

Gila Wilderness Unauthorized Livestock Management – Background Information
Gila National Forest
September 2022

- The Redstone Allotment Management Plan was signed in 1966 and modified in 1971 to convert the previous yearlong cow-calf grazing operation to a six-month operation grazing yearling cattle. In 1976 the term grazing permit was issued to Springer Production Credit Association.
- At some point in the late 1970s Springer Production Credit Association went out of business and left cattle on the allotment.
- In March 1993 the term grazing permit for the Redstone Allotment was issued to J.R. Houghtaling to assume management of cattle remaining from the previous permittee.
- In September 1993 a decision for the Upper Gila River Riparian Management Plan was signed. The decision authorized several actions, including development of a recreation plan for the Mogollon Box area; vehicle closure from the Mogollon Box to Turkey Creek / Gila River confluence; watershed improvements through vegetation planting; wilderness management; and implementation of new allotment management plans for the Watson Mountain, Brock Canyon, and Redstone Allotments.
- In August 1998 the term grazing permit for the Redstone Allotment was cancelled for ongoing non-compliance issues. Permit suspensions were issued in 1994 and 1996.
- Between January 1996 and August 1998, the permittee reported removing 480 cattle from the Redstone Allotment. During July, August, and September 1998, an additional 45 cattle were removed by a Forest Service contractor. One cow of the 45 was branded with the Houghtalings' brand and returned to them.
- A Forest Service contractor removed 52 cattle in 1999 and 51 cattle in 2000. From 2000 to 2016, Forest Service contractors removed an additional 141 cattle.
- The current Forest Service gather contract was issued in September 2021 and extends through December 2022. To date, the contractor has removed 31 cattle alive and lethally culled an additional 39 cattle.
- In early February 2022, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Wildlife Services lethally removed 65 cattle through aerial shooting.
- Based on Forest Service records the only branded animal captured to date was in 1998.

4
26 years

141
31
3/14