



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto National Forest
Globe Ranger District

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Globe, AZ 85501
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File Code: 2210
Sedow Allotment
Date: April 25, 2002

Griffin Cattle Ranch
Box 1224
Globe, AZ 85502

Dear (b) (6):

On 1/29/2002 Gary Strickland hand delivered an AOI to Jackie for your 2002-grazing season. Since then you have submitted a couple of different schedules you preferred to use for 2002 and that you have been following. On April 12 you met with our range people and agreed on a schedule for 2002. We notified you then that pasture move dates might need to be shortened due to your having met maximum use levels before the scheduled off-date and/or drought effects. Since then our range people have spent some time in the field with Eddie Alford, SO Biological Resources Group Leader, determining pounds of available forage per acre on different areas on Globe District.

On 4/12 the discussion revolved around the continuing drought on the Tonto, dry stock ponds, the lack of forage growth compared to normal years, and the need to reduce numbers for 2002. Although 281 adult cattle were validated earlier for 2002, we informed you on 4/12 that subsequent drought concerns requires the removal of a portion of the 281 cattle. Carol indicated on 4/12 you should let us know what numbers you feel you can carry through 2002 without causing excessive streambank trampling, or over-utilization of forage. You were to have contacted us last week with your suggested numbers but we have not heard from you. You are scheduled to move next into Seven Mile and then Jackson Pasture. Both of these pastures were grazed last year and currently show low to no production. Many of the Sedow Pastures do not have even 100 pounds per acre available forage. Large areas in Reveg Pasture have conditions that indicate heavy grazing in 2001. The winter of 2001-02 was the driest in 90 years. Years of drought coupled with the heavy grazing have severely impacted large portions of Reveg Pasture.

Due to the conditions we have seen on Sedow Allotment, we are requiring you to remove 141 adult cattle. That will put your numbers at 140 adult cattle and 14 horses. We have also observed a number of calves at this time and some of them are fairly large so they will be utilizing forage also. We will continue to monitor the pastures after the reduction of livestock has occurred. If subsequent monitoring indicates a pasture has exceeded maximum use levels, further reductions will then be required. Your numbers need to be reduced on 5/4/02 when you move your livestock out of Indian Gardens Pasture and into Jackson Pasture. At the Forest Drought Meeting on April 3, it was determined that the ranchers would be allowed 2 weeks to get the majority of the required reduced numbers off the forest. We understand it will take a bit longer to remove the total numbers. However, Indian Gardens Pasture is not that difficult for removing livestock.



All available pastures have been scheduled for grazing this year. Even with 140 adult cattle it will be difficult to meet the Forest Standards without riding and distributing cattle. Since the first two scheduled pastures have such low production, we have reduced the number of days scheduled in them. Jackson Pasture does not have enough forage to graze even 140 adult cattle for the 56 days you had originally requested. That means we will be relying on a greater number of days in the later scheduled pastures. If we do not get adequate summer moisture, we will again be looking at reductions throughout the Globe District.

Last year a number of your pastures with riparian areas received overgrazing in riparian areas on woody vegetation and deergrass. Excessive streambank alteration was also a problem. The pastures with problems last year all have fewer days scheduled for grazing in 2002 except Storm Canyon. In 2002 you rebuilt a major pipeline in Storm Canyon and fixed four water troughs. Since this should improve distribution in Storm Canyon, we scheduled a few extra days in that pasture. It was agreed that we would monitor Storm Canyon during the mid-grazing period and if monitoring indicates continuing problems of staying within Standards and Guidelines, you agreed to move early. Likewise, if monitoring indicates improved distribution and low utilization and streambank disturbance, the numbers of days could be increased. Walnut Springs Trap will be kept closed during the use of Storm Canyon.

As discussed with you on April 12, if you need to change the pasture sequence for any reason, it is necessary to call and arrange to meet with Carol Engle at least a couple weeks before the scheduled pasture move-date. During our meeting the reason for the change will be discussed, plus the availability of forage and water and how this change will affect the rest of your grazing schedule. This will then be documented as an updated AOI and I will sign it. I want to express the importance of following your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI). This is provided for in the terms and conditions of your permit.

Thank you for helping us update the Sedow Allotment map with newly constructed or reconstructed pipelines and fences. The map you completed indicating which waters should last through summer 2002 and the waters that are or will probably be dry this summer will be helpful in managing the allotment this year.

In order for the Sedow Allotment to be consistent with the Forest Plan, the following Standards and Guidelines are part of your Annual Operating Instructions:

Stream bank Alteration: Limited to less than 20% of the alterable bank impacted by livestock.

Herbaceous (Grass) Utilization on the Salt River: Use is limited to less than 40% of the plant species biomass. The drift fence is completed, but check that livestock do not get around the drift fence and graze the beaches on the Salt River in the 4Y Pasture.

Herbaceous (Grass) Utilization on the Remainder of the Allotment: Limited to less than 50% of the plants biomass.

Woody (Browse) Utilization on the Salt River: Limited to less than 40% of leaders (branches) browsed.

Woody (Browse) Utilization on the Remainder of the Allotment: Limited to less than 50% of leaders (branches) browsed.

Riparian: Do not salt within one-quarter mile of riparian areas.

Livestock Numbers:

281 adult cattle until May 4th. Then reduced to 140 adult cattle.
14 horses

Yearlings were on the allotment without being validated as required. On December 7th you were told you would need to remove the yearlings. You had indicated the desire to keep the yearlings on the forest for a longer period of time and you appealed the decision. The stay of the Decision was denied. We had several subsequent discussions with you on the matter and we later documented the need to have the yearlings off by January 31st. Today you validated 75 yearlings with 63 coming off the forest on 2/10/02 and 12 coming off the forest on 3/17/02. The yearlings will be charged the regular fees through January 31st. Starting February 1st until the yearlings were actually removed, you will be billed for unauthorized use fees.

Carol also indicated to you that you should be prepared to not have yearlings on the forest in 2003. If the drought breaks this year and we have ample rains so you feel there is a possibility for yearlings, please contact us in October to discuss it. Information we have received suggests preparing for a continued drought. This will give you ample notice that you will not be authorized to graze yearlings in 2003 unless you receive written authorization.

Copies of the monitoring results for the past few years were provided to you. We are still having problems printing copies of pictures taken while monitoring. However, Gary Strickland will be providing copies of the written monitoring results for you in the future.

The telephone list indicating which numbers we should use for contacting you is as follows:

Ranch cell phone (928) 200-1259, Jackie's work number (928) 425-3231, extension 8770,
Theresa's work number (928) 425-3207 and Theresa's home number (928) 425-7055.
Your parents' telephone number has been removed from our list.

Arizona Game and Fish has indicated the possibility of their funding a pipe and water trough leading out of the Brushy Springs area into needed pasture(s). You indicated this was a good proposal as you currently try not to use it.

Livestock Management: The following is your 2002 rotation schedule:

4Y Pasture	11/11/01 – 03/10/02
Brushy Pasture	02/15/02 – 03/01/02
Steer Pasture	03/02/02 – 03/30/02
Indian Gardens	04/01/02 – 05/03/02
Seven Mile	05/04/02 – 06/15/02

Jackson Pasture	06/16/02 – 07/27/02
New Corral	07/28/02 – 08/10/02
Walnut	08/11/02 – 08/31/02
Reveg Pasture	09/01/02 – 09/28/02
Hess Pasture	09/29/02 – 10/12/02
Storm Canyon	10/13/02 – 11/16/02
Bronson Pasture	11/17/02 – 12/21/02

The riparian area in Hess Pasture has improved tremendously with almost two years of rest. However the uplands have low production. We hesitate to increase the amount of time in Hess Pasture because with low upland production, the livestock will concentrate even heavier in the riparian area. It is going to be difficult to meet utilization requirements in Hess without a lot of riding. When you are riding the pastures, if any of the pastures indicate we could spend an extra week in them, please call Carol Engle. Carol or the monitoring team will then check the pasture and determine if the length of time in that pasture can be increased. It is going to be difficult to have sufficient pastures for your livestock this year. Last year the livestock over utilized the riparian area in New Corral Pasture but there was very little use around the water tank in the uplands. If you are able to keep the livestock out of the riparian area, we may be able to extend the amount of time spent in that pasture.

Horse Pastures:

Little Horse Pasture
X4 Pasture
Hospital Pasture
Big Horse Pasture

Rested Pastures:

Seven Mile Riparian Pasture
Hudson Pasture – mandatory 5 years rest

The horse pastures will be used at various times throughout the year, roughly 3 months in each.

The drought has heavily affected the vegetation in Reveg Pasture. Unless we get ample summer rains so that the vegetation regrows from last year's use, Reveg Pasture cannot be grazed in 2002. This was discussed during your AOI meeting and that is why Reveg is scheduled for late use. We will monitor the pasture before the scheduled grazing in October.

Stragglers have been a problem on your allotment for several years. We understand the problem is often due to the public leaving gates open. However, we still must deal with the resulting utilization on the vegetation. In past years, pastures were sometimes unable to be grazed as scheduled because they had already received allowable utilization by stray cattle. Already this year you have had four pastures with unauthorized cattle in them. Cattle were seen in Bronson Pasture in March 2002. Subsequent monitoring results were 76% utilization on palatable woody leaders, 32% deergrass utilization and 38% streambank alteration due to livestock on Nesbitt (east) in Bronson Pasture; 46% utilization on palatable woody leaders, 19% deergrass utilization and 17% streambank alteration due to livestock on Bronson Stream in Bronson Pasture; 59% utilization on palatable woody leaders, 17% deergrass utilization and 5% streambank alteration due to livestock on Nesbitt (west). Due to this, Bronson Pasture originally was not scheduled for grazing until January 2003. However, in shortening the period of time in Jackson, Reveg and

Seven Mile, there is nowhere for the cattle to go in December. Thus we have had to schedule Bronson earlier than originally intended.

Salt and Salt Meal: All salt and salt meal will be located at least one-quarter mile from water. Salt will not be used in key areas, but will be placed to encourage livestock to graze areas of low use.

Maintenance of Range Improvements: Your maintenance assignments are shown in red on your allotment map. Please review your map to insure these improvements are in satisfactory working condition. Livestock trying to get to water have knocked down the fence around Willow Spring in Hess Canyon in Steer Pasture. The pipe to the trough was in disrepair this year when cattle were in that pasture. Steer Pasture will not be grazed again until this fence has been reinforced to withstand cattle pressure and the pipe to the trough has been repaired. Currently it is an area of churned mud. You indicated today that you'd like to use heavy equipment to clean out the spring area. We have discussed this area with our forest hydrologist. The spring was fenced to protect it from grazing. The spring should be aiding in the recovery of riparian vegetation around the spring. Thus I am denying the use of disturbance by heavy equipment. The spring area will be listed for range improvement funds. The fenced area needs to be increased in size to further protect the spring. We will have fence supplies for you when you are able to expand and reinforce this fence.

Fires: You and your agents will protect the lands covered under the grazing permit. Protection will include taking all reasonable precautions to prevent, make diligent efforts to suppress, and report promptly all fires on, or endangering the lands covered under the grazing permit.

The areas identified as "heavy impact" areas in 2001 have been scheduled for shorter grazing periods in 2002 except for Storm Canyon that is discussed earlier in this letter. These areas were in the following pastures: Hudson, New Corral, Seven Mile, Brushy and Bronson. These were pastures that need to be ridden frequently to ensure cattle are distributed away from riparian areas so over-utilization and excessive streambank alteration does not occur. When moving livestock it is beneficial to ride directly across a riparian area rather than traveling up and down the streambank. As we discussed on numerous past occasions, we are asking all permittees/ranchers to monitor the livestock's vegetation utilization in order to meet use factors.

The AOI is subject to administrative review through the Forest Service, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90. In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal, or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91). See enclosed 36 CFR, Subpart C, regulations.

Griffin Cattle Ranch

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A notice of appeal must be filed with the Tonto Forest Supervisor at 2324 E. McDowell Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85006, within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with the District Ranger at 7680 Six Shooter Canyon Road, Globe, AZ 85501.

Sincerely,



LARRY WIDNER
District Ranger

Enclosure

Copy to:

Eddie Alford, SO

Kristen Widmer-McBride, Tonto Monitoring Team, Mesa Ranger District

Dana Bayer, Habitat Specialist, AZ Game and Fish Department