

File Code: 2210-1/2230-3

Date:

FRANK MCNELLY
721 W. SHERMAN AVENUE
WILLIAMS, AZ 86046

Dear Frank:

This document contains your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Homestead, Davenport, and Ebert Allotments during the 2010-2011 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 2010-2011 annual validation and billing period will allow for the following period of use with the following numbers:

1. **Homestead Allotment** – 125 adult cattle (cow/calf), May 1 – October 31, 2010
2. **Davenport Allotment** – 145 adult cattle (cow/calf), May 16 – October 31, 2010
3. **Ebert Allotment** – 104 adult cattle (cow/calf), November 1, 2010 – April 30, 2011

2. Pasture Sequence

Homestead Allotment – 184 days

Pasture	Grazing Period	Number of Days
Hardy	May 1 to June 30	61
Clark	July 1 to August 30	61
White House	August 31 to October 31	62
Indian	REST	0

Davenport Allotment – 169 days

Pasture	Grazing Period	Number of Days
Chalender	May 16 to June 19	35
Depot*	June 20 to July 3	14
Boxcar Hill*	July 4 to August 12	40
Fix	August 13 to September 7	26
Butler*	September 8 to October 17	40
Fix	October 18 to October 31	14

*As stated in the 2004 environmental assessment for the Davenport Allotment, “livestock grazing use within the pastures that contain Dry Lake (Butler Pasture), Davenport Lake (Depot and Fix Pastures), and Depot Lake (Depot Pasture) will occur only when standing water has left these ephemeral lakes, for a period of 10 days.” Due to a pasture split, Davenport Lake is now in a new pasture called Boxcar Hill. Depot Lake is often called Dry Lake on topographic maps. If the lakes (i.e. wetlands) identified above have standing water on them when their scheduled time periods occur, use of other pastures outside of this schedule may be required to attain environmental assessment goals.



Ebert Allotment (November 1, 2010 – April 30, 2011) – 181 days

Pasture	Grazing Period	Number of Days
Fix	November 1 to January 4	65
White Hills	January 5 to March 5	60
Miller Wash	March 6 to April 30	56
Dave's	REST	0

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 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 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.

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.

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.

2010 Maintenance Projects:

- 1) The Permittee would like to seal Old Hardy Tank (#2465) with bentonite. The Forest Service will provide the bentonite. Written authorization must be obtained before the work may proceed.
- 2) The permittee would like to fix the spillway on Log Tank. Written authorization must be obtained before the work may proceed.

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.

Proposed New Range Improvements for 2010+

- 1) The permittee would like to construct a waterlot fence and a permanent water haul station in the NW quarter of Section 28 in the south end of the Clark Pasture in order to serve the Clark, White House, and Hardy Pastures of the Homestead Allotment. *This new improvement may not be constructed without NEPA analysis.* The project will be added to the NEPA work list and will be analyzed when staff time and funding are available. The permittee may hire a consultant to perform the NEPA analysis in order to expedite the process, if desired.
- 2) The FS will construct a permanent fence to replace the electric fence surrounding Dry Lake in the Butler Pasture of the Davenport Allotment. It will be constructed with a strong top cable that cannot be easily broken by elk. It will include a lane to the earthen tank with a gate for cattle access. The permittee could design this fence. The FS will provide the materials. The permittee and the FS will coordinate on who will do the construction. *Written authorization must be obtained before the work may proceed.*
- 3) The FS will construct/reconstruct fences in the Fix Pasture in order to protect North Davenport Lake from heavy grazing and cattle use when the soil is wet. The fence will contain a lane to the earthen tank with gates for cattle access. The fences will be constructed with strong top cables that cannot be easily broken by elk. The permittee and the FS will coordinate on how to construct these fences and who will do the work. The FS will provide the materials. *Written authorization must be obtained before the work may proceed.*
- 4) The permittee would like to construct a waterlot around Magnuson Tank and a new allotment boundary fence section in that area to separate the Davenport Lake and Sitgreaves Allotments. Magnuson Tank became part of the Davenport Lake Allotment as directed by the 2004 EA. *Written archaeology clearance must be obtained before the work may proceed. Please call us to schedule a time when an archaeologist can go out with you to map and survey the location of the new fence.*
- 5) The permittee is interested in removing some encroaching juniper trees from grasslands and savannahs on the Homestead Allotment. *This work may not proceed without NEPA analysis.* The permittee will provide the FS with locations of where he would like to work. The FS will try to add these locations to a district-wide grassland restoration project that could be analyzed in FY 2011 or FY 2012. The permittee may hire a consultant to perform the NEPA analysis in order to expedite the process, if desired.

- 6) The permittee would like to construct a water pipeline from Fix Tank (#1915) to Big Tank (#2481) on the Ebert Allotment. Currently, the permittee hauls water by truck from Fix Tank in order to fill Big Tank and the Ebert Pipeline (#2480). A supply pipeline would reduce the need for water hauling during the winter when the roads are wet and easily damaged. This new improvement may not be constructed without NEPA analysis. The project will be added to the NEPA work list and will be analyzed when staff time and funding are available. The permittee may hire a consultant to perform the NEPA analysis in order to expedite the process, if desired.

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 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. You are encouraged to use only **Certified 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

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.

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 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

The Allowable Use Standard for the **Homestead Allotment** is 40% in the key areas. Livestock must be moved to the next pasture or off the allotment when use reaches Moderate Grazing Intensity (May 1 to August 15) or Conservative Grazing Intensity (August 16 to October 31).

The Allowable Use Standards for the **Davenport Allotment** are 30% in the grassland key areas and 20% in Mexican Spotted Owl (MSO) restricted habitat. Livestock must be moved to the next pasture or off the allotment when use reaches Conservative Grazing Intensity in the grassland key areas and Light Grazing Intensity in MSO habitat.

Mexican Spotted Owl Restricted Habitat is found in the Davenport Allotment on Beacon Hill in the Chalender Pasture and on Boxcar Hill and a no name hill (south of Boxcar Hill and north of the RR) in the Boxcar Hill Pasture.

Northern Goshawk habitat (territory or home range) is found in the Davenport Allotment on Dude Mountain, along Dogtown Wash, and on a no name hill west of Dry Lake in the Butler Pasture.

The Allowable Use Standards for the **Ebert Allotment** are 50% in the key areas during the dormant season and 35% during the growing season. Livestock must be moved to the next pasture or off the allotment when use reaches Moderate Grazing Intensity.

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 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 the Forest Service. 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

Permittees are encouraged to estimate 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 1/4 mile away from water or salt/supplement stations. 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 attached to this AOI.*

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.

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 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:

Notes:

