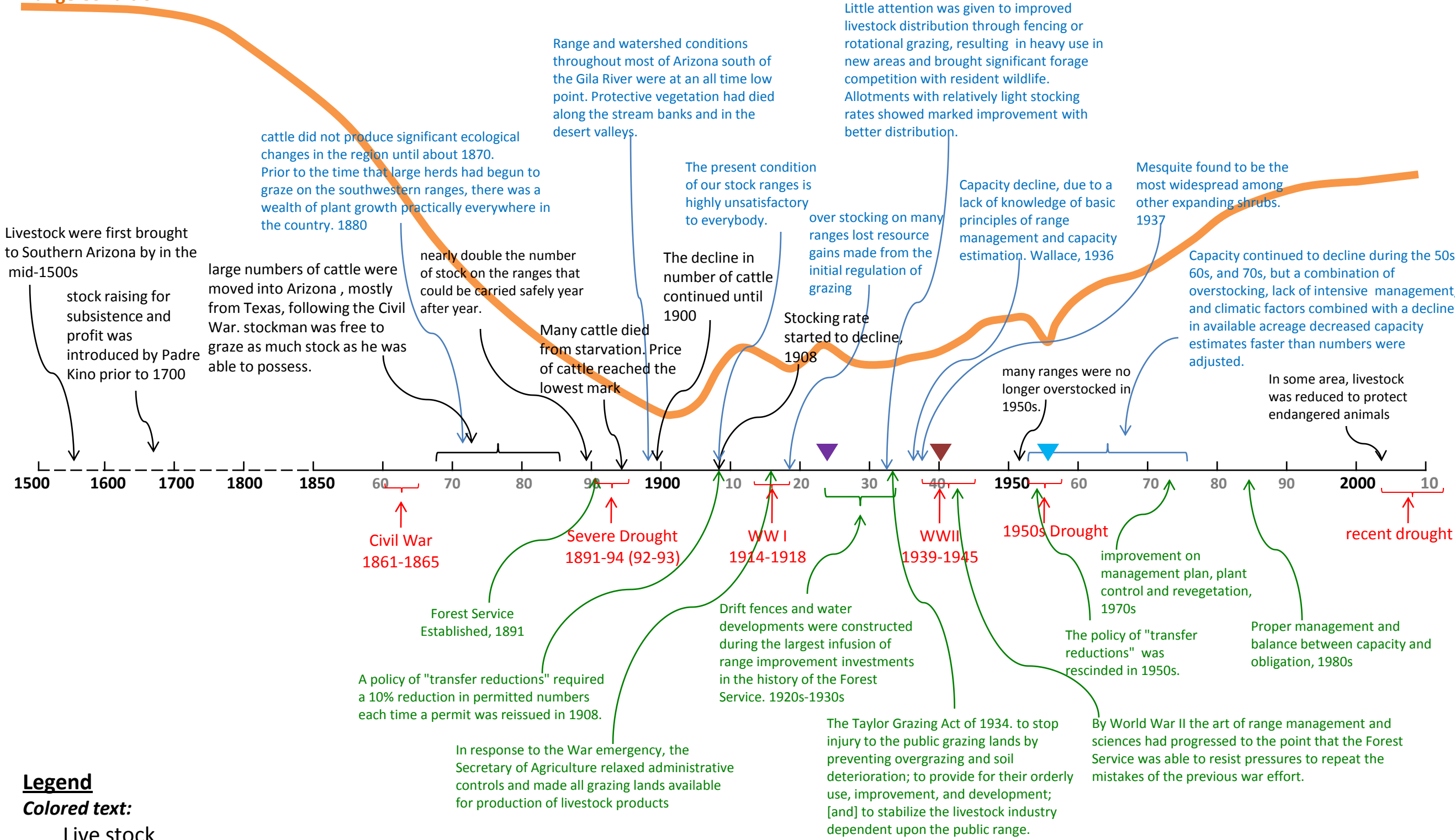


Range Condition



Legend

Colored text:

- Live stock
- Condition Evaluation/Comments
- Climate/Political event
- Policy/Management

Colored points:

- 1924, earliest record on grazing intensity
- 1940, earliest record on grass cover
- 1956, earliest record on fire

References

1. Larry S. Allen. 1989. Livestock and the Coronado National Forest. Rangelands. Vol. 11, No. 1. pp. 14-20

2. Thornber, J. J. 1910. The grazing ranges of Arizona. Bull. 65. Tucson: University of Arizona, Agricultural experiment Station. 360 p and other articles.

A short summary:

The history of the southern Arizona rangeland management is a history of success and failures, lessons and accomplishments.

The land was described as “a wealth of plant growth practically everywhere” before 1880, and reached its “all time low point” in 1900, resulted from overstocking and a severe drought in 1892-93. Many cattle died from starvation during the drought and the decline continued until 1900. A policy that requires a 10% reduction in permitted numbers each time a permit was reissued started in 1908, the stocking rate started to decline since then, and the range condition started to restore since then.

The rangeland function shifted from grazing, once was regarded as the highest economic use a century ago, to now multiple goals including wildlife conservation, recreation, and other watershed functions.

The focus of rangeland management started from reducing stocking rate in 1900s, shifted to constructing water development and fences to increase stocking capacity in 1920s and 1930s, then to understanding the basic principles of range management and capacity estimation, and now to balancing between stocking capacity and other obligations.