



File Code: 2210/2230

Date:

Rex and/or Ruth Maughan  
P.O. Box 970  
Yarnell, AZ 85362

Dear Rex and/or Ruth:

This document contains your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Government Mountain Allotment during the 2011 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 2011 annual validation and billing period will allow for the following period of use with the following numbers allowed:

420 Adult Cattle from July 13 to September 30, 2011

**2. Pasture Sequence**

| Pasture Name   | Number of Head, Approximate | Dates, Approximate | Number of Days, Approximate |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Spring Valley  | 420                         | 7/13-7/31          | 19                          |
| Newman North   | 420                         | 8/1-8/15           | 15                          |
| Red Tank North | 420                         | 8/16-8/31          | 16                          |
| Red Tank South | 420                         | 9/1-9/14           | 14                          |
| Southwest      | 420                         | 9/15-9/30          | 16                          |

Grazing Periods and Number of Days in each pasture are tentative and subject to adaptive management. 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.

Livestock are to be actively herded from one pasture to the other. It is the Permittee's responsibility to ensure that all livestock are removed from each pasture within 5 days of the scheduled off date.



### **3. Utilization Guidelines**

Allowable Use Standards for the Government Mountain Allotment are set at 35% in the grasslands and 20% in the uplands.

The 20% Allowable Use Standard applies to specific types of habitat for Mexican Spotted Owls (MSO) and Northern Goshawks. The Allotment has two Protected Activity Centers and habitat for MSO (a map will be provided upon request). In the remainder of the pastures, the maximum Grazing Intensity will be conservative or moderate, depending upon the time of year.

The 35% Allowable Use Standard means you are limited to a maximum of Conservative Grazing Intensity from September 1 to March 15, and Moderate Grazing Intensity from March 16 to August 30.

### **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 the salt, supplements, hay, and water hauls when the 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. Range Improvements**

#### 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.

The Permittee may request a Forest Products Free Use Permit in order to cut juniper fence posts and stays for use only on their Forest Service allotment. No tree cutting is allowed without a forest products permit.

Hazard trees may need to be cut to prevent them from falling on fences. However, no tree cutting may be conducted without specific written permission from the Forest Service.

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

No maintenance projects have been identified for the 2011 grazing season.

## **6. Travel Management**

The Forest will be implementing its decision on Travel Management (alternative 3). This decision prohibits the use of motor vehicles for cross-country travel, as well as on closed roads. We understand that you regularly use an ATV and/or truck to drive and maintain your pasture and allotment boundary fences. You also travel cross country on a monthly basis to check on livestock, forage, and water conditions. Authorization for this use is granted in this AOI as long as it remains limited in scope, and occurs when the soils are dry and/or frozen.

## **7. Drought Management**

The Kaibab National Forest needs your help to ensure that any grazing authorized during drought periods does not damage the soil, watershed, vegetation, wildlife forage and cover, and livestock forage. Leaving an adequate amount of residual vegetation after grazing (approximately 50% of the plant canopy) is always important in order to maintain or improve rangeland health, but it is especially important during and after droughts.

As always, Permittees are strongly encouraged to reduce the number of animals stocked during droughts. 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, 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.

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

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 some training.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact Rangeland Management Specialist Jason Stevens at (928) 635-5625 ([jasonstevens@fs.fed.us](mailto:jasonstevens@fs.fed.us)), or FAX at (928) 635-5681.

Sincerely,

MARTIE SCHRAMM  
District Ranger

Enclosures