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Date: March 2, 2010

RICHARD YOUNGKER & BENNY AJA  
55 RANCH, LLC.  
20912 W. EDITH WAY  
BUCKEYE, AZ 85396

Dear Richard & Benny:

This document contains your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Corva/Double A Allotment for the 2010 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 2010 annual validation and billing period will allow for the following period of use with the following numbers allowed:

**244 Cattle from May 15 to November 7, 2010**

**6 Horses from May 15 to November 15, 2010**

**2. Pasture Sequence**

Pasture Name	Number of Head, Approximate	Dates, Approximate	Number of Days, Approximate
Tin House	25	5/15 – 6/30	47
NE & SW	219	5/15 – 6/30	47
Corva & Middle	244	7/1 – 7/15	15
Orr complex	244	7/16 – 7/30	23
Broken, Supai, Corva & Middle	244	8/1 – 9/30	61
Bridge	244	10/1 – 10/25	15
Horse	244	10/26 – 10/31	9
House & Road	244	11/1 – 11/7	7
	6 Horses*	5/15 – 11/15	185

\* The horses will move between private land & the Forest, spending approximately 6 months on the Forest.

Grazing Periods and Number of Days in each pasture are tentative and subject to adaptive management. It may be necessary to change the pasture rotation and/or the number of days spent in each pasture based on the amount of available forage and/or water, grazing intensity, forage utilization, and livestock distribution. 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. It is a permit violation to make changes to the Grazing Schedule without first notifying and receiving approval from the Forest Service.



### **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.

The permittee has requested and received written authorization (via this AOI) to work on the following earthen tanks:

Tin House #7715	Peters #7736	Upper Sandstone #7988	Lost #7858
Dog #8206	Steiger #7863	Top #8393	Sereno #7915

All equipment work is to remain within the original confines of each tank, and is not to be expanded. Tanks may be cleaned to whatever depth is possible, but under no circumstances are they to be widened.

Excavated material is to be placed around the dike and tank and compacted sufficiently so that the tank is left with a ‘finished’ look to it. The spillways are to be left at their original height.

The other earthen tanks you have requested to work on need heritage surveys; we will let you know when these are completed (Big, Bridge, Mountain, Section 2, and Welch 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.

If outside funding is acquired for the pipeline project, construction may begin in 2010 but only if heritage clearances are completed.

#### **4. Livestock Distribution**

Grazing Intensity may be more uniform across the pasture if livestock are well distributed. Distribution aids include: water hauls, waterlot control, salt and supplement stations, and 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 are not in Mexican Spotted Owl protected or restricted habitat
- g) 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. Permittees are encouraged to use weed-free hay. 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**

Permittees are strongly encouraged to voluntarily reduce the number of animals during drought periods. 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 during drought periods, 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.

## **6. Utilization Guidelines**

The utilization guideline for the Corva/Double A is to allow up to 40% use by livestock and/or wildlife at the end of the cattle grazing season. This is equivalent to conservative intensity, which is measured before the end of the growing season and is used in determining when livestock will move to the next pasture in the rotation, in combination with other factors such as weather patterns, potential for plant regrowth, and past utilization levels. Livestock would move to the next pasture when grazing intensity approaches a conservative level (40%) before August 30. The pasture will not be grazed again during the same grazing season.

Management requirements for the Mexican Spotted Owl and the Northern Goshawk require that forage and habitat be maintained in a healthy condition for owl and goshawk prey species (small mammals and various birds). The permittee will take action so livestock grazing does not exceed use levels in these areas. 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.

### 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.

## 7. Grazing Intensity Monitoring and Recordkeeping

Permittees are encouraged to estimate and record Grazing Intensity 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 in areas that are preferred by livestock. A form is included for your use.

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

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact Range Staff Clare Hydock at 928/635-5623, 928/606-1265 cell, email [chydock@fs.fed.us](mailto:chydock@fs.fed.us); or FAX us at (928) 635-5680.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure

cc: Elizabeth M Otero