



File Code: 2210

Date: February 10, 2003

Joel T. Nelson

Dear Mr Nelson,

This letter serves as your March 1, 2003 to February 28, 2004 Annual Operating Plan and Instructions.

**Allotment:** Citizen

**Permittee:** Joel T. Nelson

**Permitted Numbers:**

424\* Cattle (cow/calf) 3/1 - 2/28  
10 Horses (saddle) 3/1 - 2/28

\*Numbers are adjusted to 3588 Animal Months, restricting 250 head on summer pastures and 10 horses.

1. **Grazing System:** Pasture Rotation
2. **Authorization:** (From Bill for Collection)

Permittee	Number and class	Dates Authorized
Name: Joel Nelson	200 Cattle (cow/calf)	9/19/03 – 2/28/04
Name: Joel Nelson	100 Cattle (cow/calf)	11/15/03 – 2/28/04
Name: Joel Nelson	10 Horses (Saddle/Pack)	11/15/03 – 2/28/04

3. **Management System:** Livestock are scheduled to graze the following in 2003:

North Arizona/South Arizona	March-April 30, 2003	300 head
Breeding Grounds	May, June, July, September 2003	200 head
Smoothing Iron/JH	May through September, 2003	50 head
N Arizona/S. Arizona	May through September, 2003	50 head depending upon available water and forage
N Arizona	December 2003, After Shipping	300 head
S Arizona/Brushy	January and February 2004	300 head



Smoothing Iron	October, November, December 2003. January and February 2004	Winter bulls
Park	Growing season rest, graze in the spring and come out before May, back in late October	300 head
N Arizona/S. Arizona/Brushy	Only light use during growing season	

Graham Pasture may be used from December to May or until utilization levels are met. Graham Pasture will be rested during the growing season.

**Timelines are estimates only. Livestock must be moved when utilization levels are met. Caution should be used especially through this upcoming spring and summer.**

**4. Special Instructions:**

- a) Stock tanks must be surveyed for possible aquatic habitat and archeological concerns before maintenance cleaning is authorized. We should plan ahead for these surveys.
- b) Ongoing grazing consultation for the Chiricahua Leopard Frog is in progress.
- c) Salt or mineral blocks should not be placed within a quarter mile of water and ideally no closer than one-half mile. Salting is not authorized on any watering locations. Place blocks in lightly used areas until allowable forage use is achieved and then move them to the next least utilized area. Blocks should not be placed in meadow bottoms or near roads. Do not place block in the same area used in previous years and finally, put them on hard ground not susceptible to erosion.
- d) Any changes made in this plan because of any of the above will be made in cooperation with the District Range Staff and approved prior to the change by the District Ranger. The permittee will give the District at least Five-day notice of an anticipated change.

**5. Utilization Standards and Monitoring:**

Allowable use is the percentage of use that will be allowed on key grass and browse species. This use will be measured in the key monitoring areas shown below for the Citizen Allotment. Adherence to utilization levels *is mandatory and should be the limiting factor* in adjusting grazing management. Adjustments in numbers, rotation schedule, or season of use will be made if allowable use standards are met. Livestock will be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when these forage utilization standards are met. The option to return livestock to a pasture that has received adequate plant re-growth will be considered if all resource objectives can be met.

The maximum allowable use levels set for the Citizen Allotment will be **35%** (2.5 inch average stubble height on Blue grama grass) during the growing season from May 1 through Sept 30. The maximum allowable use levels during the dormant season from October 1

through April 30 will be **40%** (2 inch average stubble height on Blue grama grass). Use of browse is not to exceed the **50%** level. Use levels will be monitored in the following areas:

**Key Monitoring Areas**

Area	Important Plant Species	Comments
Ridge where T6 transects are located (between Gavilan and One Horn Canyons)	Blue Grama	
T4 transect area on Webster Mesa	Blue Grama	
T2 transect area between Buchanan Canyon And Fox Tank	Blue Grama	
Area around T3 transects on Smoothing Iron Mesa	Blue Grama	
Graham Pasture	Blue Grama	

**6. Range Improvements:**

**a) Fences:** Proper maintenance of fences will help ensure they will hold livestock in a pasture and will extend their useful life. Fences in need of reconstruction will be inventoried and prioritized by the District for reconstruction. Please let us know if any other fences than the above described are beyond reasonable repair and are in need of reconstruction.

Permit-Modification	Unit	Completed by date:	Status
None			

**b) Water:** Stock water is important for proper livestock distribution. If natural water is not available to achieve good distribution, it may be necessary to haul water. In addition, maintenance of pipelines, troughs, spring boxes, and dirt tanks will help provide water throughout the year. If any of these improvements need repair work, you are authorized to do so, unless it requires ground disturbance, such as dirt tank cleaning. Advance planning is needed for authorizing tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled during the summer months. If the pipelines and troughs are beyond reasonable repair, we are willing to work with you to replace them. Please protect natural springs and areas with riparian type vegetation. Drainage bottoms, creeks, springs, and cienegas where water is available are most susceptible to livestock concentrations.

Permit-Modification	Unit	Completed by date:	Status
None			

**c) Other improvements:**

Permit-Modification	Unit	Completed by date:	Status
2-02	Smoothing Iron Corral	Sept 30, 2003	Extended

7.

The Annual Operating Plan/Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 3, Section 8. It complies with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan, including the 1996 Forest Plan Amendment. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act as found in the Biological Assessment for the Citizen Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.

This decision is subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90 (see enclosed copy of 36 CFR 251 regulations). In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).

A notice of appeal must be filed with Marcia R. Andre, Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest, 3005 E. Camino del Bosque, Silver City, New Mexico, 88061-7863, within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with Larry D. Raley, District Ranger, Glenwood Ranger District, P. O. Box 8, Glenwood, New Mexico, 88039-9704.

Sincerely,

Larry Raley  
District Ranger

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Permittee

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Date

TITLE 36 - - PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC PROPERTY

CHAPTER II - - FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PART 251 - - LAND USES - - Table of Contents

Subpart C - - Appeal of Decisions Relating to Occupancy and Use of National Forest System  
Lands

Sec. 251.90 Content of notice of appeal.

- (a) It is the responsibility of an appellant to provide a Reviewing Officer sufficient narrative evidence and argument to show why a decision by a lower level officer should be reversed or changed.
- (b) An appellant must include the following information in a notice of appeal:
  - (1) The appellant's name, mailing address, and daytime telephone number;
  - (2) The title or type of written instrument involved, the date of application for or issuance of the written instrument, and the name of the responsible Forest Service Officer;
  - (3) A brief description and the date of the written decision being appealed;
  - (4) A statement of how the appellant is adversely affected by the decision being appealed;
  - (5) A statement of the facts of the dispute and the issue(s) raised by the appeal;
  - (6) Specific references to any law, regulation, or policy that the appellant believes to be violated and the reason for such an allegation.
  - (7) A statement as to whether and how the appellant has tried to resolve the issue(s) being appealed with the Deciding Officer, the date of any discussion, and the outcome of that meeting or contact; and
  - (8) A statement of the relief the appellant seeks.
- (c) An appellant may also include one or more of the following in a notice of appeal: a request for oral presentation (Sec. 251.97); a request for stay of implementation of the decision pending decision on the appeal (Sec. 251.91); or, in those States with a Department of Agriculture certified mediation program, a request for mediation of grazing permit cancellation or suspensions pursuant to Sec. 251.103.

[54 FR 3362, Jan. 23, 1989; 54 FR 13807, Apr. 5, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 34510, Aug. 21, 1989;  
64 FR 37846, July 14, 1999]