



File Code: 2230-3/2210-1

Date: May 5, 2009

Allen and Juliana Grantham
1251 Stockmen Rd
Williams, AZ 86046

Dear Allen and Juliana:

This document contains your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Pine Creek and Spitz Hill Grazing Allotments during the 2009 grazing season.

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:

Pine Creek: 133 cattle (cow/calf) from June 1, 2009 to October 31, 2009.

Spitz Hill: 50 cattle (cow/calf) from June 1, 2009 to October 16, 2009.

2. Pasture Sequence

Pine Creek Allotment		
Pasture	Grazing Period	Number of Days
South	6/1 – 7/21	51
Northeast	7/22 – 9/10	51
West	9/11 – 10/31	51
	Total Days	153

Spitz Hill Allotment		
Pasture	Grazing Period	Number of Days
Sawmill	6/1 – 7/16	46
Randall	7/17 – 8/31	46
Curry	9/1 – 10/16	46
Spring Valley	Rested	0
Spitz Hill	Rested	0
	Total Days	138

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.

Pine Creek Allotment

Three Mile Lake: Livestock effects to Three Mile Lake would use adaptive management techniques (primarily deferred grazing) to mitigate effects to the seasonal wetland and wildlife habitat. Livestock use of the South Pasture will be deferred to avoid utilizing this area when there is standing water in the wetland. If other pasture options within the allotment or even outside the allotment were not possible, then a nest survey would be performed in and around the dry wetland area to insure no nesting wetland birds would be impacted by livestock grazing. If nesting was occurring, the nest areas would be deferred, either by temporary fence or complete pasture deferment. **Please contact the Forest Service prior to entering South Pasture.**

Kaibab Lake Campground: Livestock are to be excluded from the campground. It is the Permittee's responsibility to ensure that livestock are not entering this area.

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.

The Permittee is proposing to remove fence in Randall pasture, and realign the boundary fence separating the Shipping and Curry pastures. Both projects listed above are described in the 2006 Spitz Hill Allotment Management Plan signed by Williams District Ranger Stephen Best.

Construction of New Range Improvements

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

4. Livestock Distribution

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 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

Pine Creek – Grazing Intensity should not exceed a maximum of **Moderate Grazing Intensity** during the growing season (March 15-August 30) and a maximum of **Conservative Grazing Intensity** at, or near, the end of the growing season (September 1 – March 14).

Spitz Hill - Allowable Use shall be limited to 35% in grasslands and 20% in uplands. Grazing Intensity should not exceed a maximum of **Moderate Grazing Intensity** during the growing season (March 15-August 30) and a maximum of **Conservative Grazing Intensity** at, or near, the end of the growing season (September 1 – March 14).

Mexican Spotted Owl Critical habitat is found in Spring Valley Pasture of the Spitz Hill Allotment.

Northern Goshawk nesting areas (cluster of past nest sites) are located within the Allotment in both Spring Valley and Sawmill Pastures of the Spitz Hill Allotment.

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. We prefer 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 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 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) 635-5681.

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
<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.