



File Code: 2210

Date: July 24, 2012

(b) (6)

JH Cattle Company, LLC

(b) (6)

Dear (b) (6)

Thank you for meeting with Carol Engle on July 23, 2012 for your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2012 grazing year. This is your AOI for the 2012 grazing season on Copper Creek Allotment. Please consider this as Forest Officer instructions as provided for in Part 2, Clause 7(a) of your Temporary Grazing Permit. Since you are the Copper Creek permittee through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Tonto National Forest (FS) and the AZ Game and Fish Department, you will need to apply for, and sign an application and a Temporary Grazing Permit each year.

During your AOI meeting, you signed 3 copies of the Temporary Grazing Permit, the Application for Temporary Grazing Permit and your Annual Validation form that will be used to bill you. Copies will be mailed to you once the forms are signed by everyone. The permit map is page 8 of your Temporary Grazing Permit.

**Permitted Use.** At your request and Forest Service concurrence, you are authorized to graze as follows on Copper Creek Allotment:

63 cow/calf pairs including bulls	8/15/2012 - 12/31/2012
62 cow/calf pairs including bulls	8/31/2012 - 12/31/2012

**Grazing Schedule.** Two weeks prior to entering a pasture, please call and let Carol know where the available waters are. This will affect where monitoring is conducted and possibly the length of time the cattle graze each pasture. As we discussed, this schedule is tentative. Please call Carol two weeks before the scheduled off-date if you think the cattle can stay in the pasture longer. This will give the FS time to come and monitor to ensure you can stay in the pasture past the scheduled move date. If you need to move the cattle early because of lack of water or forage, please call Carol as soon as possible so she can document your move.



Pasture	Allotment	Dates
Perry Mesa*	Copper Creek	8/15/2012 – 11/15/2012
Brooklyn	Copper Creek	11/16/2012 – 01/15/2013
Cornstalk	Copper Creek	01/16/2013- To be determined

\*You'll be using salt and riding to try to keep the cattle in the northern end of Perry Mesa initially using the water at Antelope Tank and Perry Tank on the BLM if there is water there. Then you'll allow them to drift (and move them) to the middle portion of Perry Mesa later utilizing the water at North and South Campbell Tanks and Hennessey Power Tank if it has water at that time. With only 125 c/c the Forest Service will be monitoring to ensure the utilization is well distributed with no problem areas during that three month period. If any concerns develop with the resources, the livestock will be moved earlier into Brooklyn Pasture.

During the time the livestock are in Cornstalk Pasture, the cattle will be calving. Your plans are to use the BLM facilities to brand them during that period of time. Due to purchasing the cattle from multiple sources, your cows will be calving throughout most of this year. However, your intentions are to remove the bulls and work to get the cows down to a 3 month calving season.

**Range Improvements and Maintenance.** Permittees are required to perform maintenance on all necessary range improvements assigned as a maintenance responsibility in their grazing permit, Part 3.

The following criteria are common practices for water developments. Starting in 2013 all new and existing water developments must include the following:

- Floats or overflow pipes are required on all troughs. An emergency overflow pipeline must be installed and piped into drainage where the water originated.
- Per Tonto Forest Plan, access and escape ramps for wildlife must be installed. Todd Willard, Wildlife Biologist on CCRD has a few of these to provide you. If you need more, we can give you a copy of his approved design.
- Per Tonto Forest Plan, entire pipelines including storage tanks and troughs must be fully charged year round for wildlife use. This office understands that freezing temperatures may cause damage to water systems; therefore, exceptions may be made by this office on a case-by-case basis. Water developments may be turned off for purposes of gathering cattle, and then promptly recharged.

In order for the Copper Creek Allotment to be consistent with the 1997 Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP)/Allotment Management Plan (AMP), and the Tonto National Forest Riparian Utilization Guidelines, 2002, the following guidelines are part of your AOI:

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

Riparian Herbaceous (Grass) Relative Utilization: Limited to less than 40% of the plant species biomass on key riparian species.

Woody (Browse) Relative Utilization: Limited to less than 40% on dominant leaders (branches) in the top 1/3 of plants less than 6 feet tall.

Upland Herbaceous Relative Utilization: Limited to 40% of the plant biomass on key perennial grasses.

Salt and Salt Meal: All salt 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.

Utilization is measured at the end of the growing season in key areas for key forage species. However, grazing intensity is evaluated during the growing season in order to practice pro-active management and make necessary management changes needed for plant development and recovery. Key areas are at least ¼ mile away from developed upland stock water. All full capacity riparian areas, where surface water may or may not be present, are considered critical areas where measurements may be taken. You are invited to accompany us whenever we monitor on Copper Creek Allotment.

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. Maintenance of improvements like water and other management strategies are also included.

You informed us that Antelope Tank was full, North Campbell was 75% full and South Campbell was 50%. Hennessey Power Tank was working but did not have water when you checked it. White House Tank has blown out but may hold a small amount of water. As my staff discussed in the field with AZ Game & Fish (AZGF) and you, AZGF has been asked to clean Rockhouse Tank first.

The FS has purchased two Powder River troughs for replacement on Copper Creek Allotment. The first trough will be used at Cornstalk. Please let Carol know where your next priority is for the second trough.

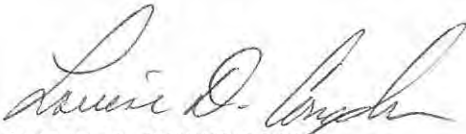
You expressed your appreciation for the fire crew from CCRD that cleaned out the cattleguard on FR14 and discussed the need to clean several other cattleguards. You indicated the cows were walking over the south cattleguard going into Bishop Exclosure on FR677.

After checking Shirttail Springs exclosure, you found that one of the concrete troughs was working but the other trough was caving in. The second trough could be used here. You and Carol also discussed the use of float valves verses using an overflow pipe to send the extra water back to the source at Shirttail Springs. I approve your using either device as long as any excess water stays at the spring.

There is a mile of fence materials at the district available for your use if you are planning to rebuild any of your fences. You did indicate that you would be contacting NRCS for possible EQIP funding.

My staff and I look forward to working with you in the coming year. I appreciate your efforts and coordination with the Forest Service so you can graze livestock efficiently on the Cave Creek Ranger District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Louise D. Congdon".

LOUISE D. CONGDON  
District Ranger

cc: Charles J Denton, Ina Yazzie, Amanda James