



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Red Rock  
Ranger Districts

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File Code: 2230  
Date: November 12, 2003

Mr. David W. Schafer, Resident Director  
V Bar V Ranch – University of Arizona  
Arizona Agriculture Experiment Station  
2657 Village Drive  
Cottonwood, Arizona 86326-5875

Dear David:

This letter will serve as the 2002 and 2003 Annual Permittee Instructions (AOI) for the Walker Basin allotment, documenting the grazing use and management instructions for the period of time from March 1, 2002 to February 29, 2004.

Walker Basin allotment's ten year term permitted grazing numbers are for 543 head of cattle and 7 head of horses for a yearlong grazing season.

Your 2002 grazing application, dated February 7, 2002, was approved for 540 head of cattle and 10 head of horses, but permitted numbers were voluntarily reduced to 340 to 400 head during the summer/fall season as a direct result of long-term drought conditions.

The ranch's 2003 first half grazing season application was approved for 440 head of cattle and 10 head of horses on April 16, 2003. And following good precipitation on the allotment's summer and transition pastures, on July 23, 2003 I approved your second half of the season grazing application permit for 540 head of cattle and 10 horses.

However, due to this year's low precipitation on the allotment's winter range pastures forage production has been very limited. Consequently, we need to schedule a field trip before December 5, 2003 to revisit current permitted stocking levels on the allotment's winter range pastures. The District's current monitoring indicates that significant reduction in livestock numbers will be required to bring stocking in line with rangeland conditions.

### **Grazing Schedules**

The following 2002 grazing schedule reflects both planned and actual grazing use on the Walker Basin Allotment and the 2003 grazing seasons will follow the planned sequence of pastures moves as listed below:



**2002 Grazing Livestock Pasture Rotation**

<b>PASTURE NAME</b>	<b>PLANNED GRAZE PERIOD</b>	<b>LIVESTOCK NUMBERS</b>	<b>ALLOWABLE USE PERCENT</b>
WALKER BASIN	1/1-1/27	340	20 % WOODY 35% FORAGE
RUSSEL SPRINGS EAST	1/28-2/14	340	35
RUSSELL SPRINGS WEST	2/15-2/28	340	35
MONTEZUMA NORTH	3/1-3/14	340	35
MONTEZUMA SOUTH	3/15-3/24	340	35
WICKIUP WEST	3/25-4/7	340	35
WICKIUP MIDDLE	4/8-4/21	340	35
WICKIUP EAST	4/22-5/6	340	35
SHIPPING LANE #1	5/6-5/6	340	35
SHIPPING LANE #2	5/6-5/6	340	35
CEDAR FLATS A (HERD 1)	5/7-5/17	200	35
CEDAR FLATS F (HERD 1)	5/18-6/3	200	35
CEDAR FLATS C (HERD 2)	5/7 – 5/17	140	35
CEDAR FLATS C (HERD 2)	5/18-6/3	140	35
TWIN BUTTES	6/4-6/10	280	35
SUGAR LOAF	6/11-6/12	280	35
SNAKE RIDGE	6/13-6/15	280	35
HEIFER	6/16-6/19	280	35
PRIVATE LAND – MAHAN	6/20-7/4	280	35
STEER	7/5-8/5	280	35
PRIVATE LAND – MAHAN	8/6-8/7	280	35
HORSE KNOLL	8/8-9/8	320	35
BANFIELD	9/0-9/20	320	35
PINE	9/21-9/30	406	35
MAHAN HOLDING	10/1-10/3	400	35
STEER	10/4-10/27	400	35
HEIFER	10/28-10/31	400	335
SNAKE RIDGE EAST	11/1-11/6	400	35
SNAKE RIDGE MIDDLE	11/7-11/14	400	35
SNAKE RIDGE WEST	11/15-11/21	400	35
SUGAR LOAF	11/22-11/27	400	35
SHIPPING LANES 4 AND 5	11/28-12/4	400	35
TWIN BUTTES	12/5-12/13	400	35
CEDAR FLATS E	12/14-12/20	400	35
CEDAR FLATS C	12/21-12/26	400	35
CEDAR FLATS D	12/27-1/2	400	35
WALKER BASIN	1/3-2/4	400	20 % WOODY 35% FORAGE

## 2003 Grazing Livestock Pasture Rotation

PASTURE NAME	PLANNED GRAZE PERIOD	LIVESTOCK NUMBERS	ALLOWABLE USE PERCENT
WALKER BASIN	1/3-2/4	300	20 % WOODY 35% FORAGE
RUSSEL SPRINGS EAST	2/5-2/18	300	35
RUSSELL SPRINGS WEST	2/19-3/2	300	35
MONTEZUMA NORTH	3/3-3/12	300	35
MONTEZUMA SOUTH	3/13-3/22	300	35
WICKIUP WEST	3/23-4/5	300	35
WICKIUP MIDDLE	4/6-4/19	300	35
WICKIUP EAST	4/20-5/4	300	35
HEADQUARTERS	5/5-5/7	300	35
SHIPPING LANE #1	5/8-5/10	400	35
SHIPPING LANE #2	5/6-5/6	400	35
CEDAR FLATS C	5/13-5/25	400	35
CEDAR FLATS D	5/26-6/8	400	35
CEDAR FLATS A (HERD 1)	6/9-6/22	200	35
CEDAR FLATS B (HERD 2)	6/23-6/23	200	35
CEDAR FLATS F	6/24-7/14	350	35
SHIPPING LANE #3	6/16-6/29	50	35
SHIPPING LANE #4	<b>6/30-7/13</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>35</b>
SHIPPING LANE #5	7/14-7/31	50	35
TWIN BUTTES	7/15-7/24	450	35
SUGAR LOAF	7/25-8/3	450	35
SNAKE RIDGE WEST	8/4-8/13	500	35
SNAKE RIDGE MIDDLE	8/14-8/23	500	35
SNAKE RIDGE EAST	8/24-9/4	500	35
HEIFER	9/5-9/14	500	35
STEER	9/15-10/2	500	35
HORSE PASTURE	10/3-10/5	500	35
MAHAN HOLDING	10/6-10/8	500	35
PINE	10/9-10/16	500	35
BANFIELD	10/17-10/24	500	35
HORSE KNOLL	10/25-11/06	500	35
BIG HILL	11/07-11/16	500	35
CEDAR FLATS E	11/17-11/26	500	35
CEDAR FLATS B	11/27-12/3	500	35
WALKER CREEK	12/4-12/10	400	35
WALKER BASIN	12/11-1/31	400	35
WICKIUP EAST	2/1-2/13	400	35
WICKIUP MIDDLE	2/14-2/29	400	35

### **Grazing Strategy**

A two-year (2000 and 2001) trial grazing management strategy has been approved and will be implemented on the Walker Basin Allotment for the 2002 and 2003 grazing seasons. This strategy, a deferred rest rotation system of management, is in compliance with the Forest Land management Plan and the allotment's current management plan. The grazing system of management is facilitates the permittees needs for two herds of cattle during the breeding season to promote a controlled breeding program and an artificial insemination program to fulfill animal husbandry/genetic program needs for the University of Arizona's College of Agriculture. Outside the artificial insemination breeding season the cow herds will be aggregated into a single herd, with bulls and heifers separated into separate individual herds in the winter months.

Round-up and shipping of livestock stock (calves and culls) to market will occur annually in the spring in May at the ranch's Winter Headquarters and late September at the ranch's Summer Headquarters at Mahan Park.

The management of livestock pasture moves will be based upon both a plant forage phenology scheme of management and proper allowable grazing use. The following guidelines will determine the allotment's grazing management during this grazing year:

- 1). summer range pastures that are grazed during the forage's active growing seasons the livestock graze period per pasture is shortened to periods 21 days or less;
- 2). winter range pastures grazed during the winter dormancy period will not exceed a time period of approximately 30 days; and
- 3). under a deferred rest rotation grazing system, most pastures will be grazed and few will receive yearlong rest from livestock grazing. Consequently, during this trial period of time livestock grazing use in each pasture will not exceed 35 percent average utilization. This use requirement corresponds with the forage use guidelines stated in the Southwest Region's Range Analysis and Management Handbook, FSH 2209.21.

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**

The following list, taken from "**Mitigation for Buckhorn, Walker and Hackberry/Pivot Rock Allotments for the Mexican Spotted Owl for the 1998 AOP's (AOI's**", dictates livestock grazing mitigation measures that are specific actions required for maintenance and improvement of Mexican spotted owl habitats within the Walker Basin Allotment. Forest Service personnel will field-check your compliance of these mitigation requirements:



The monitoring of forage utilization by livestock and wildlife ungulates in the above management areas will provide an assessment of the grazing management, permitted livestock numbers, wildlife big-game ungulate numbers and distribution. If high utilization trends are observed, the District will coordinate with the grazing permittee and/or the Arizona Game and Fish Department to bring use within LMP guidelines to promote and improve range and watershed conditions.

Most of the allotment's riparian and open water areas have been fenced to control livestock grazing use and management, and the exception is the water gap at Walker Creek within the Walker Basin Pasture. However, these very important and diverse areas will be closely monitored by the District Range Staff and the permittee to insure proper allowable use met and where necessary grazing is restricted. 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 because all three classes of riparian vegetation are present. (But only 5% grazing use is allowed in riparian areas if the mid-age class of trees species are not present in the riparian community).

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

### **Range Improvements.**

Relocation and construction of the Highway 260 Corral is scheduled this fall. Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT's) widening and upgrading to the State highway 260 immediately east of Camp Verde, Arizona resulted in the removal of the old corral.

Consequently a new corral will be constructed, funded by ADOT. A NEPA decision with clearances is anticipated to be approved by August 2003. The District will cooperate in the design of the corral. The corral's new location will be on Forest Road 9702 in T13N; R5E; Sec. 4; SE of the SE. This location was selected because of access and is outside of any new Right of Way that might occur because of any future construction of Highway 260.

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.

### **Permit Compliance**

This 2002-2003 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 pat 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.

David this annual operating plan covers all the topics discussed during your grazing application meetings with Jerry Bradley on February 24, and July 23, 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) 203-7537.

Sincerely

*Ken Anderson*

KEN ANDERSON  
District Ranger

Enclosures

cc: Rodger Zannotto, S.O.; cc: Jerry Gonzales, Mogollon Rim R.D.;

cc: Larry Sears, Mogollon Rim R.D.

## Range Allotment Monitoring Plan

Allotment Name: WALKER BASIN Year: 2002

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
WALKER BASIN	1/1-1/27		340					Spcr/Pabo		12/11/7
RUSSELL SPRINGS EAST	1/28-2/14		340					Spcr/Pabo		11/7
RUSSELL SPRINGS WEST	2/15-2/28		340					Spcr/Pabo		11/7
MONTEZUMA NORTH	3/1-3/14		340					Spcr/Pabo		11
MONTEZUMA SOUTH	3/15-3/24		340					Spcr/Pabo		11
WICKIUP WEST	3/25-4/7		340					Spcr/Pabo		11
WICKIUP MIDDLE	4/8-4/21		340					Spcr/Pabo		11
WICKIUP EAST	4/22-5/6		340					Agsm		11
SHIPPING LANE #1	5/6-5/6		340					Agsm		7
SHIPPING LANE #2	5/6-5/6		340					Agsm		7
CEDAR FLATS A (Herd 1)	5/7-5/17		200					Agsm		7
CEDAR FLATS F (Herd 1)	5/18-6/3		200					Agsm		7
CEDAR FLATS C (Herd 2)	5/7-5/17		140					Agsm		7

\*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+%)

**Range Allotment Monitoring Plan**Allotment Name: WALKER BASINYear: 2002

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
CEDAR FLATS B (Herd 2)	5/18-6/3		140					Agsm		7
TWIN BUTTES	6/4-6/10		280					Agsm		7
SUGAR LOAF	6/11-6/12		280					Agsm		7
SNAKE RIDGE	6/13- 6/15		280					Kocr		7/3
HEIFER	6/16-6/19		280					Kocr		3
PRIVATE LAND @ MAHAN PARK	6/20- 7/4		280					Kocr		3
STEER	7/5-8/5		280					Kocr		3
PRIVATE LAND @ MAHAN PARK	8/6-8/7		280					Kocr		3
HORSE KNOLL	8/8-9/8		320					Kocr		3/7
BANFIELD	9/9-9/20		320					Kocr		3
PINE	9/21-9/30		406					Kocr		3
MAHAN HOLDING PASTURES	10/1-10/3		400					Kocr		3
STEER	10/4-10/27		400					Kocr		3

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H = Heavy Use (51%-70%)

E = Extreme Use (71+%)

**Range Allotment Monitoring Plan**Allotment Name: WALKER BASIN Year: 2002 .

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
HEIFER	10/28-10/31		400					Kocr		3
SNAKE RIDGE EAST	11/1-11/06		400					Kocr		7/3
SNAKE RIDGE MIDDLE	11/7-11/14		400					Kocr		7/3
SNAKE RIDGE WEST	11/15-11/21		400					Kocr		7/3
SUGAR LOAF	11/22-11/27		400					Agsm		7
SHIPPING LANES 4 AND 5	11/28-12/04		400					Agsm		7
TWIN BUTTES	12/05-12/13		400					Agsm		7
CEDAR FLATS E	12/14-12/20		400					Agsm		7
CEDAR FLATS C	12/21-12/26		400					Agsm		7
CEDAR FLATS D	12/27-1/2		400					Agsm		7
WALKER BASIN	1/3- 2/3		400					Spcr/Pabo		12/11/7

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E = Extreme Use (71+%)

## Range Allotment Monitoring Plan

Allotment Name: WALKER BASIN Year: 2003.

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
WALKER BASIN	1/3-2/4		300					Spcr/Pabo		12/11/7
RUSSELL SPRINGS EAST	2/5-2/18		300					Spcr/Pabo		11/7
RUSSELL SPRINGS WEST	2/19-3/2		300					Spcr/Pabo		11/7
MONTEZUMA NORTH	3/3-3/12		300					Spcr/Pabo		11
MONTEZUMA SOUTH	3/13-3/22		300					Spcr/Pabo		11
WICKIUP WEST	3/23-4/5		300					Spcr/Pabo		11
WICKIUP MIDDLE	4/6-4/19		300					Spcr/Pabo		11
WICKIUP EAST	4/20-5/4		300					Spcr/Pabo		11
HEADQUARTERS	5/5-5/7		300					Spcr/Pabo		11
SHIPPING LANE #1	5/8-5/10		400					Agsm		7
SHIPPING LANE #2	5/11-5/12		400					Agsm		7
CEDAR FLATS C	5/13-5/25		400					Agsm		7
CEDAR FLATS D	5/26-6/8		400					Agsm		7

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E = Extreme Use (71+%)

**Range Allotment Monitoring Plan**Allotment Name: WALKER BASINYear: 2003

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
CEDAR FLATS A (Group 1)	6/9-6/23		200					Agsm		
CEDAR FLATS B (Group 2)	6/9-6/23		200					Agsm		7
CEDAR FLATS F	6/24-7/14		350					Agsm		7
SHIPPING LANE #3	6/16-6/29		50					Agsm		7
SHIPPING LANE #4	6/30-7/13		50					Agsm		7
SHIPPING LANE #5	7/14-7/31		50					Agsm		7
TWIN BUTTES	7/15-7/24		450					Agsm		7
SUGARLOAF	7/25-8/3		450					Agsm		7
SNAKE RIDGE WEST	8/4-8/13		500					Kocr		7/3
SNAKE RIDGE MIDDLE	8/14-8/23		500					Kocr		7/3
SNAKE RIDGE EAST	8/24-9/4		500					Kocr		7/3
HEIFER	9/5-9/14		500					Kocr		3
STEER	9/15-10/2		500					Kocr		3

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E = Extreme Use (71+%)

**Range Allotment Monitoring Plan**Allotment Name: WALKER BASIN Year: 2003 .

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
HORSE PASTURE	10/3-10/5		500					Kocr		3
MAHAN PASTURE	10/6-10/8		500					Kocr		3
PINE	10/9-10/16		500					Kocr		3
BANFIELD	10/17-10/24		500					Kocr		3
HORSE KNOLL	10/25-11/06		500					Kocr		3/7
BIG HILL	11/07-11/16		500					Agsm		7
CEDAR FLATS E	11/17-11/26		500					Agsm		7
CEDAR FLATS B	11/27-12/3		500					Agsm		7
WALKER CREEK	12/4-12/10		400					20% Woody Species		12
WALKER BASIN	12/11-1/31		400					Spcr/Pabo		12/11/7
WICKIUP EAST	2/1-2/13		400					Spcr/Pabo		11
WICKIUP MIDDLE	2/14-2/29		400					Spcr/Pabo		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+%)

## **Mitigation for the Mexican Spotted Owl On Grazing Allotments for Annual Operating Plans**

**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 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, 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.

If Chiricahua leopard frogs are found on the allotment, the permittee shall be required to clean any equipment, boots, etc. used at an aquatic site and treat with a 10 percent bleach solution, or allow such equipment, boots, etc. to dry thoroughly, before using the same equipment, boots, etc. at another aquatic site on the allotment.

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. The Coconino shall survey the tank for Chiricahua leopard frogs<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> Surveys shall include a night visit to prospective habitat during which all or at least 1,200 feet of the best habitat along creeks and the entire perimeter of tanks are searched for frogs. Surveys shall be carried out with flashlights/headlamps, and a dip net shall be used to sample for tadpoles and frogs concealed in undercut banks or at the base of emergent vegetation. Surveyors shall also listen for the distinctive call of the Chiricahua leopard frog (Davidson 1996) and watch for egg masses. Surveys shall be carried out from April-September when frogs are most active.