



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SAFFORD DISTRICT OFFICE
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

1610
(040)

GYunovich
1-9-92

January 9, 1992

Mike Hayhurst
Rt. 1, Box 275
Huachuca City, AZ 85616

Dear Mr. Hayhurst:

This letter is in response to your protest of the Safford District Resource Management Plan. Since you acquired the State leases along the Babocomari, we have been discussing the longevity of the grazing permit. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the Bureau's position on livestock grazing on those lands we acquired through State exchange.

The State grazing lease lands that were acquired and added to the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area will be treated the same as any other Bureau administered grazing lands. We have decided that Allotment Management Plans should be written for the allotments that have been added to the National Conservation Area. We recognize that an Allotment Management Plan is a long term commitment to managing the resources under the concept of multiple use, and fully intend that grazing is an allowable use of these lands. We therefore acknowledge that our intent is toward a long term commitment to your success as a livestock permittee. It is our policy that any adjustment in livestock numbers will be the result of several years of resource monitoring to ensure that we are meeting resource objectives.

Very simply, the 1816 acres of Bureau land in the Babocomari Allotment will continue to be managed for grazing in association with the State lands in this allotment. On page 21 of the Resource Management Plan it states, "Livestock grazing will continue on the added 6,521 acre area..." and that, "Allotment management plans will be prepared for all allotments in the 6,521-acre area to provide for continued livestock grazing...". The intent of these statements is that the Bureau will recognize grazing uses to continue through the duration of the Safford District Resource Management Plan.

We would greatly appreciate your consideration to withdraw your protest of the Safford District Resource Management Plan if this clarification is satisfactory.

Sincerely,

Ray A. Brady
District Manager