United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Flagstaff Ranger District
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File Code: 2230
Date: May 16, 2014

Mr. Jim Shiew
PO Box 3732
Flagstaff, AZ 86003

Dear Mr. Sheiw:

This document serves as your 2014 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Youngs Canyon 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

Your 2014 Authorized Use Request has been approved and you are authorized the following Livestock Numbers and Periods of Use:

120 Cattle (Adult)	May 1, 2014 to May 31, 2014
120 Cattle (Adult)	October 1, 2014 to October 31, 2014

Additionally, Non-use has been authorized for 187 Head Months of cattle. This authorization is granted under the category of resource protection.

The 2014 authorized livestock numbers and the authorized period of use were determined based on referencing the Western Regional Climate Center 12-month Standardized Precipitation Index (Northeast Division, Arizona; Climate Division 2) and allotment inspections conducted prior to the grazing season.

Any increases in the 2014 authorized livestock numbers will require Forest Service approval. Be advised that you will need to file an additional Authorized Use Request and the Forest Service will need a minimum of 45 days to assess resource conditions and process a supplemental grazing bill for additional livestock. Please contact your Rangeland Management Specialist prior to making any decisions regarding increased livestock numbers.

II. GRAZING SCHEDULE

The following is the planned grazing sequence for the 2014 grazing period. The pasture move dates shown are an estimate and may need to be amended based on actual conditions.

Pasture	Planned Graze Period	Livestock Numbers
Headquarters/Antelope	5/1 to 5/31	120 Adult Cattle
Walnut/Onyx	10/1 to 10/31	120 Adult Cattle

Changes from the grazing schedule will be made only with Forest Service approval. The planned use period in a pasture may be shortened or lengthened depending on forage availability and utilization in key areas. Livestock pasture moves will be completed within 10 days of the scheduled date and livestock will be actively herded from one pasture to another. It is imperative that once a pasture move occurs, the livestock remain within the designated pasture. For various reasons (i.e. pasture gates left open, cattleguards not maintained, cut fences, etc.), cattle may stray from the designated pasture. Preventing livestock from grazing adjacent allotments, your allotment's rested pasture, or regrazing previously used pastures is the permittee's responsibility.

III. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

Drought is an inevitable occurrence in the southwestern United States. Both the Forest Service and grazing permittees must plan for drought as a normal part of management. During periods of drought, the following management actions may be necessary:

- Stocking levels may need to be reduced. Reductions may be necessary prior to the permitted season of use and/or during the permitted season of use.
- Season of use may need to be shortened. Depending on the severity of the drought and the stocking level, a reduced grazing season may be necessary.
- Pasture use periods may need to be shortened. Pastures will not be regrazed during the same grazing season and this may ultimately result in an early exit from the allotment.
- Utilization and/or seasonal utilization (grazing intensity) standards may need to be reduced. Depending on the severity of the drought and the stocking level, reduced utilization standards will likely result in shortened pasture use periods and may ultimately result in an early exit from the allotment.
- Lack of livestock water, or poor distribution of livestock water, may result in reduced pasture/allotment use periods. Depending on forage conditions, this effect may be mitigated by hauling water to temporary livestock watering facilities.
- Allotment Management Plan direction for pastures requiring rest or deferment will be followed. Livestock use of planned rested pastures due to drought will not be authorized.

IV. GRAZING STRATEGY

Graze livestock using a deferred rotation grazing system for the authorized grazing period. The management of livestock pasture moves in this allotment will continue to be based upon seasonal utilization guidelines and allowable forage utilization standards.

V. ALLOWABLE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

Upland and Non-Riparian Areas

The maximum allowable level of utilization on herbaceous and non-riparian woody vegetation is 35%. This allowable use level is the utilization level permitted by both livestock and wildlife.

Utilization is defined as the proportion or degree of current year's forage production by weight that is consumed or destroyed by animals. It is a comparison of the amount of herbage left with the amount of herbage produced during the year. Utilization will be measured at the end of growing season when the total annual production can be accounted for and the effects of grazing in the whole management unit can be assessed.

Riparian Areas
There are no riparian areas in the Youngs Canyon allotment.

VI. SEASONAL UTILIZATION

A light to moderate seasonal utilization guideline of 21% to 50% will be used within grazed pastures on the allotment. Seasonal utilization is defined as the amount of herbage removed through grazing or trampling during the grazing period. Seasonal utilization will be measured at the end of each pasture's livestock grazing period.

The seasonal utilization guideline will be the primary factor in determining when livestock need to move to the next pasture; but other factors such as climatic conditions, opportunity for plant growth, and previous year's utilization level will also be considered. Annual reductions in the seasonal utilization guideline may be made based on resource conditions.

VII. RESOURCE MONITORING

Forage Utilization
Forage utilization within each pasture will be monitored and the allowable utilization standards (section IV) and the seasonal utilization guidelines (section V) will be enforced. This may result in earlier pasture moves than indicated in the Grazing Schedule (section II).

Numerous key areas for forage utilization monitoring have been identified for the Youngs Canyon allotment. Key areas are defined as "…a portion of range, which because of its location, grazing or browsing value, and/or use, serve as an indicative sample of range conditions, trend, or degree of use seasonally. A key area guides the general management of the entire area of which it is a part." Key areas will generally have the following characteristics: they will be approximately 20 to 500 acres in size; they will be located on productive soils with slopes less than 15%; they will have a plant community that is representative of the larger area; and they will generally be located 0.25 to 1.0 miles away from livestock water sources.

The location of key areas for forage utilization monitoring, key vegetation species, and the specific application to your allotment should be discussed with your Rangeland Management Specialist. Permittee participation in monitoring is encouraged.

Permittee Monitoring
The permittee will monitor and document the following items on the enclosed Actual Use and Forage Utilization Monitoring Form: 1) Actual Grazing Period; 2) Actual Livestock Numbers; and 3) Average Utilization of all forage species at two different time periods: Just prior to livestock entering the pasture and immediately after livestock leave the pasture. **It is very important that this monitoring be completed during the time frames specified, and that the**

Actual Use and Forage Utilization Monitoring Form is submitted to your Rangeland Management Specialist at the end of the 2014 grazing season.

VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES FOR SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

No mitigation measures are currently required for listed Federal, State, and Forest Service special status species.

IX. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Construction of New Structural Range Improvements
No new structural range improvements scheduled for construction this year.

Reconstruction of Existing Structural Range Improvements
No existing structural range improvements are scheduled for reconstruction this year.

Removal of 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.**

X. SALTING AND PROTEIN BLOCK PRACTICES

Proper salt and protein block location can be a good tool to aid in livestock distribution and they will be used in a manner to spread livestock utilization throughout the pasture. The following guidelines will be used when placing salt and protein blocks:

1. In general, salt and protein blocks should not be placed within ¼ mile of water.
2. Salt and protein blocks will not be placed in areas of depleted range, erosive soils, or sensitive plant or animal species. Areas of sensitive plant or animal species will be identified by your Rangeland Management Specialist and included in each year's AOI.
3. No more than three blocks (50 lb. blocks) of salt/protein will be placed at any location at any one time.
4. Salt/protein will not be placed at the same location twice during the same grazing season.
5. The use of portable salt/protein block containers is encouraged but not mandatory.

XI. PORTABLE WATER HAULING

Temporary sites for portable haul water may be needed and should be used as necessary to assist in livestock distribution. The following requirements will apply to portable haul water locations:

1. Coordinate with the District Rangeland Management Specialist to identify portable water haul locations for individual pastures prior to the grazing period.
2. To aid in livestock distribution, the portable water haul locations should generally be in areas of light forage utilization.
3. Generally, portable water haul locations will not be located at sites used in previous years.
4. Portable water hauls will not be located in areas of depleted range, erosive soils, or sensitive plant or animal species.
5. Portable water haul locations will be moved when the desired forage utilization levels have been reached.
6. Portable haul water storage tanks and troughs will be removed when livestock leave the pasture.

XII. 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, heave 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.

XIII. 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.

XIV. PERMITTEE REVIEW

On April 7, 2014, Gary Hase, Jr. met with Jim Shiew (permittee) to develop and discuss the 2014 Annual Operating Instructions for the Youngs Canyon allotment. The permittee has reviewed and agreed with these instructions.

XV. APPEAL RIGHTS

Annual Operating Instructions are subject to appeal and review under 36 CFR 251.

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
District Ranger