

# Kane Ranch Grazing Overview

## Central Winter Allotment (Forest Service)

- 130,000 acres
- West flank of Kaibab Plateau
- 10” – 20” annual rainfall
- Mostly piñon-juniper
- desert scrub/shrubland/grassland at lower elevations
- ponderosa pine at higher elevations
- Primary winter range for Kaibab mule deer herd

## Central Summer Allotment (Forest Service)

- 294,000 acres
- Top of Kaibab Plateau
- 20” annual rainfall
- Mostly ponderosa pine
- Pinyon-juniper at lower elevations
- Mixed conifer/spruce-fir/montane meadows at higher elevations
- Substantial aspen component
- Greatest concentration of goshawk (*accipiter gentilis*) in southwest U.S.

## Kane Allotment (Forest Service)

- 26,000 acres
- East flank of Kaibab Plateau
- 10” - 20” annual rainfall
- Mostly pinyon-juniper
- Species of concern include:
  - Kaibab pincushion cactus (*pediocactus paradinei*)

## Soap Creek Allotment (BLM)

- 127,000 acres
- East of Kaibab Plateau: Houserock Valley & Marble Platform
- Less than 10” annual rainfall
- Mostly desert scrub/shrubland/grassland
- Species of Concern include:
  - Pronghorn (*antilopocapra americana*)
  - Houserock Valley chisel-toothed kangaroo rat (*dipodomys microps leucotis*)
  - Brady pincushion cactus (*pediocactus bradyi*)

## Kane Ranch Administration Recent History

1996/2001: Central Winter Allotment closed to grazing due to 54,000-acre

## Bridger Fire

- 1996: Forest Service initiates environmental assessment (EA) to determine future management of Central Winter Allotment
- 1997: Scope of EA expanded to cover all Kane Ranch Allotments, BLM as well as Forest Service
- 2000: EA for Kane Ranch allotments completed
- 2001: Forest Service Decision Notice establishing revised grazing regime for Central Winter, Central Summer, and Kane Allotments
- 2002: BLM completes allotment assessment for Soap Creek Allotment; finds compliance with Standards and Guidelines; proposes to renew permit; decision protested by National Wildlife Federation, but grazing still permitted
- 2003-04: Permittee sells livestock; grazing ceases on all Kane Ranch allotments
- 2005: Soap Creek protest remains unresolved; Draft Resource Management Plan for the Arizona Strip released

## Kane Ranch Grazing Permit

- Stocking level: 800 cattle
  - o May & June: Central Winter Allotment (west flank of Kaibab Plateau)
  - o July to mid-October: Central Summer Allotment (top of Kaibab Plateau)
  - o Mid-October to late October: Kane Allotment (east flank of Kaibab Plateau)
  - o November thru April: Soap Creek Allotment (east of Kaibab Plateau)
- Cattle numbers may be increased or decreased depending on monitoring of forage utilization and resource conditions
- Utilization standards:
  - o 20% on Forest Service allotments (per goshawk guidelines)
  - o 45% on BLM allotments

# Two Mile Ranch Grazing Overview

## **Sand Hills Allotment (BLM)**

- 197,000 acres (90% of Two Mile Ranch)
- Paria Plateau
- Largely coextensive with Vermilion Cliffs National Monument
- 10” – 15” annual rainfall
- Mostly piñon-juniper
- Desert scrub/shrubland at lower elevations
- Reintroduction site for California condor (*gymnogyps californianus*)

## **Burro Allotment (BLM)**

- 23,000 acres (10% of Two Mile Ranch)
- NE corner of Kaibab Plateau, adjoining Paria Plateau
- 10” – 20” annual rainfall
- Mostly piñon-juniper
- Ponderosa pine at higher elevations

# Two Mile Ranch Administration Recent History

- 1979: Vermilion Resource Area (BLM) grazing EIS
- o No site-specific EA for Sand Hills Allotment
- 1990s: Sand Hills Allotment Management Plan (AMP)
- 2005: BLM working on assessment for conformance with Arizona Standards; Draft Resource Management Plan for the Arizona Strip released. It includes management direction for the Vermilion Cliff National Monument.

# Two Mile Ranch Grazing Permit

- 1,375 cattle permitted, year-round, actual use in recent years was roughly 1,000 head
- Two pasture, deferred-rotation grazing system
- 50% utilization standard