



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

**Forest
Service**

**Beaver Creek/Sedona
Ranger Districts**

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File Code: 2230

Date: September 28, 2000

M Diamond Management Co. L.L.C.,
Attention: Ms. Margaret E. Ingham, Managing Member
9501 Tillinghast Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85262

Dear Peggy;

This letter will serve as the 2000 Annual Permittee Plan (AOP) for the Buckhorn Livestock Grazing Allotment. The allotment's term permitted grazing numbers are for 250 head of cattle yearlong. Enclosed is your 2000 grazing application, dated September 14, 2000, it has been approved as applied for; total use 250 head of cattle for the remainder of the 2000 grazing season; September 20, 2000 to February 28, 2001

Permitted Livestock

Cattle 250 head, (Full Permitted Numbers).

Grazing Schedule

Your permitted livestock are scheduled to graze the allotment's pastures during the second half of the 2000 grazing season and the beginning of the 2001 grazing season in the following sequence of dates and pasture moves:

<u>Pasture Name</u>	<u>Pasture Rotation Graze Period</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Livestock Numbers</u>
North Maxwell	September 20 to October 17	28	228 (Heifers);
Buckhorn	October 18 to November 18	32	228;
Painted/Indian Tanks	November 19 to December 10	22	228;
Bald Hill	December 11 to January 15	36	228;
Cedar Mountain	January 16 to February 16	32	228;
Winter	February 17, to March 1	13	228;
Wickiup	March 2 to March 12	11	228;
Headquarters	March 13 to March 27	15	250 (+Bulls);
Wickiup	March 28 to April 7	11	250;
Winter	April 8 to April 22	15	250;
Bald Hill	April 23 to May 3,	11	250; and
Boulder	October 15, to March 18,	154	22 (Bulls);



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Again, Bull Pen and Clear Creek Pastures will be temporarily closed to all grazing for the protection of threatened and endangered wildlife species and habitats within West Clear Creek. A NEPA assessment of grazing in these areas and the rest of the allotment will be initiated in the future. This environmental assessment will evaluate the grazing management of the entire allotment and specifically address the suitability of livestock grazing within these two pastures.

NEPA Schedule

A new ten year allotment management plan (NEPA environmental assessment document) for Buckhorn Allotment was be planned for November 2000, but it has been delayed because two other on-going NEPA grazing assessments (Anderson Mesa/Bar-T-Bar and Buck Springs Allotments) were not finalized this year, (2000), as anticipated. The delayed process was a result of numerous reasons. At this time I anticipate to begin environmental assessments for your allotment in November 2001 and its estimated completion by December 2002.

Range Improvements

"Permittee Maintenance Responsibilities of Range Improvements" have been identified in red color on your permit maps of your term grazing permit. These improvements are to be fully maintained annually as a minimum, to comply with permit requirements. Maintenance is very important to protect the integrity of the improvements, for future management needs and requirements. Notify the District Range Staff Officer, a minimum of 30 days prior any maintenance of improvements where heavy-duty earth-moving equipment is required, i.e. maintenance of earthen-dam stock tanks.

Two range improvements have been discussed that will need heavy maintenance include:

- 1). Wickiup Tank #1, reconstruction of the dam and spillway; and
- 2). Wickiup Well, assess the depth and flow potential for water source at the well and potential future pipeline extensions from the well source.

Permit Compliance

This 2000 Annual Operating Plan is 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. It 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.

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

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down to mineral soils. All state and local fire restrictions and regulations must be observed. Report all fires to the Ranger District Offices at: Beaver Creek/Sedona (520/282-4119), Happy Jack (520/354-2216), Blue Ridge (520/477-2255) and the Flagstaff Zone Dispatch Office at (520/526-0600).

Appeal Rights

Grazing permittees have appeal rights. This 2000 Annual Operating Plan is appealable and subject to review under 36 CFR251.82(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.

Peggy and Larry, this plan covers most of all the topics discussed during your grazing application/permit transfer meetings with Jerry Bradley and subsequent meetings and phone calls with Jerry. Thank you for your cooperation, the District welcomes you both and we are looking forward to working with you. If you have questions or comments regarding this plan, please feel free to call Jerry Bradley at the Beaver Creek Ranger Station, telephone number 520/567-7621.

Sincerely

/s/ Ken Anderson
KEN ANDERSON
District Ranger

Enclosures

cc: Rodger Zanotto, S.O.,
cc: Jerry Gonzales, Long Valley, and
cc: John Stephenson, Blue Ridge.

Grazing Allotment Monitoring Form

Allotment Name: BUCKHORN

Year: 2000

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
NORTH MAXWELL	09/20-10/17							Kocr		3
BUCKHORN	10/18-11/18							Kocr		3
PAINTED/INDIAN TANKS	11/19-12/10							Agsm		7
BALD HILL	12/11 01/15							Agsm		7
CEDAR MOUNTAIN	01/16-02/16							SiHy		7
WINTER	02/17-03/01							SiHy		7
WICKIUP	03/02-03/12							Spcr/Pabo		7
HEADQUARTERS	03/13-03/27							Spcr		7
WICKIUP	03/28-04/07							Spcr/Pabo		7
WINTER	04/08-04/22							SiHy		7/11
BALD HILL	04/23-05/03							Agsm		7/11
										7
BOULDER	10/15-03/18							Agsm		7
										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%+)

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.

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- 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 eyries.

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.