



File Code: 2210/2230

Date: February 11, 2014

55 Ranch, LLC
3050 N. Western Circle
Buckeye, AZ 83596

Dear Benny and Richard:

This document contains your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Corva/Double A Allotment for the 2014, summer, grazing season. This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as indicated in part three of your permit.

1. Season of Use and Numbers to be Grazed

Your 2014 annual validation and billing period will allow for the following period of use with the following numbers allowed:

244 Cattle from May 1, 2014 to November 1, 2014
6 Horses from May 1, 2014 to November 1, 2014

**This AOI will cover your authorized use for the summer portion of your grazing season in 2014. You will need to contact the Williams District Range Staff in July in order to develop the AOI for the winter use in 2014/2015. With this AOI you will be billed for use through 02/28/2015.*

2. Pasture Sequence

Pasture Name	Number of Head, Approximate	Period of Use	Number of Days, Approximate
Bull/Horse/AA Traps	200	May 27 – June 3, 2014 <i>From Previous AOI</i>	7
Tin House	45	April 2 – June 3, 2014 <i>From Previous AOI</i>	63
Middle/Corva	245	June 4 – June 30, 2014	26
Orr	245	July 1 – August 31, 2014	62
Broken/Bridge	245	Sept. 1 – Oct. 9, 2014	39
House/Road	245	Oct. 10 – Oct. 25, 2014	15
Horse	245	Oct. 26 – Nov. 1	6

*The horses will move between private land & the Forest, spending approximately 6 months on the Forest.

****This sequence and/or livestock numbers may be adjusted due to weather, soil, and/or forage conditions.**



If changes are needed, please contact your permit administrator. It is a permit violation to make changes to the Grazing Schedule without first notifying and receiving approval from the Forest Service.

Without prior notification from you and Forest Service approval, any livestock remaining in pastures or on the Forest after the off-dates are permit violations and may result in suspension or cancellation of all, or a portion of your Term Grazing Permit.

3. Range Improvements

The Permittee must follow the Heavy Equipment Policy (amended December 2008) before starting any work that involves soil disturbance.

Maintenance of Range Improvements –

Range improvements assigned to you need to be inspected and the problems found corrected on a yearly basis. All fences must be maintained to standard before livestock enter a pasture.

- **Projects for 2014**

Bull Trap fence #7675—general fence maintenance, specifically, removing trees along the fence line up to 10 feet from the south side of the fence.

*The permittee would like to remove trees over a larger area of, approximately, 7 to 10 acres along this same fence line but the Forest Service will have to complete a Categorical Exclusion first. If circumstances permit, this could be completed in 2014.

4. Livestock Distribution

Grazing Intensity will be more uniform across the pasture if livestock are well distributed. Distribution aids include: water hauls, waterlot control, salt and supplement stations, and herding. Livestock may remain in each pasture for the entire grazing period if Grazing Intensity does not exceed the Allowable Use Standard. Areas exempt from this requirement are lands within ¼ mile of permanent water sources that are not fenced.

The following requirements apply to the use of salt, supplements, hay*, and/or water hauls (**the Permittee is encouraged to use certified weed-free hay*):

- Place in areas of light utilization, at least ¼ mile away from permanent water, and at different sites from the previous year.
- Place salt in portable containers, rather than directly on the ground, in order to protect the soil.
- Place on soils that are not fragile or eroding and on sites that are not in wetlands or drainages.
- Remove salt, supplements, hay, and water hauls when livestock leave the pasture.

Gates in waterlot fences will be left open for wildlife, unless closed on a temporary basis to facilitate cattle distribution in the pasture.

5. Allowable Use (Utilization) Guidelines

The Allowable Use Standards for the Corva/Double A Allotments are 40% (conservative intensity) in the key areas.

Management requirements for the Mexican Spotted Owl and the Northern Goshawk require that forage and habitat be maintained in a healthy condition for owl and goshawk prey species (small mammals and various birds). The permittee will take action so livestock grazing does not exceed use levels in these areas. Actions may include: salt placement, water control, and herding or riding. If continued forage use above desired levels occurs, adjustments in the Allotment Management Plan, stocking level, or other management or administrative actions may be necessary.

6. Travel Management

The Travel Management Rule (TMR) has been implemented on the Williams Ranger District. Implementation of the TMR will require active management of all motorized use, including that related to permitted grazing activities. Motorized travel off the designated road system by grazing permit holders should be based on need related to carrying out required management practices. Legitimate motorized use, including cross-country access, needed for conducting activities required under Term Grazing Permits will be authorized unless compelling natural and/or heritage resource issues are evident.

Any unplanned or emergency type travel not previously contemplated in the Term Grazing Permit will be discussed with appropriate authorization and guidance established in the AOI. If access is required in a motor vehicle restricted area or on a closed road, you must have special authorization in the form of an Off-Road Vehicle Permit or specific authorization through your AOI.

7. Drought Management

Permittees are strongly encouraged to voluntarily reduce the number of animals during drought periods. Allowable Use Standards will be met much earlier in each pasture during the Grazing Period if the drought continues and only a minimal amount of forage is produced. If the Permittee is authorized to stock full numbers during drought periods, it is likely that livestock will have to move through the pastures more quickly and be removed from the allotment at an earlier date because carrying capacity (i.e. Animal Unit Months (AUMs) available) is reduced during a drought.

8. Fire

Be careful with campfires and branding fires. Pile burning is not permitted. Cooperation in the prevention and suppression of fires will be expected as specified in Section 10 of General Provision and Requirements, page 2, of your Term Grazing Permit.

9. Grazing Intensity Monitoring and Recordkeeping

All Permittees are encouraged to keep records of Grazing Use and Intensity in each pasture and submit them to their district grazing permit administrator in the middle and at the end of the permitted Grazing Period. Data to collect include: pasture name, dates of actual use, type and class of livestock, number of livestock, approximate location of key area, Grazing Intensity class, and date of observation. Other notes may be recorded, such as precipitation records or observations—a form is attached. If you are not familiar with methods of estimating Grazing Intensity, we can arrange for training.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact the Williams Ranger District Range Staff, Jesarey Barela, at (928) 635-5623 or by email at jesareybarela@fs.fed.us .

Sincerely,

/s/ Danelle D. Harrison
DANELLE D. HARRISON
Williams District Ranger

cc: Dyan L Bone