

JUL 29 2015

## Determination Document

For the non-compliance of Rangeland Health Standards on the Sky Arrow Allotment (#03079), Wickenburg Arrow Y (#00069), Arrow Y (#00084) R&E Park Lease (#00085), Congress-Sky Arrow (#05014)

### Introduction

This determination document seeks to identify the causal factors for non-achievement of the Land Health Standards for the Sky Arrow Complex (Sky Arrow, Wickenburg Arrow Y, Arrow Y, and R&E Park Lease grazing allotments) and the Congress-Sky Arrow grazing allotment. A determination document is not a grazing decision but a stand-alone determination detailing the conditions and the causal factors for non-achievement of the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health. In cases where a significant causal factor for non-achievement of Standards is current livestock management practices, the proposed corrective actions will be analyzed under a NEPA analysis and implemented before the start of the following grazing year in which the Determination was made.

### Land Health Standards Not Achieved

- Congress-Sky Arrow Allotment – Standard 2 in Riparian Segment 14C and 14D.
- Congress-Sky Arrow Allotment – Standard 3 in Riparian Segments 14C and 14D.
- Arrow Y Allotment – Standard 3 at Key Area 1.
- Wickenburg Arrow Y Allotment – Standard 3 at Key Area 6.

### Current Conditions leading to the non-achievement of Standards

- Congress-Sky Arrow Riparian Segments 14C and 14D do not meet Standard 2 due to a Proper Functioning Condition assessment rating of Functional at Risk.
- Congress-Sky Arrow Riparian Segments 14C and 14D do not meet Standard 3 due to an inappropriate age class distribution of riparian obligate vegetation.
- Arrow Y Key Area 1 does not meet Standard 3 due to an insufficient grass composition within the plant community and lack of vegetative foliar cover.
- Wickenburg Arrow Y Key Area 6 does not meet Standard 3 due to an insufficient grass component within the plant community, lack of vegetative foliar cover, and bare ground cover exceeding the desired plants community objective.

### Causal Factors for non-achievement of Standards

When considering the current conditions of the allotments, the causal factor for Congress-Sky Arrow Riparian Segments 14C and 14D not meeting Standards 2 and 3 appears to be year-long livestock grazing encompassed by high motor vehicle use of the riparian area for recreation.

When considering the current conditions on the upland portions of the allotments, the causal factors for non-achievement of Standard 3 at Key Areas 1 and 6 (Arrow Y and Wickenburg Arrow Y Allotments) appears to be historic grazing practices, extended drought, and high amounts of vehicular traffic in dry washes near Key Area 6.

### Conformance with the Guidelines for Grazing Administration

This Determination conforms to the Arizona Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration.

  
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