



File Code: 2230-3/2210-1

Date: April 20, 2009

MR. JOE AUZA
JOE AUZA SHEEP COMPANY
PO Box 10008
CASA GRANDE, AZ 85230

Dear Joe:

Here is the Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Beaverhead-Grief Hill Sheep Driveway, and the Big Springs, Cowboy Tank, and Twin Tanks allotments for the 2009 grazing season.

The Squaw Mountain Allotment will be rested from livestock grazing this year following the Marteen Fire of 2008; you are permitted to use the **Sitgreaves Allotment** this year instead. A map of the Sitgreaves Allotment is enclosed for your use. Please let us know if you need a map at a different scale.

While using the Sitgreaves Allotment, it is the responsibility of the Joe Auza Sheep Company to ensure that his sheep herders know where sheep are and are not permitted. Herders are to respect surrounding allotment boundary fences as well as the shared waters. Minor fence maintenance is expected as a privilege of being able to use this allotment.

This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as indicated in part three of your permit.

1. Season of Use and Numbers to be Grazed

Your 2009 annual validation and billing period will allow for the following period of use with the following numbers allowed:

Beaverhead-Grief Hill: 2,000 sheep from May 1 to May 31, 2009

Big Springs Allotment: 2,000 sheep (ewes) from June 1 to September 30, 2009
50 sheep (rams) from June 1 to June 30, 2009

Cowboy Tank Allotment: 1,016 sheep (ewes) from May 21 to October 10, 2009
30 sheep (rams) from June 1 to July 15, 2009

Squaw Mountain Allotment: RESTED FROM LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Twin Tanks Allotment: 1,025 sheep (ewes) from May 21 to October 20, 2009
30 sheep (rams) from June 11 to July 11, 2009

**Sitgreaves Allotment: 2,032 sheep (ewes) from May 21 to October 20, 2009
60 sheep (rams) from June 1 to July 15, 2009**



2. Pasture Sequence

The allotment rotations for 2009 are as follows:

Big Springs Allotment - Clockwise Rotation

1	Big Springs
2	Rhodes Tank
3	Pancho Viejo Tank
4	Rosilda Springs
5	Buck Springs
6	KA Hill

At no time will sheep be allowed to graze, water, or bed down Big Springs Wash.

Cowboy Tank Allotment – Clockwise Rotation

1	Laws Trick Tank
2	Little Boulin
3	Horse Trap Hill
4	Cowboy Tank

Squaw Mountain – No livestock permitted in 2009 due to the need for recovery following the Marteen Fire of 2008

Sheep will be permitted to water at Little Boulin Tank, and to be trailed along Forest Road 115 between the Cowboy Tank and Twin Tanks allotments. Any livestock found outside of these areas will be considered a permit violation, which could result in permit suspension or cancellation action.

Twin Tanks Allotment – Counterclockwise Rotation

1	Cedar Mountain
2	Locust Tank
3	Twin Tanks
4	Little Squaw Mountain
5	Boulin

SITGREAVES ALLOTMENT – Counterclockwise Rotation

1	Fues Pasture
2	Wade Pasture & Buggy Wheel*
3	El Paso Pasture

*The livestock accessible portion of Duck Lake within the Buggy Wheel Pasture will not be stocked when standing water is present or when the soils are saturated.

Little Hitson and Partnership tanks (#2469 and 2070, respectively) are shared waters with the Homestead Allotment and they have priority use.

These grazing sequences are estimates, subject to adaptive management. It may be necessary to adjust the rotations based on the amount of available forage, grazing intensity (i.e., animal demand and level of defoliation), forage utilization, water availability, and livestock distribution. It is important for both the Permittee and Forest Service personnel to notify each other promptly if it appears that an adjustment to this schedule is necessary. It is a permit violation to make changes to the Grazing Schedule without first notifying and receiving approval from the Forest Service.

3. Range Improvements

The Permittee must follow the Heavy Equipment Policy (amended December 2008) before starting any work that involves soil disturbance.

Maintenance of Range Improvements –

Range improvements assigned to you need to be inspected and the problems found corrected on a yearly basis. All fences must be maintained to standard before livestock enter a pasture.

All maintenance must conform to the standards specified by your district grazing permit administrator.

The Forest Service will not provide any material for routine maintenance. The Permittee may request a Forest Products Free Use Permit in order to cut juniper fence posts and stays for use only on their Forest Service allotment. No tree cutting is allowed without a forest products permit.

Hazard trees may need to be cut to prevent them from falling on fences. However, no tree cutting may be conducted without specific written permission from the Forest Service.

Construction of New Range Improvements --

All new construction must conform to the standards specified by your district grazing permit administrator.

When the funds are available, the Forest Service will contribute materials or labor to cover one half of the cost of installing new range improvements.

No specific maintenance or new construction projects have been identified at the time of this writing.

4. Livestock Distribution

Livestock distribution may be improved by using water hauls, waterlot controls, salt and supplement stations, and herding. Livestock are to be actively herded from one area to the next.

The following requirements apply to portable water hauling:

- a) Coordinate with your grazing permit administrator prior to the grazing period to identify portable water haul locations.
- b) Provide wildlife escape ramps in water troughs and open metal storage tanks. The Kaibab National Forest may supply ramps given supplies are available.
- c) Remove portable haul water storage tanks and troughs when livestock leave the area.

The following requirements apply to the use of salt and supplements:

- a) Place salt in portable containers, rather than directly on the ground, in order to protect the soil.
- b) Remove the salt and supplements when the livestock leave the area.

Place portable water troughs and salt/supplement stations in these locations:

- a) At least ¼ mile away from permanent water
- b) Areas of light forage utilization. Move the water or salt/supplement when the Allowable Use Standard has been met.
- c) Different sites than were used last year
- d) On soils that are not fragile or eroding
- e) On sites that are not in wetlands or drainages
- f) On sites that are not in Mexican Spotted Owl protected or restricted habitat
- g) On sites that do not have populations of rare plants, if known

Gates in waterlot fences will be left open for wildlife, unless closed on a temporary basis to facilitate cattle distribution in the pasture.

5. Drought Management

Permittees are strongly encouraged to voluntarily reduce numbers of animals during drought periods. Allowable Use Standards will be met much earlier during the grazing period if drought persists. If the Permittee is authorized to stock full numbers during drought periods, livestock may have to move through the allotment more quickly and be removed from the allotment at an earlier date because carrying capacity (i.e. Animal Unit Months (AUMs) available) is reduced due to low forage production.

6. Allowable Use (Utilization) Guidelines

Allowable Use Standards for every Allotment are set at 40% in the grasslands (except Sitgreaves) and 20% in the uplands. **The use for Sitgreaves is 35% in the grasslands.**

The 20% Allowable Use Standard means you are limited to an average of: Light Grazing Intensity. This applies to specific types of habitat for Mexican Spotted Owls (found on Twin Tanks) and Northern Goshawks (known to occur in the Big Springs and Sitgreaves Allotments). In the remainder of the areas, the maximum Grazing Intensity will be conservative or moderate, depending upon the time of year.

The 35- 40% Allowable Use Standard means you are limited to a maximum of: Conservative Grazing Intensity – from September 1 to March 15, and Moderate Grazing Intensity -- from March 16 to August 30

These grazing intensity categories can be exceeded in limited areas where livestock concentrate: a) within 1/4 mile of water developments (including temporary water hauls) and salt and supplement stations; and b) within 1/10 mile of pasture gates.

Management requirements for the Mexican Spotted Owl and the Northern Goshawk require that forage and habitat be maintained in a healthy condition for owl and goshawk prey species which are small mammals and various birds. The permittee will take action so livestock grazing does not exceed use levels. Actions may include: salt placement, water control, and herding or riding. If continued forage use above desired levels occurs, adjustments in the Allotment Management Plan, stocking level, or other management or administrative actions may be necessary.

7. Grazing Intensity Monitoring and Recordkeeping

Permittees are encouraged to estimate and record Grazing Intensity and Actual Use in each area during the permitted Grazing Period. We prefer that Grazing Intensity be estimated for preferred forage species in key areas that are located at least 1/4 mile away from water or salt/supplement stations, and that are preferred by livestock within each grazing area.

Data to collect include:

- grazing area name
- dates of actual use
- type and class of livestock
- number of livestock
- approximate location of key area
- Grazing Intensity class
- date of observation

A form is included for your use. If you are not familiar with methods of estimating Grazing Intensity, we will arrange for training on an individual or group basis.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact Range Staff Clare Hydock at 928/635-5623, 928/606-1265 cell, email chydock@fs.fed.us; or FAX at (928) 635-5680.

Sincerely,

/s/ Martie Schramm
MARTIE SCHRAMM
District Ranger

Enclosure (map)

cc: Elizabeth M Otero

GRAZING INTENSITY MONITORING RECORD

Allotment: _____ Pasture: _____

Data Collector: _____ Permittee: _____

Dates of Actual Use: _____

Type and Class of Livestock: _____

Number of Livestock: _____

KEY AREA NAME & LOCATION	MONITORING DATE	GRAZING INTENSITY CLASS
<i>Example – Kaibab Flat, ~1/2 mile NE of Empty Tank, NW 1/4 of Section 28, 200' from Rd. 15</i>	<i>Example – June 5, 2007</i>	<i>Example – Moderate</i>

Grazing Intensity Choices: Light, Conservative, Moderate, Heavy, Severe

Precipitation Records:

Notes:

Indicators of Grazing Intensity:

Grazing Intensity classes have been adapted from the Interagency Technical Reference 1734-3 “Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements” (1996), the Forest Service Region 3 Rangeland Analysis and Management Training Guide (June 1997), “Grazing Intensity Guidelines” by Jerry L. Holechek and Dee Galt (June 2000, Rangelands 22-3), and from the Forest Service Grazing Permit Administration Handbook: Region 3 Supplement to Chapter 90 (September 2007).

Light Grazing Intensity:

- Approximately equal to a maximum of 20% Utilization (grazing and trampling) of forage standing crop (current and previous years’ growth) at the end of the growing season (November 15).
- The range appears practically undisturbed. Only good forage plants and areas show use.
- Areas greater than 1 mile from water show little use.
- There is no evidence of livestock trailing to forage.
- Good forage plants have abundant seed stalks (80% or more of stalks remain).
- Good forage plants are topped or slightly used.
- Young plants are little disturbed.
- No use of poor forage plants.

Conservative Grazing Intensity:

- Approximately equal to a maximum of 40% Utilization (grazing and trampling) of forage standing crop (current and previous years’ growth) at the end of the growing season (November 15).
- Rangeland may be topped, skimmed, or grazed in patches.
- Areas greater than 1 mile from water show little use.
- There is no evidence of livestock trailing to forage.
- Good forage plants have abundant seed stalks (60-80% of stalks remain).
- 1/3 to 1/2 of good forage plants have been grazed in key areas.
- Most young plants are not damaged.
- Poor forage plants are not grazed at all.

Moderate Grazing Intensity:

- Approximately equal to a maximum of 50% Utilization (grazing and trampling) of forage standing crop (current and previous years’ growth) at the end of the growing season (November 15).
- Most of the accessible range shows some use.
- Areas between 1 mile to 1 1/2 miles from water show some use.
- There is little evidence of livestock trailing to forage.
- Good forage plants have some seed stalks left (15-25% of stalks remain).
- About 1/2 to 2/3 of the good forage plants show some use.
- Some young plants show damage.

- Less than 10% of the poor forage plants are utilized.

Heavy Grazing Intensity:

- Approximately equal to a maximum of 60% Utilization (grazing and trampling) of forage standing crop (current and previous years' growth) at the end of the growing season (November 15).
- All of accessible range shows use.
- Grazing is noticeable in areas greater than 1.5 miles from water.
- There is evidence of livestock trailing to forage.
- Good forage plants don't have any seed stalks left.
- All the good forage plants are used.
- Many young plants show damage.
- 10-50% of the poor forage plants are utilized.

Severe Grazing Intensity:

- Greater than 60% Utilization (grazing and trampling) of forage standing crop (current and previous years' growth) at the end of the growing season (November 15).
- The rangeland has the appearance of complete search. It has a clipped or mown appearance (not much stubble height) and there are indicators of repeated coverage. In extreme cases, the remaining stubble of good forage grasses is grazed to the soil surface.
- Areas greater than 1.5 miles from water have little to no stubble height.
- Livestock trails to forage are very common.
- There is no evidence of reproduction or current seed stalks on any herbaceous species (good, fair, or poor forage plants). Shoots of rhizomatous grasses are missing.
- All herbaceous species are almost completely utilized. Shrubs are severely hedged.
- All young plants show damage or they are missing.
- More than 50% of the poor forage plants are utilized.