UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

ACTION PROGRAM FOR

RESOLUTION OF LIVESTOCK-RIPARIAN CONFLICTS

ON THE SALT RIVER AND VERDE RIVER

REGION THREE

ARIZONA

TONTO, PRESCOTT AND COCONINO

NATIONAL FORESTS
ACTION PROGRAM FOR
RESOLUTION OF LIVESTOCK-RIPARIAN CONFLICTS ON THE
SALT RIVER AND VERDE RIVER
TONTO, PRESCOTT AND COCONINO NATIONAL FORESTS

TONTO PROGRAM

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6/25/79

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7/5/79

PRESCOTT PROGRAM

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COCONINO PROGRAM

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7/3/79
8. Allotment Name: Goldfield
   Permitted Numbers:
   186 Cattle Yearlong
   97 Yearlings 1/1-5/31
   Permitted AUM's: 2572
   Estimated Grazing Capacity
den 1964 Range Analysis: No estimates made at that time
   Current Estimated Grazing Capacity Under a Sound
   Management System (From On-going Studies or Best
   Professional Estimate): *150
   Adjustment in AUM's Necessary to Implement
   Management System: 2422
   Estimated Costs of
   Range Facilities Needed
   to Implement Management System: *$42,500
   Target Year for Range Study
   Completion and Management
   Plan Implementation with
   Existing Manpower: FY 1982
   Target Year for Range Study
   Completion and Management
   Plan Implementation with
   Increased Manpower: FY 1981

*The E.I.S. for the Lower Salt River Recreation Plan recognizes that an
unacceptable level of conflict exists between yearlong livestock use and
recreation values, as well as with soil, watershed and wildlife habitat
(primarily riparian values). It further recognizes the eventual need to
gain control of livestock use on the river.

An estimated nine miles of fence and three cattleguards would be needed
on the south side of the Salt River to exclude livestock. According to
our preliminary computations, there is a perennial forage base (primarily
browse) and enough livestock water in one area of the allotment to graze
approximately 150 AUM's on a sustained basis. Obviously the investment
in range facilities for this meager forage resource would not prove cost
effective. Considering the anticipated impact of recreationists on
fences constructed in their midst, most knowledgeable people also have
doubts as to the practicability of such a fencing effort.
The permittee on the Goldfield Allotment has offered to sell the commensurate property for the allotment to the Federal government. Provided this purchase is consummated and the term grazing permit is retired, there will be no need for the fencing and range study action shown above. If it is not, other alternatives will need to be considered.

One alternative is to simply cancel the permit in recognition that the expenditure of funds is neither practical or of economic feasibility.

Another possibility would be to terminate the term grazing permit and provide for the consideration of annual temporary permits for yearlings, both the issuance of and numbers of yearlings authorized being contingent on the prospects for the production of a crop of spring annual forage. It is unknown whether such a program without the construction of fences to control the presence of yearlings on the river would meet resource management objectives for the area. If it did not, the discontinuance of temporary permits would be necessary as well.