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Date: May 7, 2010

JOE AUZA SHEEP COMPANY  
PO BOX 10008  
CASA GRANDE, AZ 85230

Dear Joe:

This document contains your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Beaverhead-Grief Hill Sheep Driveway, and the Big Springs, Cowboy Tank, Squaw Mountain, and Twin Tanks allotments 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 2010 annual validation and billing period will allow for the following period of use with the following numbers allowed:

- Beaverhead-Grief Hill: 2,000 sheep from May 1 to May 31, 2010
- Big Springs Allotment: 2,000 sheep (ewes) from June 1 to September 30, 2010  
50 sheep (rams) from June 1 to June 30, 2010
- Cowboy Tank Allotment: 1,016 sheep (ewes) from May 21 to October 10, 2010  
30 sheep (rams) from June 1 to July 15, 2010
- Squaw Mountain Allotment: 2,032 sheep (ewes) from May 21 to October 20, 2010  
60 sheep (rams) from June 1 to July 15, 2010
- Twin Tanks Allotment: 1,025 sheep (ewes) from May 21 to October 20, 2010  
30 sheep (rams) from June 11 to July 11, 2010

All sheep are to be actively herded within each grazing unit and from one grazing unit to the next. Sheep are not permitted to bed down for more than 3 consecutive days in any one area.



## 2. Pasture Sequence – Counterclockwise Rotations

### **Big Springs Allotment\***

1	KA Hill
2	Buck Springs
3	Big Springs
4	Pancho Viejo Tank
5	Deadhorse
6	McDonald Spring

\*At no time are sheep allowed to graze, water, or bed down Big Springs Wash.

### **Cowboy Tank Allotment**

1	Cowboy Tank
2	Horse Trap Hill
3	Little Boulin
4	Laws Trick Tank

### **Squaw Mountain**

1	Squaw Mountain
2	Backward Tank
3	Red Hill
4	Horse Lake
5	Marteen Lake

### **Twin Tanks Allotment**

1	Little Squaw Mountain
2	Boulin Trick Tank
3	Locust Tank
4	Twin Tanks
5	Boulin

These grazing sequences are estimates, subject to adaptive management. 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.

## 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.

#### 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.

**No specific maintenance or new construction projects have been identified at the time of this writing.**

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

Livestock distribution may be improved by using water hauls, waterlot controls, salt and supplement stations, and herding. Livestock are to be actively herded from one area to the next.

The following requirements apply to portable water hauling:

- a) Coordinate with your grazing permit administrator prior to the grazing period to identify portable water haul locations.
- 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 area.

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 area.

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

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 numbers of animals during drought periods. If the Permittee is authorized to stock full numbers during drought periods, livestock may have to move through the allotment more quickly and be removed from the allotment at an earlier date because carrying capacity (i.e. Animal Unit Months (AUMs) available) is reduced due to low forage production.

#### **6. Allowable Use (Utilization) Guidelines**

Allowable Use Standards for every Allotment are set at 40% in the grasslands and 20% in the uplands.

The 20% Allowable Use Standard means you are limited to an average of: Light Grazing Intensity. This applies to specific types of habitat for Mexican Spotted Owls (found on Twin Tanks) and Northern Goshawks (known to occur in the Big Springs Allotment). In the remainder of the areas, the maximum Grazing Intensity will be conservative or moderate, depending upon the time of year.

The 35- 40% Allowable Use Standard means you are limited to a maximum of: Conservative Grazing Intensity – from September 1 to March 15, and Moderate Grazing Intensity -- from March 16 to August 30

These grazing intensity categories can be exceeded in limited areas where livestock concentrate:  
a) within 1/4 mile of water developments (including temporary water hauls) and salt and supplement stations; and b) within 1/10 mile of pasture gates.

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 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.

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

Permittees are encouraged to estimate and record Grazing Intensity and Actual Use in each 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, and that are preferred by livestock within each grazing area.

Data to collect include: grazing area name, dates of actual use, type and class of livestock, number of livestock, approximate location of key area, Grazing Intensity class, and 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 at (928) 635-5680.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Clare Hydock (for)*  
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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