



File Code: 2210/2230

Date: January 26, 2012

Curt Wells
P.O. Box 4320
Chino Valley, AZ 86323

Dear Curt:

This document contains your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Partridge Creek Allotment during the 2011-2012 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:

230 adult cattle: November 25, 2011 – May 23, 2012

2. Pasture Assignments

Cattle will be assigned to the following pastures with the following numbers:

Pasture	Livestock Numbers (approximate)
Big Aso	40
Indian and	40
Little Aso	75
South	75
Total	230

Cattle are to be scattered within each pasture, including the uplands of each. If this cannot be accomplished by the Permittee, we will amend this AOI and require the cattle to be placed into a single herd to move between pastures. **You may be required to consolidate all livestock into a single herd prior to the onset of the 2012 growing season to promote early season growth in portions of the allotment. Please contact the Forest Service prior to the onset of the growing season to discuss consolidation alternatives.**

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. Allowable Use (Utilization) Guidelines

The Allowable Use Standards for the Partridge Creek Allotment in the key areas (grasslands and savannahs) are 30% during the growing season (March 15 – November 15) and 40% during the dormant season (November 16 – March 14). For this allotment, cattle will be moved to another pasture or off of the allotment when use reaches Conservative Grazing Intensity (40%).

4. 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 for the entire grazing period if Grazing Intensity does not exceed the Allowable Use Standard. 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, supplements, hay*, and/or water hauls (**the Permittee is encouraged to use certified weed-free hay*):

- Place in areas of light utilization, at least ¼ mile away from permanent water, and at different sites from the previous year.
- Place salt in portable containers, rather than directly on the ground, in order to protect the soil.
- Place on soils that are not fragile or eroding and on sites that are not in wetlands or drainages.
- Remove salt, supplements, hay, and water hauls when livestock leave the pasture.

Gates in waterlot fences will be left open for wildlife, unless closed on a temporary basis to facilitate cattle distribution in the pasture.

5. Range Improvements

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

Maintenance of Range Improvements –

Range improvements assigned to you need to be inspected and problems found corrected on a yearly basis. All fences must be maintained to standard before livestock enter a pasture. You 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.

The Forest Service has provided the Permittee with bentonite clay for earthen tank sealing. The bentonite clay should be placed in the tanks as conditions become appropriate (e.g. tanks dry out). The Permittee must adhere to the Heavy Equipment Policy prior to any such projects.

- **Maintenance projects for 2012**

Seal the following tanks with bentonite: Lower Cedar (#7822), Blue Cow (#7655), Quarry (#7664), Indian (#7814), Yellow Cow (#7827).

Reconstruction of Range Improvements –

The 1995 AMP for Partridge Creek identified six waterlots that need to be reconstructed at existing tanks: Costello (#7820), Indian (#7814), Punk (#7825), Heifer (#7826), Quarry (#7664).

*Please contact the Forest Service by **February 6, 2012**, with your priorities and a timeline for reconstruction of these waterlots. Also, please have dates in mind to meet in the field to look at what fences you wish to reconstruct, as previously discussed.

6. Travel Management

The Travel Management Rule (TMR) has been implemented on the Williams and Tusayan Ranger Districts of the Kaibab National Forest. Implementation of the TMR will require active management of all motorized use, including that related to permitted grazing activities. Motorized travel off the designated road system by grazing permit holders should be based on need related to carrying out required management practices. Legitimate motorized use, including cross-country access, needed for conducting activities required under Term Grazing Permits will be authorized unless compelling natural and/or heritage resource issues are evident.

Any unplanned or emergency type travel not previously contemplated in the Term Grazing Permit will be discussed with appropriate authorization and guidance established in the AOI. If access is required in a motor vehicle restricted area or on a closed road, you must have special authorization in the form of an Off-Road Vehicle Permit or specific authorization through your AOI.

7. Drought Management

Permittees are strongly encouraged to reduce the number of animals stocked during droughts. Allowable Use Standards will be met much earlier if drought continues and only a minimal amount of forage is produced. If 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.

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, ATV's, 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. Grazing Intensity Monitoring and Recordkeeping

All Permittees are encouraged to 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, type and class of livestock, 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 can arrange for some training.

Contact

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please contact Rangeland Management Specialists Clare Hydock at 635-5623, 606-1264 cell, chydock@fs.fed.us; or Kerri Lange at 635-5621, kdlange@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Martie Schramm
MARTIE SCHRAMM
District Ranger