



File Code: 2230-3/2210-1

Date: May 3, 2010

JOSEPH & TAMMY AUZA  
PO BOX 10008  
CASA GRANDE, AZ 85230

Dear Joseph and Tammy:

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

**140 rams from June 1 to July 15, 2010**

**4,160 sheep (ewes) from May 1 to October 31, 2010**

The sheep will be split into two bands divided among a combination of pastures. Both bands are to remain in the higher elevation portions of the allotment and are prohibited from the pastures below the rim (the far west side pastures), until an assessment by the Forest Service determines the forage resources have sufficiently recovered from the previous year's use.

**Pastures to be deferred from grazing in May and June are: Perrin (North, East, and South), Meath, Bull Trap, and the far west sides of the North Winter and South Winter pastures; in effect, any area directly to the south and west of the Hat Ranch headquarters at Perrin Tank.** Once authorized to graze there, use will be limited to no more than 30 days, and/or when forage utilization reaches 20%.

### **2. Pasture Sequence**

Band #1 will begin in the South Winter Pasture on Forest Road 4 and immediately move to the upper elevations, rotating through the following pastures in either a clockwise or counter-clockwise pattern: South/North Winter (upper elevations only), Dutch Kid, T-Y, and South Snyder. During this period, we will assess the lower elevation pastures for use.

Band #2 may begin in either the North Snyder or DT 36 Pasture and rotate either clockwise or counter-clockwise through: Sevier, Bear Tank, North Coleman, and South Coleman.

All sheep are to be actively herded through the grazing units, and are not allowed to bed in the same area for more than 3 days in a row. **At no time are sheep permitted to water or graze within the Coleman Lake enclosure.**



It may be necessary to change the grazing rotation or the number of days in each area based on pasture conditions. 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.

### **3. Forage Utilization Guidelines**

The Forage Utilization Guidelines for the Hat Allotment are 35% in the uplands, and 20% in Mexican Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk habitats.

Livestock must be moved to the next grazing area (or off the allotment) when use in areas outside Mexican Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk habitat reaches Conservative Grazing Intensity (30-40%).

Utilization is limited to an average of 20% in Mexican Spotted Owl Protected or Restricted Habitat and Northern Goshawk Territories. Within the specified habitat for these two birds, livestock must be moved to another part of the grazing area, to the next grazing area, or off the allotment when use reaches Light Grazing Intensity (all year).

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. 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.

### **4. Range Improvements**

The Permittee must follow the Heavy Equipment Policy before starting any work that involves soil disturbance (refer to letter dated December 18, 2008).

#### **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 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.

### Projects Identified for 2010

The Forest Service will be providing a list of earthen tanks that you will be authorized to work on, should they need it. These tanks have heritage as well as other clearances. You will need to prioritize tanks not on this list in order for us to initiate the clearance process.

### Construction or Reconstruction of Range Improvements

At the time of this writing no projects have been identified.

## **5. Livestock Distribution**

Grazing Intensity will be more uniform across the area if the sheep are well distributed. Sheep may remain in each grazing area as long as Grazing Intensity does not exceed the Forage Utilization Guidelines. Areas exempt from this requirement are lands within ¼ mile of permanent water sources that are not fenced.

The following requirements apply to the use of salt and supplements:

- Place salt in portable containers, rather than directly on the ground, in order to protect the soil.
- Remove the salt and supplements when the livestock leave the pasture.
- Place portable water troughs and salt/supplement stations in these locations:
- At least ¼ **mile away** from permanent water
- Areas of light forage Utilization. Move the water or salt/supplement when the Allowable Use Standard has been met.
- Different sites than were used last year.
- On soils that are not fragile or eroding.
- On sites that are not in wetlands or drainages.
- On sites that are not in Mexican Spotted Owl protected or restricted habitat.
- On sites that do not have populations of rare plants (including Tusayan/disturbed rabbitbrush), if known.

## **6. Drought Management**

Permittees are strongly encouraged to reduce the number of animals stocked during droughts. Forage Utilization will be met much earlier 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.

## **7. Grazing Intensity Monitoring and Recordkeeping**

Permittees are encouraged to estimate and record Grazing Intensity and Actual Use in each grazing area 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. If you are not familiar with methods of estimating Grazing Intensity, we can arrange for training.

Data to collect include: pasture/grazing area name, dates of actual use, number of livestock, approximate location of key area, Grazing Intensity class, and date of observation.

## **8. Fire**

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

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please contact Rangeland Management Specialist Clare Hydock at 928/635-5623 office, email [chydock@fs.fed.us](mailto:chydock@fs.fed.us); or me at 635-5630, email - [mschramm@fs.fed.us](mailto:mschramm@fs.fed.us)), or FAX us 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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