



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Pleasant Valley  
Ranger  
District

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File Code: 2210

Date: March 12, 2007

(b) (6)

The Bar X, LLC

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Dear (b) (6)

These are your 2007 annual operating instructions (AOI) for the Bar X, Haigler Creek, and Young allotments. The following pastures are scheduled for use this year:

Livestock Validated	Pastures	Dates of Use	Monitoring Date
60 adult cattle yearlong, 4 saddle horses	Grasshopper	3/01/07 – 4/30/07	6/07/2007
	Mare, Horse, Pine holding pastures*	5/01/07 – 5/30/07	6/07/2007
	Upper/Lower Dry Creek*	6/01/ 07 – 8/30/07	6/07/2007;
	Haigler/Cross Y	9/01/07 – 10/31/07	10/25/2007
	Mare, Horse, Pine holding*	11/01/07 – 11/30/07	10/25/2007
	Windmill/Steer*	12/01/07 – 2/28/08	10/25/2007

\* herd may be split between pastures or rotated through; attainment of allowable use levels may necessitate accelerated rotation or allow herd to remain in pasture longer. If rotation needs to be adjusted, please contact the Range Office in advance of proposed change to request approval.

Monitoring dates are tentative and some may not be required. By listing them here it will help both of us set our calendars to participate in the effort. We encourage your participation in these inspections, as it provides an opportune time to discuss resource conditions and management items.

**Pasture Management:** 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:

- \*Key forage plants in pasture key areas 30-40% of plant biomass
- \*Browse in winter use pastures = 50% of current years leader growth
- \*Riparian: Use on deergrass = 50% of biomass; 50% upper leaders browsed on riparian woody species by grazed twig method



Utilization is measured at the end of the growing season, in key areas for key forage species. 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. All full capacity riparian areas, where surface water may or may not be present, are critical areas where measurements may be conducted. 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.

**Records:** 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.

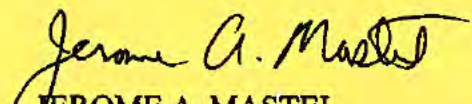
**Range Improvement Maintenance:** All range improvements must be maintained to Forest Service standards before cattle will be allowed to enter the units. If you have any questions on Forest Service standards, Jared can provide them to you. You have indicated that you plan to sign up for the EQIP program offered through NRCS, and have spoken with Jared about some project ideas. These projects will need site-specific clearances and some form of NEPA before you can proceed. You may perform routine maintenance of fences that are a maintenance responsibility associated with your term grazing permit without any additional approval.

If you would like to clean any stock tanks this year, please provide a list of tanks to be cleaned, with the tank name and general location, and description of type of work to be done and when. You will then be advised if additional clearances are needed before work can proceed. Only dry tanks are suitable for maintenance. Work will begin only after written or verbal instructions to proceed are obtained from the range office.

**Salting:** 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.

I look forward to working with you this year. If you have any questions, please contact the Range Office.

Sincerely,

  
JEROME A. MASTEL  
Pleasant Valley District Ranger

cc: Donal Luhrsen