



File Code: 2230

Date: August 21, 2003

Robert and Judy Prosser  
Bar T Bar Ranch, Inc  
PO Box 190  
Winslow, AZ 86047

Dear Bob and Judy:

This letter and enclosures comprise the 2003 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Bar T Bar Range Allotment and are part of the Term Grazing Permit. Your annual application of May 22, 2003 is approved.

You applied to use 4618 Head Months (HMs). You applied for, and I approved 11,432 HMs of nonuse. Nonuse is approved for resource protection to allow for recovery of the forage resource from drought and high levels of forage utilization by elk.

As you are very well aware, we are still in an extreme drought recovery situation and will have to take particular care in our management so as to protect the resource. This may involve reduced cattle numbers, accelerated pasture moves, and possibly early removal of cattle from the National Forest, if conditions warrant.

The following schedule is tentative and is designed to be flexible. Dates, pastures, and timing of moves may vary, depending on available forage or other resource concerns. Changed conditions may cause a further alteration of this schedule in order to prevent resource damage.

**Bar T Bar Allotment - 2003**

Pastures	From	To	Number
Cow Hill/North Grapevine &/or Red Hill	5/31	10/01	208 yearling heifers & 14 bulls
Waldroup to Red Hill	6/03	10/01	70 yearling bulls
Yellowjacket to West Green Howard to West Service	6/09	10/30	225 cows & 11 bulls
Lost Eden and Farm	6/15	10/05	235 Registered cows
East Green Howard to Lakes to West Service	6/20	11/05	200 bulls & 10 cows
Red Hill	7/15	10/03	140 Registered yearling heifers
Horse pastures	6/01 & 6/20	10/15 & 11/01	5 horses & 20 horses



The Coconino National Forest LMP states that "no new high stock density stock control grazing cells are (to be) initiated until monitoring and evaluation of the Red Hill Cell has been completed." The evaluation of the Red Hill Cell has been completed. The proposed grazing schedule calling for use of Quayle Hill is consistent with this direction. The Cell is not "new", and the forage utilization proposed does not reach the level considered as high intensity.

I agree that the Diablo Trust proposal (dated 2/2/98) for monitoring forage utilization is acceptable and will be followed in 2003. Our wildlife biologists will review the locations proposed for monitoring. You and the Diablo Trust will ensure that the procedures as outlined in the proposal are followed and that the Forest Service receives copies of all the monitoring forms. I am enclosing a copy of the monitoring form.

The enclosure *Mitigation for the Mexican Spotted Owl and Peregrine Falcon on Grazing Allotments for Annual Operating Plans* has been made a part of the AOI. To avoid impacting spotted owl Protected Activity Centers (PACs), the enclosed mitigation measures must be adhered to during the breeding season (March 1 to August 31), and in the locations that have been specified by the wildlife biologist.

The enclosure *-T- Range Management* indicates when prior approval is needed from the Forest Service before undertaking activities that are part of the range permit or the Long Lake ditch system. The enclosure shows what types of activities need to be coordinated with District personnel so that appropriate clearances can be completed in a timely manner.

I appreciate the problems you are undergoing regarding grazing in and around the subdivisions, both old and new. I encourage you to continue discussing the situation with the homeowner associations for each of the involved subdivisions, stating the efforts you are making to control livestock use in the subdivisions, and what the associations could do to help resolve the problem.

The attached document, *Mitigation for Chiricahua Leopard Frogs*, is part of the 2003 AOI for the Bar T Bar Allotment. You are expected to follow this mitigation during your time on the allotment. Some of the mitigation measures apply to all aquatic areas, whether or not Chiricahua leopard frogs are present. At this time, no Chiricahua leopard frogs have been found on the allotment, however additional surveys may be conducted.

Caution needs to be used during any activities that potentially could start a fire. All vehicles should be equipped with a serviceable water bucket, shovel, and axe for use in extinguishing camp and forest fires. All open camp and branding fires (when allowed), are required to have a fire ring down to mineral soil at least ten feet in diameter, and must be handled in a safe manner.

Please notify District personnel prior to use of any heavy equipment, so that we can arrange a time to have a prevention patrolman inspect your equipment on site. All state and local fire regulations and restrictions will be observed.

The Annual Operating Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit, as provided in Part 2, Section 8(a). If you fail to comply with any of the terms and conditions specified in Parts 1, 2, and 3 of your Term Grazing Permit, we may suspend or cancel your permit, in whole or in part,

after written notice. This is found in Part 1, Section 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. The AOI complies with the standards and guidelines found in the LMP.

The Annual Operating Instructions have been reviewed by District Wildlife Biologists and found consistent with the Endangered Species Act, as amended, and with all conditions agreed to in consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Annual Operating Instructions are appealable and subject to review under 36CFR 251.82(a)(3), Grazing and livestock use permits issued under 36 CFR part 222, subpart A: appealable decisions apply to written decisions of Forest Service line officers related to issuance, denial, or administration of written instructions to occupy and use National Forest System lands.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, feel free to contact Jerry Gonzales at the Long Valley Ranger Station (928 - 354-2216).

Sincerely,

/s/ Larry G. Sears  
LARRY G. SEARS  
District Ranger

cc: Rodger Zanotto, S.O.

DIABLO TRUST

02/05/98

DIABLO TRUST MANAGES FOR SPECIFIC WATERSHED VALUES AS THEY RELATE TO ITS LANDSCAPE VALUES

PASTURE GRAZE MONITORING KEY AREAS SPOTTED OWL HABITAT

PLOT# \_\_\_\_\_ LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ MONITORER(S) \_\_\_\_\_

PASTURE \_\_\_\_\_ ACRES \_\_\_\_\_ KEY AREA ACRES \_\_\_\_\_

L/S CLASS & NO. \_\_\_\_\_ L/S CONDITION \_\_\_\_\_

DATES GRAZED \_\_\_\_\_ ADAs \_\_\_\_\_ AUMs \_\_\_\_\_

RECOVERY PERIOD \_\_\_\_\_ days DATE OF LAST GRAZE \_\_\_\_\_

WEATHER \_\_\_\_\_

PRECIPITATION: GAUGE \_\_\_\_\_ EST \_\_\_\_\_ WIND \_\_\_\_\_

AVG: \_\_\_\_\_ BELOW AVG: \_\_\_\_\_ ABOVE AVG: \_\_\_\_\_

WATER # \_\_\_\_\_ WATER CONDITION \_\_\_\_\_

GRAZE LEVEL BEFORE L/S 0-20 \_\_\_\_\_ 20-40 \_\_\_\_\_ 40-60 \_\_\_\_\_ 60-80 \_\_\_\_\_ 80-100 \_\_\_\_\_

GRAZE LEVEL AFTER L/S 0-20 \_\_\_\_\_ 20-40 \_\_\_\_\_ 40-60 \_\_\_\_\_ 60-80 \_\_\_\_\_ 80-100 \_\_\_\_\_

GROWTH RATE Cool Seasons fast \_\_\_\_\_ slow \_\_\_\_\_ dormant \_\_\_\_\_

GROWTH RATE Warm Seasons fast \_\_\_\_\_ slow \_\_\_\_\_ dormant \_\_\_\_\_

PLANT VIGOR Warm Seasons below average \_\_\_\_\_ average \_\_\_\_\_ above average \_\_\_\_\_

PLANT VIGOR Cool Seasons below average \_\_\_\_\_ average \_\_\_\_\_ above average \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIES \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ present: \_\_\_\_\_ occurrence: \_\_\_\_\_ seeded: \_\_\_\_\_ stubble height \_\_\_\_\_ L M H

\_\_\_\_\_ present: \_\_\_\_\_ occurrence: \_\_\_\_\_ seeded: \_\_\_\_\_ stubble height \_\_\_\_\_ L M H

\_\_\_\_\_ present: \_\_\_\_\_ occurrence: \_\_\_\_\_ seeded: \_\_\_\_\_ stubble height \_\_\_\_\_ L M H

\_\_\_\_\_ present: \_\_\_\_\_ occurrence: \_\_\_\_\_ seeded: \_\_\_\_\_ stubble height \_\_\_\_\_ L M H

\_\_\_\_\_ present: \_\_\_\_\_ occurrence: \_\_\_\_\_ seeded: \_\_\_\_\_ stubble height \_\_\_\_\_ L M H

\_\_\_\_\_ present: \_\_\_\_\_ occurrence: \_\_\_\_\_ seeded: \_\_\_\_\_ stubble height \_\_\_\_\_ L M H

\_\_\_\_\_ present: \_\_\_\_\_ occurrence: \_\_\_\_\_ seeded: \_\_\_\_\_ stubble height \_\_\_\_\_ L M H

LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Plot: # or name      Location: Sec.#, road#, distance from road, compass reading to post  
GPS reading if possible.
2. Date: the day of monitoring      Monitorer    person or persons doing the monitoring
3. Pasture:    name of pasture      its acres, and the acres of the key area
4. L/S Class:    cows & calves or yearlings      L/S Condition:    poor    fair    good    excellent
5. Dates grazed    mo/day/yr - mo/day/yr  
ADA's:    animal days per acre formula/    number of animals times number of days divided by acres =  
AUM's:    animal unit months formula/    number of animals times number of days divided by 30.4 =
6. Recovery period:    number of days since last graze      Date of last graze:    mo/day/yr
7. Weather: during graze period    wet, dry, windy, snow, cold, hot    what happened
8. Precipitation:    rain gauge    contact USFS for closest gauge amount, or best estimate,    was it windy
9. Water#:    how many waters in pasure      Water condition:    full, low, puddles from rain
10. Graze level:    on key species, percent utilization, before livestock
11. Graze level:    on key species, percent utilization, after livestock
12. Growth rate:    of plants    check fast, slow or dormant for both warm and cool season plants
13. Plant vigor:    check below, average, or above for both warm and cool season plants
14. Species:    list the key species in plot or area and check off if present, if they seeded, what is the  
percent of occurrence in area and measure the stubble height.    Then circle L M or H for light,  
moderate, or heavy use of that species.

## **Mitigation for the Mexican Spotted Owl and Peregrine Falcon On Grazing Allotments for Annual Operating Plans**

**The following mitigation measures would apply for Buck Springs, Bar-T-Bar, Willow Valley, Baker Lake/Calf Pen, Apache-Maid, Beaver Creek, Lost Eden, Fossil Creek, Buckhorn, 13 Mile Rock, Walker Basin, and Hackberry/Pivot Rock Allotments.**

*The purpose of the mitigation measures is to improve and protect habitat for prey species such as birds and small mammals in sensitive areas, and to protect nesting birds from disturbance associated with gathering or construction activities. Thank you for your cooperation.*

1. Follow these guidelines to meet the intent of the grazing guidelines listed in the Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Plan :
  - A. Continue to monitor grazing use by livestock and wildlife in "key grazing" areas such as riparian areas (MA12), meadows (MA9), pine/oak types (MA3), and aspen (MA5). If cattle show an increasing utilization trend, then change management strategies to reduce the trend. If wild ungulates show an increasing utilization trend, the Forest Service will work with the Game and Fish Department to reduce this trend.
  - B. Continue to implement and enforce grazing utilization standards to attain good to excellent range conditions in "key areas" over time.
  - C. Continue to restore good conditions to degraded riparian communities by maintaining or promoting three age classes in woody vegetation. If the mid-age class is absent, 5% utilization or less is required to promote three structural stages. If all three classes are present, utilization of 20% or less of woody vegetation is acceptable.
2. To reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species forage and cover, follow these guidelines for placing salt, mineral blocks or food supplements.
  - A. Do not place these items in riparian areas, mountain meadows, or non riparian drainages in ponderosa pine unless being used for a watershed restoration project.
  - B. Do not place these items in spotted owl habitat or near peregrine falcon nesting areas. The attached map shows areas (shown as mitigation) where salt, supplemental feeding, or mineral blocks should not occur.
  - C. Rotate salt and mineral supplement sites regularly.
3. To eliminate potentially disturbing activities in spotted owl habitat or near peregrine nesting areas during their breeding season, do not allow the following types of activities in areas displayed in red on the map between March 1 and August 31 without prior consultation with the district Range Staff.
  - A. Spring branding or fall gathering.
  - B. Construction activities such as: new construction of fences, corrals, or buildings, or cleaning or construction of tanks.

*-T- RANGE MANAGEMENT*

In the past there has been confusion on when the permittee needs prior approval from the Forest Service to do work on the range permit or the Long Lake ditch system. Adding to the confusion is the Chavez Pass off road vehicle closure area. Hopefully the following tables will help reduce the confusion and lead to better management. The approvals are only based for the need to get Archaeological Clearances and get Biological Evaluations completed for the projects. Depending on the activity, approval for other reasons may be needed.

*DITCH MANAGEMENT*

<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Activity Outside Closure</b>	<b>Activity Inside Closure</b>
Non-motorized ditch inspection	No prior approval	No prior approval
Motorized ditch inspection	No prior approval	Need prior approval
Ditch maintenance within disturbed area	No prior approval	Need prior approval
Ditch maintenance outside disturbed area	Need prior approval	Need prior approval

*RANGE PERMIT MANAGEMENT*

<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Activity Outside Closure</b>	<b>Activity Inside Closure</b>
Cattle grazing	No prior approval	No prior approval
Grazing management	No prior approval	No prior approval
Fence maintenance	No prior approval	No prior approval
Stock pond cleaning or repair	Need prior approval	Need prior approval
Cattleguard maintenance	No prior approval	Need prior approval
Cattleguard installation	Need prior approval	Need prior approval
Spring cleaning	Need prior approval	Need prior approval
Pipeline maintenance	No prior approval	
Pipeline construction	Need prior approval	Need prior approval
Driveway maintenance	Need prior approval	Need prior approval
Well maintenance	No prior approval	
Well installation	Need prior approval	Need prior approval
Drinker maintenance	No prior approval	
Corral maintenance	No prior approval	No prior approval
Corral construction	Need prior approval	Need prior approval
Fence removal	No prior approval	No prior approval

## **Mitigation For Chiricahua Leopard Frogs**

Live fish, crayfish, bullfrogs, leopard frogs, salamanders, or other aquatic organisms shall not be moved among livestock tanks or other aquatic sites.

If a site is identified as occupied by Chiricahua leopard frogs, water shall not be hauled to the site from another aquatic site or tank that supports leopard frogs, bullfrogs, crayfish, or fish.

If Chiricahua leopard frogs are found on the allotment, the permittee shall be required to clean any equipment, boots, etc. used at an aquatic site and treat with a 10 percent bleach solution, or allow such equipment, boots, etc. to dry thoroughly, before using the same equipment, boots, etc. at another aquatic site on the allotment.

All ranch hands, construction personnel, and others implementing the proposed action shall be given a copy of these terms and conditions, and informed of the need to comply with them.

At least 60 days prior to maintaining or cleaning out livestock tanks, the permittee shall inform the Coconino of planned activities. The Coconino shall survey the tank for Chiricahua leopard frogs<sup>1</sup> and if frogs are found, shall work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop and implement a plan to minimize take of frogs. Measures to minimize take should include salvage and temporary holding of frogs, limiting disturbance and work areas to the minimum area practicable, leaving stands of emergent vegetation in place, and/or measures to minimize the likelihood of disease transmission. Plans to minimize take shall be approved by the USFWS.

<sup>1</sup> Surveys shall include a night visit to prospective habitat during which all or at least 1,200 feet of the best habitat along creeks and the entire perimeter of tanks are searched for frogs. Surveys shall be carried out with flashlights/headlamps, and a dip net shall be used to sample for tadpoles and frogs concealed in undercut banks or at the base of emergent vegetation. Surveyors shall also listen for the distinctive call of the Chiricahua leopard frog (Davidson 1996) and watch for egg masses. Surveys shall be carried out from April-September when frogs are most active.

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