



File Code: 2230

Date: May 16, 2014

Mr. Warren Smith II
7700 E. Old Walnut Canyon Rd.
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Dear Mr. Smith,

This document serves as your 2014 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Black Bill Allotment. This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, section 8(a). Please review all sections of this AOI and contact your Rangeland Management Specialist if you have any questions.

I. AUTHORIZED LIVESTOCK NUMBERS/PERIOD OF USE

No livestock use is authorized on the Black Bill allotment during the 2014 grazing season. Total non-use has been authorized for 60 head of adult cattle from June 1, 2014 to October 31, 2014. This authorization is granted under the category of resource protection due to implementation of the Schultz Sediment Reduction Project.

This is the last year of resource protection non-use for the Black Bill allotment due to the Schultz Sediment Reduction Project. It is my full expectation that the Black Bill allotment will be stocked during the 2015 grazing season and that any non-use will likely only be authorized as permittee convenience non-use.

II. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Even though total non-use has been approved for the 2014 grazing season, you are still responsible for the maintenance of structural range improvements located on the Black Bill allotment as specified in Parts 2 and 3 of your Term Grazing Permit.

Construction of New Structural Range Improvements

No new structural range improvements are scheduled for construction this year.

Reconstruction of Existing Structural Range Improvements

The following existing structural range improvements are scheduled for reconstruction this year:

1. Reconstruct the pasture fence between the Summit pasture and the North Black Bill pasture (approximately 1.0 miles) and the north half of the western allotment boundary fence of the North Black Bill pasture (approximately 1.0 miles). These fences were damaged during the Schultz Fire and the Forest Service contracted Coconino Rural Environment Corp to remove



the damaged portions of the fence (wire and stays) and cut down hazard trees; t-posts were not damaged and remain in place. Fences will be constructed to standards provided by the Forest Service. Material for this project will be supplied by the Forest Service and the permittee will provide the labor to construct the new fence. No work may begin on this project until the appropriate clearances have been obtained and authorization is received from the Forest Service.

Reconstruction of these fences will be completed by October 31, 2014. Please contact Gary Hase, Jr. as soon as possible if you will have any difficulties meeting this deadline.

Removal of Existing Structural Range Improvements

No existing structural range improvements are scheduled for removal this year.

Maintenance of Existing Structural Range Improvements

Structural range improvements assigned to you for maintenance are listed in your Term Grazing Permit and are also identified on the allotment map. These improvements are to be fully maintained annually to comply with permit requirements (Part 2, Section 8i). Any maintenance you perform must conform to the standards specified by your District Rangeland Management Specialist. 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 note that you must notify the District Rangeland Management Specialist at least 60 days prior to the beginning of any maintenance work that requires the use of heavy equipment.**

III. FIRE

Please use caution during all ranch activities that could potentially start a fire. All ranch vehicles must be equipped with an axe, shovel, and water bucket. All open camp and branding fires require a ten foot fire ring cleared down to mineral soil.

During periods of critical fire danger the Forest Supervisor may declare a Red Flag Alert or issue other special orders. Under these conditions, the building or use of fires, the use of power saws, heavy equipment, ATVs and other motorized equipment may be prohibited on Forest Service land. All Federal, State and Local fire restrictions and regulations must be observed.

Report all fires to the Flagstaff Ranger District Office at (928) 526-0866 or to the Coconino National Forest Supervisors Office at (928) 526-0600.

Cooperation in the reporting, prevention, and suppression of fires will be expected as specified in Part 2, section 10 of your Term Grazing Permit.

IV. MOTOR VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS

On May 1, 2012, the Coconino National Forest began implementation of the Travel Management Rule. The Travel Management Rule requires the designation of roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use and these routes are identified on the Motor Vehicle Use Map.

Implementation of the Travel Management Rule requires active management of all motorized use, including use related to permitted grazing activities. Motorized travel off the designated road system, including off-road access, by grazing permit holders will be based on the need to carry out required management practices necessary to comply with the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit. Examples of required management practices include, but are not limited to: the repair and maintenance of structural range improvements; transport and placement of mineral and protein supplement; herding of livestock; and tending to sick or injured animals. Legitimate motorized use off the designated road system, including off-road access, for conducting activities required under the Term Grazing Permit will be authorized as follows:

1. **For motorized use with ATVs, UTVs, motorcycles, and full-size pickup or smaller vehicles (curb weight less than 8,000 pounds):** Grazing permittee must obtain a grazing allotment specific Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit. Motorized vehicle use off the designated road system will be limited to only that use which is necessary for compliance with the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit.
2. **For motorized use with larger vehicles (curb weight greater than 8,000 pounds or larger than a full-size pickup) or any heavy equipment:** Grazing permittee must obtain a site specific Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit. Motorized vehicle use off the designated road system will be limited to only that use which is necessary for compliance with the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit. To request site specific Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit, the grazing permittee must provide their Rangeland Management Specialist with the project details a minimum of 30 days prior to the proposed starting date for the permit.
3. A copy of the approved Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit must be with the vehicle operator while operating the vehicle off the designated road system.
4. A Permit Placard must be attached to all permitted vehicles while operating off the designated road system.
5. Off-Highway vehicles (ATVs, UTVs, and motorcycles) used for conducting activities required under the Term Grazing Permit must be licensed and permitted in accordance with Arizona State law.
6. The Motor Vehicle Use Map for the Coconino National Forest identifies certain roads as “Roads Open to Highway Legal Vehicles Only”. These roads are open only to motor vehicles licensed under State law for general operation on all public roads within the state. Grazing permittees operating motor vehicles on these roads must comply with the legal requirements. Operating a motor vehicle off the designated road system to avoid the legal requirements of “Roads Open to Highway Legal Vehicles Only” is not permitted.

7. Grazing permittees will utilize motorized vehicles off the designated road system in a manner that will not result in damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, wildlife, heritage, or other forest resources.
8. Failure to comply with the conditions of the Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit may result in the immediate cancellation of the Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit and may result in the issuance of a Notice of Non-Compliance for violation of the terms and conditions of your Term Grazing Permit.

Grazing permittees that do not obtain a Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit are required to operate motorized vehicles only on the designated road system. Operating a motorized vehicle off the designated road system without a valid Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit will result in the immediate issuance of a Notice of Non-Compliance for violating the terms and conditions of your Term Grazing Permit (Part 2, Section 8a). A Notice of Non-Compliance may result in Term Grazing Permit suspension or cancellation proceedings.

V. PERMITTEE REVIEW

On May 9, 2014, Gary Hase, Jr. met with Warren Smith II (permittee) to develop and discuss the 2014 Annual Operating Instructions for the Black Bill allotment. The permittee has reviewed and agreed with these instructions.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact Gary Hase at (928) 527-8262.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jennifer Hensiek
JENNIFER J. HENSIEK
Deputy District Ranger