



File Code: 2230-3/2210-1

Date: March 16, 2009

Rex and Ruth Maughan  
P.O. Box 360  
Kirkland, AZ 86332

Dear Rex and Ruth:

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

**220 Adult Cattle from June 15 to November 15, 2009**

**2. Pasture Sequence**

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

Pasture Name	Dates	Number of Days
Grey/Dutch Kid	6/15 – 7/16	32
South Allen/Ryberg*	7/17 – 8/22	37
East Volunteer	8/23 – 9/21	30
West Volunteer	9/22 – 10/21	30
North Allen	10/22 – 11/15	25
<b>Horse Hill</b>	<b>RESTED</b>	<b>0</b>
		<b>Total Days</b>   <b>154</b>

\*Consider grazing these pastures together because of the small size of Ryberg, and because of the increased opportunity for livestock distribution due to the water there.

**If used separately, allow for no more than 20 days of use in Ryberg.**

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**

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**

Permittee expressed interest in constructing a new roadside tank in Section 7 of the Horse Hill Pasture to improve livestock distribution as identified in the 2007 Environmental Analysis and Decision Notice for the Bellemont, Chalender, and Government Prairie Grazing Allotments. Prior to construction activities, the South Zone Archeologist will be notified to ensure heritage resource clearance.

No additional projects have been identified 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

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). See Term Grazing Permit and/or Allotment Management Plan for Use Category details.

Mexican Spotted Owl Protected habitat is found in the Horse Hill, East Volunteer, and West Volunteer pastures. Critical habitat is found in the southwestern portion of the Horse Hill Pasture.

A known Northern Goshawk nest area (cluster of past nest sites) is located within the Allotment.

## 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. A form is included for your use.

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

If Permittees are not familiar with methods of estimating Grazing Intensity, we will arrange for training on an individual or group basis upon request.

### **Contact**

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](mailto: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
<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:

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Notes:

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