

a problem on perhaps 2,500 acres. My winter and spring-fall ranges get a rest during the summer growing season, but the summer range doesn't. It would be nice if we could work out a rotation system to accomplish this.

Perhaps the greatest problem of all, and one faced by all range cattle people, is the rising cost of production. I feel confident all these problems can be licked eventually, and I look forward to running cattle many more years on my favorite National Forest—the Coconino.

Foxboro Allotment

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The Foxboro Allotment lends itself very well to yearlong grazing. The summer units are located in the Mogollon Rim area at elevations running from 6300-7300 ft. (Fig. 1). The higher terrain is characterized by the pine-bunch grass association. Principal grass species are Arizona fescue (*Festuca arizonica*), pine dropseed (*Blepharoneuron tricholepis*), bottlebrush squirreltail (*Sitanion hystrix*) and Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*). These grasses occur in open parks and under an overstory of mature and blackjack pine. In the lower portion of the summer range, junegrass (*Koeleria cristata*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) and pine dropseed are associated with fringe-type pine and mixed-juniper overstory.

The summer ranges are very productive, but need rest and deferment in order to realize full production. Plans are prepared and are contingent on watershed analyses in progress by the Beaver Creek Watershed evaluation team. Repeated growing season use has reduced the full productive capabilities of the summer ranges.

A long area of varied elevational makeup is the spring-fall range that we call the Jacks Point-Jacks Canyon Unit. This area really has two major portions as the name suggests. The Jacks Point area is characterized by fringe pine and juniper overstory with a northern woodland

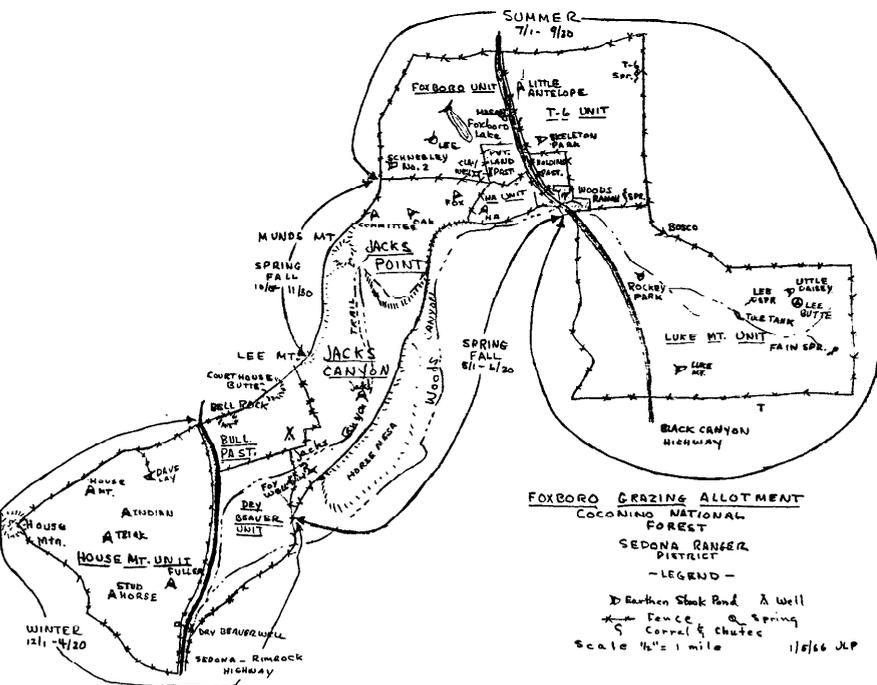


FIGURE 1. Sketch map of Foxboro Allotment, Coconino National Forest, Arizona.

grass association, including blue grama, black dropseed (*Sporobolus interruptus*), bottlebrush squirreltail and spike muhly (*Muhlenbergia wrightii*). Early spring and late fall use in this unit allow the warm weather plants to rest during the growing season, thereby helping to maintain a vigorous stand of grass. Further down in the Jacks Canyon area the same growing season rest effects are realized by the warm weather growing species. This area falls within the southern woodland grass association. The overstory is characterized by small juniper, shrub live oak (*Quercus turbinella*) and mesquite and other scattered bushes. Principal grasses are sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), tobosa (*Hilaria mutica*), buckwheat brush (*Eriogonum wrightii*), and curlymesquite (*Hilaria belangeri*).

There are two winter units, the Dry Beaver and House Mountain. The Dry Beaver receives light use at the beginning and end of the winter season. It is in the lower reaches of the southern Woodland type. Grasses present not mentioned in the Jacks Canyon unit are sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*) and black grama (*Bouteloua eriopoda*). There are fewer brush species in this unit.

The main winter unit is the House Mountain. This area provides a wide

range of elevational relief from 4000 to 5000 ft. This unit is grazed from December until April and provides a wide range of variety for the cattle. The higher elevations support fairly heavy stands of juniper. Some work at controlled burning of individual trees has been done on this area. Winter use allows for growing season rest.

In addition to the two winter units for general grazing, a bull pasture is maintained for winter use. It is located in the same type country as the Dry Beaver unit.

In addition to being beneficial to the grasses this allotment allows for natural movement through the spring-fall unit. The cattle are branded and put into the Jacks Canyon unit in the spring and move up country with the weather. They are concentrated in the Jacks Point unit before being distributed in the summer units.

The cattle are gathered off the summer units and shipped from the summer ranch headquarters. The mother herd and bulls then are released into the spring-fall range where they move down to the winter range with the weather. The bulls are cut out in Jacks Canyon and the cattle put on Dry Beaver unit, then over to House Mountain for the winter.

Here is where the cycle began.