

23. Grazing, 1946-59

"Summary of Livestock Grazing, Calendar Year 1958, Region Three, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Permit Grazing," January 1, 1959, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This report, compiled by James M Eden, Superintendent, covers the grazing permits issued in Organ Pipe National Monument for the year 1958. Listed as "permittees" are Bob, Henry, Robert L. and Jack Gray, and the Papago Indian Reservation. Included is the number of cattle, sheep and horses grazing, along with the total fees charged in dollars.

"Summary of Livestock Grazing, Calendar Year 1957, Region Three, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Permit Grazing," January 1, 1958, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This report, compiled by James M Eden, Superintendent, covers the grazing permits issued in Organ Pipe National Monument for the year 1957. Listed as "permittees" are Bob, Henry, Robert L. and Jack Gray, and the Papago Indian Reservation. Included is the number of cattle, sheep and horses grazing, along with the total fees charged in dollars.

"Report on a Field Trip," April 8, 1957, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This report covers a field study performed by James M. Eden, Superintendent, Ed Nygard, Range Conservationist of the Papago Agency, a gentleman by the name of Mullady (doesn't give full name or rank) and the Park Specialist (who is also not mentioned, but is in fact the author of the report). The field study involved looking into the grazing habits in the area, to determine if adjustments needed to be made to the current permit. Interesting note, the area in question was described as being "lush" with vegetation. No overgrazing was found.

"Summary of Livestock Grazing, Calendar Year 1956, Region Three, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Permit Grazing," January 1, 1956, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This report, compiled by James M Eden, Superintendent, covers the grazing permits issued in Organ Pipe National Monument for the year 1956. While the date of the report is January 1, 1956, in going with the other reports it can be assumed that this report was generated January 1, 1957. Listed as "permittees" are Bob, Henry, Robert L. and Jack Gray. Included are the number of cattle, sheep and horses grazing, along with the total fees charged in dollars. In addition, there is a handwritten note that the Papagos are not listed in the use of the east side of the monument.

"Grazing Use by Papago Indians at Organ Pipe Cactus," May 8, 1956, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This memorandum, written by Jackson E. Price, Assistant Director, addresses the oversight of the Papago Indian Reservation grazing livestock on Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. An alternative plan is suggested to allow the Papago Indian Reservation access to grazing via a grazing permit.

"Field Agreement," 1940, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

Copy of original contract (no signatures) between the Superintendent of the Southwestern National Monuments and the Superintendent of the Papago Indian Reservation concerning grazing. A fence was to be built along the crest of the Ajo Mountains to prevent drifting of livestock. In addition, no grazing was to be allowed east of the Ajo Mountains. Grazing to the west on Organ Pipe National Monument would be allowed providing that the estimated carrying capacity agreed upon by both services was not exceeded.

"Summary of Livestock Grazing, Calendar Year 1955, Region Three, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Permit Grazing," January 1, 1956, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This report, compiled by James M. Eden, Superintendent, covers the grazing permits issued in Organ Pipe National Monument for the year 1955. Listed as "permittees" are Bob, Henry, Robert L. and Jack Gray. Included are the number of cattle, sheep and horses grazing, along with the total fees charged in dollars.

Thomas J. Allen, Lafayette, IN, to Dr. E.R. Martell, May 20, 1955, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This letter was written in response to concerns by Dr. Martell, Department of Forestry at Purdue University, of overgrazing on the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

Dr. E.R. Martell, Lafayette, IN, to Thomas J. Allen, May 2, 1955, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This letter by Dr. Martell, Department of Forestry at Purdue University, was written in response to a rumor that heavy grazing existed on the Organ Pipe National Monument, with a new rancher recently moving cattle on the area.

"Summary of Livestock Grazing, Calendar Year 1954, Region Three, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Permit Grazing," January 17, 1955, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This report, compiled by James M Eden, Superintendent, covers the grazing permits issued in Organ Pipe National Monument for the year 1954. Listed as "permittees" are Bob, Henry, Robert L. and Jack Gray. Included are the number of cattle, sheep and horses grazing, along with the total fees charged in dollars.

"Summary of Livestock Grazing, Calendar Year 1953, Region Three, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Permit Grazing," No date given, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This report, compiled by William R. Supernaugh, Superintendent, covers the grazing permits issued in Organ Pipe National Monument for the year 1953. Listed as "permittees" are Bob, Henry, Robert L. and Jack Gray. Included are the number of cattle, sheep and horses grazing, along with the total fees charged in dollars.

"Summary of Livestock Grazing, Calendar Year 1952, Region Three, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Permit Grazing," No date given, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This report, compiled by William R. Supernaugh, Superintendent, covers the grazing permits issued in Organ Pipe National Monument for the year 1952. Listed as "permittees" are Bob, Henry, Robert L. and Jack Gray. Included are the number of cattle, sheep and horses grazing, along with the total fees charged in dollars. A handwritten note on the report, dated June 4, 1953, indicates that the number of horses grazing is incorrect. The number is changed (in red) from 1,925 to 300.

"Grazing Summary for Region Three," 1950, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This two paragraph memo, with no author and only "1950 season" handwritten as a date, basically states that 1,050 head of cattle are under a life time permit issued to the Gray family. It also makes mention that the area has been overused in the past and no additional grazing is possible or practical at this time.

"Grazing of Domestic Stock, Report for Calendar Year, Ended December 31, 1951," No date given, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This report covers the grazing permits issued in Organ Pipe National Monument for the year 1951. No author listed on the report. Listed as "permittees" are Bob, Henry, Robert L. and Jack Gray. Included are the number of cattle, sheep and horses grazing, along with the total fees charged in dollars. The fee amounts are written in. The report is also broken off into two sections, Report 6a4 and 6a5.

"Grazing of Domestic Stock, Report for Calendar Year, Ended December 31, 1950," No date given, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This report covers the grazing permits issued in Organ Pipe National Monument for the year 1950. No author listed on the report. Listed as "permittees" are Bob, Henry, Robert L. and Jack Gray. Included are the number of cattle, sheep and horses grazing, along with the total fees charged in dollars. The fee amounts are written in. The report is also broken off into two sections, Report 6a4 and 6a5.

"Grazing of Domestic Stock, Report for Calendar Year, Ended December 31, 1949," No date given, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This report covers the grazing permits issued in Organ Pipe National Monument for the year 1949. No author listed on the report. Listed as "permittees" are Bob, Henry, Robert L. and Jack Gray. Included are the number of cattle, sheep and horses grazing, along with the total fees charged in dollars. No grazing fees are mentioned. The report is also broken off into two sections, Report 6a4 and 6a5.

"Grazing of Domestic Stock, Report for Calendar Year, Ended December 31, 1948," January 3, 1949, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This report covers the grazing permits issued in Organ Pipe National Monument for the year 1948. No author listed on the report. Listed as "permittees" are Bob, Henry, Robert L. and Jack Gray. Included are the number of cattle, sheep and horses grazing, along with the total fees charged in dollars. No grazing fees are mentioned. The report is also broken off into two sections, Report 6a4 and 6a5. Manual corrections were also made to two categories. The totals for Grazing Permittee Owned Stock were crossed out and added to the Privately Owned Stock (Trail Parties, etc.). Number of Stock was 25 with Horse Grazing Days at 9125.

"Grazing of Domestic Stock, Report for Calendar Year, Ending December 31, 1947," December 25, 47, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This report, compiled by William R. Supernaugh, Superintendent, covers the grazing permits issued in Organ Pipe National Monument for the year 1947. Listed as “permitees” are Bob, Henry, Robert L. and Jack Gray. Included are the number of cattle, sheep and goats grazing, along with horse stock both government and concessioner owned. No mention of fees charged.

"Memorandum for the Files," November 15, 1946, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This memorandum, written by M. R. Tillotson, Regional Director, concerns the very poor state of repair of a fence that followed the south border of the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. In addition, he wanted a further meeting to discuss which department should be responsible for repairing the fence.

E. T. Sooyen, Santa Fe, NM, to L.M. Lawson, August 7, 1946, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This letter was a request for assistance from the National Park Service to the International Border Commission in possibly building a fence across the entire international boundary between Mexico and the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

"Memorandum for the Regional Director," August 14, 1947, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

Hillary A. Tolson, acting director of the National Park Service, sent this memo out, concurring with the proposal for a cooperative fencing project at Organ Pipe cactus National Monument. In addition, he thought it would be “fair and proper” to have the Bureau of Animal Industry be involved and responsible for part of the costs.

"Memorandum for the Regional Director," July 1, 1947, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This memorandum submitted by Harold M. Ratliff, Forester, covered a trip to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument for the purpose of counting the Gray cattle. The count process would last from June 1 to June 18, and felt that a reasonable count had been reached (with 18 head of Mexican cattle “deported” back across the border). The recommendations that would come from this study would include: completing the fence on the International Boundary as soon as possible, eliminating the large number of burros and horses in the La Abra Valley, drilling a well and placing a windmill and trough in the arroyo below Cement Tank, and cleaning out the old Wildhorse Tank.

Mr. Dunn, to Mr. Coffman, March 19, 1947, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172,
Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This letter addressed some water rights issues that needed to be addressed in the paper “The Grazing Problem of the National Park Service” that Mr. Coffman was to present at the Superintendents conference.

Mr. Dunn, to Mr. Coffman and Mr. Burney, March 17, 1947, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This letter addressed policy issues concerning water development and the need for water rights within a national park.

Mr. Ratcliff, to Mr. Coffman, February 25, 1947, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172,
Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This letter explored the pros and cons of further water development in the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. One of the cons brought up that makes some sense was by opening up further grazing using watering places would be adding to the further destruction of the vegetation. On the pro side, it would allow for better distribution of the Gray herd.

Mr. Richey, to Mr. Coffman, March 6, 1947, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172,
Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This letter from Mr. Richey basically states that while he feels that the National Park system should not provide artificial watering places unless there is unusual justification, he also believes that Mr. Ratcliff and Custodian Supernaugh are the men best fitted to make that determination.

Mr. Carnes, to Mr. Coffman, March 13, 1947, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172,
Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

Mr. Carnes, while never having been to Organ Pipe, believes that adding additional watering places will only multiply the problems.

Mr. Victor Cahalane, to Mr. Coffman, March 11, 1947, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172,
Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

Mr. Cahalane, a biologist, believes that the Service should concentrate on other ways of fixing the problem other than adding additional water.

Mr. Gerner, to Mr. Coffman, November 20, 1947, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

A handwritten note to Mr. Coffman that confirms information that had been given over the phone. The fence along the International border is a vital requirement for the conservation and protection program. Includes some stats on how much of the fence is currently complete and what fences currently need repair.

Mr. Ratcliff, to Mr. Coffman, March 26, 1947, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

Mr. Ratcliff presents his recommendations after all the heated discussions. He does not feel that a large development project that would benefit only one ranching family is a good idea. Instead he feels that cleaning out several of the current tanks that are silted full, and possibly building another dam across an arroyo below the current Cement Tank would provide water most of the year. In addition, he feels these efforts would forestall any serious criticism from the Gray's or their attorney, Mr. Coker.

Mr. Elmer C. Coker, to Mr. Hillary A. Tolsen, December 10, 1946, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This letter, from the lawyer of the Gray family, in defending their rights to their ranches gives a brief history of the Gray family and their grazing rights on the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. However, this letter is arguing the change in the permit change from allowing 1050 head of cattle on the area to 550, a number that was issued from 1936 to 1941. He further argues that the Gray family cannot make a living grazing only 550 head of cattle. A very interesting read.

Mr. Elmer C. Coker, to Mr. Oscar Chapman, Washington D. C., June 19, 1941, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This letter, in arguing for the rights of the Gray family to keep their prospective ranches, provides an in depth look into how they came to be ranchers in the area. In addition, Mr. Coker provides an interesting argument to the assistant director of the Department of the Interior. In his conclusion he asks that they cast aside the rules and regulations in this case and go with what their conscience tells them to do. While he Grays may not have followed the rules, they deserve a break in terms of their hard work and determination.

Mr. A.E. Demeray, Washington D.C., to Senator Carl Hayden, October 10, 1941, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA MD.

This letter is the acknowledgement of the granting of the lifetime grazing permit of approximately 500 head of cattle on the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument to the Gray family. This is conditionally in that they cannot transfer the grazing permit via sale or by will other than the survivor or survivors of them.

"Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Report on Land Use Conditions," November 30, 1946, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This study was conducted on behalf of the Gray family in response to the decision to cut back the amount of grazing head from 1050 to 550, or 3 head per section of land. In their conclusions, they felt that overgrazing was happening because of the "trespassing stock" and not the 3 per section that the Gray family had previously been allowed. That this carrying capacity is set to actually maintain, not destroy, vegetation. This study was performed by Ran Bone, C.F. Dierking, and Volney M. Douglass.

"Proposed Grazing Land Management Plan, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument," November 30, 1946, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

On the foundation of the Report on Land Use Conditions, this document was presented to the National Park Service as a propose range management play. The main points that would be highlighted include: eliminating trespassing stock, moving of stock from west to east depending on the season, allowing use of the Alamo Canyon Spring to the National Park Service if they agree to maintain a pipeline and watering facilities with a mile from the spring, and keeping of a tally book for inspection by the National Park Service.

"Memorandum for the Regional Director," July 2, 1946, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This report involved a field investigation, looking into the range and forage conditions of the area and the loss of cattle by the Grays. The drought conditions were described as the worst in 21 years. Vegetation was dry, with little evidence of grass anywhere. At the time of the investigation, it was estimated that 500 head of cattle had died and an estimate of a loss of 60% of the herd could be expected if it didn't rain soon. It was noted that Henry Gray was the only one of the group that was attempting to save his stock, hauling in water from eight miles away. It was also mentioned that the Grays had the opportunity to sell at least part of their herd in February, but all refused. Trespassing stock is still an issue as well. In the summary, this memo argues that this would not have happened with the original head count allowed, that the Grays

are ignoring National Park Service regulations and should be bought out if protection of the area is to continue. And, once again, the fences needed to be put up. This memorandum was created by Mr. Ratcliff. He would include pictures of cactus that the Grays had burned the thorns off of so the cattle could eat, the pitiful conditions of the cows and the general lack of vegetation.

"Grazing of Domestic Stock, Report for Calendar Year, Ended December 31, 1945," January 4, 1946, Folder: Grazing, 1946-59, Box 172, Correspondence and Subject Files, 1928-59, RG 79, NARA-MD.

This report, compiled by William R. Supernaugh, Superintendent, covers the grazing permits issued in Organ Pipe National Monument for the year 1945. Listed as "permittees" are Bob, Henry, Robert L. and Jack Gray. Included are the number of cattle, sheep and horses grazing, along with the total fees charged in dollars.