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Manterola Sheep Company, Inc
P.O. Box 11227
Casa Grande, AZ 85230

Dear Joe:

This document contains your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Garland Prairie and Pomeroy Allotments during the 2009 grazing season. 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:

2240 Sheep from June 1 to July 15, 2009

2. Pasture Sequence

The Permittee will operate with two bands of sheep, consisting of 1,120 sheep in each band. One band will graze on the Garland Prairie Allotment and the other on the Pomeroy Allotment.

The Garland Prairie Allotment rotation (1,120 head) for the 2009 grazing season will be clockwise, and as follows:

1	**Airport**
2	**Gray**
3	**Judy**
4	**Pacchuco**
5	**Montoya**

The Pomeroy Allotment, as well as the Garland Prairie Allotment, will be grazed in accordance with the Garland Prairie-Pomeroy Allotment Management Plan, signed by Forest Service Staff on April 2, 1984, stating that when the Permittee or Forest Service determines that utilization (i.e., use category) has been met within ¼ mile of a camp, the camp will be moved to another area that has not been used during the current grazing season. This is approximately 2 days in one camp site.

This rotation is tentative, and subject to adaptive management. It may be necessary to adjust the rotation 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 rotation is necessary. It is a permit violation to make changes to the Grazing Schedule without first notifying and receiving approval from the Forest Service.

It is the Permittee's responsibility to actively herd livestock in order to comply with the suggested rotation. All livestock are to be removed from the allotment(s) within 5 days of the scheduled off date. If the Permittee can not meet this time frame, the Permittee should contact the Forest Service before this period has expired to request an extension.

Note: The Permittee has expressed interest in bringing livestock back on the Kaibab National Forest during 10/15 to 10/31 for shipping. Please contact the Forest Service prior to such so that an assessment can be made and permission granted given that the conditions allow for re-stocking during this 16-day period.

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

Rangeland Improvements should be inspected and maintained on an annual basis. All fences should be maintained to standard before livestock enter a pasture.

No projects have been identified at the time of this writing. As needs arise, please contact your permit administrator.

Construction of New Range Improvements

No projects have been identified at the time of this writing. As needs arise, please contact the Forest Service.

4. Livestock Distribution

Again, as stated in the Garland Prairie-Pomeroy Allotment Management Plan, signed by Forest Service Staff on April 2, 1984, when the Permittee or Forest Service determines that utilization (i.e., use category) has been met within ¼ mile of a camp, the camp will be moved to another area that has not been used during the current grazing season. This is approximately 2 days in one camp site.

Livestock distribution may be improved by using water hauls, waterlot controls, salt and supplement stations, and/or herding.

The following apply to portable water hauling:

a) Coordinate with your grazing permit administrator prior to the grazing period to identify portable water haul locations for individual pastures.

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 pasture.

The following 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 pasture.

Appropriate locations for portable water troughs and salt/supplement stations are:

a) At least ¼ mile away from permanent water.

b) Areas of light forage utilization. Moving the water or salt/supplement when the Allowable Use Standard has been met is recommended.

c) Alternate sites than were used the previous year.

d) On soils that are not fragile, eroding, or susceptible to erosion.

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 should be left open for wildlife, unless closed on a temporary basis to facilitate sheep 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 the drought persists. If the Permittee is authorized to stock full numbers during drought periods, livestock may be required to move through the pastures more quickly and removed from the allotment at an earlier date if carrying capacity (i.e., Animal Unit Months (AUMs) available) is reduced due to low forage production.

6. Allowable Use (Utilization) Guidelines

Manage grazing intensity to not exceed **Moderate Use** category during the growing season (approximately March 15 - August 30), and to not exceed **Conservative Use** category at or near the end of the growing season when the potential for plant regrowth is limited (approximately September 1 – November 15). Details on determining Use categories were provided to the Permittee at the Annual Validation Meeting held on April 16, 2009 at the Coconino National Forest Peaks Ranger District in Flagstaff, AZ.

Mexican Spotted Owl critical habitat has been designated on the Garland Prairie/Pomeroy Allotment (a map will be provided upon request). See Term Grazing Permit for more details.

The Northern Goshawk is also located within the Garland Prairie/Pomeroy Allotment. See Term Grazing Permit for more details.

7. Grazing Intensity Monitoring and Recordkeeping

Permittees are encouraged to estimate and record Grazing Intensity in each pasture during the permitted Grazing Period. It is preferred that Grazing Intensity be estimated for preferred forage species in key areas that are located at least ¼ mile away from water or salt/supplement stations, and that are preferred by livestock within each pasture.

Preferred data to collect include:

- pasture 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 and definitions is included for your use. If Permittees are not familiar with methods of estimating Grazing Intensity, we will arrange for training on an individual or group basis upon request.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact Rangeland Management Specialist Jason Stevens at (928) 635-5625 (jasonstevens@fs.fed.us), or FAX at (928) 635-5680.

Sincerely,

/s/Martie Schramm
MARTIE SCHRAMM
District Ranger

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
Example – Kaibab Flat, ~½ mile NE of Empty Tank, NW ¼ of Section 28, 200' from Rd. 15	*Example – June 5, 2007*	*Example – Moderate*

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 ½ 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 ½ 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 ½ 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.