



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Apache-Sitgreaves
National Forests
Springerville Ranger District

P.O. Box 760
Springerville, AZ 85938
(928) 333-4372 FAX: 333-4182

File Code: 2210

Date: April 26, 2011



Dear [REDACTED]:

Enclosed is your 2011 Annual Operating Instruction (AOI) for the Burk and Picnic Allotments (Molina Springs will be rested this year). The pasture rotation schedule, and monitoring information and dates have been identified for your information. The level of authorized use and grazing schedule as indicated in this AOI are based on the best information available at this time. These are subject to change as actual site specific forage conditions and available livestock watering sources are determined at the start of and during the annual authorized season of use.

The allotment boundary and interior fences should be repaired before entering your allotment. All the maintenance responsibilities listed in your Term Grazing Permit is your responsibility to keep it in a functional condition. A well maintained fence will keep your herd in the proper pasture and prevents unauthorized use by cattle from neighboring allotments.

If you have any questions and/or comments, please feel free to call me or my Range personnel at (928) 333-4372.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jeffrey A. Rivera
JEFFREY A. RIVERA
Springerville District Ranger



**2011 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
SPRINGVILLE RANGER DISTRICT**

Allotment Name: Burk, Molina Springs and Picnic

Permittee: XXXXXXXXXX

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers and dates:

Burk Allotment	805 to 1,145 AUMs	range readiness (approx. 6/15) to 10/31
*Molina Springs Allotment	200 c/c	11/01-12/31
*Picnic Allotment	180 c/c	11/01-12/15
* Grazed every other year between the two Allotments		

Annual Validation livestock numbers and dates:

Burk Allotment	152 c/c, 7 bulls, 39 yearlings	06/04-10/15
Picnic Allotment	136 c/c, 6 bulls, 22 yearlings	10/16-12/15
Molina Springs Allotment	RESTED	

Table 1. Pasture rotation schedule:

Pasture	Use Period*	Midpoint Date	Number Of Days	Key Species**	Allowable Use Guidelines
Burk Allotment					
SU	6/4-7/21	6/27	48	POA/Fear/Deca/Muwr CARE spp.	30-40%; 6 to 8" stubble ht. in bottoms
Railroad	7/22 – 8/31	8/10	41		
East	9/1-10/15	9/22	45		
West	RESTED				
Picnic Allotment					
Lower	10/16 – 11/14	10/31	30	Bogr	40%
Picnic/Correjo	11/15 – 12/15	11/30	30		

*Dates will be adjusted if allowable use guidelines in the stocked pastures are reached sooner than anticipated.

**CARE=sedges, POA=bluegrass species, Fear=Arizona fescue, Deca=Tufted hairgrass, Muwr=Spiked muhly, Kocr=Junegrass, and Bogr=Blue grama. Key species may be adjusted as necessary to reflect those receiving the most grazing pressure based on time of the year.

A. GRAZING STANDARDS AND PRESCRIPTIONS

Grazing Restriction: Crossing permits are required when livestock are trailed to the allotment and cross through another allotment. Trailing livestock the length of riparian areas is not allowed and no herd sized gatherings or trailing will take place within Mexican Spotted Owl protected activity centers unless authorized. The permits can be obtained from the Springerville Ranger District.

Range Readiness Check: Range readiness checks will be conducted in anticipation of livestock entry in seasons when spring growth is delayed. This may and often vary from year to year; vegetative readiness checks will be made in advance of the schedules turn-out date. You are invited to assist or accompany the range personnel as they perform the inspection. The main objective is to determine whether plants are

physiologically capable of being grazed and trampled without causing long term damage to the vegetation or soils.

This monitoring is completed prior to the scheduled turnout date.

1. Soil condition - The soil is firm, at or below field capacity.
 - a. Saturated soils are not present. Soil compaction is minimal.
 - b. Standing water and ponding from snowmelt is not present.
2. Vegetative development stage. Rangeland is generally ready when cool-season grasses are headed out, forbs are in full bloom, and brush and aspen is leafed out. Range readiness dates will vary between allotments with different resource attributes and management systems.

Implementation Monitoring: You are invited to participate when any of these monitoring are being conducted. Annual monitoring to adjust or evaluation of the season of use, grazing intensity, pasture grazing frequency and livestock numbers will be conducted during the grazing season (seasonal) and/or at the end of the growing season. This practice adaptive management and make necessary management changes needed for physiological requirements of the forage and improve unsatisfactory watershed conditions. The methods to be used may include, but not limited to:

1. Stubble Height – To monitor riparian vegetation in critical areas have adequate stubble height at the end of the growing season to protect soil from high spring runoff and snowmelt in East, West and SU pastures of the Burk Allotment. A recommended minimum of 6 inches of stubble height of Carex species in satisfactory riparian condition and 8 inches of stubble height of Carex species in unsatisfactory riparian condition at the end of the growing season is expected to meet the desired condition.
2. Height Weight, Landscape Appearance, Comparative Yield etc. - To assure that conservative use levels of 30%-40% in key areas are being met. Forage use by grazing animals will be maintained at a level which will promote improvement range/watershed conditions, assures recovery and continued existence of threatened and endangered species of plants and animals. The allowable use guideline for each pasture is shown in Table 1.
3. Residual measurements – To assure that adequate standing bunch grasses are left post livestock grazing for antelope fawning hiding cover. Height of un-grazed grasses will be measured at the end of the growing season.

It is your responsibility to take action so that livestock grazing does not exceed the allowable use guidelines. Proper salt placement, hauling water, and herding or riding are recommended.

Early Livestock Removal: The Forest Service recommends to the permittee having an off-the-Forest contingency pasture in the event that persistent drought and/or utilization in excess of AMP/AOI standards necessitate early livestock removal from the Forest. Part 1, clause 3 and Part 2, clause 8 (c) of the term grazing permit provides this option.

If a possibility of an early removal exists, Forest Service range personnel, with input from the permittee, will make on the ground, case by case decisions regarding range conditions. Based on the Allotment inspections, Forest Service personnel will make the determination if livestock removal is required for resource protection. The District will consider all resource objectives before taking any actions regarding the above situations.

Range Developments: All assigned range developments identified in the Term Grazing Permit will be maintained to a functional status.

Maintenance of range improvements: Permittees will perform assigned maintenance of all range improvements, whether private or government owned, within their Allotment. This is in accordance with Part 3, clause 2 of the term grazing permit.

Permittees will get with the Districts to sign a permit modification and receipt of materials. Range improvements not specifically listed in the improvement program schedule and all ground disturbing activities will not be initiated by the permittee until the Springerville Ranger District has approved proper clearances.

If your neighbor is turning out before you on an adjacent pasture and the boundary fence is your responsibility, this **FENCE MUST BE REPAIRED BEFORE YOUR NEIGHBOR TURNS OUT.**

Fence maintenance and other range improvements required prior to moving livestock onto the Allotment include:

1. All boundary fences on the Allotment must be maintained.
2. Interior fences in all pasture must be maintained.
3. Water developments must be in working condition.

Livestock Distribution: Livestock need to be distributed evenly throughout the pasture. A full time rider is strongly encouraged. By herding livestock onto the uplands and other lightly used areas, the grazing pressure on key riparian areas and meadows is reduced. To obtain uniform distribution, frequent riding will be necessary to break up concentrations of livestock that bunch-up, leading to over utilization. Livestock grazing will result in soil and vegetative disturbance, for example, trailing, rubs, bedding grounds, wallowing, and salt grounds. Salting and maintaining improvements are also good ways to achieve proper livestock distribution.

Sanitation and Fire Prevention: When an animal is killed or dies from contagious or infectious disease, its carcass must be removed. If the animal dies or is killed in the vicinity of streams, roads, trails, or recreational areas, the carcass must be moved at least 100 yards from live water, or as far as practical when terrain makes that distance impossible, within a reasonable time after the discovery.

All vehicles should be equipped with a properly functioning exhaust system. A shovel and axe for use in extinguishing camp and forest fires should be carried. All open camp and branding fires, when allowed, must have a fire ring down to the mineral soil, and be handled in a safe manner. All State and local fire regulations and restrictions will be observed. Report any fires to the fire dispatcher in Springerville at **928-537-5305.**

Recreation: Recreation is increasing on the District every year. Recreation users and livestock operators must communicate to minimize conflicts.

Animal Damage: The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest has an Animal Damage Management (ADM) Plan. Lethal control and preventative techniques may be authorized. Animal damage control methods will require case-by-case assessment and District Ranger approval.

B. GENERAL

1. Grazing bills must be paid in full, fence maintenance must be completed and five days notice must be given to the Springerville Ranger District prior to turnout date.
2. Sub-leasing is prohibited. You must own the livestock on your Allotment and they must be branded and registered in your name. A current copy of your brand certificate must be on file at the District Office. It is recommended that you also put your brand on the ear tag of your cattle so that District range personnel can identify it under adverse conditions.

3. Track actual use as it occurs by pasture on the enclosed forms and return this form to the Springerville Ranger District at the end of the grazing season. Actual use “as it occurs” means number and dates your permitted livestock are on the Allotment/Forest. It also means numbers and dates of livestock on your Allotment from adjacent range because of broken fences, open gates, or natural barriers that are no longer effective. This information will reflect the carrying capacity of the range, need for additional improvement or possible change of management.
4. Salting and mineral placement
 - ✓ No salting is permitted with ¼ mile of live water or in meadows.
 - ✓ Change salt locations once a week or as needed and use hard ground.
 - ✓ Move creep feeders regularly and change sites every year. No mineral supplement or salt will be placed in Mexican Spotted Owl protected activity centers.
5. Wire gates need to be left open after the grazing season is over. If necessary, reconstruct gates at the first of the year and mid-season in high traffic areas. Makes sure the gates are easy to close for Forest Users (for example, use smooth wire hoop that are snug but not too tight). **“Please Close the Gate” sign are available at the District office.**
6. Horses grazed on the Allotment must be permitted and grazing fees will be billed for each horse. Horses on summer pasture will be rotated with the livestock or in horse pasture as identified.
7. If you plan to use a camping trailer in conjunction with the livestock operation:
 - ✓ You need to inform the Range Staff of the trailer description, license number and of its location.
 - ✓ Trailer holding tanks are not to be emptied directly onto the ground. Sewage dump stations are available at Big Lake Campground, Hoyer Campgrounds, Springerville, and Eagar. Camps should be maintained and kept clean.
 - ✓ Permits to camp in conjunction with livestock operations are extended only to permittees and their paid employees acting within the scope of their employment. Permittees are responsible for cleaning up the site when camps are removed.
8. If the Forest Service requests a late turn out, we will credit prorated fees or apply to next years billing if the amount is less than \$75.00. There is an administrative charge and you should pay the bill for collection by due date.
9. **Any livestock left on the Allotment after the “off” date or left in pastures after the rotation date will be in violation of the permit and subject to be charged at the unauthorized rate.** Therefore, gathering of livestock should begin well in advance of the scheduled removal dates in order to meet this deadline. It is important to anticipate pasture moves in advance.

C. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR INFORMATION

1. Fire Safety Inspection—you will be required to have your vehicles, ATV(s), equipment, etc., inspected by the Forest Service before going onto to the Allotment. This inspection is a safety precaution to prevent wildfires.

The contact on the Springerville Ranger District is Ron Mortensen or Mark Willis. If you have any questions or concerns they can be reached at (928) 333-4372 or at PO Box 760, Springerville, AZ 85938.