

**File Code:** 2210; 2230  
**Date:** February 22, 2017

Dear Richard,

This document serves as your summer 2017 Annual Operating Instructions for the Double A and Corva Allotments.

**I. Authorized Livestock Numbers / Use Period:**

Your 2017 Authorized Use Request has been approved and you are authorized the following Livestock Numbers and Periods of Use:

<u>Corva:</u>	244 Cattle (Cow / Calf)	March 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018
<u>Corva:</u>	6 Horses (Saddle)	March 1, 2017 to August 28, 2017
<u>Double A:</u>	244 Cattle (Cow / Calf)	September 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018

The 2017 authorized livestock numbers and the authorized period of use were determined based on past stocking rates and allotment inspections from seasons on the Corva and Double A Allotments.

Any changes to the 2017 authorized livestock numbers will require that you file an additional Authorize Use Request. Be advised that the Forest Service will need a minimum of 45 days to assess resource conditions and process a supplemental grazing bill for additional livestock. Please contact your Rangeland Management Specialist prior to making any decisions regarding increased livestock numbers.

**II. Grazing Schedule:**

The following is the planned grazing sequence for the 2017 grazing period. The pasture move dates shown are an estimate and may need to be amended based on actual conditions.

Double A:

Pasture	Time Frame	Number of Head
South	03/01-04/30	107
South	05/01-05/15	113
Northeast / Northwest	03/01-05/01	110



Southeast	05/02-05/15	117
Bull / Horse / AA Traps	05/16-05/31	117

Corva:

Pasture	Time Frame	Number of Head
Winter Camp	03/01-05/15	16
Supai / Broke	06/01-06/30	244
Orr Pastures	07/01-08/15	244
Tin House / Corva / Middle/ Bridge	08/16-10/09	244
Road / House	10/10-10/23	244
Horse / House	10/24-10/31	244

Changes from the grazing schedule will be made only with Forest Service approval. The planned use period in a pasture may be shortened or lengthened depending on forage availability and utilization in key areas. Livestock pasture moves will be completed within a ten (10) day period and livestock will be actively herded from one pasture to another. It is imperative that once a pasture move occurs, the livestock remain within the designated pasture. For various reasons (i.e. pasture gates left open, cattleguards not maintained, cut fences, etc.), cattle may stray from the designated pasture. Preventing livestock from grazing adjacent allotments or your allotment's rested pastures is the permittee's responsibility.

### III. Drought Management

Drought is an inevitable occurrence in the southwestern United States. Both the Forest Service and grazing permittees must plan for drought as a normal part of management. During periods of drought, the following management actions may be necessary:

1. Stocking levels may need to be reduced. Reductions may be necessary prior to the permitted season of use and/or during the permitted season of use.
2. Season of use may need to be shortened. Depending on the severity of the drought and the stocking level, a reduced grazing season may be necessary.
3. Pasture use periods may need to be shortened. Pastures will not be regrazed during the same grazing season and this may ultimately result in an early exit from the allotment.
4. Utilization and/or seasonal utilization (grazing intensity) standards may need to be reduced. Depending on the severity of the drought and the stocking level, reduced utilization standards will likely result in shortened pasture use periods and may ultimately result in an early exit from the allotment.
5. Lack of livestock water, or poor distribution of livestock water, may result in reduced pasture/allotment use periods. Depending on forage conditions, this effect may be mitigated by hauling water to temporary livestock watering facilities.

Allotment Management Plan direction for pastures requiring rest or deferment will be followed. Livestock use of planned rested pastures due to drought will not be authorized.

### IV. Grazing Strategy

Graze livestock in a deferred, rest-rotation grazing system for the summer grazing period. The management of livestock pasture moves in this allotment will continue to be based upon seasonal utilization guidelines and allowable forage utilization standards.

#### **V. Allowable Utilization Standards**

In accordance with the Decision Notice signed on September 9, 2009, the allowable use level set for the Corva / Double A Allotments will be a conservative use of 40%. Key areas will be visited to determine actual grazing use / seasonal use by livestock and wildlife. Monitoring will be conducted within two weeks before or after livestock leave a scheduled pasture. If utilization levels within portions of a scheduled pasture approach allowable use, you are required to move livestock into areas not approaching allowable use. If cattle cannot be effectively managed away from areas within the pasture that have met allowable use or if utilization objectives are met throughout the pasture prior to scheduled rotation, contact District Range personnel. Cattle will be moved into the next available pasture within the annual rotation. In the event that forage utilization objectives are met in all available pastures, livestock will be removed from the allotment. Management adjustments will be made to the following years Annual Operating Instructions to avoid recurring situations.

#### **VI. Seasonal Utilization**

A light to conservative seasonal utilization guideline of up to 40% will be used within grazed pastures on the allotment. Seasonal utilization is defined as the amount of herbage removed through grazing or trampling during the grazing period. Seasonal utilization will be measured at the end of each pasture's livestock grazing period. The seasonal utilization guideline will be the primary factor in determining when livestock need to move to the next pasture; but other factors such as climatic conditions, opportunity for plant growth, and previous year's utilization level will also be considered. Annual reductions in the seasonal utilization guideline may be made based on resource conditions.

#### **VII. Resource Monitoring**

##### Forage Utilization

Forage utilization within each pasture will be monitored and the allowable utilization standards (section IV) and the seasonal utilization guidelines (section V) will be enforced. This may result in earlier pasture moves than indicated in the Grazing Schedule (section II).

Forage utilization monitoring will occur at locations within pastures using the "key area" concept. Key areas are defined as "...a portion of range, which because of its location, grazing or browsing value, and/or use, serve as an indicative sample of range conditions, trend, or degree of use seasonally. A key area guides the general management of the entire area of which it is a part." Key areas will generally have the following characteristics: they will be approximately 20 to 500 acres in size; they will be located on productive soils with slopes less than 15%; they will have a plant community that is representative of the larger area; and they will generally be located 0.25 to 1.0 miles away from livestock water sources.

Forage utilization monitoring and its specific application to your allotment should be discussed with your Rangeland Management Specialist. Permittee participation in utilization monitoring is encouraged.

##### Permittee Monitoring

The permittee will monitor and document the following items on the enclosed Actual Use and Forage Utilization Monitoring Form: 1) Actual Grazing Period; 2) Actual Livestock Numbers; and 3) Average Utilization of all forage species at two different time periods: Just prior to livestock entering the pasture, and immediately after livestock leave the pasture. **It is very important that this**

**monitoring be completed during the time frames specified, and that the Forage Utilization Monitoring Form is submitted to your Rangeland Management Specialist at the end of the 2017 grazing period.**

## **VIII. Range Improvements**

### 1. Constructed of New Structural Range Improvements

There are no new structural range improvements scheduled for your allotment this year.

### 2. Removal of Structural Range Improvements

a) You have requested and approved to remove corner gate in the Bull pasture along fence #007675, as there are no roads to the gate and the permittee has no purpose for the gate.

### 3. Existing Structural Range Improvements

a) General maintenance of Structural Range Improvements as needed.

b) Clean the following dirt tanks: Section 2 Tank (007860) and SCS Tank (007861). You must contact Range Specialist Cherie Owens and Archeologist Neil Weintraub (928) 635-5647 for required clearances at least two weeks in advance of when you would like to begin work.

c) You requested that you would like to have the Fuels Dozer operator, when in the area and available to complete spillway work on the following tanks: Lost Tank (007858), Hill Top (007718). This was requested to ensure the dams are not breached in event of heavy moisture activity. Have operator contact Benny Aja prior to work.

d) Reconstruct the north side, west side, and half of the southern side of the Palsom Dam Water lot (#007840). Doubling the top wire to help prevent breakage from wildlife and burros.

e) Reconstruct 1 mile of boundary fence #007614 on the boundary between the Corva Allotment and Juan Tank Allotment.

Please contact Range Specialist Cherie Owens once maintenance of individual structural range improvements is complete in order for her to conduct an inspection.

## **IX. Salting and Protein Block Practices**

Supplemental feeding of livestock is allowed (to strategically manage livestock distribution and forage use) as follows:

1. Place supplements on previously disturbed areas (i.e., borrow pits) or natural bedrock outcrops when possible (supplement sites).
2. Locate supplement sites 0.25 mile or more from waters and key areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from the District Ranger.
3. Locate supplement sites where forage is abundant and utilized less than average.
4. Limit supplement types to non-energy feeds such as salt, protein, and mineral blocks.
5. Use products that prevent the spread of noxious weeds, only certified weed free hay may be authorized on National Forest System Lands when snow has limited the use of available forage. The same considerations for distribution will apply when feeding hay as given above when using supplements.

## **X. Portable Water Hauling**

Temporary sites for portable haul water may be needed and should be used as necessary to assist in

livestock distribution. The following requirements will apply to portable haul water locations:

1. Coordinate with the District Rangeland Management Specialist to identify portable water haul locations for individual pastures prior to the grazing period.
2. To aid in livestock distribution, the portable water haul locations should generally be in areas of light forage utilization.
3. Portable water hauls will not be located in areas of depleted range, erosive soils, or sensitive plant or animal species.
4. Portable water haul locations will be moved when the desired forage utilization levels have been reached.
5. Portable haul water storage tanks and troughs will be removed when livestock leave the pasture.

## **XI. Fire**

Please use caution during all ranch activities that could potentially start a fire. All ranch vehicles must be equipped with an axe, shovel, and water bucket. All open camp and branding fires require a ten foot fire ring cleared down to mineral soil.

During periods of critical fire danger the Forest Supervisor may declare a Red Flag Alert or issue other special orders. Under these conditions, the building or use of fires, the use of power saws, heavy equipment, ATVs and other motorized equipment may be prohibited on Forest Service land. All Federal, State and Local fire restrictions and regulations must be observed.

Report all fires to the *Williams Ranger District Office at (928) 635-5600* or to the *Kaibab National Forest Supervisors Office at (928) 635-8200*.

Cooperation in the reporting, prevention, and suppression of fires will be expected as specified in Part 2, section 10 of your Term Grazing Permit.

## **XII. Motor Vehicle Use / Restrictions**

On July 9, 2010, the Travel Management Rule (TMR) has been implemented on the Williams Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest. Implementation of 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.

**XIII. Permittee Review**

On February 7, 2017 Cherie Owens met with the permittee to develop and discuss the 2017 Summer Annual Operating Instructions for the Double A and Corva Allotments. The permittee has reviewed and agreed with these instructions.

If you have any questions or concerns, Rangeland Management Specialist Cherie Owens at (928) 635-5621.

Sincerely,

*Danelle D. Harrison*

DANELLE D. HARRISON  
Williams and Tusayan District Ranger

cc: Benny Aja - Post Office Box 601 Williams, Arizona 86046