



File Code: 2230/2210

Date: April 17, 2013

Joseph A. Auza Sheep Co., LLC
353 E. Wiley Way
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Dear Joseph:

This document contains your 2013 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Hat Allotment. 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 annual validation will allow for the following livestock numbers and periods of use:

4,160 sheep (ewes): April 15- October 31, 2013

140 sheep (rams): June 1 – July 15, 2013

This year the sheep will begin grazing on the far west side of the allotment (concentrating in the lower elevation portions), in order to utilize Japanese brome. This non-native, invasive annual grass is found primarily along Forest Roads 35, 27, and 6, with scattered populations elsewhere.

The highest priority pastures are: 13 Mile, Perrin (Perrin East, West, North, and South), and the House Pasture. Current research on Japanese brome indicates that grazing in May and June may significantly reduce seed production and can serve as an effective treatment method.

Place the sheep in those pastures first, dividing the sheep up however you wish (i.e. 1-4 bands). Remain in these areas until forage utilization on the brome nears 50% and then move south into the Meath Trap, North and South Winter pastures.

Once forage utilization nears 40% in Meath Trap, North and South Winter pastures, move the sheep into the higher elevation areas of the allotment. Split the herd into 1-3 bands so they can rotate through those pastures without exceeding the 40% utilization.

All sheep are to be actively herded through the grazing units, and are not allowed to bed in the same area for more than 3 days in a row.

At no time are sheep permitted to water or graze within the Coleman Lake enclosure.



It may be necessary to amend this AOI based on resource conditions. However, it is important for both the Permittee and the Forest Service to notify each other promptly if it appears that changes to this schedule may be necessary. If you feel changes are needed please contact us; it is a permit violation to make changes to the AOI without first notifying and receiving approval from the Forest Service.

2. Allowable Use (Utilization) Guidelines

For areas *not impacted by Japanese brome*, Herders are to move the sheep when grazing intensity is nearing the conservative level (40%), and are prohibited from returning to these areas after August 30. This will allow for regrowth in those areas prior to the dormant season.

Forage utilization in aspen and riparian areas is limited to light grazing intensity (10%).

3. Livestock Distribution

Grazing Intensity will be more uniform across the pasture if livestock are well distributed. Livestock may remain in each grazing area as long as Grazing Intensity does not exceed the Allowable Use Standard. Areas exempt from this requirement are lands within ¼ mile of permanent water sources.

The following requirements apply to the use of salt, supplements, and/or water hauls:

- Place in areas of light utilization, at least ¼ mile away from permanent water, and at different sites from the previous year.
- Place supplements in portable containers, rather than directly on the ground, in order to protect the soil.
- Avoid wetlands, drainages, and erosive soils.
- Remove the salt, supplements, 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 livestock distribution in the area.

4. Range Improvements

Maintenance of Range Improvements

Range improvements assigned to you need to be inspected and the problems found corrected on a yearly basis. You must follow the Heavy Equipment Policy (December 2008) before starting any work that involves soil disturbance. All fences must be maintained to standard before livestock enter a pasture.

You 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.

Projects for 2013, by priority

- Rebuild 2.5 miles of the Hat/Prescott Boundary fence, #7935A (see attached map).
- Hat/Tule fence (improvement #7603 & 7603A): repair any H-braces, T-posts, stays, tighten wire, and remove any fallen trees from fence.
- Hat/Irishman fence (#7609/7609A): same as above.

Fence materials will be provided by the Kaibab National Forest and the permittee will provide the labor.

You indicated that you would like to clean an unnamed earthen tank in the McCauley Pasture (T21N R1W section 14). This was constructed for wildlife habitat improvement meaning you do not have maintenance responsibility for its upkeep. However, we do have a heritage clearance for it so you may proceed with cleaning it. All work must remain in the original confines of the tank.

5. Travel Management

The Travel Management Rule (TMR) has been implemented on the Williams Ranger District of the Kaibab National Forest. 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.

6. 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 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.

7. **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.

8. **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 Clare Hydock at 635-5623 office, 606-1265 cell, chydock@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Martie Schramm
MARTIE SCHRAMM
District Ranger

Enclosures