



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern
Region

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File Code: 1570-1

Date: January 26, 2001

Forest Guardians
c/o John Horning
1411 Second Street
Santa Fe, NM 87031

Re: Appeal #01-03-00-0010-A215, Greenback Allotment Decision, Tonto Basin Ranger District, Tonto 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 that authorizes grazing and implements the grazing management strategy on the above-named allotment.

BACKGROUND

Acting District Ranger Connelly issued a decision on October 26, 2000, for the above-named allotment. The decision resulted in the selection of the following alternative and authorization: Greenback Allotment, Alternative E, which authorizes 80 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.

APPEAL REVIEWING OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

Upon initial review the Appeal Reviewing Officer concluded that the effects analysis disclosed in the environmental assessment and the subsequent decision, do not reflect the proposed action, as consulted on in the August 24, 2000, biological assessment and evaluation for the Greenback Allotment. Therefore, the Reviewing Officer recommended that the decision be reversed and that a review of the decision based on the merits not be conducted.



APPEAL DECISION

Based on the Appeal Reviewing Officer's recommendation, I am reversing the Responsible Official's decision, with instructions to disclose the effects of the proposed action identified under Section 7 consultation in an environmental assessment, and make a new decision by September 1, 2001. The Responsible Official is also instructed to provide for notice and comment of the environmental assessment in accordance with 36 CFR 215.5 and 215.6.

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

Sincerely,

/s/ James T. Gladen
JAMES T. GLADEN
Deputy Regional Forester

cc:
Forest Supervisor, Tonto NF
District Ranger, Tonto Basin RD
Director of Rangeland Management, R3
Appeals and Litigation Staff, R3