



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mormon Lake
Ranger District

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File Code: 2230

Date: April 4, 2002

Jim Shiew
P O Box 3732
Flagstaff, AZ 86003

Dear Jim:

This is your 2002 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Deep Lake Allotment. 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 this allotment 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.

Allotment Area Description

The Deep Lake Allotment consists of 11,010 acres southeast of Flagstaff, Arizona. These acres lie within the northeast corner of the Mormon Lake Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest. The allotment lies below the rim of Anderson Mesa within the pinyon-juniper/transition grassland belt. The grazing system is a two pasture deferred rest rotation system.

The southern portion of the allotment extends to the top of Anderson Mesa, which is ponderosa pine, at an elevation of approximately 7100'. Going north the allotment descends the rim to and is dominated by pinyon-juniper and chaparral. The remainder of the allotment is denominated by pinyon-juniper/transition bluegrass grassland. Natural pothole lakes on the allotment are Deep and Horse Lake. These lakes have riparian values, however, in periods of extended drought the water and riparian vegetation dry up. Elk Springs is the only spring on the allotment and has some riparian vegetation.

The allotment contains the following Land Management Plan Management Areas:

- MA 3-Ponderosa Pine and Mixed Conifer
- MA 7-Pinyon Juniper on less than 40% slopes
- MA 8-Pinyon Juniper on greater than 40% slopes
- MA 10-Transition Grassland
- MA 12-Riparian

The Deep Lake Allotment occurs in one 5th code watershed. 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 th Code Watershed (Acres) | Allotment (Acres) | % of Allotment Within Watershed |
| Canyon Diablo (223,885) | 11,010 | 5 |

The following is a list of Best Management Practices (BMP's) developed for these Deep Lake Allotment Annual Operation Instructions.

- 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.
- Manage livestock grazing within (TES unit 55) meadows and riparian areas at an intensity that will improve vegetation ground cover (primarily the litter component) and improve species diversity of perennial grasses.

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

| <u>Permittee Name</u> | <u>Permit Type</u> | <u>Season</u> | <u>Permitted No.</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Jim Shiew | Term | 5/1-10/31 | 105 cows/calves&bulls |

| <u>Pasture Name</u> | <u>Use Dates</u> | <u>Total Days</u> | <u>Total Number</u> |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Trail through Angell | 5/1-5/2 | 2 | 125 |
| Slaton and Deep Lk | 5/3-9/28 | 152 | 125 |
| Trail through Angell | 9/29-9/30 | 2 | 125 |

This Annual Operation Instructions will serve as a Crossing Permit that will authorize you to trail 125 head of cattle through the Angell Allotment on May 1-2 2002. This authorization is contingent upon the following;

1. This crossing is in agreement with the Angell Allotment Permittee.
2. The crossing will be timely, and not intermingle livestock between the two ranches.

3. The specific location, and date of the crossing will be discussed, and agreed to by the Angell Allotment Permittee, and the Forest Service.

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 map shows the general location of these areas that are not obvious on the ground. This map does 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.

Utilization monitoring will be conducted throughout the year in every livestock grazed pasture following the protocol set up in the attached worksheet.

The allowable level of utilization on herbaceous and woody vegetation is 35% on this allotment. 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. The option to return livestock to a pasture that has received adequate plant regrowth will be considered if all resource objections can be met. To achieve the desired allowable use, it is important to have proper livestock distribution.

Range improvements scheduled for the 2002 season will include cattleguards at the south end of Mormon Canyon and in Cabin Draw.

Refer to the attached map for the areas that are excluded from cattle grazing during the 2002-grazing season. All fences must be 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.

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,

Bruce Greco
District Ranger

Date

I have reviewed and agree with these Annual Operation Instructions.

Jim Shiew