



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Coconino National Forest
Red Rock Ranger District

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File Code: 2230
Date: January 28, 2004

Mr. Bruce Johnson
Bar D Cattle Company LLC
2909 West Belmont
Phoenix, Arizona 85051

Dear Bruce:

This letter will serve as the 2004 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Beaver Creek Allotment, documenting the livestock grazing use and management instructions for the period of time from March 1, 2004 to February 28, 2005.

Your current ten-year term permitted livestock numbers are for 550 head of cattle (cow/calf/bull) for a yearlong grazing season and 480 to 600 yearling cattle from May 15 to October 15 grazing season.

On February 2, 2004 your grazing application for the first half of the 2004 grazing season was approved 309 cattle (cow/calf/bull) from March 1, to August 31

My staff and I commend you for your voluntary reductions of 50-60% in permitted numbers during most the 2002-2004 grazing seasons; responding to 4 to 6 years of drought that we have experienced.

Your 2004 grazing season's permitted livestock numbers for the Beaver Creek Allotment from March 1, 2004 to February 28, 2005 are as follows:

2004 Livestock Yearlong Herd Rotation

PASTURE NAME	PLANNED GRAZE PERIOD	LIVESTOCK NUMBERS	ALLOWABLE USE PERCENT
DEADWOOD SOUTH	1/20-2/7	309	50
OLD BULL SOUTH	2/8-2/9	309	20% Woody or 35% Forage
OLD BULL NORTH	2/10-2/11	200	50
MISS CINDY	2/12-2/13	200	20% Woody or 35% Forage
LOWER WHITE MESA	2/14-3/7	200	50
UPPER WHITE MESA	3/8-3/29	200	50
MISS CINDY	3/30-3/31	200	20% Woody or 50% Forage



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PASTURE NAME	PLANNED GRAZE PERIOD	LIVESTOCK NUMBERS	ALLOWABLE USE PERCENT
VALLEY NORTH	4/1-4/5	200	50
VALLEY SOUTH	4/6-4/10	200	50
LAWERENCE CROSSING	4/11-4/11	200	20% Woody or 50% Forage
OLD BULL N. & S.	4/12-4/14	200	20% Woody or 50% Forage
DEADWOOD SOUTH	4/15-4/20	200	50
DEADWOOD NOTH	4/21-5/11	200	50
TINNEY NORTH	5/12-5/28	200	50
NEW TANK NW	5/29-6/10	200	50
NEW TANK NE	6/11-6/21	200	50
ANTELOPE	6/21-6/29	200	50
WOODLAND	6/30-7/16	200	50
BRADY NORTH	7/17-7/29	200	50
LOWER JACKS	7/30-8/17	200	50
UPPER JACKS	8/18-9/7	200	50
HAPPY JACK	9/8-9/22	200	50
SHIPPING PASTURE #2	9/23-9/30	200	50
SHIPPING PASTURE #1	10/1-10/7	200	50
SHIPPING PASTURE #3	10/8-10/17	200	50
TRIANGLE	10/18-10/20	300	50
BAR D	10/21-11/7	300	50
HAPPY JACK	11/8-11/18	300	50
UPPER JACKS	11/19-11/27	300	50
LOWER JACKS	11/28-12/5	300	50
BRADY NORTH	12/6-12/17	300	50
NEW TANK NE	12/18-12/30	300	50
NEW TANK NW	12/31-1/12	300	50
TINNEY NORTH	1/13-1/26	300	50
ROUNDUP NORTH	1/27-2/10	300	50
DEADWOOD NORTH	2/11-2/22	300	50
ROUNDUP SOUTH	2/23-2/28	300	20% Woody or 35% Forage
OLD BULL SOUTH	3/1-3/5	300	50

Rested (Ungrazed) Pastures Yearlong Permit 2004 Grazing Season

BAR D	BANFIELD	TINNEY SOUTH
BUCK MOUNTAIN	BRADY SOUTH	ROUND UP SOUTH
HOLLINGSHEAD	NEW TANK SE	
GOSWICK	NEW TANK SW	

2004 Livestock Seasonal Herd (Landmark Unit) Rotation

PASTURE NAME	PLANNED GRAZE PERIOD	LIVESTOCK NUMBERS	ALLOWABLE USE PERCENT
HOLDING	5/15-5/23	300	50
LANDMARK SOUTH	5/24-6/15	300	50
TRIANGLE	6/16-7/15	300	50
LANDMARK SOUTH	7/16-7/26	300	50
PRAIRIE DOG	7/27-8/25	300	50
LANDMARK NORTH	8/26-9/5	300	50
HOLDING	9/6-10/15	300	50

Grazing Strategy

For Beaver Creek’s yearlong permit - continue to graze livestock in an intensive rest half/graze half management strategy on alternate years in the allotment's high elevation summer ranges, with the transition (during drought conditions only) and winter ranges managed in an intensive deferred-rest rotation. Allowable use in the transition pastures will be 40 percent Permitted livestock (cow/calf/heifer/bull) will be run together as a single herd. Annually, spring branding and culling occurs in early June; with fall culling and shipping of stock to market taking place in late September, followed by the year’s final culling and shipping in the last week of January.

The management of livestock pasture moves will continue to be based upon a plant forage phenology scheme of management. Winter range pastures grazed during the winter dormancy period will not exceed a time period of 30 days. In contrast, the allotment's summer range pastures that are grazed during the forage's active growing seasons the livestock graze period per pasture is shortened to periods of approximately 15 to 20 days. In the Allotment’s North and South Winter riparian pastures, a graze period of 5 days must be met during the active riparian woody species’ growing season.

The yearlong allotment’s proper allowable use is 40 to 50% average use on pastures used by livestock, with the exception being 20% on woody species within the riparian pastures (see preceding Grazing Schedule Table). This grazing intensity coupled with the rested pastures will maintain ground cover to protect soils and maintain or improve quantity and quality of desired vegetation for proper rangeland and watershed conditions.

The allotment’s summer (Landmark Unit) season’s permit will be grazed in a deferred rotation grazing system for the five month season. Allowable use is set for 40 percent average pasture use. The herd this year was approved for a cow/calf, with bulls remaining with the cow herd season long, as a single herd. Culling and shipping of this Unit’s herd will occur in October.

Livestock pasture moves will be completed with a five (5) day period. Due to the relatively small size of the allotment's pastures, gathering and movement of your permitted livestock should be completed during this five (5) day period. And it is imperative that once pasture moves occur, the livestock remain within the designated pasture. For various reasons, (i.e. pasture gates are left open, cattleguards are not maintained, fences are cut, etc.), cattle may stray from pasture to pasture. Prevention of stray livestock is the permittee's responsibility; whereby

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preventing grazing of adjacent allotments, grazing of your allotment's rested pastures, or regrazing of previously used pastures. Prevention of stray livestock protects the rangeland resources and the well being of your stock.

Grazing Mitigation Measures

Attached are additional grazing mitigation measures for the Peregrine falcon, Mexican spotted owl, and Chiricahua Leopard Frog. Please review these attachments and understand what actions are required by you on your allotment for management compliance.

Resource Monitoring

Forage utilization monitoring cages are installed on this grazing allotment. Where possible, the cages are to be located within the following four Management Areas (MA's) and they include: MA 12 (riparian); MA 5 (aspen); MA 9 (mountain meadow) and MA 3 (ponderosa pine/oak). MA 5 (aspen) does not exist on this allotment; consequently, cages will be installed in the following areas for monitoring:

<u>Pasture Name</u>	<u>Management Area</u>	<u>Legal Description</u>
Miss Cindy	12 (Riparian)	T15N, R6E, Section 16 SW1/4;
Banfield	9 (Mtn. Meadow)	T16N, R8E, Section 25 SE 1/4;
Bar D	3 (Pine/Oak)	T16N, R9E, Section 21 NE1/4;
Shipping #3	9 (Mtn. Meadow)	T15N, R10E, Section 11, SE1/4; and
Landmark North	9 (Mtn. Meadow)	T15N, R10E, Section 18, NW1/4.

These forage monitoring cages will be installed in representative "key area" locations on productive soils, 0 to 15% slopes, approximately 20 to 500 acres in size, and minimum of 0.25 to 1.0 miles away from livestock water sources. The cages will monitor forage utilization on designated "key species" in "key areas" during three crucial periods of the grazing season: immediately before livestock entry; immediately after the livestock graze; and lastly at the end of the forage growing season.

A Forage Utilization Spreadsheet, attached, will be completed by the grazing permittee during this 2004 grazing season. This monitoring will be completed by the ranch personnel with instruction and review from the District's Range staff Officers. The spreadsheet, identifies: individual pasture; pasture graze period; actual use livestock numbers; stage of plant growth, (fast, slow, dormant); average utilization of all forage species by pasture before livestock entry, following livestock graze and end of growing season; and identification of the pasture's "key species" and average grazing utilization percentage within the pasture's "key area(s)". The permittee will document the individual pasture's forage utilization percentage estimates by five categories of use; no use, light, moderate, heavy and extreme. Continue to implement and monitor grazing utilization standards to attain good to excellent range conditions over time.

The monitoring of forage utilization by livestock and wildlife ungulates in the above management areas will provide an assessment of the allotment's grazing management, and permitted livestock, plus the numbers, wildlife big-game ungulates and their distribution. If upward utilization trends are observed, the District will coordinate with the grazing permittee

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and/or the Arizona Game and Fish Department to bring use within the Forest Land Management Plan's guidelines to promote and improve range and watershed conditions.

The allotments riparian and open water areas within Wet Beaver Creek proper have been fenced to control livestock grazing use and management. However, these very important and diverse areas will still be closely monitored by the District Range Staff and the permittee to insure proper allowable use met and where necessary grazing is restricted. The District will coordinate with you to improve and maintain riparian vegetative communities by promoting three age classes of woody vegetation. A 20% or less utilization of woody species is acceptable as all three classes of riparian vegetation are present

Range Improvements

No new range improvements are scheduled for your allotment in the 2004 grazing season.

"Permittee Maintenance Responsibilities of Range Improvements" have been identified in red color on the permit maps of your term grazing permit. These improvements are to be fully maintained annually as a minimum, to comply with permit requirements. Please notify the District Range Staff Officer, 60 days prior any maintenance of improvements where heavy-duty equipment is required, i.e. maintenance of earthen-dam stock tanks, because biological and cultural surveys and clearances are required.

Appeal Rights

Grazing permittees have appeal rights. Annual Operating Plan is appealable and subject to review under 36 CFR 251.82(a)(3), grazing and livestock term permits issued under 36 CFR part 222, subpart A. Appealable decisions apply to written decisions of Forest Service line officers related to issuance, denial, or administration of written instructions to comply and use National Forest System lands.

Permit Compliance

This 2004 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) are a part of the Term Grazing Permit, as provided for in Part 2, section 8(a). If you fail to comply with any of the terms and conditions of specified in Parts 1, 2, and 3 of your Term Grazing permit, the Forest Service may suspend or cancel your permit, in part or in whole, after written notice to you. This is found within Part 1, Section 3, of your Term Grazing Permit. This AOI is in compliance with the standards and guidelines found within the Coconino National Forest's Land Management Plan.

These Annual Operating Instructions have been reviewed by the District wildlife biologists and found consistent with the endangered species Act, as amended and with all conditions agreed to in consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Wildland Fire Prevention

Caution must be used during all ranch activities that could potentially start a fire. All ranch vehicles must be equipped with an axe, shovel, and water bucket. Any internal combustion engine tools and equipment require inspection by qualified Forest fire personnel prior to use on National Forest Lands. All open camp and branding fires require a ten foot fire ring cleared down to mineral soils. All state and local fire restrictions and regulations must be observed.

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Report all fires to the Ranger District Offices at; Beaver Creek/Sedona (928/282-4119), Happy Jack (928/354-2216), Blue Ridge (928/477-2255) and the Flagstaff Zone Dispatch Office at (928/526-0600).

Prescribed Burning

No prescribed burning is scheduled for your allotment this year. The District will coordinate with you in future burn projects to insure that range improvements are protected and other resources are properly accounted for.

Bruce, this AOI covers all the topics discussed during your grazing application meeting and several subsequent meetings that have followed to date. If you have questions or comments regarding this plan, please feel free to call Jerry Bradley

Sincerely

Ken Anderson

KEN ANDERSON
District Ranger

Enclosures

cc: Cecelia Overby, S.O.; cc: Jerry Gonzales, Mogollon Rim R.D.;
cc: Larry Sears, Mogollon Rim R.D.

Beaver Creek Range Allotment 2004 AOI

Allotment Name: BEAVER CREEK

Year: 2004

Pasture Name	Graze Period Planned	Graze Period Actual	Livestock Numbers	*Plant Growth	**Before Livestock	**After Livestock	**End of Growing Season	**Key Species	% Use Key Area	LMP Mgmt Area
DEADWOOD SOUTH	1/20-2/7		309					Agsm		7
OLD BULL SOUTH	2/8-2/9		309					Spcr/Paob		12/11
OLD BULL NORTH	2/10-2/11		200					Spcr/Paob		11
MISS CINDY	2/12-2/13		200					Woody Spp.		
LOWER WHITE MESA	2/14-3/7		200					Spcr/Paob		11
UPPER WHITE MESA	3/8-3/29		200					Spcr/Paob		11
MISS CINDY	3/29-3/30		200					Spcr/Paob		7
VALLEY NORTH	4/1-4/5		200					Spcr/Paob		7
VALLEY SOUTH	4/6-4/10		200					Spcr/Paob		7
LAWERENCE CROSSING	4/11-4/11		200					Spcr/Paob		11/12
OLB BULL N. & S.	4/12-4/14		200					Spcr/Paob		11/12
DEADWOOD SOUTH	4/15-4/20		200					Agsm		7
DEADWOOD NORTH	4/21-5/11		200					Agsm		7
TINNEY NORTH	5/12-5/28		200					Agsm		7/3

*D = Dormant S = Slow Growth F = Fast Growth

**N = No use (0-10%) L = Light use (11-25%) M = Moderate Use (26-50%) H = Heavy Use (51%-70%) E = Extreme Use (71+%)

Beaver Creek Range Allotment 2004 AOI

Allotment Name: BEAVER CREEK

Year: 2004

Pasture Name	Graze Period Planned	Graze Period Actual	Livestock Numbers	*Plant Growth	**Before Livestock	**After Livestock	**End of Growing Season	**Key Species	% Use Key Area	LMP Mgmt Area
NEW TANK NORTHWEST	5/29-6/10		200					Kocr		3
NEW TANK NORTHEAST	6/11-6/21		200					Kocr		3
ANTELOPE	6/21-6/29		200					Kocr		3
WOODLAND	6/30-7/16		200					Kocr		3
BRADY NORTH	7/17-7/29		200					Kocr		3
LOWER JACKS	7/30-8/17		200					Kocr		3
UPPER JACKS	8/18-9/7		200					Kocr		3
HAPPY JACK	9/8-9/22		200					Kocr		3
SHIPPING PASTURE #2	9/23-9/30		200					Kocr		3
SHIPPING PASTURE #1	10/1-10/7		200					Kocr		3
SHIPPING PASTURE #3	10/8-10/17		200					Kocr		3
TRIANGLE	10/18-10/20		300					Kocr		3
BAR D	10/21-11/7		300					Kocr		3
HAPPY JACK	11/8-11/18		300					Kocr		3

*D = Dormant

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**N = No use (0-10%)

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E = Extreme Use (71+%)

Beaver Creek Range Allotment 2004 AOI

Allotment Name: BEAVER CREEK

Year: 2004

Pasture Name	Graze Period Planned	Graze Period Actual	Livestock Numbers	*Plant Growth	**Before Livestock	**After Livestock	**End of Growing Season	**Key Species	% Use Key Area	LMP Mgmt Area
UPPER JACKS	11/19-11/27		300						Kocr	3
LOWER JACKS	11/28-12/5		300						Kocr	3
BRADY NORTH	12/6-12/17		300						Kocr	3
NEW TANK NORTH EAST	12/18-12/30		300						Kocr	7
NEW TANKS NORTHWEST	12/31-1/12		300						Agsm	7/3
TINNEY NORTH	1/13-1/26		300						Agsm	7/3
ROUNDUP NORTH	1/27-2/10		300						Agsm	7
DEADWOOD NORTH	2/11-2/22		300						Agsm	7
ROUNDUP SOUTH	2/23-2/28		300						Agsm	7
OLD BULL SOUTH	3/1-3/5		300						Spcr/Paob	12/11

*D = Dormant

S = Slow Growth

F = Fast Growth

**N = No use (0-10%)

L = Light use (11-25)

M = Moderate Use (26-50%)

H = Heavy Use (51%-70%)

E = Extreme Use (71+%)

Grazing Allotment Annual Operating Mitigation Instructions for Mexican Spotted Owl

The following mitigation measures would apply for Buck Springs, Bar-T-Bar, Willow Valley, Baker Lake/Calf Pen, Apache-Maid, Beaver Creek, Lost Eden, Fossil Creek, Buckhorn, 13 Mile Rock, Walker Basin, and Hackberry/Pivot Rock Allotments.

The purpose of the mitigation measures is to improve and protect habitat for prey species such as birds and small mammals in sensitive areas, and to protect nesting birds from disturbance associated with gathering or construction activities. Thank you for your cooperation.

1. Follow these guidelines to meet the intent of the grazing guidelines listed in the Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Plan:

A. Continue to monitor grazing use by livestock and wildlife in "key grazing" areas such as riparian areas (MA12), meadows (MA9), pine/oak types (MA3), and aspen (MA5). If cattle show an increasing utilization trend, then change management strategies to reduce the trend. If wild ungulates show an increasing utilization trend, the Forest Service will work with the Game and Fish Department to reduce this trend.

B. Continue to implement and enforce grazing utilization standards to attain good to excellent range conditions in "key areas" over time.

C. Continue to restore good conditions to degraded riparian communities by maintaining or promoting three age classes in woody vegetation. If the mid-age class is absent, 5% utilization or less is required to promote three structural stages. If all three classes are present, utilization of 20% or less of woody vegetation is acceptable.

2. To reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species forage and cover, follow these guidelines for placing salt, mineral blocks or food supplements.

A. Do not place these items in riparian areas, mountain meadows, or non riparian drainages in ponderosa pine unless being used for a watershed restoration project.

B. Do not place these items in spotted owl habitat or near peregrine falcon nesting areas. The attached map shows areas (shown as mitigation) where salt, supplemental feeding, or mineral blocks should not occur.

C. Rotate salt and mineral supplement sites regularly.

3. To eliminate potentially disturbing activities in spotted owl habitat or near peregrine nesting areas during their breeding season, do not allow the following types of activities in areas displayed in red on the map between March 1 and August 31 without prior consultation with the District Range Staff.

A. Spring branding or fall gathering.

B. Construction activities such as; new construction of fences, corrals, or buildings, or cleaning or construction of tanks.

Additional Mitigation for Buckhorn, 13 Mile Rock, Walker Allotments, Apache Maid, and Beaver Creek Allotments.

These allotments run in an east/west direction. On an ecosystem level, wildlife habitat conditions can be improved by coordination between adjacent allotments to provide alternating bands of rested pastures across the landscape. Each allotment should coordinate with the allotments directly to the north and south, so that all allotments are grazing northern pastures during the same year, or southern pastures during the same year.

For example, 13 Mile will coordinate with the Buckhorn allotment, and when 13 Mile is grazing pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, the Buckhorn allotment will rest pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Willow Creek. The 13 Mile allotment will rest its pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, when Buckhorn grazes pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Willow Creek. In order to implement this system, rest Tom's pasture every other year. This year, Buckhorn will change its plan to coordinate with this allotment management plan.

Buckhorn will coordinate with the 13 Mile allotment and Walker Basin. When 13 Mile is grazing north pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, the Buckhorn allotment will rest its southern pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek. The 13 Mile allotment will rest its pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Clover Creek, when Buckhorn grazes pastures adjacent to West Clear Creek and Willow Creek. Buckhorn will graze its northern pastures at the same time Walker Basin grazes its northern pastures.

Walker Basin will coordinate with the Buckhorn and Beaver Creek allotments.

Apache Maid will coordinate with Beaver Creek.

Beaver Creek will coordinate with Apache Maid and Walker Basin.

Mitigation For Chiricahua Leopard Frogs

Live fish, crayfish, bullfrogs, leopard frogs, salamanders, or other aquatic organisms shall not be moved among livestock tanks or other aquatic sites.

If a site is identified as occupied by Chiricahua leopard frogs, water shall not be hauled to the site from another aquatic site or tank that supports leopard frogs, bullfrogs, crayfish, or fish. When water is needed, such as for a bentonite application, all precautions shall be taken (use of fish screens of 1/8 inch or smaller mesh and adding bleach or use of municipal water source) to ensure that fish, bullfrogs, and their tadpoles, and crayfish are not moved among tanks.

If the chytrid fungus is detected and/or leopard frogs are found on the allotment, the permittee shall take precautions to minimize disease transmission and translocation of aquatic organisms. All equipment (front-end loader, shoes, waders, shovels, fence posts, etc.) used at an aquatic site shall be flushed clean of all dirt, mud, and debris, rinsed in a ten percent bleach solution, and allowed to thoroughly dry before coming into contact with another aquatic site.

All ranch hands, construction personnel, and others implementing the proposed action shall be given a copy of these terms and conditions, and informed of the need to comply with them.

At least 60 days prior to maintaining or cleaning out livestock tanks, the permittee shall inform the Coconino of planned activities. Authorized personnel shall survey the tank for Chiricahua leopard frogs and if frogs are found, shall work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop and implement a plan to minimize take of frogs. Measures to minimize take should include salvage and temporary holding of frogs, limiting disturbance and work areas to the minimum area practicable, leaving stands of emergent vegetation in place, and/or measures to minimize the likelihood of disease transmission. Plans to minimize take shall be approved by the USFWS.