



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tonto National Forest
Globe Ranger District

7680 S. Six Shooter Canyon Rd.
Globe, AZ 85501
Phone: 928.402.6200
Fax: 928.402.6292

File Code: 2210

Haystack Butte Allotment

Date: April 4, 2003

(b) (6)

Dear (b) (6):

Thank you for meeting with us on February 17, 2003, to complete the following Annual Operating Instructions (AOI). Pasture dates are tentative and may need to be changed. If your livestock have grazed key areas to utilization standards before the scheduled move date and it is necessary for you to move them to the next pasture early, please call Carol Engle and inform her of this.

I appreciate the efforts you have made to keep us informed of what is happening on Haystack Allotment. This is especially exemplary with the health problems that Joe has had over the past year.

In order for Haystack Allotment to be consistent with the Forest Plan, the following Standards and Guidelines are part of your AOI:

Streambank Alteration: Limited to less than 20% of the alterable bank impacted by livestock.

Herbaceous (Grass) Utilization in the Lower River Pasture and Ash Creek Pasture: Limited to less than 40% of the plant species biomass, due to the Razor Back Sucker.

Herbaceous (Grass) Utilization on the remainder of the allotment: Limited to less than 50% of the plants' biomass.

Woody (Browse) Utilization in the Lower River Pasture and Ash Creek Pasture: Limited to less than 40% of leaders (branches) browsed, due to the Razor Back Sucker.

Woody (Browse) Utilization on the remainder of the allotment: Limited to less than 50% of leaders (branches) browsed.

Riparian: Do not salt within one-quarter mile of riparian areas or water.

Livestock Numbers: You have validated the following number for 2003:

40 cows
7 bulls



Livestock Management: The following rotation is planned for 2003.

January	Lower Ash Creek Pasture
February – March 15	Lower River Pasture
March 16 – April 30	Upper River
May 1 – July 30 th	Cottonwood
August 1 – 31	West Steer
September 1 – 30	Breeding Pasture
October 1 – December 31	Bronson Pasture – Will need to monitor pasture before cattle are put in the pasture.

Rested Pastures: East Steer and Upper Ash

Lower River Pasture will only be used 5 weeks to accommodate the river rafters.

Salt and Salt Meal: All salt will be located at least one-quarter mile from water. Salt will not be used in key areas, but will be placed to encourage livestock to graze areas of low use.

Maintenance of Range Improvements: Your maintenance assignments are shown in red on your allotment map. Please review your map to insure these improvements are in satisfactory working condition.

Fires: You and your agents will protect the land covered under the grazing permit. Protection will include taking all reasonable precautions to prevent, make diligent efforts to suppress, and report promptly all fires on, or endangering the lands covered under the grazing permit.

Please have Buck Prunte call Carol Engle to schedule a date to ride the Upper River Pasture in early May.

A letter from us dated November 22, 2002, authorized you to gather remaining livestock on Chrysotile Allotment. You notified us that you delivered six maverick livestock to Pacific Livestock Auction in Chandler on 1/3/2003. Our letter authorizes you to continue gathering livestock in this area until December 13, 2003. We have been in contact with the Arizona State Department of Agriculture (ASDA) to determine why you have not yet been paid for gathering these livestock. ASDA notified us that a different person is now managing the handling of these affairs within their department, but they are currently reviewing the situation. We will continue to communicate with the ASDA until you have been compensated for your efforts.

Monitoring will be conducted in key areas on key forage plants that are defined as:

Key livestock grazing 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 part (Forest Service Region Three Rangeland Analysis and Management Guide, June 1997, Chapter 4-3)". Key areas are at least one-quarter mile away from developed upland stock water. All full capacity riparian areas, where surface water may or may not be present, are key grazing areas where measurements will be conducted.

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Key forage plants are defined as: "(1) Forage species of sufficient abundance and palatability to justify its use as an indicator to the degree of use of associated species. (2) Those species, which must, because of their importance, be considered in the management program (Society for Range Management, Glossary of Terms, 2nd edition, 1974.)"

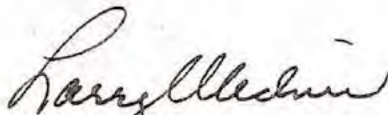
All or a portion of livestock may be removed from the allotment if drought conditions prevail. Factors that will help to determine if livestock removal is necessary from the effects of a drought include: 1) vigor of perennial forage plants, 2) apparent trend of forage and soils, 3) production of grass and 4) upland stock water developments. This is different than the utilization prescriptions where cattle may have to be removed from a pasture or allotment.

This AOI is subject to administrative review through the Forest Service, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90. In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal, or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91). See enclosed 36 CFR, Subpart C, regulations.

A notice of appeal must be filed with the Tonto Forest Supervisor at 2324 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85006, within 45-days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with the District Ranger at 7680 Six Shooter Canyon Road, Globe, AZ 85501.

If you have any questions about these instructions, or anything to do with your allotment, please feel free to contact Carol Engle at the above number.

Sincerely,


LARRY WIDNER
District Ranger

Enclosure

cc:

Eddie Alford, S.O., w/o enclosure

(b) (6) w/o enclosure

Dana Bayer, AZ Game and Fish, w/o enclosure