



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern
Region

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File Code: 1570-1

Date: April 19, 2001

Forest Guardians
c/o John Horning
1411 Second Street
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested
7099 3220 8709 9702

Re: Appeal #01-03-00-0020-A215 Lone Mountain Allotment Decision, Sierra Vista Ranger District, Coronado National Forest

Dear Mr. Horning:

This is my review decision concerning the appeal you filed regarding the Decision Notice and Finding Of No Significant Impact, which authorize grazing and implement the grazing management strategy on the above named allotment.

BACKGROUND

District Ranger Gunzel issued a decision on January 11, 2001, for the Lone Mountain Allotment. The decision resulted in the selection of the following alternative and authorization:

Lone Mountain Allotment, Alternative E, which authorizes 650 - 900 head of cattle (cow/calf) to graze yearlong.

The District Ranger is identified as the Responsible Official, whose decision is subject to administrative review under 36 CFR 215 appeal regulations. Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.16, an attempt was made to seek informal resolution of your appeal. The record indicates that informal resolution was not reached.

My review of this appeal has been conducted in accordance with 36 CFR 215.17. I have reviewed the appeal record and the recommendation of the Appeal Reviewing Officer. My review decision incorporates the appeal record.



APPEAL REVIEWING OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

Upon initial review, the Appeal Reviewing Officer concluded the environmental and biological assessments did not adequately disclose the effects of the proposed action on sensitive and management indicator species. In addition, the environmental assessment does not adequately explain the relationship between this project level consultation and the Forest wide range consultation for federally listed species. Therefore, the Reviewing Officer recommended that the decision be reversed and that further review of the decision based on the merits be discontinued.

APPEAL DECISION

Based on the Appeal Reviewing Officer's recommendation, I am reversing the Responsible Official's decision with instructions to complete and disclose an effects analysis for sensitive and management indicator species in a biological assessment/evaluation and in an environmental assessment. The Responsible Official is further instructed to explain the relationship between this project consultation and the Forest wide range consultation. Any new decision regarding issuance of a 10-year permit for the Lone Mountain Allotment must fully comply with public comment and appeal provisions of 36 CFR 215.

My decision constitutes the final administrative determination of the Department of Agriculture [36 CFR 215.18(c)].

Sincerely,

/s/ Abel M. Camarena (for)
JAMES T. GLADEN
Appeal Deciding Officer

cc:
Forest Supervisor, Coronado NF
District Ranger, Santa Catalina RD
Director Rangeland Management, R3
Appeals and Litigation Staff, R3

