

File Code: 2210
Date: January 26, 2018

Mike Hemovich
The Bar X, LLC
PO Box 466
Young, Arizona 85554

Dear Mike,

This Annual Operating Instruction is a guide for management of the **Bar X Allotments** for the **2018 grazing year**. This plan is made part of your Term Grazing Permit as specified in Part 2, Number 8(a) of the permit and supersedes your 2017 AOI(s).

I. PERMITTED USE

The following table illustrates the number of livestock and period of use permitted on the **Bar X Allotments** as per Term Grazing Permit #12207 issued to The Bar X, LLC.

| ALLOTMENT | KIND | CLASS | NUMBER* | SEASON OF USE |
|-----------|--------|----------|---------|---------------|
| BAR X | CATTLE | COW/CALF | 130 | 1/1 - 12/31 |

II. AUTHORIZED USE

The following numbers and classes of livestock are authorized to graze on the **Bar X Allotments** this year.

| KIND | CLASS | NUMBER* | SEASON OF USE |
|--------|----------|---------|---------------|
| CATTLE | COW/CALF | 240 | 3/1 - 2/28 |
| CATTLE | YEARLING | 120 | 1/1 - 5/30 |
| CATTLE | BULLS | 18 | 3/1 - 2/28 |

**A temporary change in number from that shown on the term permit has been approved by the District Ranger. Authorized use is greater than permitted use for this group of allotments because 3 large pastures (McInturff, Walnut, Naeglin), on the Heber-Reno Sheep Driveway, are incorporated in the pasture rotation. These pastures are not within the allotment boundary for the Bar X allotments and are not represented in that permitted capacity. This trial increase, supported with current utilization levels, is being used to determine capacity through a "stock and monitoring" process for a proposed stocking level for the forthcoming NEPA analysis. NEPA is scheduled to begin for this group of allotments for 2019, at which time a proposed action will be developed to formally incorporate the use of this area as part of the Bar X allotments. Although this is anticipated not to exceed a period of 1-2 consecutive years, this temporary increase may be extended until the NEPA is complete.*



III. ROTATION SCHEDULE

Actual dates may vary depending upon climatic conditions, wildfire, noxious weeds, soil, and range conditions, conflicts with or for protection of wildlife, water availability, utilization levels and time required to move livestock. Any deviation from this schedule needs to be discussed with Payson range staff prior to moving your cattle outside of the dates listed. Estimates of forage utilization will be performed and documented on pastures about the time the pasture is vacated.

| Bar X Allotment: 2018 | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Authorized Pasture | Class of Livestock | Authorized number | Authorized season of use |
| Pine | Bulls | 18 | 3/1 - 5/30 |
| McInturff/Round Mtn | Cow/calf Yearlings | 240 120 | 3/1 - 4/15 |
| House/Mare/Horse/Pine | Cow/calf Bulls | 240 18 | 4/15 - 5/15 |
| Lower Dry Creek | Cow/calf Bulls | 240 18 | 5/15 - 5/30 |
| Upper Dry Creek | Cow/calf Bulls | 240 18 | 6/1 - 6/15 |
| Colcord | Cow/calf Bulls | 240 18 | 6/15 - 9/15 |
| Colcord/Grasshopper | Cow/calf Bulls | 240 18 | 9/15 - 10/15 |
| Walnut/Windmill/Steer | Cow/calf | 240 | 10/15 - 2/28 |
| Oxbow | Bulls | 18 | 10/15 - 2/28 |

IV. ALLOWABLE USE STANDARDS

The use on key species in key areas will ultimately determine the length of the grazing period in each pasture. The establishment of the utilization standards is consistent with 36 CFR 222 regulations, FSM 2210 and 2230, and FSH 2209.21. Grazing will be managed so that conservative use levels are achieved over the long-term. Considerable research has been done showing that conservative use levels will allow for sustaining and improving watershed conditions. Conservative utilization levels are as follows:

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Upland | Herbaceous: | 30-40% of current year's growth |
| | Woody: | 50% of current year's growth |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Riparian | Herbaceous: | 40% of plant species biomass (any species) and maintain 6-8 inches of stubble height on Deergrass |
| | Woody: | 50% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 plants up to 6 feet tall |
| Mexican Spotted Owl PAC's (Where Applicable) | 20% optimum to 40% maximum Management Mexican Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk habitats within the allotment are according to standards and guidelines in the Tonto NF Plan (pages 40-1 through 40-13). | |

Utilization is measured at the end of the growing season, in key areas¹ for key forage species². However, grazing intensity will be evaluated during the growing season in order to practice proactive management and make necessary management changes needed for plant development and recovery. Utilization measurements serve as only one piece of information that is considered when evaluating the effectiveness of allotment management. Utilization data will be coupled with other information such as vegetation condition, forage plant production and vigor, soil and watershed condition, and long term trends, in order to make informed management recommendations concerning pasture moves and stocking rates.

V. MONITORING


Monitoring dates are tentative and some may not be required. Range personnel from the Payson District will be contacting you prior to monitoring visits. We encourage your participation in these inspections, as it provides an opportune time to discuss resource conditions and management items. VGS Monitoring may be conducted in the fall. A priority for monitoring may be based upon those allotments with forthcoming NEPA.

VI. ADMINISTRATION

The table below indicates the records submitted by the permittee to satisfy the Ownership Requirement portion of the permit. The permittee must hold ownership of the corporation (if applicable), deed for the base property, and brand associated with that permit for the entire term of the permit. Any undocumented changes in ownership are a violation of the terms and conditions of your term grazing permit under Part 2, Sec. 7.

¹ Key areas are defined in the Tonto NF Plan (pg. 42-1) as being ¼ to 1 mile from water, located on productive soils on level to intermediate slopes, and be readily accessible for grazing.

² Key forage species are defined in the Tonto NF Plan (pg. 42-1) as plants chosen to be appropriate to monitor average allowable use.

| | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| Entity/Person(s) Designated as Permittee | The Bar X, LLC. | | |
| Base Property | As listed in Exhibit A of your 2230 Permit file A portion of Homestead Entry Survey No. 583 Gila County, AZ, Special Warranty Deed, 2006 | | |
| Brand(s) | Owner: The Bar X, LLC. | #04566 Expires: January 15, 2019 |  |

We request that you maintain records that reveal the number of livestock, date of entry, and the date of livestock leaving each pasture and submit them to us at the end of the grazing season.

VII. SALT AND MINERAL BLOCK

Salting may be used to aid in livestock distribution and management. Salting must be located no closer than ¼ mile from streams, rivers, riparian areas, trails, and known archaeological sites.

VIII. RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE

The permittee shall maintain all range improvements that are assigned for maintenance in the Term Grazing Permit. All work involving the use of heavy equipment will be accomplished only after prior approval of the Forest Officer in charge of the allotment.

| BAR X ALLOTMENTS IMPROVEMENT WORK SCHEDULED: 2018 | |
|--|---|
| IMPROVEMENT NAME AND NUMBERS | WORK PERIOD & NOTES |
| Repair breach in Double Tanks spillway and clean tank | Clearances pending. Work may be completed only after NEPA, Heritage, and Biological clearances have been completed. |
| Repair spillway for Mexican Wash Tank | Clearances pending. Work may be completed only after NEPA, Heritage, and Biological clearances have been completed. |

Maintenance of existing improvements is exempt from additional heritage (archaeological) clearances, however may require a simple biological review before work may proceed. Timing restrictions for project work may also be stipulated based on the type of equipment used to perform the work. Please provide the Forest Service with advanced notice of any maintenance you wish to perform so there is sufficient time to complete any required reviews.

IX. PROTECTION

The permittee, his agents and employees, when acting within the scope of their employment, and his contractors and subcontractors will protect the land and property of the United States, waived private land and other land under jurisdiction of the Forest Service covered by and used in conjunction with this permit.

X. ALLOTMENT INSPECTIONS

Forest personnel may conduct periodic brief inspections of pastures within the allotment at any time to verify actual use, improvement conditions, or other non-range related activity.

XI. PERMIT CONDITIONS

Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions specified in Parts 1, 2, and 3 of your Term Grazing Permit may result in suspension or cancellation, in whole or in part, after written notice. This is found in Part 1, Section 3, of your permit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Starks", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

FOR DEBBIE CRESS
District Ranger