



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
Date: December 26, 2007

Rockin Four Ranch LLC
ATTN: Mr. John Fowler
3636 S. 43rd Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85009

Dear John:

Thank you for meeting with Linn Warren on October 4, 2007, to validate the number of livestock you will be grazing on the Hicks-Pikes Peak Allotment, and to discuss your proposed rotation schedule for the 2008 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 2008:

310 Cattle Cows	10/10/07 – 04/15/08
20 Cattle Bulls	10/10/07 – 04/15/08
500 Cattle Yearlings	10/26/07 - 04/15/08

Livestock Management: The following rotation is planned for 2008:

10/10/2007 – 01/10/2008	Upper Big to Lower Big	01/11/08 – 04/15/08	(149 yearlings)
10/10/2007 – 01/10/2008	Lower Steer to Upper Steer	01/11/08 - 04/15/08	(307 yearlings)
10/10/2007 – 01/11/2008	Holly to Upper Devore	01/12/08 - 04/15/08	(60 Heifers)
10/10/2007 – 01/11/2008	Kenny to Lower	01/12/08 - 04/15/08	(120 Heifers)
10/10/2007 - 01/12/2008	Rip to Hicks	01/13/08 - 04/15/08	(62 Heifers)
90 cows	04/30/08 – Sycamore to Ortega	09/01/08 to Schute Springs	12/01/08 – 02/28/09

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.

John Fowler

2

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.

Completed Maintenance on Range Improvements in 2007

- 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 2008

- 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

John Fowler

3

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 Linnny or myself at the above phone number.

Sincerely,

LEE W. THORNHILL
District Ranger

Copy to:
Dana Warnecke
Donal Luhrsen
Shai A. Schendal (NCRS)