



File Code: 2210-1/2230-3

Date: January 28, 2009

Glen Reed
478 W. Edison
Williams, AZ 86046

Dear Glen:

This document contains your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Juan Tank Allotment during the 2009-2010 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 2009-2010 annual validation and billing period will allow for the following period of use with the following numbers allowed:

98* adult cattle (cow/calf): March 1, 2009 – February 28, 2010

* You are authorized to stock 98 adults on March 1. You have stated that you may acquire up to 52 more cattle in the spring/summer. You will need to update your annual validation and pay for those additional cattle before allowing them to graze on the Forest. Your permit allows up to 190 adult cattle.

2. Pasture Sequence

The following is the pasture grazing sequence for the 2009-2010 grazing season:

Juan Tank Allotment (March 1, 2009 – February 28, 2010)

Pasture	Grazing Period	Number of Days
Juan Tank	March 1-15, 2009	15
Button	March 16* – May 17, 2009	63
Sisters	May 18 – October 4, 2009	140
Button	October 5 – December 15**, 2009	72
Juan Tank	December 16, 2009 to February 28, 2010	75

*The move from Juan Tank to Button may be delayed until later in March or April if weather conditions are poor and soils are too wet in Button.

**The move from Button back to Juan Tank may occur sooner in November or December if snow storms create dangerous conditions for the cattle.



Please let your permit administrator know if you need to change the rotation due to weather, soil, and/or forage conditions.

These pasture Grazing Periods and Number of Days in each pasture are estimates, subject to adaptive management. Forage conditions are variable across each allotment and they may change in response to seasonal precipitation and temperature patterns. It may be necessary to change the pasture rotation or the number of days in each pasture. However, it is important for both the Permittee and the Forest Service to notify each other promptly if it appears that changes to this schedule may be necessary. The primary factors that we will be using to adjust this schedule will include: forage production, Grazing Intensity during the grazing season, Utilization at the end of the growing season, water availability, and livestock distribution. It is a permit violation to make changes to the Grazing Schedule without first notifying and receiving approval from the Forest Service.

Livestock are to be actively herded from one pasture to the other. It is the Permittee's responsibility to ensure that all livestock are removed from each pasture within 5 days of the scheduled off date. If the Permittee can not meet this time frame, the Permittee must contact the Forest Service before this period has expired to request an extension. Without this extension, allowing livestock to remain in a pasture after the pasture off date is a permit violation.

During drought periods, livestock will have to rotate through pastures more quickly and/or come off the allotment earlier than planned. The Permittee and/or the Forest Service will measure Grazing Intensity at key areas within each pasture during each Grazing Period. When the average Grazing Intensity across all key areas within a pasture reaches the Allowable Use Standard, livestock will be moved immediately.

The Northern Goshawk is known to occur on the Juan Tank Allotment. Goshawk habitat is found northeast of Holden Lake on the east side of County Road 124 in Sections 24 and 13. Forage and habitat are to be maintained in a healthy condition for goshawk prey species which are small mammals and various birds. Such conditions are generally met if forage utilization in the ponderosa pine forest and the small meadows under 200 feet in width does not exceed 40% in any given area and averages 20% overall.

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 proposed for 2009 –

Clean and seal (with silt) these dirt stock tanks:

Babbitt (#7917)

Doe (#7876)

Dude (#7874)

Signal (#7916)

Tea Cup (#7875)

The Forest Service will obtain archaeology clearances for this work. Work may begin after written clearances are received. Forest Service employees may be available to provide assistance in cleaning several tanks.

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.

Construction projects proposed for 2009 –

Babbitt Lake waterlot fence

Please provide us with GPS coordinates of the proposed fence location, so that we can obtain a Forest Service archaeology clearance. The fence will follow the old alignment of a pre-existing allotment boundary fence. Work may begin after a written clearance is received. Also, please provide us with a list of the materials that you will need, so that we can purchase them, if funds are available.

Grassland/Savannah Restoration –

You provided us with a juniper thinning project proposal in November 2008. A small portion of your proposal includes areas already cleared for thinning in the City Project. Please contact Richard Gonzalez (928-635-5616) if you would like to help with implementation of the City Project. All other areas within your proposal are not currently covered by a NEPA decision. We will try to analyze this project and issue a decision within the next several years. Until that time, no work is permitted outside of the City Project.

4. Livestock Distribution

Grazing Intensity will be more uniform across the pasture if livestock are well distributed. Distribution aids include: water hauls, waterlot control, salt and supplement stations, and herding. Livestock may remain in each pasture during the entire permitted use period if Grazing Intensity does not exceed the Allowable Use Standard throughout the pasture. If the Allowable Use Standard is exceeded in one area of the pasture because you don't move your animals from a preferred location, then livestock must be moved to the next pasture in the rotation or off the allotment. Areas exempt from this requirement are lands within ¼ mile of permanent water sources that are not fenced.

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

Hay may be used only when snow has greatly limited the use of available forage. The same considerations for distribution will apply when feeding hay as given above when using salt and supplements.

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**

The climate in the Southwestern United States is highly variable with periods of below average precipitation and drought (<75% of average precipitation for the period) being relatively common. The Kaibab National Forest needs your help to ensure that any grazing authorized during drought periods does not damage the soil, watershed, vegetation, wildlife forage and cover, and livestock forage. We must ensure that Grazing Intensity and annual Utilization do not exceed Allowable Use Standards specified in Allotment Management Plans (Environmental Assessments) and Annual Operating Instructions.

Leaving an adequate amount of residual vegetation after grazing is always important in order to maintain or improve rangeland health, but it is especially important during and after droughts. Residual vegetation provides cover and litter that improve soil stability and fertility. It also improves water infiltration and soil moisture content. Plant and litter cover moderate the microclimate which improves seedling germination and survival. Leaving at least 50% of the plant canopy allows the plant to build healthy roots, set seed, and survive the drought. Residual vegetation provides forage and cover for wildlife.

As always, Permittees are strongly encouraged to reduce the number of animals stocked during droughts. Allowable Use Standards will be met much earlier in each pasture during the Grazing Period if the drought continues and only a minimal amount of forage is produced. If the Permittee is authorized to stock full numbers, it is likely that livestock will have to move through the pastures more quickly and be removed from the allotment at an earlier date because carrying capacity (i.e. Animal Unit Months (AUMs) available) is reduced during a drought.

The Permittee must reduce the number of AUMs consumed by livestock during a drought. You may choose one of these options in order to reduce AUMs:

- a) Stock full numbers on the usual on-date and exit the allotment earlier
- b) Stock full numbers on a later on-date in order to possibly stay on the allotment for the full permitted Grazing Period

- c) Stock a reduced number of livestock in order to possibly stay on the allotment for the full permitted Grazing Period
- d) A combination of two or the above three options, or
- e) Apply for total non-use for resource protection.

One idea is to base stocking rate on precipitation amount received in the area during the last 12 months. If precipitation is 30% less than average, then the Permittee could stock 30% fewer animals than permitted. The closest reliable National Weather Service station with current precipitation data is the Flagstaff Airport on the internet at www.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=fgz.

In February 2006, the Coconino, Prescott, and Kaibab National Forests issued the directive "Livestock Stocking Strategy During and After Drought." This document contained the following guidelines:

- a) Livestock numbers, season, and use will be matched with forage production and established Utilization guidelines for individual allotments and pastures. Required or voluntary reductions in livestock numbers due to drought conditions will be documented as non-use for range improvement purposes, not for personal convenience.
- b) Livestock use of a pasture will only be authorized when the total forage production from the current and last year's growing season exceeds 100 pounds (dry weight) per acre within the key grazing areas of the pasture. Forage includes all palatable grasses, forbs, and shrubs. If there are no pastures on the allotment that meet this criterion, grazing will not be authorized on the allotment.
- c) Allowable Use levels may need to be adjusted for the season based on the vigor of forage plants in order to minimize or avoid further weakening of plants and plant mortality.
- d) A determination will be made whether water sources are sufficient to support livestock use, and are adequately distributed to avoid over-use in parts of the pasture. Adjustments will need to be made to reduce pasture use where livestock distribution is reduced. If the forage is sufficient, the Permittee may haul water to portable troughs in order to improve livestock distribution.
- e) Over-use of specific resource areas within a pasture, such as riparian areas, wet meadows, etc. will be avoided. Actions that could be taken include: increased herding, strategic placement of salt/supplements/water hauls, temporary fences, or total exclusion from the pasture.
- f) Allotment Management Plan direction for pastures requiring rest or deferment will be followed. Pastures will not be re-grazed during the same grazing season until the forage has had an opportunity to fully recover from the last graze.

6. Allowable Use (Utilization) Guidelines

The Allowable Use Standards for the Juan Tank Allotment are 40% in the key areas (grassland and savanna type) during the dormant season (November 15 through March 14), and 30% during the growing season (March 15 through November 14).

In Northern Goshawk habitat (northeast of Holden Lake on the east side of County Road 124 in Sections 24 and 13), forage utilization will not exceed 40% in any given area and will average 20% overall. A replacement map of Northern goshawk habitat on the allotment will be provided, if requested.

Livestock must be moved to the next pasture or off the allotment when use reaches Conservative Grazing Intensity. Use must not exceed an average of Light Grazing Intensity in Northern Goshawk habitat.

Allowable Use Standards for the allotment were set in the 1995 Allotment Management Plan (AMP). The AMP follows direction described within the 1995 Decision Notice and Environmental Assessment for the allotment.

Management requirements for the Northern Goshawk require that forage and habitat be maintained in a healthy condition for goshawk prey species which are small mammals and various birds. Such conditions are generally met if forage utilization in forested areas and the small meadows under 200 feet in width does not exceed 40% and averages 20%. The permittee will take action so livestock grazing does not exceed these 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.

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.

Grazing Intensity during the grazing season and Percent Forage Utilization at the end of the growing season within each pasture will be closely monitored by the Permittee and by the Forest Service. Allowable Use Standards will be strictly enforced. This monitoring may result in earlier pasture moves than indicated in the Pasture Sequence and may ultimately require an early exit from the allotment.

7. **Grazing Intensity Monitoring and Recordkeeping**

All Permittees can estimate Grazing Intensity by observation in each pasture during the permitted Grazing Period. Grazing Intensity should be estimated in key areas that are located at least ¼ mile away from water or salt/supplement stations. The Permittee may make estimates in several key areas within each pasture where livestock spend the most time. Make estimates on your key forage species, i.e. common palatable species.

All Permittees are encouraged to keep records of Grazing Use and Intensity in each pasture and submit them to their district grazing permit administrator in the middle and at the end of the permitted Grazing Period. 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

Other notes may be recorded, such as precipitation records or observations. A form is included at the end of the AOI.

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

8. **Fire**

Be careful with campfires and branding fires. Pile burning is not permitted.

During periods of critical fire danger the Forest Supervisor may declare a Red Flag Alert or issue other special restrictions. Under these conditions, the building or use of fires, the use of power saws, heavy equipment, vehicles, ATVs, and other motorized equipment may be prohibited on Forest Service land.

Cooperation in the prevention and suppression of fires will be expected as specified in Section 10 of General Provision and Requirements, page 2, of your Term Grazing Permit.

9. **Motor Vehicle Restrictions**

If you need to enter a motor vehicle restricted area, you must have special authorization in the form of an Off-Road Vehicle Permit or specific authorization through your Annual Operating Instructions. Entering a restricted area without authorization is a violation of 36 CFR 261.

The Kaibab National Forest has actively pursued a road closure program for the last several years. This program is aimed at reducing non-essential roads for watershed protection and to decrease disturbance to wildlife. These closures must also be honored by the Permittees.

Additionally, the District policy is to discourage the public from use of vehicles off road. Permittees should also refrain from this practice for resource protection. Please contact the District when off-road vehicle use is anticipated.

The Williams and Tusayan Ranger Districts are currently planning the implementation of the Travel Management Rule, as directed by the Washington and Regional Offices of the Forest Service. The end product of the Travel Management Process will be a map of roads open to public travel. All other roads will be closed to the public and cross country vehicle travel will be prohibited across both districts. Many roads that will not be open to the public may remain open to Forest Service employees and grazing Permittees for administrative purposes. Access for Permittees will be refined during the Travel Management Process and in Annual Operating Instructions. The Travel Management Process is still open for public comment. For more information or to comment, call your district grazing permit administrator or check the Kaibab National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/kai/travelmanagement/index.shtml>.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact Natural Resource Specialist Karlynn Huling at 635-5621 (email - khuling@fs.fed.us) or Range Staff Clare Hydock at (928) 635-5623 (email - chydock@fs.fed.us), or FAX at (928) 635-5680.

Sincerely,

/s/Jeffrey R Waters (for)
MARTIE SCHRAMM
District Ranger

Enclosure

cc: Elizabeth M Otero