not at risk at this time to severe erosion problems, such as rilling or gullies.

**Lithology:** Lost Spring Gap allotment is upon a small north dipping mesa capped by Shinarump conglomerate and sandstone, with outcrops exposed along the scarp at the south end. Remnants of the Chinle mudstones and shales occur in the northern 2/3 of the allotment.

The Button allotment consists of alluvial fans and low ridges with outcrops of Moenkopi mudstones and gypsiferous shales. Silty and clayey soils form broad floodplains.

The Shinarump allotment consists of the top and edge of a low plateau with outcrops of Shinarump conglomerate, Moenkopi mudstones and gypsiferous shales. Silty and clayey soils form small floodplains. There are a few small sandy fans.

Cedar Ridge allotment is upon a small north dipping mesa capped by Shinarump conglomerate and sandstone, with outcrops exposed along the scarp at the south end. Remnants of the Chinle mudstones and shales occur in the northern two-thirds of the allotment.

The east side of Rider allotment is below the scarp of a low mesa which is Moenkopi gyp-shales capped by thick Shinarump sandstone and conglomerate, which contribute to sandy fans and dunes. Eroding Moenkopi forms low hills and fans in the center of the allotment. The fine sediments of Johnson Wash form stream terraces along the west side of the allotment.

Brown&Shumway allotment is upon a small north dipping mesa capped by Shinarump conglomerate and sandstone, with outcrops exposed along the scarp at the south end. Remnants of the Chinle mudstones and shales occur in the northern 2/3 of the allotment.

The Johnson Run allotment consists of slopes from 1 to 15 percent. The north lower portion around Johnson Wash is relatively flat and consists of a silty clay loam. The south portion along the power line consists of limestone and sandstone terraces and hills with shallow loamy soils.

### **Cultural/Historical**

Prehistoric and Historical sites exist throughout the allotments. Cultural resources cover the span of human occupation in the new world from around 10,000 years ago, up to and including the ranch operators of today. Our specific knowledge of the cultural makeup is limited due to the

lack of scientific investigation of the area.

### **Visual Resources**

The major portion of each allotment is in Visual Resource Management Class (VRM) Class III, with segments of each allotment either in VRM Class II or VRM Class IV. VRM criteria are: proposed change may be seen but should not attract attention (VRM Class II); management activities which affect the scenery should be designed or restricted so they are not obviously in contrast to the existing landscape (VRM Class III); and proposed projects or management activities may occur here and obviously be in contrast to the landscape (VRM Class IV).

### **Livestock Grazing**

Lost Spring Gap allotment contains 715 acres and is entirely on federal land; Button allotment contains: 4,500 acres of federal land, 640 acres of state land, and 520 acres of private land. Total acreage is 5,660 acres; Shinarump allotment contains: 1,100 acres of federal land, 620 acres of state land, and 0 acres of private land; Cedar Ridge allotment contains 1,420 acres of federal land; Rider allotment contains: 2,410 acres of federal land, 640 acres of state land, and 0 acres of private land; Brown & Shumway allotment contains 1,489 acres of federal land; and Johnson Run allotment contains: 8,243 acres of federal land, 1,240 acres of state land, and 45 acres of private land.

Please refer to page 5 under **Grazing Preference and Current Use on the Allotments** for the following table that shows pertinent information associated with authorized grazing use for each allotment.

### **Recreation Resources**

The allotments are considered to have recreation values for geology, scenic view sheds, remoteness and solitude. General recreation activities include: recreational OHV use, driving for pleasure, horseback riding, hiking, backpacking, camping, hunting, rock collecting, photography, bird watching and nature study.

### **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)**

The northeast portion of Rider allotment is within the Johnson Spring ACEC. Management direction for this ACEC includes: Conduct Class II cultural inventory and redefine boundary based on data if appropriate. Close unnecessary roads, close to all woodland product sales, and limit OHVs to designated roads and trails. No new range improvements allowed, generally, within 100 yards of significant cultural properties; implement ranger patrol.

### **Noxious Weeds**

Scotch thistle first established along the shoulders of the Ryan Road, which runs through the

middle of the Johnson Run Allotment. Since first establishment, scotch thistle has spread further into the allotment from the road. Saltcedar (*Tamarix spp.*) is confined mostly to the Johnson Wash portions of the Button, Rider, and Johnson Run allotments.

### **Socio/Economic**

The economic base of the Arizona Strip is mainly ranching with a few gypsum/selenite mines and uranium operations. Nearby communities are supported by tourism (including outdoor recreation), construction and light industry. The social aspect involves remote, unpopulated settings with moderate to high opportunities for solitude.

### **The following resources are not present in the allotments:**

- Wilderness
- Wild & Scenic Rivers
- Wild Horses and Burros
- Minerals
- Hazardous Wastes

## **IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

The following critical elements of the human environment are not affected by the proposed action or alternatives or are not present:

- Air Quality
- Native American Religious Concerns
- Wastes (hazardous or solid)
- Water (quality and quantity of surface/underground supplies)
- Prime or unique farmlands
- Floodplains
- Environmental Justice
- Wild & Scenic Rivers
- Wilderness

Only impacts that may result from implementing the proposed action or alternatives are described in this EA. If an ecological component is not discussed, it is because BLM resource specialists have considered effects to the component and found the proposed action or alternatives would have minimal or no effects.

General effects from projects similar to the proposed action or alternatives are also described in the documents to which this EA is tiered.

This EA incorporates by reference the Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run Allotments S&G Assessments and Appendices which provide complete discussions, analysis, and summaries of the range resources and associated data and issues.

## **Climate**

The Proposed Action would have no effect on the climate. However, the Proposed Action would allow affected resources to respond to the climate with improvement to these resources, as mentioned below in the drought and vegetation segments.

In response to drought conditions, BLM can modify the terms and conditions of a grazing permit (i.e. number of cattle, turn out dates, removal dates, etc.) temporarily or on a more long-term basis. Most modifications are accomplished on a cooperative basis with the livestock permittee. However, if a permittee disagrees with BLM's assessment of the resource conditions or the necessary modifications, BLM may nevertheless issue a Full Force and Effect Grazing Decision to protect resources.

## **Vegetation**

Grazing impacts on vegetation are mitigated by timing of use, adjusting of stocking rates, and conformance with Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Management. Under current management the grazing periods or grazing systems are designed to allow for different seasons of use and rest, allowing cool and warm season grasses and browse to elongate the plants apical bud, build vigor and achieve seed ripe.

Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, and Rider allotments are less intensively managed or custodial category allotments because they are believed to be producing near their potential and, as a result, no specific grazing system is used. The objective for custodial or "C" category allotments is to obtain not more than an average of 45 percent utilization of the current year's growth of key species. Average utilization was 19 percent over a 10 year period on Lost Spring Gap allotment, 14 percent over a 17 year period on Button allotment, 19 percent over a 10 year period on Shinarump allotment, 24 percent over a 19 year period on Cedar Ridge allotment, and 19 percent over a 14 year period on Rider allotment. The 45 percent utilization level was exceeded on Button allotment in 1990 and 2000, respectively, at 50 and 54 percent utilization and on Rider allotment in 1989 at 47 percent utilization. These are spot utilization problems and not indicative of overgrazing as a whole on these allotments. When utilization problems occur the grazing permittee is asked to adjust the period of use; reduce stocking rates; or seek better livestock distribution by hauling water, salting, or using supplements. Spot utilization only exceeded 45% in one year out of fifteen. The allotment as a whole however has not exceeded 45% in those same fifteen years from 1983 to 1998.

Brown & Shumway and Johnson Run are "M" or maintain category allotments. Criteria for the "M" category include: Present range condition is satisfactory--and allotments are producing near

their potential, no serious resource-use conflicts or controversy exist, and present management is satisfactory. However, both allotments do have grazing systems and as a result the objective is to obtain not more than an average of 50 percent utilization of the current year's growth of key species. A two-pasture, deferred rotation grazing system is used on the Brown & Shumway allotment and a yearlong three-pasture, rest-rotation grazing system is used on the Johnson Run allotment. Average utilization was 23 percent over a 22 year period on the Brown & Shumway allotment and 26 percent over a 15 year period on the Johnson Run allotment. The 50 percent utilization level was exceeded on the Brown & Shumway allotment in 1981 at 51 percent and in 1990 at 52 and 54 percent utilization (this occurred in two different pastures). On the Johnson Run allotment spot utilization was 51 percent in 2000. Ocular utilization estimates as a whole on the allotment however, did not exceed 45%. As with the C category allotments, when utilization problems occur the permittee is asked to reduce the grazing period, reduce livestock number, or redistribute livestock on the allotment.

Key areas are established on ecological sites and studied to determine the ecological status--defined as the extent to which the current kinds, proportions, and amounts of vegetation in a plant community are believed to resemble that of the potential natural community (PNC). Four ecological status classes are used to represent a percent similarity to the potential natural community:

- Early Seral Stage (0-25 percent similar)
- Mid Seral Stage (26 - 50 percent similar)
- Late Seral Stage (51-75 percent similar)
- Potential Natural Community (76 -100 percent)

The following table lists individual allotments with key areas, current ecological status, and similarity to the potential natural community.

Allotment	Key Area	Ecological Status	Similarity to PNC
Lost Spring Gap	#1	Not known*	Not known*
Button	#1	Mid Seral	42%
	#2	Mid Seral	45%
	#3	Mid Seral	34%
Shinarump	#1	Mid Seral	43%
Cedar Ridge	#1	Late Seral	59%
	#2	Late Seral	64%
Rider	#1	Late Seral	56%
Brown & Shumway	#1 (Arizona)	Mid Seral	48%
	#1 (Utah)	Mid Seral	50%
	#2 (Utah)	Mid Seral	45%
Johnson Run	#1	Early Seral+	19%+
	#2	Mid Seral	46%
	#3	Mid Seral	47%
	#11	Late Seral	58%

\*Non-native plant species were seeded during a mid 1960's watershed rehabilitation project and, therefore, it is not possible to assess accurate ecological status.

+As a result of the application of the herbicide Spike 20P this key area is in an early seral state. Sagebrush decreased from 44 percent to ~1 percent frequency, but due to its competitive nature sagebrush is expected to significantly increase in frequency during the next 20 years.

Desired Plant Community objectives are predicated on the make up of the plant community at a given ecological site. Feasibility or capability to elicit change and current condition of vegetation are considerations when developing DPC objectives.

Trend of the vegetation at the 15 key areas is based on pace-frequency studies—which measure the ratio between the number of a given key species sampled and the total number of species sampled. Current trend is mostly not apparent, meaning it is neither up nor down or static. Cool season grasses and some warm season fluctuate in frequency, but this is believed to be a normal response to wet and dry precipitation cycles.

Vegetation issues identified on the allotments were:

(1) *Scattered pockets of the threatened plant, Siler pincushion cactus.* Siler pincushion cactus is impacted when off-highway vehicles (OHVs) drive through the habitat and crush the plants. Livestock do not utilize this cactus as forage, but may rarely step on a cactus, causing injury or death to the plant. Soils where the cactus occurs on the Button Allotment are considered marginal for the species. These soils also do not support the grass or forb communities that would attract grazing livestock. In addition, there are no developed waters in the vicinity of the

scattered populations of Siler pincushion cactus. As a result, there is a low probability that livestock would step on an individual cactus plant. The BLM biologist has determined that livestock grazing on this allotment is not likely to adversely affect Siler pincushion cactus.

(2) Approximately 470 acres of Jocity and Clayhole soils with very little vegetative ground cover. Button allotment has compacted soils along Johnson Wash which are the Jocity and Clayhole soils. Due to gully, rill, and sheet erosion, poor ground cover, and compaction along Johnson Wash, the Jocity and Clayhole soils there fail to pass Standard 1 and remain a concern for the IAT. Compaction tends to reduce grasses in between brush and results in mustard and tumbleweed dominated cover in some areas. There are some small remnant areas of winterfat and four-wing saltbush on partially isolated eroding terraces which are at risk of dying out. Considering current condition and climate, they have a low potential for successful reclamation seedings. This suggests that intervention is needed to reduce livestock trampling when the soils are wet.

In 1980 an Allotment Management Plan was written recommending a three pasture rest rotation grazing system. This grazing system was analyzed in the 1980 Grazing Environmental Impact Statement, along with a range of alternatives. The alternative selected for the Button allotment was not to implement the grazing rotation system, but to reduce the amount of grazing authorized for the allotment. The permit remains authorized under that reduction.

Recently the grazing permittee has been asked to more evenly distribute his livestock on the allotment in order to prevent an over utilization of the vegetation on the soils in question. It is the professional opinion of the Rangeland Management Specialist that the permittee has been successful in his attempts to reduce the grazing pressure there. It is the consensus of the IAT to allow the permittee the opportunity to affect recovery in these areas without immediately enforcing a grazing system, which would require the building of at least two miles of fence. However, if site monitoring does not document an improvement, a rest rotation grazing system will be instituted. (See sections V. B. 1. b. and VI. C.) (Button Allotment S&G Report, pp. 12, 25, 26, & 34)

Woody species buildup. Pinyon-juniper occupies approximately 80 percent of the allotment, but it occupies the area in varying degrees of composition. This composition ranges from near monocultures of pinyon-juniper to shrub/pinyon-juniper mixes with compositions of less than 75 percent pinyon-juniper. Typical shrubs in this mix include: cliffrose, Mormon tea, prickly pear, yucca, and snakeweed.

In addition, there are large open areas vegetated mostly by sagebrush and perennial grasses. Composition is characteristically 50 to 60 percent sagebrush, 30 to 40 percent perennial grasses, and 5 to 10 percent forbs and other shrubs. Grasses are mostly galleta, squirreltail, and blue grama; globemallow is the prominent forb; and other shrubs are typically snakeweed and Mormon tea. Based on recent juniper sapling observations, pinyon-juniper is encroaching into the sagebrush/perennial grass community type. (Shinarump Allotment S&G Report, pp. 7, 11, 14, & 15).

Failed plow and seed project on the east side of the allotment is vegetated mostly by annuals, sagebrush, lycium, and cactus Failed plow and seed project on the east side of the allotment is vegetated mostly by annuals, sagebrush, lycium, and cactus.

This relates to Item 4: Desired Plant Community objectives of Standard #3: Productive and diverse upland and riparian-wetland plant communities of native species exist and are maintained.

Ground cover appears to be increasing slowly, mostly from the perimeter of the treatment area inward. In addition, there are patches of desirable native perennials developing among the annuals and sagebrush at this site. (Cedar Ridge Allotment S&G Report, pp. 9, 17, & 23).

(1) Species diversity is lacking, but potential is also limited and (2) Vigor, plant health: grass absent from stream bank where trampled There is a sacrifice area which begins at the pond and extends 1/4 mile north. Cattle naturally congregate at watering facilities. Higher utilization can be anticipated at or near ponds; however, as distance from water increases utilization levels diminish. One way to reduce livestock impacts to vegetation at a given watering facility is to incorporate other watering sources.

There is a lack of grass on the stream bank at Johnson Wash, which is infested with saltcedar (*Tamarix spp*), a noxious weed introduced into the U.S. from Europe in the early 1800's. Saltcedar forms into monocultures and out- competes native vegetation mainly by depleting soil moisture and through allelopathy. By way of a massive root network, saltcedar transpires large amounts of water, drying the soil and lowering the water table. Also, in conjunction with transpiration, salt is exuded and deposited on the soil surface. This allelopathic process effectively elevates soil pH and excludes, for the most part, all other vegetation.

There is a livestock watering facility situated at the northeast side of the allotment. With the permittee hauling water to this facility, livestock use could be diverted away from a sacrifice area adjacent to a pond and the ephemeral wash at Johnson wash for a portion of the grazing season. This would reduce trampling at the pond and wash bank. (Rider Allotment S&G Report, pp. 9, 15, 21, 22, & 23).

(1) Noxious weeds, scotch thistle and salt cedar (Walker) and (2) Lack of herbaceous understory in sagebrush (Langley) Johnson Run Allotment Scotch thistle first established along the shoulders of the Ryan Road, which runs through the middle of the Johnson Run Allotment. Since first establishment, scotch thistle has spread further into the allotment from the road.

Saltcedar (*Tamarix spp.*) occurring on the Johnson Run Allotment is confined mostly to the Highway A pasture portion of the Johnson Wash. The intermittent availability of water, along with competition from saltcedar, effectively excludes other riparian vegetation. A recent rangeland health assessment indicated Johnson Wash is in compliance with Rangeland Health Standards under the Standard and Guideline for Grazing Management and functioning properly

under the current management system. Soil loss has been slowed on the south side of Johnson Wash (west side of allotment) because wood chips and wood debris were placed on the soil surface. This provides excellent cover as litter, but has prevented most plant growth. Off-road vehicle traffic for dumping and target practice in this area is causing compaction.

The extreme north strip of BLM land on the allotment still has soil erosion in the form of sheet, head, and lateral head cutting. The strip of land is also heavily trodden by livestock and is isolated from the permittee by private property and fence. The permittee's livestock are not grazing this portion of the allotment. Near monocultures of sagebrush occur on the southeast side of the Johnson Run pasture on the east side of the Highway pasture and in most of the Highway B pasture. At these areas, ground cover (litter, live vegetation, and rock) and signs of erosion (flow patterns, gullies, rills and plant pedestaling) were found to be within normal site parameters—meeting Standard 1 of the Arizona Standards and Guidelines. However, Standard 3: Desired Resource Conditions is not being met due to the high composition of sagebrush and low composition of herbaceous species. S&G Report, pp. 10, 17, 18, & 26.

### **Noxious Weeds**

Scotch thistle is present on the Johnson Run Allotment and saltcedar mostly occurs at the Johnson Wash portions of the Button, Rider, and Johnson Run allotments. Seed of these noxious weeds is mostly spread by wind or carried by water. This area has been treated and will continue to be treated as new thistle germinate and are found, as well as inventoried for new weeds. The Salt Cedar may be treated as funds and treatment methods come about. Livestock are not believed to be a vector for the spread of Scotch thistle or saltcedar as both species are not palatable. Saltcedar is specifically spread to areas that are wet. Though livestock historically may have helped in the spread of this species, all wet areas on the allotments have saltcedar so there is no further spread of the plant. Scotch thistle is normally spread by birds which eat the seeds and then fly a distance from the plant population and defecate which can start a new population. Research also suggests that disturbance such as wind and flooding may also be means of transport and establishment of Scotch thistle.

### **Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species**

Siler pincushion cactus at the Rider and Button allotments would be unaffected by livestock for the following reasons: cattle do not eat the cactus and no instance of trampling on the plants by livestock has been observed on these allotments. Vegetation is sparse in the cactus habitat and livestock water is about one mile from cactus habitat. In Combination these two factors indicate that livestock are not found within cactus habitat on these allotments. Ongoing monitoring and observation indicate the cactus population is stable and no livestock related cactus mortality has occurred. The Biological Opinion for six allotments has been done. Rider was one of these six allotments. (See conditions in mitigation section, page 25 & 26). Cactus found on the Button allotment are only found on private land.

The Proposed Action Alternative would have no affect on any listed threatened or endangered

species.

### **BLM Sensitive Species.**

The Proposed Action would have minor impact on BLM sensitive and state species of concern such as ferruginous hawk, black-crowned night heron, snowy egret and sensitive bat species such as Townsend's big eared, spotted bats, small-footed myotis, fringed myotis and big free-tailed bats. Impacts could result from reduced vegetative vigor, particularly adjacent to waters. These species would benefit from the presence and continued maintenance of water developments on the allotments.

### **Wildlife**

The Proposed Action would have minor seasonal impacts on big game (mule deer) or the other nongame wildlife found on the allotment as a result of competition for forage. Observation and studies over time have indicated that this area receives only light to moderate use by mule deer, primarily as transitional habitat between summer and winter range.

Fences can impact pronghorn antelope. As they are maintained or replaced, identified non-compliant fences would be brought into compliance over time. Since the pronghorn are relatively new to the area of the proposed action the inventory of the fences is not complete and most of these allotments are not habitat for pronghorn.

### **Migratory Birds**

Executive Order 13186 requires BLM and other federal agencies to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to improve protection for migratory birds. Implementation of the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect any species of migratory bird known or suspected to occur on the allotment. No take of any such species is anticipated.

### **Soil**

Attributes making up the soil resource should remain stable or improve through implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative and enforcement of the Arizona Standards and Guides process for permitted livestock grazing within the 7 grazing allotments. The current grazing rotations and/or seasons of rest allows for plant rest and vigor. Utilization levels are within that allowable and current trends are mostly static. For additional analysis and comment on the loss of soil and lack of a grass/forb understory in Johnson Wash refer to the Button Allotment (pp.24, 26, 28, & 34); Rider Allotment (pp. 12, 13, & 17); and Johnson Run Allotment (pp. 17 & 18) S&G Assessments.

### **Cultural Resources**

There would be no significant impact to cultural or historical sites as a result of renewing these

grazing permits. Cultural resources project file AZ BLM 010-2001-29 (Lost Spring Gap Allotment), AZ BLM 010-2001-33 (Button Allotment), AZ BLM 010-2005-016 (Shinarump Allotment), AZ BLM 010-2001-25 (Cedar Ridge Allotment), AZ BLM 010-2001-30 (Rider Allotment), AZ BLM 010-2001-24 (Brown&Shumway Allotment), and AZ BLM 010-2005-017 (Johnson Run Allotment) contains documentation of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Great efforts are made to avoid these sites during allotment project implementation. Further, archaeological clearances are completed prior to all project approvals.

### **Visual Resources**

The Visual Resource Management Class areas inside the allotments remain essentially unchanged since the objectives were proposed in the Visual Resource Area Implementation Plan. A review as well as protection of the visual resource values is a routine part of the interdisciplinary NEPA process, along with recommendation for mitigating measures if impacts to visual resources are anticipated when surface disturbing projects are proposed. VRM values differ throughout the allotments. VRM values would be assessed and maintained through the NEPA analysis for projects, with different VRM values. Under the proposed action, renewal of the term grazing permit, VRM values for these allotments would remain unchanged.

### **Livestock Grazing**

Under the Proposed Action livestock grazing and related operations would continue in much the same manner as currently authorized.

### **Possible Future Range Improvement Projects**

There are two vegetative treatment projects described below that may occur in the foreseeable future, possibly during the ten-year life of the renewed grazing permits. This EA does not analyze the impacts of these projects. The appropriate NEPA analysis will occur prior to any action being taken.

1. A project to reduce the composition of sagebrush on the Cedar Ridge allotment from ~ 40 percent to less than 30 percent.
2. A project to reduce the pinyon-juniper and sagebrush composition on the Shinarump allotment. This project was recommended during the Standards and Guides assessment.

### **Recreation Resources**

Recreation in the area is primarily composed of driving for pleasure, recreational OHV use, horseback riding, hiking, backpacking, camping, hunting, photography and nature study. No impact to recreation is expected.

Recreation issues identified on the allotments were:

(1) At the north end of the allotment is an area around the base of the ridge that shows impacts from recreationists, i.e., trash, fire rings, vehicle tracks, etc. There are volunteered roads and trails leading from high impact areas. Increased vigilance on the part of local law enforcement or BLM Rangers might make a difference in some of the impacts. Unfortunately, manpower for this type of operation is difficult and expensive to obtain. Education is the preferred method of obtaining cooperation in the protection of our resources. (Lost Spring Gap Allotment S&G Report, pp. 16&24).

(1) Off highway vehicles

During the field visit little OHV use was noted on this allotment. However, excessive OHV use does occur just to the south of this allotment along the Fredonia Loop Road. Given this allotment's proximity to Fredonia/Kanab and how illegal OHV use often seems to be worse close to towns, OHV use is likely to increase over time in this allotment. Increased OHV use and off existing road and trail use, coupled with an increase in the density of roads, is deleterious to wildlife habitat quality.

Because of the OHV designations set up for this area in the RMP and the Vermillion Resource Area Implementation Plan, OHV activities are limited to existing roads and trails, and there are no authorized off road activities permitted. OHV users going cross country are in violation of the area's management plans and OHV regulations and restrictions. Perhaps we need more signing or more law enforcement in the area as required implementing and enforcing the restrictions (Shinarump Allotment S&G Report, pp. 11&14).

Four wheeler use Four-wheeler use. Because of the OHV designations set up for this area in the RMP and the Vermillion Resource Area Implementation Plan, OHV activities are limited to existing roads and trails, and there are no authorized off road activities permitted. OHV/ATV users going cross country are in violation of the area's management plans and OHV regulations and restrictions. (Cedar Ridge Allotment S&G Report, pp. 16&23; and Brown & Shumway Allotment S&G Report, pp. 16&22).

### **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)**

The northeast portion of Rider allotment is within the Johnson Spring ACEC. Management action is taken to protect resources. No impact is anticipated. The proposed action is in conformance with this ACEC designation and its mitigation measures that are associated with it.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative Impacts are tiered to the Arizona Strip RMP (1992), Environmental Consequences pages IV-36 to IV-38, and to chapter 3 of the Vermillion Grazing EIS (1979) which was adopted into the RMP. Unavoidable adverse impacts, the relationship between local short-term uses of man's environment, maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and the irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources were discussed.

Cumulative impacts occur when additional management facilities are added to those already present. Grazing plans are intended to meet specific objectives to the plan area and involve rangeland improvements that are designed to maintain or improve wildlife habitat, watershed, and overall resource conditions, thus improving ecosystem health.

Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions within the analysis area would continue to influence range resources, watershed conditions and trends. The impact of land treatments targeting woody species, voluntary livestock reductions during dry periods and implementation of a grazing system have improved range conditions. The net result would continue to be greater species diversity, improved plant vigor, and increased ground cover from grasses and forbs. No adverse cumulative impacts are predicted from the proposed action.

### **Residual Impacts**

Residual impacts are tiered to the Arizona Strip RMP (1992), Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitments of Resources page Chapter 7, Page 7-1 of the Vermillion Grazing EIS (1979) which was adopted into the RMP. Though the proposed action doesn't propose any new fences, it does allow for the existence of present fence lines, which do create some restrictions to free pronghorn movement, but do not prevent passage of mule deer. Other wildlife using the area are not restricted by existing fences.

There are no residual impacts as a result of the proposed action to the vegetative resource. Future maintenance of existing vegetation treatments would take place regardless of the proposed action and would not affect additional acres beyond that done previously. Residual impacts from maintenance activities would be improved watershed conditions, wildlife habitat, and rangeland resources over time.

### **Monitoring**

The monitoring addressed in the proposed action is sufficient to identify changes in vegetation as a result of livestock grazing activities. In addition to those methods described, there are efforts in place to inventory for noxious weed establishment, as well as monitor treated areas for treatment effectiveness. BLM weed specialist continue to monitor and treat noxious weeds on the Arizona Strip. BLM provides training in identification and treatment as well as ways to reduce the spread of weeds to BLM employees and permittees.

### **Mitigation**

When noxious weeds are located, various methods are used for their control depending on the size of the infestation and growth stage of the plants. The methods include but are not limited to:

- Physical or mechanical
- Biological
- Chemical or Cultural

If vegetative monitoring indicates current livestock grazing practices are causing non-attainment of resource objectives, BLM can modify the terms and conditions of a grazing permit (i.e. number of cattle, turn out dates, removal dates, etc.) temporarily or on a more long-term basis. Most modifications are accomplished on a cooperative basis with the livestock permittee. However, if a permittee disagrees with BLM's assessment of the resource conditions or the necessary modifications, BLM may nevertheless issue a Full Force and Effect Grazing Decision to protect resources.

The Arizona Strip Field Office (ASFO) developed several measures which were consulted on by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, that will be implemented as part of the proposed action to reduce the potential for adverse effects (Arizona Strip Field Office Undated) to Siler Pincushion Cactus (SPC).

- SPC demographic study plots will continue to be read annually. Areas of possible or potential occurrence of the species will be re-inventoried at least once every ten years. Annual monitoring reports will be provided to the Fish and Wildlife Service.
- ATV use and activity will be monitored in the allotments. If monitoring reveals adverse effects to the species from that activity, then action will be taken to preclude further effects. In addition, the grazing permits will include a stipulation that use of ATVs off- road in occupied SPC habitat is prohibited. Maps illustrating occupied habitat will be provided to allotment permittees. Horses may be used in occupied habitat.
- The ASFO will conduct a survey at least once every ten years in areas of dense SPC populations outside of established monitoring plots in the allotments. The purpose of the surveys is to assess the condition of the populations and to check for damage to cactus and habitat associated with livestock operations. The surveys will include 1-mile transects in dense SPC populations. If any trampling or habitat damage is observed with the ten-year monitoring, then the monitoring will subsequently be conducted on an annual basis. If five individual SPC are trampled by livestock per year over a five-year period in the transects, fencing or changes in livestock management will be implemented to reduce trampling.
- If existing monitoring plots at Johnson Spring or observations made at Cottonwood Well reveal impacts to SPC due to trampling or ATV use, then the populations at those locations will be fenced. The Atkin Well population will be unfenced and studied. The dense SPC population at Coyote Spring will be fenced to preclude ATV use.
- During drought, grazing pressure on forage plant species will be reduced in the allotments. The drought policy known as Decreased Permitted Use (43 CFR 4110.3-2) will be implemented.

## **V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

This EA was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Arizona Strip Field Office, 345 E. Riverside Drive, St. George, UT 84790. Phone (435) 688-3200. Public involvement for the Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run S&G evaluations began more than a year ago. The assessments were conducted by an interdisciplinary assessment team (IAT) of resource specialists from the BLM. The IAT was assisted by the Rangeland Resources Team (RRT) appointed by the Arizona Resource Advisory Council. A draft evaluation was sent out for public review and comment to Individuals, Groups and Agencies. Comments from Individuals, Groups and Agencies were incorporated in to the Final Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run S&G evaluation reports. This EA reflects those comments.

### **USFWS Consultation**

Consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service rendered several key points, with agency guidance in the form of a Biological Opinion. The Arizona Strip Field Office (ASFO) developed several measures that will be implemented as part of the proposed action to reduce the potential for adverse effects (Arizona Strip Field Office Undated) to SPC. These stipulations are pertinent to this assessment, and have been incorporated into this document.

### **Interdisciplinary Assessment Team (IAT):**

Linda Price.....Project Coordinator  
Bill Wall.....Range/Grazing  
John Herron.....Archaeologist  
Robert Smith.....Soils, Watershed  
Larry Gearhart.....Wilderness/Recreation  
Michael Herder.....Wildlife Biologist

### **Internal Reviewers:**

Gloria Benson, Native American Coordinator  
Tom Folks, Recreation  
Laurie Ford, Lands/Realty/Minerals  
Michael Herder, Wildlife  
John Herron, Cultural  
Lee Hughes, Plants  
Ray Klein, GCPNM Supervisory Ranger  
Linda Price, S&G  
Bob Sandberg, Range  
Richard Spotts, Environmental Coordinator  
Ron Wadsworth, Supervisory Law Enforcement

Implementation of the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines  
for Grazing Management for the Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider,  
Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run Grazing Allotments Permit Renewals

RE: AZ-EA-110-2005-0003

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

The Environmental Assessment AZ-110-2005-0003, hereby incorporated by reference, analyzed livestock grazing permits renewal action conducted under the Arizona BLM Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Management (S&Gs) where an intensive allotment evaluation was conducted with public and other agency involvement throughout the process. Analysis of existing study data indicates that overall Ecological Condition trends are static or up and pace frequency trends are mostly static on the allotments. The resource conditions on the allotments are meeting or are making significant progress towards meeting Standards for Rangeland Health. Issues were analyzed and it was determined that current management is not a factor in preventing attainment of Standards.

The Environmental Assessment reaffirmed the present Allotment Management Plans (AMPs), and determined that the present grazing management program would continue to allow improvement to the health of public land resources, such as soil, water, vegetation, wildlife habitat, and wildlife and other resource values.

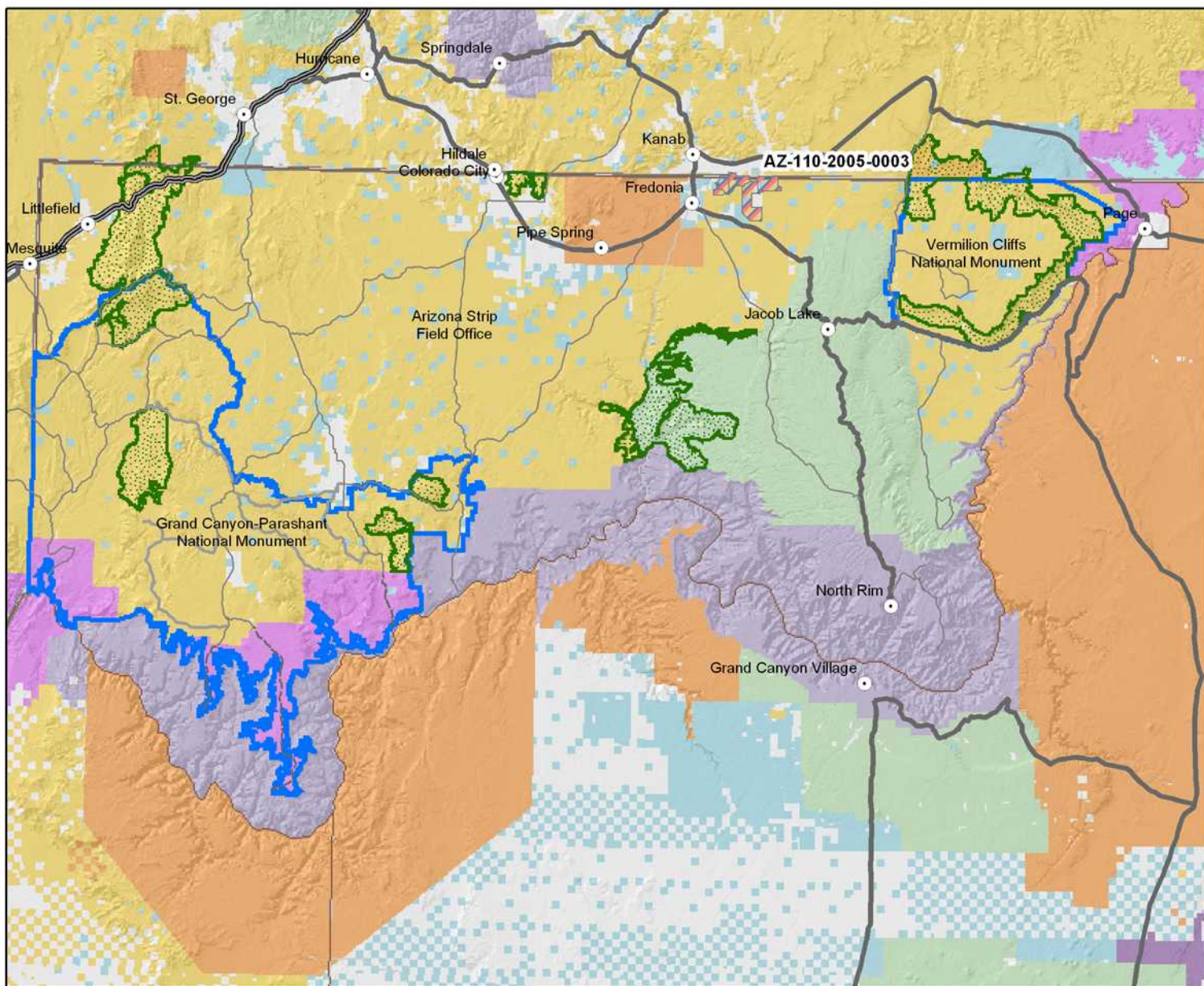
Based on the analysis of Environmental Assessment AZ-110-2005-0003, I have determined that the renewal of the Lost Spring Gap, Button, Shinarump, Cedar Ridge, Rider, Brown & Shumway, and Johnson Run Livestock Grazing Permits with current terms and conditions will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

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










**Field Manager**  
**Arizona Strip Field Office**

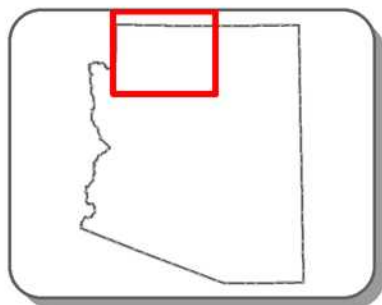
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**Date**

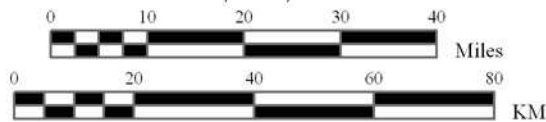


**Legend**

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
|  Area of NEPA Project  |  Bureau of Land Management |  National Park Service    |  National Forest            |
|  Designated Wilderness |  State Lands               |  National Recreation Area |  National Forest Wilderness |
|  Monuments             |  Private Lands             |  Indian Lands             |  Military Reservation       |



1:1,260,000



**CAUTION:**  
 Land ownership data is derived from less accurate data than the 1:24000 scale base map. Therefore, land ownership may not be shown for parcels smaller than 40 acres, and land ownership lines may have plotting errors due to source data.

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for the use of the data for purposes not intended by the BLM.



United States Department of the Interior  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 Arizona Strip District Office

Map created on Feb 15, 2005