



File Code: 2210/2230
Date: May 28, 2013

Bruce Johnson
Bar D Cattle Company LLC
9060 West El Cortez Place
Peoria, AZ 85383

Dear Bruce,

This document serves as your 2013 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Beaver Creek Allotment. This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, section 8(a). The grazing schedule below provides direction for cattle grazing on the Beaver Creek Allotment through January 31, 2014 and will be amended after a scheduled meeting in January to provide guidance for livestock grazing for the remaining 2014 grazing year.

I. AUTHORIZED LIVESTOCK NUMBERS/PERIOD OF USE/APPROVED NON-USE

Your 2013 Authorized Use Request has been approved and you are authorized the following Livestock Numbers and Periods of Use:

Beaver Creek Unit:

500 cow/calf
50 bulls

Mar 1 – Feb 28, 2014
Mar 1 – Feb 28, 2014

Landmark Unit:

600 Yearlings

May 15 – Oct 15, 2013

II. GRAZING SCHEDULE

The Annual number of livestock and dates are considered approximate. The actual dates and numbers may change due to many variables. Annual stocking levels (annual authorized livestock numbers and dates) are determined based on current and expected forage production; livestock numbers can and should be adjusted if conditions change, either up or down; but not in excess of the permitted numbers.

Although it was not discussed at our spring meeting there is a need to conduct two AOI meetings each year, this will provide a more accurate number of livestock and use period dates. The grazing schedule addressed in this AOI is from March 1, 2013 to fall when calves are shipped, this will help in determining the dates and numbers of the remaining livestock for the remainder of the grazing year.

The following is the planned grazing sequence of the 2013 grazing schedule:



| PASTURE NAME | PLANNED GRAZING PERIOD | LIVESTOCK NUMBERS |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Beaver Creek Unit | | |
| Deadwood South | Jan 15 – Feb 10 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Old Bull | Feb 10 – Feb 17 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Upper White Mesa | Feb 18 – Mar 11 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Lower White Mesa | Mar 11 – April 1 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Miss Cindy | April 2 – April 9 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Valley North | April 9 – April 16 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Valley South | April 16 – April 26 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Lawrence Crossing/Walker Creek | April 27 – May 2 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Old Bull | May 3 – May 6 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Deadwood North | May 7 – May 28 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Trail | May 28 – June 11 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Burnt Basin | June 12 – June 30 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Tinney North | July 1 – July 18 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Harris | July 19 – July 31 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Pine Ridge | Aug 1 – Aug 13 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Woodland | Aug 14 – Aug 28 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Upper Jack's | Aug 29 – Sept 19 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Happy Jack | Sept 20 – Oct 4 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Shipping 1 | Oct 5 – Oct 12 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Shipping 2 | Oct 13 – Oct 20 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Shipping 3 | Oct 21 – Oct 24 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Bar D | Oct 25 – Nov 4 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Goswick | Nov 5 – Dec 9 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Horse Knoll | Dec 10 – Dec 20 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| New Tank | Dec 20 – Dec 31 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Tinney South | Jan 1 – Jan 14 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Round Up | Jan 15 – Jan 31 | 550 (includes bulls) |
| Landmark Unit | | |
| Landmark Shipping | May 15 – May 21 | 600 yearlings |
| Waldrop/Crossing | May 22 – June 6 | 600 yearlings |
| Landmark South | June 7 – July 19 | 600 yearlings |
| Triangle | July 20 – Aug 30 | 600 yearlings |
| Landmark North | Aug 31 – Oct 11 | 600 yearlings |
| Landmark Shipping | Oct 12 – Oct 15 | 600 yearlings |

Trailing from pastures authorized under the 2013 AOI will be completed within a five (5) day period, where feasible, and livestock will be actively herded from one pasture to the next.

Changes from the grazing schedule 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 utilization in key areas. Livestock pasture moves will be completed within a

five (5) day period, where feasible, and livestock will be actively herded from one pasture to the next. Once a pasture move occurs, cattle are not authorized to graze outside the newly occupied pasture. In the event cattle escape the assigned pasture (i.e. pasture gates left open, cattle guards become filled-in, cut fences, etc.), you will return the cattle to the correct pasture in a timely manner. Preventing livestock from grazing adjacent allotments, rested pastures, or from re-grazing previously used pastures is your responsibility.

Rested (Un-grazed) Pastures for the 2013 Grazing Season

Brady North and South, Antelope, Banfield, Buck Mountain, Hollingshead North and South, and Lower Jack's.

GRAZING STRATEGY

The length of the actual grazing period in each pasture will be determined by the allowable use established for the pasture and monitoring; however, the actual use period will not exceed 45 days per pasture.

III. RESOURCE MONITORING

Allowable Grazing Intensity and Utilization Guidelines

Grazing Intensity

Grazing intensity is defined as the amount of herbage removed through grazing or trampling during the grazing period. Grazing intensity would be managed to allow for the physiological needs of plants. This may result in adjustments to the pasture use schedule as indicated in the Grazing Schedule (section II).

Generally, grazing intensity would be managed at; light levels (0-30%) during the critical growth period of plants. Moderate levels (40-50%) in the early summer months when sufficient opportunity exists for plant re-growth. Conservative levels (30-40%) during mid to late summer to the dormant period when the potential for plant re-growth is limited. Moderate levels (40-50%) in the dormant months when the plants are less vulnerable to grazing.

The length of the actual grazing period in each pasture will be determined by the allowable intensity established for the pasture; as a result, the planned use period in a pasture may be adjusted depending on forage intensity in key areas.

Forage Utilization

Utilization monitoring would occur at the end of the growing season within each of the main grazing pastures. Utilization is defined as the proportion of degree of current years forage production that is consumed or destroyed by animals (including insects). It is a comparison of the amount of herbage left compared with the amount of herbage produced during the year. Utilization is measured at the end of the growing season when the total annual production can be accounted for and the effects of grazing in the whole management unit can

be assessed. Forage utilization within each pasture will be monitored and the allowable utilization standards (section IV) will be strictly enforced.

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, serves 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 generally have the following characteristics: approximately 20 to 500 acres in size, located on productive soils with slopes less than 15%, have a plant community that is representative of the larger area, and generally 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.

Upland Areas:

The allotments maximum allowable utilization in upland, non-riparian areas is 50%. This allowable use level is the utilization level permitted by both livestock and wildlife. 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:

Many of the allotments riparian areas have been partially fenced to control livestock grazing use. These very important and diverse habitat areas will be closely monitored to insure that the proper allowable use level is not exceeded. To comply with the Forest Land Management Plan, the District will coordinate with you to improve maintain riparian vegetative communities by promoting three age classes of woody vegetation. A maximum allowable utilization level of 20% on woody species is acceptable if all three classes of riparian vegetation are present. If the mid-age class is absent, the maximum allowable use level on woody species will be limited to 5%.

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

The permittee will document the following items on the enclosed Actual Use Form during the 2013 grazing year: 1) Actual Grazing Period, and 2) Actual Livestock Numbers. **It is very important that the Actual Use form is submitted twice to your Rangeland Management Specialist 15 days after shipping and by 3/15 of the following year.**

You are encouraged to participate in Intensity and Utilization Monitoring.

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 re-grazed 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.

IV. MITIGATION MEASURES FOR SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

Attached are two (2) grazing mitigation documents that include grazing mitigation measures for the Mexican spotted owl and the Chiricahua leopard frog. Please review and familiarize yourself with these required grazing measures; Forest Service personnel will field check your compliance with these mitigation requirements.

V. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Structural Range Improvements

New fence projects will be implemented only with prior approval and after a successful completion/clearance of both biological and archeological surveys from Forest Service personnel.

Range Improvement Maintenance

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 (ex. Maintenance of**

earthen stock tanks). Please also note the updated leopard frog mitigation (for tank cleaning) letter toward the end of this document.

VI. 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. A detailed description of the Coconino National Forest Salting and Supplemental Feeding policy can be found in Part 3 of your term grazing permit; however, the following guidelines are provided as a general reference:

1. In general, salt and protein blocks should not be placed within ¼ mile of water, roads, or trails.
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.

VII. PORTABLE WATER HAULING

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

Archeological and Biological Clearances must be completed prior to placing portable waters.

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.
7. Water hauling vehicles (water tenders) will follow the Travel Management Rules (found below under XI. MOTOR VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS).

VIII. 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: Red Rock (928-282-4119), The Happy Jack Fire Crews at 928-477-5037 (Jeff Thumm), 928-477-5031 (Robert Auza), or 928-477-5033 (Jeff Thumm, acting FMO), Mogollon Rim (928-477-2255); or to the Coconino National Forest Fire Dispatch Office (night - 928-526-0600, day - 928-527-3552). Another contact is 911.

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

IX. 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 absolutely 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 absolutely 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 the issuance of a Notice of Non-Compliance for violation of the terms and conditions of your Term Grazing Permit.

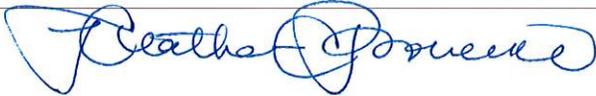
Grazing permittees that do not obtain a Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit are required to operate motorized vehicles only on the designated road system. Operating a motorized vehicle off the designated road system without a valid Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative 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.

X. 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 contact Kathleen Sevy at (928) 203-7537.

Sincerely,



HEATHER C. PROVENCIO
District Ranger

Enclosure