



File Code: 2210

Date: January 23, 2003

Merrie Nell & Buddy E. Johnson

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Johnson,

This letter serves as your Grazing Year 2003 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions for the period of 3/1/03 through 2/28/04.

Allotment: Pine Cienega
Permittee: Buddy E. & Merrie Nell Johnson

- Grazing System:** Continuous year-long with “rotating use zones” by closing access and alternating the stock water locations every other year.
- Authorization:** Authorized to graze the following in 2003:

Permittee	Number and class	Dates Authorized
Buddy Johnson	150 Cattle (cow/calf)	3/1/03 to 2/28/04
	3 Cattle (cow/calf) Private Land Permit	3/1/03 to 2/28/04

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- Management System:** Cattle are authorized to graze the following in 2003:
2003 objectives: Proper livestock distribution and management within pastures are very important to ensure utilization levels are not exceeded. All efforts must be taken to not allow livestock in areas where utilization levels have been met. Livestock in areas already used will indicate management efforts are not working and the livestock will have to be moved from that pasture. This move will be to a pasture where there is available forage, or to private land.

Pasture	Time Frame*	Comments
Steer Pasture	7/15/03 to 11/1/03	Close Road side tank and Ball Park Tank
Big Pasture	7/15/03 to 11/1/03	Close Juniper tank, Round Mountain tank, Jerky Park tank, and Bastard Basin Tank



**Time frames are estimates, utilization standards being met should supersede dates when use standards are met for a given pasture.*

Grazing year 2004, the proposed rotation will be as follows: In Steer Pasture, Close Steer Pasture and Cattleguard Tanks. In Big Pasture, Race Track, Sprague, Three-way, and Donaldson Tanks will be closed in 2004.

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 is in progress this year for the Chiricahua Leopard Frog.
- c) Salt or mineral blocks should not be placed within a quarter mile of water and ideally no closer than one-half mile or on any watering locations, unless authorized. 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 or modifications made in this Annual Operating Plan/Instructions 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 Pine Cienega 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. Cattle 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 Pine Cienega 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/Descriptions
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P-1	Blue Gramma, side oats	(On Private Land)
C-1	Blue Gramma, side oats	
C-2	Blue Gramma	

Monitoring must be done to ensure that allowable forage use standards are not exceeded. The permittee is responsible for adequate monitoring to ensure that the utilization levels are not exceeded. The Forest Service will conduct occasional monitoring/compliance checks. This will be coordinated with you whenever possible so that we can work together to achieve proper distribution and utilization. Working together will also provide opportunity to determine necessary changes in management or improvements

6. Range Improvements:

A permit modification will be prepared for new projects. New range improvements not specifically listed below and all ground disturbing activities will not be initiated until proper archeological clearances have been obtained and approved by the state. The following improvements are planned for reconstruction this year:

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
1-99	Fence #513	Complete	Needs Inspection
1-03	New Fence ½ mile	To be started in 2003 if funds are available	Needs to be surveyed.
1-04	Fence # 511	To be started in 2004 if funds are available.	Needs Rebuilding in 2004

7.

The Annual Operating Plan/Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided in Part 3, Section 8. It complies with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act as found in the Biological Assessment and/or on-going grazing consultation for the Pine Ceinega 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 D. RALEY
District Ranger

Signed by Buddy E. Johnson on 2/7/03
Permittee

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]

