



File Code: 2230

Date: December 13, 2012

Mr. Flint Wright  
Seven HL Wright Cattle Co., LLC  
4268 N 1900 E  
Buhl, ID 83316

Dear Mr. Wright:

This document serves as your 2012/2013 Winter Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Windmill Allotment. This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, section 8(a).

**I. AUTHORIZED LIVESTOCK NUMBERS/PERIOD OF USE**

On February 15, 2012 the 2012 Authorized Use Request was approved for the Foxboro Unit of the Windmill allotment. On September 27, 2012 your 2012 Authorized Use Request was approved for the 2012/2013 winter use period on the Cornville Unit of the Windmill allotment. You are authorized the following Livestock Numbers and Periods of Use for the winter grazing period:

250 Cattle (Adult); Foxboro Unit	March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2013
75 Cattle (Adult); Cornville Unit	November 1, 2012 to February 15, 2013

Additionally, Non-use has been authorized for 25 head of adult cattle on the Cornville Unit from November 1, 2012 to February 28, 2013. This authorization is granted under the category of resource protection.

Any changes to the 2012 authorized livestock numbers will require that you file an additional Authorized Use Request. Be advised that the Forest Service will need a minimum of 45 days to assess resource conditions and process a supplemental grazing bill for additional livestock. Please contact your Rangeland Management Specialist prior to making any decisions regarding increased livestock numbers.

**II. PLANNED GRAZING SCHEDULE/LIVESTOCK NUMBERS**

The following tables indicate the planned grazing sequence and planned livestock numbers for the 2012/2013 winter grazing period. The pasture move dates and livestock numbers shown are as planned and may need to be amended based on actual conditions. The livestock numbers shown for the 2013 grazing year (indicated by \*) have not been authorized and may need to be amended based on resource conditions. Authorized livestock numbers for the 2013 grazing year will be determined by February 15, 2013.



Additionally, the Holly Springs and Well pastures contain only State Trust land. The planned grazing period and planned livestock numbers shown in the table (indicated by\*\*) do not require Forest Service authorization and may be amended at the discretion of the permittee and/or the Arizona State Land Department.

**FOXBORO UNIT**

<b>PASTURE NAME</b>	<b>PLANNED GRAZE PERIOD</b>	<b>PLANNED LIVESTOCK NUMBERS</b>
<b>Main Cow Herd</b>		
Jacks Point	10/22/12 to 12/5/12	225
Jacks Canyon	12/6/12 to 12/26/12	225
Woodland	12/27/12 to 1/3/13	225
Beaverhead North/South	1/4/13 to 1/19/13	225
Indian Point	1/20/13 to 2/9/13	225
House Mountain	2/10/13 to 3/26/13	225*
Indian Point (+25 Bulls from Cornville pasture)	3/27/13 to 4/15/13	250*
Beaverhead North/South	4/16/13 to 4/30/13	250*
Woodland	5/1/13 to 5/4/13	250*
Jacks Canyon	5/5/13 to 5/14/13	250*
Arts Tank/Schnebly	5/15/13 to 5/31/13	250*
<b>Bull Herd</b>		
Cornville	10/23/12 to 12/23/12	17
State	12/24/12 to 1/31/13	17
Cornville	2/1/13 to 3/26/13	25

**CORNVILLE UNIT**

<b>PASTURE NAME</b>	<b>PLANNED GRAZE PERIOD</b>	<b>PLANNED LIVESTOCK NUMBERS</b>
<b>Cow/Heifer Herd</b>		
Well (State Trust land) **	10/20/12 to 12/20/12 **	35 **
Sheepshead	12/21/12 to 2/3/13	35
Holly Springs (State Trust land) **	2/4/13 to 3/20/13 **	35 **
Well (State Trust land) **	3/21/13 to 5/31/13 **	35 **

**Rested Pastures for the 2012/2013 Winter grazing season:**

White Flat

With the exception of the Holly Springs and Well pastures, changes from the planned grazing schedule, or changes in planned livestock numbers, will be made only with Forest Service approval. The planned use period in a pasture may be shortened or lengthened depending on

forage availability and seasonal utilization in key areas. Additionally, adjustments in the planned livestock numbers may be necessary depending on weather and resource conditions.

Livestock pasture moves will be completed within a ten (10) day period and livestock will be actively herded from one pasture to the other. It is imperative that once a pasture move occurs, the livestock remain within the designated pasture. For various reasons (i.e. pasture gates left open, cattleguards not maintained, cut fences, etc.), cattle may stray from the designated pasture. Preventing livestock from grazing adjacent allotments, your allotment's rested pastures, or regrazing previously used pastures is the permittee's responsibility.

### **III. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT**

Drought is an inevitable occurrence in the southwestern United States. Both the Forest Service and grazing permittees must plan for drought as a normal part of management. During periods of drought, the following management actions may be necessary:

- Stocking levels may need to be reduced. Reductions may be necessary prior to the permitted season of use and/or during the permitted season of use.
- Season of use may need to be shortened. Depending on the severity of the drought and the stocking level, a reduced grazing season may be necessary.
- Pasture use periods may need to be shortened. Pastures will not be regrazed during the same grazing season and this may ultimately result in an early exit from the allotment.
- Utilization and/or seasonal utilization (grazing intensity) standards may need to be reduced. Depending on the severity of the drought and the stocking level, reduced utilization standards will likely result in shortened pasture use periods and may ultimately result in an early exit from the allotment.
- Lack of livestock water, or poor distribution of livestock water, may result in reduced pasture/allotment use periods. Depending on forage conditions, this effect may be mitigated by hauling water to temporary livestock watering facilities.
- Allotment Management Plan direction for pastures requiring rest or deferment will be followed. Livestock use of planned rested pastures due to drought will not be authorized.

### **IV. GRAZING STRATEGY**

#### **Foxboro Unit**

Pastures within this unit are generally grazed by the main cow herd; bulls are usually added to the cow herd in mid to late March. Graze livestock in a rotational grazing system for the seven month winter grazing period. Livestock will begin their move to the summer pastures approximately mid to late May. The management of livestock pasture moves in this Unit will continue to be based upon allowable forage utilization standards.

#### **Cornville Unit**

Forest Service pastures within this unit (White Flat, Sheepshead) are generally grazed by a combination of adult cattle and yearlings. Graze livestock in a deferred rotation grazing system for a portion of the seven month winter grazing period; provide rested pastures when

possible. The management of livestock pasture moves within these pastures will continue to be based upon allowable forage utilization standards.

The Holly Springs and Well pastures contain only State Trust land. The grazing management strategy for these pastures will be determined by the permittee and/or the Arizona State Land Department.

## **V. ALLOWABLE UTILIZATION STANDARDS**

### Upland and Non-Riparian Areas

The maximum allowable level of utilization on herbaceous and non-riparian woody vegetation is 50%. This allowable use level is the utilization level permitted by both livestock and wildlife. Utilization is defined as the proportion or degree of current year's forage production by weight that is consumed or destroyed by animals. It is a comparison of the amount of herbage left with the amount of herbage produced during the year. Utilization will be measured at the end of growing season when the total annual production can be accounted for and the effects of grazing in the whole management unit can be assessed. If use levels in key areas exceed the maximum allowable utilization level before livestock enter a pasture, the pasture will not be used.

### Riparian Areas

Livestock utilization of woody vegetation in riparian areas may not exceed 20%.

## **VI. SEASONAL UTILIZATION**

A light to moderate seasonal utilization guideline of 21% to 50% will be used within grazed pastures on the allotment. Seasonal utilization is defined as the amount of herbage removed through grazing or trampling during the grazing period. Seasonal utilization will be measured at the end of each pasture's livestock grazing period.

The seasonal utilization guideline will be the primary factor in determining when livestock need to move to the next pasture; but other factors such as climatic conditions, opportunity for plant growth, and previous year's utilization level will also be considered. Annual reductions in the seasonal utilization guideline may be made based on resource conditions.

## **VII. RESOURCE MONITORING**

### Forage Utilization

Forage utilization within each pasture will be monitored and the allowable utilization standards (section IV) will be enforced. This may result in earlier pasture moves than indicated in the Grazing Schedule (section II).

Numerous key areas for forage utilization monitoring have been identified for the Beaver Creek allotment. Key areas are defined as, "...a portion of range, which because of its location, grazing or browsing value, and/or use, serve as an indicative sample of range conditions, trend, or degree of use seasonally. A key area guides the general management of the entire area of which it is a part." Key areas will generally have the following characteristics: they will be approximately 20 to 500 acres in size; they will be located on productive soils with slopes less than 15%; they will have a plant community that is

representative of the larger area; and they will generally be located 0.25 to 1.0 miles away from livestock water sources.

The location of key areas for forage utilization monitoring, key vegetation species, and the specific application to your allotment should be discussed with your Rangeland Management Specialist. Permittee participation in utilization monitoring is encouraged.

#### Permittee Monitoring

The permittee will monitor and document the following items on the enclosed Actual Use and Forage Utilization Monitoring Form: 1) Actual Grazing Period; 2) Actual Livestock Numbers; and 3) Average Utilization of all forage species at two different time periods; just prior to livestock entering the pasture, and immediately after livestock leave the pasture. **It is very important that this monitoring be completed during the timeframes specified, and that the Actual Use/Forage Utilization Monitoring Form is submitted to your Rangeland Management Specialist at the end of the 2012/2013 winter grazing period.**

### **VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES FOR SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES**

Numerous livestock grazing enclosures exist within the allotment for the protection of threatened, endangered and sensitive species, or their habitat. The permittee will monitor these enclosures when livestock are in the adjacent pasture and will take immediate action to remove livestock from any enclosures they may enter.

### **IX. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS**

#### New Structural Range Improvements

No new range improvements are scheduled for your allotment during the 2012/2013 winter grazing period.

#### Maintenance of Existing Structural Range Improvements

Range improvements assigned to you for maintenance have been identified in red on the permit maps of your term grazing permit. These improvements are to be fully maintained annually to comply with permit requirements (Part 2, section 8i). Any maintenance you perform must conform to the standards specified by your District Rangeland Management Specialist. The grazing permittee is responsible for all maintenance materials, supplies and equipment necessary to properly maintain all range structural improvements. The Forest will replace range structural improvement materials and/or supplies at the end of the improvement's life; when maintenance and repair is no longer feasible to keep the improvement properly maintained and functioning. **Please note that you must notify the District Rangeland Management specialist at least 60 days prior to beginning any maintenance work that requires the use of heavy equipment.**

## **X. SALTING AND PROTEIN BLOCK PRACTICES**

Proper salt and protein block location can be a good tool to aid in livestock distribution and they will be used in a manner to spread livestock utilization throughout the pasture. The following guidelines will be used when placing salt and protein blocks:

1. In general, salt and protein blocks should not be placed within ¼ mile of water.
2. Salt and protein blocks will not be placed in areas of depleted range, erosive soils, or sensitive plant or animal species.
3. No more than three blocks (50 lb. blocks) of salt/protein will be placed at any location at any one time.
4. Salt/protein will not be placed at the same location twice during the same grazing season.
5. The use of portable salt/protein block containers is encouraged but not mandatory.

## **XI. PORTABLE WATER HAULING**

Temporary sites for portable haul water may be needed and should be used as necessary to assist in livestock distribution. The following requirements will apply to portable haul water locations:

1. Coordinate with the District Rangeland Management Specialist to identify portable water haul locations for individual pastures prior to the grazing period.
2. To aid in livestock distribution, the portable water haul locations should generally be in areas of light forage utilization.
3. Generally, portable water haul locations will not be located at sites used in previous years.
4. Portable water hauls will not be located in areas of depleted range, erosive soils, or sensitive plant or animal species.
5. Portable water haul locations will be moved when the desired forage utilization levels have been reached.
6. Portable haul water storage tanks and troughs will be removed when livestock leave the pasture.

## **XII. FIRE**

Please use caution during all ranch activities that could potentially start a fire. All ranch vehicles must be equipped with an axe, shovel, and water bucket. All open camp and branding fires require a ten foot fire ring cleared down to mineral soil.

During periods of critical fire danger the Forest Supervisor may declare a Red Flag Alert or issue other special orders. Under these conditions, the building or use of fires, the use of power saws, heavy equipment, ATV's and other motorized equipment may be prohibited on Forest Service land. All Federal, State and Local fire restrictions and regulations must be observed.

Report all fires to the Ranger District Offices at: Flagstaff (928-526-0866), Red Rock (928-282-4119); or to the Coconino National Forest Fire Dispatch Office (928-526-0600).

Cooperation in the reporting, prevention, and suppression of fires will be expected as specified in Part 2, section 10 of your Term Grazing Permit.

### **XIII. MOTOR VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS**

On May 1, 2012, the Coconino National Forest began implementation of the Travel Management Rule. The Travel Management Rule requires the designation of roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use and these routes are identified on the Motor Vehicle Use Map. Implementation of the Travel Management Rule requires active management of all motorized use, including use related to permitted grazing activities. Motorized travel off the designated road system, including off-road access, by grazing permit holders will be based on the need to carry out required management practices necessary to comply with the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit. Examples of required management practices include, but are not limited to: the repair and maintenance of structural range improvements; transport and placement of mineral and protein supplement; herding of livestock; and tending to sick or injured animals. Legitimate motorized use off the designated road system, including off-road access, for conducting activities required under the Term Grazing Permit will be authorized as follows:

1. **For motorized use with ATVs, UTVs, motorcycles, and full-size pickup or smaller vehicles (curb weight less than 8,000 pounds):** Grazing permittee must obtain a grazing allotment specific Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit. Motorized vehicle use off the designated road system will be limited to only that use which is necessary for compliance with the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit.
2. **For motorized use with larger vehicles (curb weight greater than 8,000 pounds or larger than a full-size pickup) or any heavy equipment:** Grazing permittee must obtain a site specific Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit. Motorized vehicle use off the designated road system will be limited to only that use which is necessary for compliance with the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit. To request site specific Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit, the grazing permittee must provide their Rangeland Management Specialist with the project details a minimum of 30 days prior to the proposed starting date for the permit.
3. A copy of the approved Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit must be with the vehicle operator while operating the vehicle off the designated road system.
4. A Permit Placard must be attached to all permitted vehicles while operating off the designated road system.
5. Off-Highway vehicles (ATVs, UTVs, and motorcycles) used for conducting activities required under the Term Grazing Permit must be licensed and permitted in accordance with Arizona State law.

6. The Motor Vehicle Use Map for the Coconino National Forest identifies certain roads as “Roads Open to Highway Legal Vehicles Only”. These roads are open only to motor vehicles licensed under State law for general operation on all public roads within the state. Grazing permittees operating motor vehicles on these roads must comply with the legal requirements. Operating a motor vehicle off the designated road system to avoid the legal requirements of “Roads Open to Highway Legal Vehicles Only” is not permitted.
7. Grazing permittees will utilize motorized vehicles off the designated road system in a manner that will not result in damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, wildlife, heritage, or other forest resources.
8. Failure to comply with the conditions of the Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit may result in the immediate cancellation of the Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit and may result in the issuance of a Notice of Non-Compliance for violation of the terms and conditions of your Term Grazing Permit.

Grazing permittees that do not obtain a Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit are required to operate motorized vehicles only on the designated road system. Operating a motorized vehicle off the designated road system without a valid Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit will result in the immediate issuance of a Notice of Non-Compliance for violating the terms and conditions of your Term Grazing Permit (Part 2, Section 8a). A Notice of Non-Compliance may result in Term Grazing Permit suspension or cancellation proceedings.

#### **XIV. PERMITTEE REVIEW**

On September 27, 2012, Gary Hase, Jr. met with Flint Wright (permittee) and Dusty Trammel (ranch manager) to develop and discuss the 2012/2013 Winter Annual Operating Instructions for the Windmill allotment. The permittee has reviewed and agreed with these instructions.

#### **XV. APPEAL RIGHTS**

Annual Operating Instructions are subject to appeal and review under 36 CFR 251.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact Gary Hase, Jr. at (928) 527-8262.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jennifer Hensiek*  
JENNIFER HENSIEK  
Deputy District Ranger