

Memo to File
Subject: Cow count
02/12/2013

On February 12th, 2013 two Biological Science Technicians from the Range Branch conducted surveys and cattle counts.

Each Technician conducted an independent count from a single location on a hillside on the west end of the RUO. In our counts we attempted to exclude calves (that were less than one year old) and at times it was difficult to distinguish mature cattle from calves that were 1-2 years old. Counts were conservative because of this.

In the first count each Technician independently counted 98 and 101 cattle on the Genazzi Reservation of Use and Occupancy (RUO). An additional ~50 cattle were observed on private holdings adjacent to NPS lands. However, fencing between the private land holding and NPS land does not restrict cattle movement. In fact, one animal was observed to cross onto NPS land during the observation period.

A second count was conducted from another vantage point at the western portion of the ranch boundary. This count included a number of animals on the western slopes of the RUO. Each Technician conducted repeated counts (to ensure accuracy). From the new vantage point, a total of 129 and 131 animals were counted respectively. The counts from this second location again did not account for calves, or animals that were younger than 1-2 years.

The Genazzi reservation stipulates an annual stocking rate of 55 AUs, not to exceed 85 AUs at any one time.

Subject: Bones

ArcMap location: S:\GIS\projects1\Range\RUP_2009\Genazzi\Genazzi_Survey_2013.mxd

Shapefile location: S:\GIS\projects1\Range\RUP_2009\Genazzi\Genazzi_Survey2013.shp

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On a survey of the ranch, in relatively dense poison oak and scrub areas the following sites were found:

- 7 distinct piles of bones (likely less than or equal to one animal each)
- 1 large recently dead cow
- 2 recently dead calves
- 4 bone "dumps" (1 being fresh, the other 3 being older)

For the purposes of the survey, "dumps" consisted of areas that had a high concentration of bones, likely from more than one individual animal, and sometimes seemingly from as many as several. Photographs and GPS points were taken for these larger sites. They were different in appearance than distinct piles, as those tended to be representative of less than or equal to one animal. It is likely that wildlife tends to scavenge these sites and distribute bones across the landscape over time. "Fresh" describes a site that appeared recent (bones were in good shape, some hair/skin present, etc.)