



File Code: 2230-3/2210-1

Date: June 4, 2010

MR. JOE AUZA
PO BOX 10008
CASA GRANDE, AZ 85230

Dear Joe:

This document contains your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Government Mountain Allotment during the 2010 grazing season (map enclosed). You are authorized to use this allotment with permitted livestock from the Cowboy Tank Allotment while it is rested. This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as indicated in part three of your permit.

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:

1,016 sheep (ewes) from June 1 to August 31, 2010
30 sheep (rams) from June 1 to July 15, 2010

If conditions improve on the Cowboy Tank Allotment you may return there for the remainder of the season (September 1 to October 20).

Pasture Use

The following pastures are available for the 2010 grazing season:

Pasture Name	Number of Days
Southwest	13
Northwest	13
Red Tank North	13
Red Tank South	13
Newman North	13
Newman South	13
Antelope North	13
Total Days	91
Antelope South	RESTED

Sheep are not permitted to bed down for more than 3 days in any one area.



The Spring Valley Pasture is being used by another permittee with cattle, and therefore sheep will not be permitted there. The Antelope South Pasture is scheduled for a prescribed burn later this year and will be rested to allow for a more continuous fuel load.

Two Gun Dog Clubs will be hosting events in the Red Tank area from June 4-7, and June 11-14. They are not permitted to camp within ¼ mile of the tank or interfere with grazing operations. You are not to interfere with their events.

It may be necessary to change the pasture rotation or the number of days in each pasture. 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.

Range Improvements

The Permittee must follow the Heavy Equipment Policy before starting any work that involves soil disturbance.

Maintenance of Range Improvements

Minor fence maintenance is expected of you as a privilege of being able to use another allotment.

Construction of Temporary Range Improvements

You must contact this office at least 3 weeks in advance of constructing any temporary improvements such as portable corrals, handling chutes, or waters. Without authorization from this office, no temporary facilities are permitted.

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 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, if known

Drought Management

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.

Allowable Use (Utilization) Guidelines

Allowable Use Standards for the Government Mountain Allotment are set at 35% in the grasslands and 20% in the uplands.

The 20% Allowable Use Standard means you are limited to an average of: Light Grazing Intensity – all year. This applies to specific types of habitat for Mexican Spotted Owls and Northern Goshawks. The Allotment has two Protected Activity Centers and habitat for the owls. (A map will be provided, if requested.) In the remainder of the pasture, the maximum Grazing Intensity will be conservative or moderate, depending upon the time of year.

The 35% 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

The average growing season for the Williams Districts is:

March 15 - August 30: early to middle part of growing season; adequate re-growth is possible* after grazing. * *Adequate re-growth is not guaranteed during drought years.*

September 1 – November 15: end of growing season; not enough time for adequate re-growth after grazing

November 16 – March 14: dormant season; minimal to no growth

Light Grazing Intensity:

Approximately equal to a maximum of 20% Utilization (grazing and trampling) of forage standing crop (current and previous years' growth) at the end of the growing season (November 15).

The range appears practically undisturbed. Only good forage plants and areas show use.

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 (80% or more of stalks remain).

Good forage plants are topped or slightly used.

Young plants are little disturbed.

No use of poor forage plants.

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.

Moderate Grazing Intensity:

Approximately equal to a maximum of 50% Utilization (grazing and trampling) of forage standing crop (current and previous years' growth) at the end of the growing season (November 15).

Most of the accessible range shows some use.

Areas between 1 mile to 1 1/2 miles from water show some use.

There is little evidence of livestock trailing to forage.

Good forage plants have some seed stalks left (15-25% of stalks remain).

About 1/2 to 2/3 of the good forage plants show some use.

Some young plants show damage.

Less than 10% of the poor forage plants are utilized.

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.

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 when possible 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.

Grazing Intensity Monitoring and Recordkeeping

All Permittees should estimate Grazing Intensity by observation in each pasture during the permitted Grazing Period. Grazing Intensity shall be estimated in key areas that are located at least 1/4 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 shall 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, number of livestock, approximate location of key area, Grazing Intensity class, and date of observation.

Other notes may be recorded, such as precipitation records or observations. If you are not familiar with methods of estimating Grazing Intensity, we will arrange for training.

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.

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 Range Staff Clare Hydock at 928/635-5623, 928/606-1265 cell, email chydock@fs.fed.us; or FAX at (928) 635-5680.

Sincerely,

/s/ Martie Schramm
MARTIE SCHRAMM
District Ranger