



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

Hicks/Pikes Peak Allotments

Date: April 16, 2007

Rockin Four Ranch LLC

(b) (6)

Dear (b) (6)

Thank you for meeting with Linny Warren on January 19, 2007, to validate the number of livestock you will be grazing on the Hicks/Pikes Peak Allotments, and to discuss your proposed rotation schedule for the 2007 grazing year. We are currently in the process of transferring the permit over to you, and will be contacting you soon to set up an appointment to meet and discuss the Terms and Conditions of the permit.

Following are your livestock numbers and proposed rotation schedule:

Livestock Numbers: You have validated the following numbers for 2007:

128 Cattle Cows	03/01/07 – 04/27/07
14 Cattle Bulls	03/01/07 – 04/27/07
817 Cattle Yearlings	03/01/07 - /03/24/07

Livestock Management: The following rotation is planned for 2007:

03/01/2007 – 03/24/2007	Rip Pasture (170 head)
03/01/2007 – 03/24/2007	Holly Pasture (240 head)
03/01/2007 – 03/24/2007	North Steer Pasture (350 head)
03/01/2007 – 04/27/2007	Upper Big Pasture (140 Head)

It is important to note that the above are tentative pasture use dates and may be changed, as needed, to comply with the Forest Plan Standards. For instance, the length of time in a particular pasture may be extended if the forage has been underutilized or shortened if utilization standards are met early. If changes are made to your proposed rotation schedule, please send written documentation to the above address or contact the District Range personnel **prior** to the unscheduled move so that our records can be updated to reflect these changes, and an Amendment to your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) can be issued.

Grazing will be managed to improve or sustain satisfactory watershed, riparian, and wildlife habitat conditions while providing forage for livestock and wildlife. A primary objective on upland watersheds will be to maintain or improve the hydrologic conditions and soils to enhance the productivity, ecological functioning, and sustainability of the watersheds.



This will be accomplished by managing the intensity, timing, and frequency of grazing. A considerable amount of research supports the concept that conservative use levels will allow for sustained or improved watershed conditions. The grazing strategy will be to manage toward 30% to 40% utilization levels in the uplands, and on average, moderate utilization levels in riparian areas. However, grazing intensity will be evaluated during the growing season in order to practice adaptive management, and make management changes that are needed to stay within the aforementioned utilization levels at the end of the growing season.

Grazing intensity evaluated during the grazing season will be evaluated by estimating residual vegetation (stubble height or biomass), vigor of plants, precipitation, and phenological stage of key species. This information can be used to trigger management decisions to move cattle from one unit to the next.

Utilization measurements will be conducted in key livestock grazing areas and on key forage plants. The selection process for key forage plants and key forage areas are defined in the Forest Service Region Three Rangeland Analysis and Management Guide dated June, 1997, and the 1996 Interagency Technical References.

Range Improvement and Maintenance: Permittees will perform maintenance of all necessary range improvements assigned as a maintenance responsibility on the term grazing permit for their allotment. This is in accordance with Part 3 of the term grazing permit. These include; allotment boundary fences and interior fences, livestock handling facilities, and water developments. All ground disturbing activities must receive proper clearances by the Globe Ranger District prior to project initiation by permittee. Routine maintenance of permittee assigned range improvements does not require prior approval.

Maintenance on Range Improvements in 2006

Kenny Pasture fence 1 mile maintenance
Holly Pasture fence 2 miles maintenance
Murphy Pasture fence 2 miles maintenance
Laurel Spring Box reconstruct
Indian Spring new trough
Yellow/Hicks pipeline ½ mile
Murphy Wash new trough

Proposed Improvements for 2007

Repair all windmills

Salt and Salt Meal: All salt and salt meal 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.

This AOI is subject to administrative review through the Forest Service, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; 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). Further more, 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).

A notice of appeal must be filed with the Tonto Forest Supervisor at 2324 E. McDowell Road, 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 or comments regarding this AOI, please do not hesitate to contact Linny or me at the above phone number.

Sincerely,



LEE W. THORNHILL
District Ranger

Copy to:

Dana Warnecke, Arizona Game and Fish
Natalie Robb, Arizona Game and Fish
Donal Luhrsen, S.O.