



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

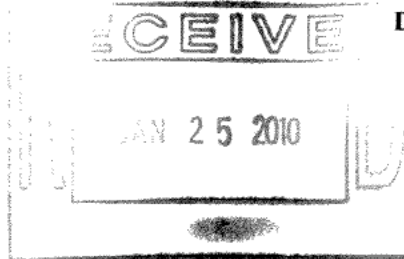
Tonto Basin  
Ranger  
District

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Phone: 928.467.3200  
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File Code: 2210

Date: January 7, 2010

(b) (6)



Dear (b) (6)

These are the annual operating instructions (AOI) for the 2010 grazing season on the Dagger grazing allotment. They have been developed in coordination with you as well as using information from resource specialists and information on current resource conditions on the allotment. Please consider them as Forest Officer instructions as provided for in Part 2, Clause 8(a) of your term grazing permit.

#### Permitted Use

At your request and Forest Service concurrence, you are authorized to graze as follows on the Dagger Allotment:

37 cattle (4 bulls, 33 cows) from March 1, 2010 to February 28, 2011

15 yearlings, March 1, 2010 to April 30, 2010

2 horses, March 1, 2010 to February 28, 2011

\*These dates are approximate and dependent upon sufficient range improvements being brought to standard in these pastures prior to livestock entry onto the allotment. Billing will also need to be completed prior to entry.

#### Management Schedule

The Dagger Allotment is managed using a deferred rotation grazing schedule. The sequence and dates for scheduled rotation are as follows:

| Pasture Name    | Date In                                                                                          | Date Out         | # of Livestock |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Oak Creek Mesa  |                                                                                                  |                  |                |
| Upper Dry Creek | December 1                                                                                       | January 31, 2011 | 37             |
| Lower Dry Creek | February 1, 2011                                                                                 | April 30, 2011   | 37             |
| North Sheep     | April 15                                                                                         | July 31          | 37             |
| Ellison         |                                                                                                  |                  | 15 Yearlings   |
| Rock            |                                                                                                  |                  |                |
| Dagger          |                                                                                                  |                  |                |
| Holding (Steer) | As needed for initial introduction of cattle to allotment; requires prior inspection by District |                  |                |



|                 |          |             |    |
|-----------------|----------|-------------|----|
| Holding (South) |          |             |    |
| West Devore     |          |             |    |
| Lower Coon      |          |             |    |
| Upper Coon      | August 1 | November 30 | 37 |

We understand that livestock have not been turned out on the allotment for approximately 10 years. As a result, current resource conditions and livestock distribution patterns will be observed closely and adjustments may need to be made to the rotation or number of livestock to ensure proper use criteria are met and not exceeded.

Managing rangelands using a rotation grazing schedule requires that we monitor livestock use, current resource conditions and other factors to ensure that we achieve, but do not exceed, proper use criteria. As a result, these dates are approximate. We will conduct allotment inspections in each individual unit to determine appropriate move times. You will be invited to participate in these inspections. It is important that the out dates for each unit not be exceeded without prior authorization from the Forest Service. The out dates represent the date the unit is to be cleaned of livestock. You will need to open the gates and begin the movement into the next unit in advance of the date.

### **Resource Use Guidelines**

Livestock management is based on ecological principles tied to range condition and trend and on the improvement or maintenance of satisfactory watershed, riparian, soils, and wildlife habitat conditions while providing forage for livestock and wildlife. It is your responsibility as permittee to take action so that livestock grazing does not exceed the following levels. Actions may include salt placement away from water sources, water control, and herding or riding. If seasonal use of available forage approaches these levels, please contact our District Range Manager to arrange for an allotment inspection and to refine the rotation schedule.

|                                                     |                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Upland key herbaceous species</b>                | <b>30-40% of current year's growth</b>                                            |
| <b>Upland key browse species</b>                    | <b>50% of current year's growth</b>                                               |
| <b>Riparian key herbaceous species</b>              | <b>Limited to 40% of plant species biomass</b>                                    |
| <b>Riparian woody species</b>                       | <b>Limited to 50% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 of plants up to 6 feet tall</b> |
| <b>Streambanks (where applicable)</b>               | <b>Limited to less than 20% alteration of alterable streambanks</b>               |
| <b>Mexican Spotted Owl PAC's (where applicable)</b> | <b>20% optimum-40% maximum</b>                                                    |

Once proper use been reached, you will be required to move your livestock to the next scheduled pasture or remove them from the National Forest.

### **Monitoring**

Grazing intensity on key herbaceous and woody species in riparian and upland areas will be evaluated during the growing season by monitoring residual vegetation, vigor of plants, and the phenological state. Utilization levels will be assessed near the midpoint and end of the grazing period for each pasture. Other attributes including soil condition and stream bank stability will be considered as allotments are monitored and management progresses through the grazing

season.

Monitoring will be conducted in key areas for each pasture. Key areas will be representative of a larger area of the same vegetation type, and can also include sites where use must be closely monitored because of management plan objectives. This could include riparian areas, springs, or areas where threatened, endangered, or sensitive species may occur. Key areas may be relocated if it is found that they are ~~not~~ representative of grazing use. Methodology for monitoring procedures is found in the Region 3 Rangeland Analysis Guide dated June 1997, and the supplemental 1996 Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements Interagency Technical Guide.

### **Range Improvements**

As the grazing permittee you are responsible for maintenance of all structural range improvements to Forest Service standards as provided for in Part 2, Clause 8(i) of your term grazing permit. This must be accomplished before livestock enter the allotment. We understand that improvements on the Dagger Allotment have not been maintained during the years of non-use so we will work with you to develop a schedule to get all improvements maintained to standard. Pastures which do not have adequate water development or fencing cannot be used until they have been brought back up to standard. Please ensure that wildlife access and escape ramps are in place and completely functional at all times. This is essential to our commitment to multiple use management. Routine maintenance of range improvements does not require approval however the use of heavy equipment for cleaning tanks, etc. requires notification to the District in advance of the project.

### **Scheduled Structural Improvement work, 2010 grazing season**

| <b>Pasture name</b> | <b>Type of Improvement</b> | <b>Description of work</b>                                        |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Upper Dry           | Various                    | Repair fencing, dirt stock tanks, windmills, troughs as necessary |
| Lower Dry           | Various                    | Repair fencing, dirt stock tanks, windmills, troughs as necessary |
| North Sheep         | Various                    | Repair fencing, dirt stock tanks, windmills, troughs as necessary |
| Upper Coon          | Various                    | Repair fencing, dirt stock tanks, windmills, troughs as necessary |

### **Actual Use**

In an effort to better determine the carrying capacity of our rangelands, we are requiring all grazing permittees to keep accurate records of the number and exact dates that cattle are in each management unit and the allotment overall. This information, along with monitoring information, will help us determine the carrying capacity of each unit and the allotment as a whole. We have made a commitment to stock our rangelands with permitted cattle, keep accurate records of use and effects, and then use this information to refine our management over time. You are required to keep these records current and to present them to the Forest Service when requested. They must be submitted to the Forest Service no later than December 31, 2010 for the 2010 grazing season.

### **Appeal Rights**

This decision is subject to administrative review, 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).

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Cress, Range Staff, at (928) 467-3220.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donal Luhrsen", with a large, stylized initial "D" and "L".

DONAL LUHRSEN  
Acting District Ranger