



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Apache-Sitgreaves
National Forests
Springerville Ranger District

P.O. Box 760
Springerville, AZ 85938
(928) 333-4372 FAX: 333-4182

File Code: 2210

Date: May 4, 2011

Hopi Three Canyon Ranch, LLC.
26 Bar Allotment
C/O Duane Coleman
P.O. Box 1138
Winslow, AZ 86047

Dear Duane:

Enclosed is your 2011 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 26 Bar Allotment. The pasture rotation schedule and monitoring dates have been identified for your information. The level of authorized use and grazing schedule as indicated in this AOI are based on the best information available at this time. These are subject to change as actual site specific forage conditions and available livestock watering sources are determined at the start of and during the annual authorized season of use.

I approve your request to perform routine maintenance by brushing and clearing fallen timber on the Grapevine trail. In addition, I would ask that cattle are not allowed to tarry in Brown's Sawmill spring enclosure during trailing or while using the Loco and Lower pasture. This will aid us in meeting some crucial wildlife objectives. Allotment boundary and interior fences should be repaired before entering your allotment. All the maintenance responsibilities listed in your Term Grazing Permit are your responsibility to keep in a functional condition. A well maintained fence will keep your herd in the proper pasture and prevents unauthorized use by cattle from neighboring allotments.

If you have any questions and/or comments, please feel free to call me or my Range personnel at (928) 333-4372.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY A. RIVERA
Springerville District Ranger

cc: Lee Schmidt, 1800 W. 26 Bar Rd., Eagar, AZ 85925



**2011 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
SPRINGVILLE RANGER DISTRICT**

Allotment Name: 26 Bar

Permittee: Hopi Three Canyon Ranch LLC. & the Hopi Tribe

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers and dates:

26 Bar	1150 Cow/Calf & Yearlings	06/15-10/31
		*A total of 5,329 livestock AUMs will be divided among the cow/calf & yearling herds according to the livestock operation.
		**Dates shown are for planning purposes. Actual entry dates will be based on range readiness.

Annual Validation livestock numbers and dates for Cross Bar, Pool Corral, and Rudd Knoll:

Herd A	350 Cow/Calf	05/20-10/15
Herd B	350 Yearlings	06/15-10/15

Table 1. Pasture rotation schedule

Pasture	No. Livestock	Use Period*	Midpoint Date	Number Of Days	Key Species**	Allowable Use Guideline
HERD A (350 Cow/calf pairs)						
Loco	350	05/20-06/05	05/27	17	Bltr, Fear, Carex spp., POA spp., Mumo, Bogr	25%
West Mexican Hay	350	06/06-07/07	06/21	32	Bltr, Fear, Carex spp., POA	35%
East Mexican Hay	350	07/08-08/08	07/23	32	Carex spp., POA, Mumo, Fear, Muwr, Deca, Bltr	35%
Canyon	350	08/09-08/24	08/16	16	Fear, Pofe, Mumo, POA, CAREX, Deca, Muwr, Bltr	25%
Little George	350	08/25-09/25	09/08	32	Carex spp., Fear, Pofe, POA spp., Carex spp., Feov, Muwr, Bltr	35%
Lake	350	09/26-10/10	10/02	15	Fear, Bltr, Mumo POA spp., Carex spp., Muwr	35%
Rudd Knoll	350	10/11-10/15	10/13	5	Fear, Muwr, Carex spp., POA, Deca, POA spp., Muwr, Bltr	40% upland 35% bottoms
HERD B (350 Yearlings)						
Rudd Knoll	350	06/15-06/20	06/17	5	Fear, Muwr, Carex spp., POA, Deca, Bltr	40% upland 35% bottoms
Skullduggery	350	06/21-07/21	07/05	31	Carex spp., Fear, Muwr, Pofe, Mumo, POA spp., Muwr, Deca, Bltr	35% upland 25% bottoms
Hog Wallow	350	07/22-08/22	08/06	31	Fear, Muwr, Carex spp., POA, Deca, Muwr, Bltr	35% upland 25% bottoms
Pool Knoll	350	08/23-09/23	09/06	32	Fear, Pofe, Mumo, POA spp., Carex spp., Deca, Muwr, Bltr	40% upland 25% bottoms
7 Springs	350	09/24-10/10	10/01	17	Fear, Muwr, Carex spp., POA, Deca, POA spp., Muwr, Bltr	40% upland 25% bottoms
Rudd Knoll	350	10/11-10/15	10/13	5	Fear, Pofe, Mumo, POA spp., Carex spp., Deca, Muwr, Bltr	40% upland 25% bottoms
RESTED PASTURES						
Lower, Cabin, Miller, SU, Dipping Vat						

*Dates will be adjusted if allowable utilization guideline levels in the stocked pastures are reached sooner than anticipated.

**Carex=sedges, POA=blue grass, Fear=Arizona fescue, Deca=Tufted hairgrass, Muwr=Spiked muhly, Mumo=Mountain muhly, Bltr= pine dropseed, Bogr=blue grama. Key species may be adjusted as necessary to reflect those receiving the most grazing pressure through out the grazing season.

A. GRAZING STANDARDS AND PRESCRIPTIONS

Grazing Restriction: Crossing permits are required when livestock are trailed to the allotment and cross through another allotment. Trailing livestock the length of riparian areas is not allowed and no herd sized gatherings or trailing will take place within Mexican Spotted Owl protected activity centers unless authorized. The permits can be obtained from the Springerville Ranger District.

Effectiveness Monitoring:

- 1. Range Readiness Check:** Livestock will not be permitted to graze until the vegetation and soils are ready. This may and often varies from year to year; vegetative readiness checks will be made in advance of the schedules turn-out date. Range readiness inspections will be conducted on key species, as shown on the table below, in key areas. District range personnel will conduct range readiness inspections prior to your turn-out date. You are invited to assist or accompany the range personnel as they perform the inspection.

General Range Readiness Guideline		
Species	Development Stage*	Soil Condition
POA/CARE	4-6" new growth, panicle emerging	Firm, Field capacity or below
Fear	6" new growth	Firm, Field capacity or below

*Will change due to variability from year to year.

- 2. Grazing Utilization:** To determine if the implementation of the management actions proposed are effective, one or more of the following methods will be used to monitor or document the actions – allotment inspection, field reconnaissance, ocular, pre-livestock, midpoint or post-livestock (seasonal utilization) checks. Grazing utilization checks will be done just prior to livestock entry in a pasture if wild ungulate use is prominent.

The allowable use guideline for each pasture is shown in Table 1. You are invited to participate when any of these checks are being conducted. The utilization methods or techniques to be used will be from USFS Region 3 Range Analysis Handbook and/or Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements, Interagency Technical Reference, 1996. The purpose of the utilization monitoring is to ensure that herbaceous vegetation is managed through proper utilization levels to provide for recovery and continued existence of threatened and endangered species of plants and animals, to meet physiological requirements for the forage and browse plants, and improve range and unsatisfactory watershed conditions.

It is your responsibility to take action so that livestock grazing does not exceed the allowable use guideline levels. If the problem cannot be corrected with preventative measures, then early exits from the pastures, adjustments in the AMP, stocking levels, and/or other management or administrative actions may be necessary.

Early Livestock Removal: The Forest Service recommends to the permittee having an off-the-Forest contingency pasture in the event that persistent drought and/or utilization in excess of AMP/AOI standards necessitate early livestock removal from the Forest. Part 1, clause 3 and Part 2, clause 8 (c) of the term grazing permit provides this option.

If a possibility of an early removal exists, Forest Service range personnel, with input from the permittee, will make on the ground, case by case decisions regarding range conditions. Based on the Allotment

inspections, Forest Service personnel will make the determination if livestock removal is required for resource protection. The District will consider all resource objectives before taking any actions regarding the above situations.

Range Developments: All assigned range developments identified in the Term Grazing Permit will be maintained to a functional status.

Maintenance of range improvements: Permittees will maintain assigned maintenance of all range improvements, whether private or government owned, within their Allotment. This is in accordance with Part 3, clause 2 of the term grazing permit.

Permittees will get with the Districts to sign a permit modification upon receipt of the materials. Range improvements not specifically listed in the improvement program schedule and all ground disturbing activities will not be initiated by the permittee until the Springerville Ranger District has approved proper clearances.

If your neighbor is turning out before you on an adjacent pasture and the boundary fence is your responsibility, this **FENCE MUST BE REPAIRED BEFORE YOUR NEIGHBOR TURNS OUT.**

Fence maintenance and other range improvements required prior to moving livestock onto the Allotment include:

1. All boundary fences on the allotment must be maintained.
2. Interior fences in all pasture must be maintained.
3. Water developments must be in working condition.

Livestock Distribution: Livestock need to be distributed evenly throughout the pasture. A full time rider is strongly encouraged. By herding livestock onto the uplands and other lightly used areas, the grazing pressure on key riparian areas and meadows is reduced. To obtain uniform distribution, frequent riding will be necessary to break up concentrations of livestock that bunch-up causing over utilization of forage. Salting and maintaining improvements are also good ways to achieve proper livestock distribution.

Sanitation and Fire Prevention: When an animal is killed or dies from contagious or infectious disease, its carcass must be removed. If the animal dies or is killed in the vicinity of streams, roads, trails, or recreational areas, the carcass must be moved at least 100 yards from live water, or as far as practical when terrain makes that distance impossible, within a reasonable time after the discovery.

All vehicles should be equipped with a properly functioning exhaust system. A shovel and axe for use in extinguishing camp and forest fires should be carried. All open camp and branding fires, when allowed, must have a fire ring down to the mineral soil, and be handled in a safe manner. All State and local fire regulations and restrictions will be observed. Report any fires to the fire dispatcher in Show Low at **928-537-5305.**

Recreation: Recreation is increasing on the District every year. Recreation users and livestock operators must communicate to minimize conflicts.

Animal Damage: The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest has an Animal Damage Management (ADM) Plan. Lethal control and preventative techniques may be authorized. Animal damage control methods will require case-by-case assessment and District Ranger approval.

B. GENERAL

1. Grazing bills must be paid in full, fence maintenance must be completed and five days notice must be given to the Springerville Ranger District prior to turnout date.
2. Track actual use as it occurs by pasture on the enclosed forms and return this form to the Springerville Ranger District at the end of the grazing season. Actual use “as it occurs” means number and dates your permitted livestock are on the Allotment/Forest. It also means numbers and dates of livestock on your allotment from adjacent allotment because of broken fences, open gates, or natural barriers that are no longer effective. This information will reflect the carrying capacity of the range, need for additional improvement or possible change of management.
3. Salting and mineral placement
 - ✓ No salting is permitted with ¼ mile of live water or in wet meadows.
 - ✓ Change salt locations once a week or as needed and use hard ground.
 - ✓ Move creep feeders regularly and change sites every year. No mineral supplement or salt will be placed in Mexican Spotted Owl protected activity centers.
5. Wire gates need to be left open after the grazing season is over. If necessary, reconstruct gates at the first of the year and mid-season in high traffic areas. Makes sure the gates are easy to close for Forest Users (for example, use smooth wire hoop that are snug but not too tight). **“Please Close the Gate” sign are available at the District office.**
6. Horse use on the Allotment must be permitted and grazing fees will be billed for each horse.
 - ✓ Horses on summer pasture will be rotated with the livestock or be in horse pasture as identified.
7. If you plan to use a camping trailer in conjunction with the livestock operation:
 - ✓ You need to inform the Range Staff of the trailer description, license number and of its location.
 - ✓ Trailer holding tanks are not to be emptied directly onto the ground. Sewage dump stations are available at Big Lake Campground, Hoyer Campgrounds, Springerville, and Eagar. Camps should be maintained and kept clean.
 - ✓ Permits to camp in conjunction with livestock operations are extended only to permittees and their paid employees acting within the scope of their employment. Permittees are responsible for cleaning up the site when camps are removed.
8. If the Forest Service requests a late turn out, we will credit prorated fees or apply to next years billing if the amount is less than \$75.00. There is an administrative charge and you should pay the bill for collection by due date.
9. **Any livestock left on the Allotment after the “off” date or left in pastures after the rotation date will be in violation of the permit and subject to be charged at the unauthorized rate.** Therefore, gathering of livestock should begin well in advance of the scheduled removal dates in order to meet this deadline. It is important to anticipate pasture moves in advance.

C. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR INFORMATION

1. Fire Safety Inspection—you will be required to have your vehicles, ATV(s), equipment, etc., inspected by the Forest Service before going onto to the Allotment. This inspection is a safety precaution to prevent wildfires.

The contact on the Springerville Ranger District is Ron Mortensen or Mark Willis. If you have any questions or concerns they can be reached at (928) 333-4372 or at PO Box 760, Springerville, AZ 85938.