



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Red Rock
Ranger District

P.O. Box 300
Sedona, AZ 86339-0300
Phone: (928) 282-4119
Fax: (928) 203-7539

File Code: 2230

Date: January 20, 2004

Mr. Eugene R. Monroe
Apache Maid Ranch LTD
HC 64 Box 265
Rimrock, Arizona 86335

Dear Gene:

This letter will serve as the 2004 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Apache Maid Allotment. Your current ten-year term permitted livestock numbers are for 1,045 head of cattle (cow/calf/bull) for a yearlong grazing season.

Your grazing application for this grazing season has been approved. Your 2004 permitted numbers have ranged from: 411 cattle (cow/calf/bull), with 634 cattle (cow/calf/bull) in Non-Use (Resource Protection – Drought Management) status. I commend you for your voluntary reductions in permitted numbers resulting from our current drought.

Your 2004 grazing seasons permitted livestock numbers for the Apache Maid Allotment from March 1, 2004 to February 28, 2005 are as follows:

2004 Livestock Herd Rotation

PASTURE NAME	PLANNED GRAZE PERIOD	LIVESTOCK NUMBERS	ALLOWABLE USE PERCENT
WOODLAND	11/21-12/27	411	50
UPPER ROUND MOUNTAIN	12/28-1/31	411	50
LOWER ROUND MOUNTAIN	2/1-2/29	411	50
RED TANK	3/1-3/7	411	50
WINTER SOUTH	3/8-4/3	411	50
HOUSE SHIPPING PASTURE	4/4-4/8	411	50
BEAVERHEAD FLAT WEST	4/9-5/8	411	50
BEAVERHEAD FLAT EAST	5/9-5/29	411	50
WINTER NORTH	5/30-6/5	411	50
LOWER BLUE GRADE	6/6-6/11	411	50
UPPER BLUE GRADE	6/12-6/20	411	50
RARRICK	6/21-7/10	411	50
ROUND-UP	7/11-7/31	411	50
STONEMAN	8/1-8/14	411	50



Apache Maid Range Allotment 2004 AOI

BLIND LAKE	8/15-8/29	411	50
HUTCH	8/30-9/11	411	50
SAWMILL	9/12-9/26	411	50
SNAKE TANKS	9/27-10/9	411	50
BARGAMAN/MAHAN LANES	10/10-10/20	411	50
FALL SHIPPING	10/21-10/24	411	50
BLIND LAKE	10/25-11/8	411	50
STONEMAN	11/9-11/23	411	50
ROUND-UP	11/24-12/11	411	50
RARRICK	12/12-12/31	411	50
UPPER BLUE GRADE	1/1-1/12	411	50
LOWER BLUE GRADE	1/13-1/20	411	50
WINTER NORTH	1/21-2/19	411	50

Rested (Ungrazed) Pastures in the 2003 Grazing:

Pasture Name	Pasture Name
Gash Flat East	Gash Flat Middle
Gash Flat West	Pine Mountain
Campbell	Wild Horse
Horse Pasture	Pine East
Cornville	House Mountain
Woodland	Upper Round Mountain
Lower Round Mountain	Middle Verde East
Middle Verde West	

Grazing Strategy

Continue to graze livestock in an intensive rest half/graaze 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 all pastures will be 50 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 or early October, 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 allotment's proper allowable use is 50% average use on pastures used by livestock, (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.

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 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

In June of 1998 you met with Mary Ann Benoit, Wildlife Biologist at the Long Valley Ranger District; for the purpose of further defining Mexican spotted owl and Peregrine Falcon management mitigation measures for grazing activities on the Apache Maid Allotment. A site-specific map was prepared which allowed salting in some areas adjacent to the protected activity centers (PAC's) of the known spotted owl management territories. This 1998 map and the mitigation measures prescribed for livestock grazing management are valid and current for the 2004 grazing seasons and must be incorporated and followed.

Attached are three (3) grazing mitigation documents that are additional grazing mitigation measures documents for the Peregrine falcon and Mexican spotted owl and leopard frog management. Please review and familiarize yourself with these required grazing measures.

While Appendix A and B documents do not have specific information to your allotment management, please review and understand the general requirements described for management compliance. The following item, taken from "**Mitigation for Buckhorn, Walker and Hackberry/Pivot Rock Allotments for the Mexican Spotted Owl for the 1998 AOP's.**", dictates a livestock grazing mitigation measure that is specifically required for maintenance and improvement of Mexican spotted owl habitats within the Apache Maid Allotment. Forest Service personnel will field check your compliance of the following requirement:

No salt will be placed in mountain meadows or riparian areas or within 0.25 miles of riparian areas or mountain meadows. Salt will not be placed in non-riparian drainages in the ponderosa pine (MA3) areas, unless it is being used for a watershed restoration project.

Resource Monitoring

Forage Utilization Cages:

Forage utilization monitoring cages are installed annually on each grazing allotment. Where possible, the cages are to 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). Cages will be installed on the Apache Maid Allotment in the following areas for forage use monitoring:

2004 Grazing Season

<u>Pasture Name</u>	<u>Management Area</u>	<u>Legal Description</u>
Winter South	12 (Riparian)	T15N, R5E, Section 11;
Winter North	12 (Riparian)	T15N, R5E, Section 11;
Blind Lake	9 (Mtn. Meadow)	T16N, R9E, Section 12;
Pine Mtn.	3 (Pine/Oak)	T16N, R10E, Section 29.

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 time periods of the permitted grazing season: immediately before

livestock entry; immediately after the livestock graze; and lastly at the end of the forage growing season.

Pasture Forage Utilization Form:

Forage Monitoring Utilization Spreadsheet Form, will be completed cooperatively by the frequent monitoring pasture use by the permittee and the District's Range Staff. During the current drought situation on the Forest this monitoring is critical to protect the rangeland resources. This 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.

The monitoring of forage utilization by livestock and wildlife ungulates in the allotment's pastures as well as the Key areas will provide an assessment of the grazing management, permitted livestock numbers, wildlife big-game ungulate numbers and distribution. If heavy utilization trends are observed, the District will coordinate with the grazing permittee and/or the Arizona Game and Fish Department to bring utilization within the Forest's LMP guidelines to promote and sustain quality range and watershed conditions.

Many of the allotment's riparian areas have been partially fenced to control livestock grazing use and management in key wildlife habitats. These very important and diverse habitat areas will still be closely monitored to insure proper allowable use met. To comply with the Forest Land Management Plan, 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 if all three classes of riparian vegetation are present. But only 5% use is allowed in riparian areas if the mid-age class is absent.

Continue to implement and monitor grazing utilization standards to attain quality range and watershed conditions where ecologically feasible.

Range Improvements.

No new range improvements are scheduled for your allotment this year.

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. The grazing permittee is responsible for all maintenance materials, supplies and equipment necessary to properly maintain all range structural improvements. The Forest will replace range structural improvement materials and/or supplies at the end of the improvement's life; when maintenance and repair is no longer feasible to keep the improvement properly maintained and functioning. Please notify the District Range Staff Officer, prior any maintenance of improvements where heavy-duty equipment is required, i.e. maintenance of earthen dam stock tanks.

At our December 19, 2004 annual permit validation meeting, you asked about the Coconino National Forest's disbursement of Range Betterment funds. The Coconino Forest Range Staff and District Rangers prioritize the allocation of these funds. Allocations back to the grazing allotments are based upon the resource's greatest need, funding improvement projects that have been approved within current allotment management plan, or when mitigation of threatened and endangered species is

mandated. The Forest makes every effort to spread the range betterment funds but with the limited amount that is received often only a few projects are feasible. The six-year drought has reduced permitted livestock numbers and this has significantly reduced the available funds.

The District acknowledges two areas of recent grazing conflict involving private/forest boundary fences on the Apache Maid Allotment, which include: the Stoneman Lake area within the Blind Lake Pasture and the south boundary of Winter South Pasture. In your January 2004 letter to Jerry Bradley you cited concerns relating to the removal of three miles of national forest boundary fence within the Winter South pasture by private land owners. We have discussed with you and private land owners in the past that it is the private land owner's responsibility to construct and maintain boundary fences to stop the trespass of livestock from Forest lands. The District will not provide fence materials for the construction and maintenance of these fences. The State of Arizona is an "open-range" state and therefore fence integrity is the responsibility of the private land owner. Private land owners are legally responsible for any and all damage or loss of property.

Permit Compliance

This 2004 Annual Operating Plan is a part of the Ten-Year 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 annual operation plan 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.

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.

Gene, this annual operating plan covers all the topics discussed during your grazing application meeting with Jerry Bradley on December 19, 2003; and the subsequent other meetings. If you have questions or comments regarding this plan, please feel free to call Jerry Bradley at the Sedona Ranger Station, telephone number (928) 282-4119.

Sincerely

Ken Anderson

District Ranger

Enclosures

cc: Rodger Zanutto, S.O.; cc: Jerry Gonzales, Mogollon Rim R.D.;
cc: Larry Sears, Mogollon Rim R.D.

FORAGE UTILIZATION MONITORING FORM

Allotment Name: APACHE MAID 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 on Key Area	LMP Mgmt Area
WOODLAND	11/21-12/27		411					Kocr		3/7
UPPER ROUND MOUNTAIN	12/28-1/31		411					Agsm		7
LOWER ROUND MOUNTAIN	2/1-2/29		411					Spcr/Paob		7
RED TANK	3/1-3/7		411					Spcr/Paob		7/11
WINTER SOUTH	3/8-4/3		411					Woody Spp.		12/11
HOUSE SHIPPING PASTURE	4/4-4/8		411					Spcr/Paob		11
BEAVERHEAD FLAT WEST	4/9-5/8		411					Spcr/Paob		11
BEAVER HEAD FLAT EAST	5/9-5/29		411					Spcr/Paob		11
WINTER NORTH	5/30-6/5		411					Woody Spp.		12/11
LOWER BLUE GRADE	6/6-6/11		411					Spcr/Paob		7/11
UPPER BLUE GRADE	6/12-6/20		411					Agsm		7
RARRICK	6/21-7/10		411					Agsm		7
ROUND-UP	7/11-7/31		411					Agsm		7
STONEMAN	8/1-8/14		411					Kocr/Popr		3
BLIND LAKE	8/15-8/29		411					Kocr/Popr		3
HUTCH	8/30-9/11		411					Kocr/Popr		3
SAWMILL	9/12-9/26		411					Kocr/Popr		3
SNAKE TANKS	9/27-10/9		411					Agsm/Bogr		7/3
BARGAMAN/MAHAN LANES	10/10-10/20		411					Kocr/Popr		7/3
FALL SHIPPING	10/21-10/24		411					Kocr/Popr		3
BLIND LAKE	10/25-11/8		411					Kocr/Popr		3
STONEMAN	11/9-11/23		411					Kocr/Popr		3
ROUND-UP	11/24-12/11		411					Agsm		7
RARRICK	12/12-12/31		411					Agsm		7
UPPER BLUE GRADE	1/1-1/12		411					Agsm		7
LOWER BLUE GRADE	1/13-1/20		411					Spcr/Paob		7/11
WINTER NORTH	1/21-2/19		411					Woody Spp.		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.

**Mitigation for Buckhorn, 13-Mile Rock,
Walker Basin and Hackberry/Pivot Rock
Allotments
For Mexican Spotted Owl and Peregrine Falcon**

Recommended Mitigation for Buckhorn, 13-Mile Rock, Apache Maid, Beaver Creek, Walker Basin, and Hackberry/Pivot Rock Allotments

1. Follow the grazing guidelines listed in the MSO Recovery Plan:

A. Continue to monitor grazing use by livestock and wildlife in “key grazing” areas such as riparian areas, meadows and oak types. If cattle show an increasing utilization trend, then change management strategies to reduce the trend. If wild ungulates show an increasing utilization trend, 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 of woody vegetation 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 the following guidelines for placing salt and mineral blocks.

A. Do not place salt in riparian areas and mountain meadows. Do not place salt in non-riparian drainages in ponderosa pine (MA3) unless being used for a watershed restoration project.

B. To avoid placing salt in PAC’s, use the following guidelines in these pastures:

Buckhorn Allotment

<i>Pasture</i>	<i>Mitigation for salting</i>
Buckhorn	No mitigation
South Maxwell	No salt in T14N, R9E, Section 31
Dukey	No salt
Willow Valley	Salt only at Peck’s Tank #2 and East Tank
Clover	No salt at Trap Tank
Brushy	No salt
Oak South	No salt within .25 miles of West Clear Creek
Chilson Mesa	Salt tanks only except Flatrock Tank

1. Do not place salt blocks within 1 mile of West Clear Creek in the Dukey or South Maxwell pastures, or at trap Tank in the Clover Pasture to reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species forage and cover near the Tram Trail and Maxwell Trail euries.

13Mile Rock Allotment

<i>Pasture</i>	<i>Mitigation for salting</i>
Meadow Canyon N.	No salt
Tule North	Salt only within .25 miles of 142B Road
Wilbur North	Salt only at Wilbur and Bueno Tanks
Toms	Salt only at Pothole, Idas, Back, Dead Tanks
Meadow Canyon S.	Salt south of Section 5 Tank only
Wilbur South	No salt within .2 miles Wilbur Canyon or tributaries

1. Do not place salt blocks within 1 mile of West Clear Creek in the Toms or Wilbur pastures to reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species forage and cover near the Tram Trail and Maxwell Trail eyries.

Walker Basin

<i>Pasture</i>	<i>Mitigation for salting</i>
Steer	No salt south of Dozer Tank in the Steer Pasture

Hackberry/Pivot Rock Allotment

<i>Pasture</i>	<i>Mitigation for salting</i>
Potato North	Salt at tanks only, but not within .5 miles of Potato Lake Draw
Potato South	Salt at tanks only, but not within .5 miles of Potato Lake Draw
Bald 1	No salt
Bald 3	No salt
Bald 4	No salt east of 136A or 136B roads
West Bedbug	Salt only east of Cart Cabin Tank
Kehl	No salt in T12N, R10E, Sections 4, 9, and 33
Toms	No salt in T13N, R9E, Section 28
Sandrock	No salt within 1/8 mile of Horsetank Wash
Miller	No salt in T12N, R10E, Section 33
Clear Creek	Salt only at tanks
Twenty-Seven Mile	No salt within 1/8 mile of Horsetank Wash
Horse Pasture	Salt in private land only

1. Do not place salt blocks in the south half of the Kehl pasture to reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species cover near the Webber eyrie.

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. All allotments will change their plan, as necessary, 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 (USFWS) 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.