



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Peaks  
Ranger District

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File Code: 2230

Date: 5/8/02

W.J. and Betty Lo Wells  
P O Box 515  
Chino Valley, AZ 86323

Dear Bill:

This is your 2002 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Cosnino and Maxwell Springs Allotments. These Annual Instructions are a part of your term grazing permit as indicated in Part Two. In addition, this letter is to document actions that need to be taken this year to keep the Forest Service and these allotments in compliance with previous commitments from environmental assessments, allotment management plans and guidelines and recommendations for rare wildlife and plant species, including those that are threatened or endangered.

#### Cosnino Allotment

The Cosnino Allotment consists of 10,899 acres east of Flagstaff, Arizona. These acres lie within the Peaks Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest. The allotment is bisected by Interstate Highway 40 and lies north of Walnut National Monument and borders the east side of the City of Flagstaff. The grazing system is a six pasture deferred rest rotation system.

The western portion of the allotment is a ponderosa pine community at an elevation of approximately 7000'. The eastern portion is a pinyon-juniper community. The northern side is dominated by Turkey Hills, which is a cinder hill.

The allotment contains the following Land Management Plan Management Areas:

- MA 3-Ponderosa Pine and Mixed Conifer
- MA 6-Unsuitable Timber Land
- MA 7-Pinyon-Juniper, Less Than 40% Slope
- MA 10-Transition Grassland
- MA 13-Cinder Hills

The Cosnino Allotment occurs in two 5th code watersheds. The following table is a summary of number of total acres within each 5th code watershed and acres of the allotment, which occur within each watershed.

5 <sup>th</sup> Code Watershed (Acres)	Allotment (Acres)	% of Allotment Within Watershed
Lake Mary (97,203)	3,800	4
Flagstaff (145,396)	7,000	5

The following is a list of Best Management Practices (BMP's) developed in the 1995 Cosnino Allotment Environmental Assessment.

- Monitor and enforce permittee compliance with terms and conditions of the grazing permit.
- Rotate livestock in a planned grazing system that alternates rest and graze period throughout a given year and from year to year.
- Grazing at an intensity that will maintain enough cover to protect the soils and maintain or improve the quantity and quality of desired vegetation.

Your term grazing permit information along with your 2002 grazing schedule is listed below for this allotment:

<u>Permittee Name</u>	<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Permitted No.</u>
W.J. & Betty Lo Wells	Term	6/1-10/31	160 cows/calves&bulls

<u>Pasture Name</u>	<u>Use Dates</u>	<u>Total Days</u>	<u>Total Number</u>
Home	6/10-6/30	20	160 cows/calves&bulls
Wildcat	7/1-8/10	40	160
Monument	8/11-9/1	20	160
Upper Burn	9/2-10/2	40	160
Lower Burn	10/3-11/10	20	160
Pinyon	yearlong rest		

#### Maxwell Springs Allotment

The Maxwell Springs Allotment consists of 21,374 acres northwest of Flagstaff, Arizona. These acres lie within the Peaks Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest. The allotment runs north of Bellemont, west of Badderville and north to Hart Prairie. The grazing system is a seven pasture deferred rest rotation system.

The majority of the allotment is a ponderosa pine community at an elevation of approximately 7000'. Within the ponderosa pine community lays scattered pockets of mountain meadows, aspen, and riparian community types. No riparian areas within the allotment are accessible to cattle.

The allotment contains the following Land Management Plan Management Areas:

- MA 3-Ponderosa Pine and Mixed Conifer
- MA 4-Ponderosa Pine on greater than 40%
- MA 5-Aspen
- MA 9-Mountain Grassland
- MA 10-Transition Grassland
- MA 12-Riparian

The Maxwell Springs Allotment occurs in two 5th code watersheds. The following table is a summary of number of total acres within each 5th code watershed and acres of the allotment that occur within each watershed.

5 <sup>th</sup> Code Watershed (Acres)	Allotment (Acres)	% of Allotment Within Watershed
Sycamore Canyon (103,894)	12,800	12
Flagstaff (145,396)	8,500	6

The following is a list of Best Management Practices (BMP's) developed for this annual operating plan.

- One of the main goals for livestock grazing practices on this allotment is to maintain or improve the quality of water.
- The location, timing, and intensity of livestock grazing activities should be controlled with objectives of achieving soil cover to prevent accelerated erosion and to protect water quality.
- Structural range improvements, such as fences, water developments, trails and corrals, should be planned, constructed and utilized in a manner to enhance or maintain water quality.
- Land treatments to manage vegetation or practices to reduce erosion should be planned, implemented and maintained to minimize adverse impacts on water quality.
- Livestock management activities, such as parasite control, feeding and salting, should be done in a manner to protect water quality.
- Monitor and enforce permittee compliance with terms and conditions of the grazing permit.

Your term grazing permit information along with your 2002 grazing schedule is listed below for this allotment:

<u>Permittee Name</u>	<u>Permit Type</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Permitted No.</u>
W.J. & Betty Lo Wells	Term	6/1-10/31	285 cows/calves&bulls

<u>Pasture Name</u>	<u>Use Dates</u>	<u>Total Days</u>	<u>Total Number</u>
Truckstop	6/1-6/12	11	285
Bellmont	6/13-7/14	30	285
Telephone	7/15-8/5	17	285

Wing	8/6-8/27	20	285
Hart Prairie	8/28-9/28	30	285
Maxwell	9/29-10/25	25	285
Holding	10/26-10/31	5	285

The pasture move dates shown above are an estimate, and may need to be changed on the basis of actual range conditions. Please monitor actual conditions closely, and notify the Forest Service promptly if it appears that livestock will need to be moved sooner or later than estimated above. Grazing dates will be adjusted for this year's soil and vegetation readiness. Field checks in key forage areas such as meadows and riparian areas will be made prior to scheduled entry dates. Dates may be adjusted only with prior approval of the Forest Officer.

To facilitate livestock moves, gates may be opened two days prior to the scheduled move date only when moving into an adjacent pasture. Gates must be closed and grazed pasture entirely cleaned of livestock no later than five days following the scheduled move date. Grazed pastures must be kept clean of livestock following the pasture move.

Salt or mineral supplement locations should be rotated annually and avoid areas where cattle concentrations could cause excessive vegetation trampling, soil loss or disturbance to sensitive species or habitats. These areas would include habitats that support Mexican spotted owls, northern goshawks, rare plants, riparian vegetation, meadows or locations closer than 1/4 mile from a water source. The enclosed maps show the general location of these areas that are not obvious on the ground. These maps do not include all obvious sensitive areas like all meadows, riparian areas or water sources.

No prairie dog control (i.e., poisoning or shooting) is allowed in association with this permit.

Monitoring will be conducted in partnership with the permittee on a regular basis during the grazing season and will be used to develop next years Annual Operating Instructions that states when livestock are to be moved and how grazing patterns are to be changed during the grazing season. It is important this year for you to help us with monitoring of your grazing permit. With present and future downsizing in the Forest range program your assistance in monitoring will become increasingly more important. This monitoring generally includes compliance with your annual operating, livestock utilization and overall range condition and trends.

Refer to the attached map for the areas that are excluded from cattle grazing during the 2002 grazing season (Marvin Spring, Maxwell Spring, Lower Twin Tank, Fort Valley and Walnut Canyon National Monument). All fences must to maintained to ensure cattle stay out of these areas. You must monitor these areas to ensure cattle do not enter them. If cattle enter these sites immediate action must be taken to remove them.

Utilization monitoring will be conducted throughout the year in every livestock grazed pasture following the protocol set up in the attached worksheet. In addition, key site and key species monitoring, to further conform to the Coconino Forest Plan, will be conducted at the following sites on the Allotments:

**Cosnino**

**Management Area**

ponderosa pine

**Pasture**

Wildcat

**Location**

NW of Turkey Hills

**Key Species**

squirreltail, blue grama  
wheatgrass

**Maxwell**

**Management Area**

ponderosa pine

**Pasture**

Bellemont

**Location**

NE of Wing Mtn

**Key Species**

Arizona fescue,  
squirreltail, blue grama

The allowable level of utilization on herbaceous and woody vegetation is 35% on these allotments. Livestock utilization of woody vegetation in riparian areas may not exceed 20%. This will ensure proper protection and management of resources on this allotment.

Adjustments in numbers, rotation schedule or season of use will be made if allowable use standards are exceeded. To achieve the desired allowable use, it is important to have proper livestock distribution.

AOI's are appealable and subject to review under 36 CFR 251.

If you have any questions please call Katherine Sanchez or Mike Hannemann at 526-0866 at the Peaks District Office.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gene Waldrip  
District Ranger

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I have reviewed and agree with these operation instructions.

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Bill Wells