

APPENDIX F: SPECIAL EPHEMERAL RULE

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In accordance with 43 CFR 4115.2-1 regarding special rules for grazing districts and pursuant to the receipt of recommendations of the State Directors for Arizona, California and Nevada and a factual showing of its necessity, a special rule for range designated as ephemeral is hereby approved.

Ephemeral (annual) ranges lie within the general southwest desert region extending primarily into southern Arizona, southern California and southern Nevada and include portions of the Mohave, Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts. The region is characterized by desert type vegetation some of which may be classed as ephemeral only. Ephemeral range does not consistently produce forage, but periodically provides annual vegetation suitable for livestock grazing. In years of abundant moisture and other favorable climatic conditions a large amount of forage may be produced. Favorable years are highly unpredictable and the season is usually short lived. Ephemeral areas fall generally below the 3,200-foot contour and below the 8-inch precipitation isoline. A minor percentage of the total plant composition is made up of desirable perennial forage plants and potential to improve range condition and produce a dependable supply of forage by applying intensive management practices is lacking.

Because of the unique characteristics of ephemeral range the following special rule shall apply as follows:

- Applicable allotments or uses shall be formally designated by the District Manager as ephemeral range.
- An annual application by qualified licensees or permittees is not required unless grazing use is desired. On a year-to-year basis whenever forage exists or climatic conditions indicate the probability of an ephemeral forage crop, livestock grazing may be authorized upon application pursuant to any management requirements for the allotment.
- Use of base property (water base) during nonforage years is not feasible or economical and no use of base properties is required except during these periods when ephemeral forage is available and livestock grazing occurs.

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