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Date: April 24, 2009

BILL CORDASCO
GENERAL MANAGER
BABBITT RANCHES, LLC
P.O. BOX 520
FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86002

Dear Bill:

This document contains your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Moqui Allotment 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:

392 Adult Cows with calves from May 7 to October 21, 2009 (168 days)

2. Pasture Sequence

The following is the pasture grazing sequence for the 2009 grazing season:

Pasture Name	Dates	Number of Days
Corbett	5/7 – 7/14	69
Peterson*	7/15 – 8/31	48
Harbison	9/1 – 10/21	51
		Total Days 168

**Peterson Pasture will be grazed if the tanks fill with water during monsoon season. If no water is available, the permittee may move the cattle to Harbison Pasture on July 15. An earlier exit from the allotment will then be expected. All changes to this grazing schedule must be coordinated with the Forest Service.*

Grazing Periods and Number of Days in each pasture are tentative, and subject to adaptive management. It may be necessary to adjust the pasture rotation and/or the number of days spent in each pasture 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.



It is the Permittee's responsibility to actively herd livestock from one pasture to the next, and should occur within 5 days of the scheduled off-date for that particular pasture. 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.

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.

Maintenance projects planned for 2009

- 1) The permittee will repair the northeastern section of the Moqui-Cameron allotment boundary fence (#5956 and 5854). The use of heavy equipment to move trees may be required. Written archaeology clearance is required before any work may begin.
- 2) The FS will make repairs and do maintenance on FR 301, 305, and 305B in July or August 2009.
- 3) The FS will burn slash within the Moqui Grassland Project as soon as the budget and workload allow. It is not likely in 2009, but may occur in 2010. The FS will look into offering fuelwood permits in that area in the meantime.

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.

New range improvement projects planned in 2009:

No new range improvements are currently planned for 2009. The permittee would like to do more grassland and savannah restoration (i.e. juniper removal) on the allotment sometime in the future. Part of the Moqui Allotment was partially analyzed by the FS in the South Zone Grassland Restoration Project in 2006. The FS may be able to include this area in a new NEPA project in FY 2011 or 2012. The permittee may hire a NEPA contractor in order to expedite the process.

4. Livestock Distribution

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

The following requirements apply to portable water hauling:

- a) Coordinate with your district grazing permit administrator at your annual validation meeting or prior to the Grazing Period to identify portable water haul locations for individual pastures.
- b) Provide wildlife escape ramps in all water troughs and open metal storage tanks. The Kaibab National Forest is in the process of acquiring ramps and should be able to provide each Permittees with at least one escape ramp.
- c) Remove portable haul water storage tanks and troughs when livestock leave the pasture.

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 pasture.

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 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 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

Allowable Use Standards for the allotment are set in the 2006 Allotment Management Plan (AMP). The AMP follows direction described within the 2004 Decision Notice and 2004 Environmental Assessment for the allotment.

The Allowable Use Standards for the Moqui Allotment are 30% in the grassland key areas. Livestock must be moved to the next pasture or off the allotment when use reaches Conservative Grazing Intensity.

Utilization is limited to 20% in Northern Goshawk habitat (found in the northern part of the Peterson Pasture). Livestock must be moved when use reaches Light Grazing Intensity in these areas. A map of Northern Goshawk habitat on the allotment will be provided.

Allowable Use Standards must not be exceeded in key areas of the allotment. Key areas are identified as areas that have easy access for livestock, are close to watering points (1/4 to 1 mile away), and have desirable species composition and vigor for the specific area. The location of key areas for forage Grazing Intensity and Percent Forage Utilization monitoring and key forage species should be discussed with your district grazing permit administrator.

7. Grazing Intensity Monitoring and Recordkeeping

Permittees are encouraged to estimate and record Grazing Intensity and Actual Use 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.

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 are included for your use. If you are not familiar with methods of estimating Grazing Intensity, we can 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 Natural Resource Specialist Karlynn Huling at 635-5621, khuling@fs.fed.us, or FAX at (928) 635-5680.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thomas Mutz
THOMAS MUTZ
Acting 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
<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