
File Code: 2210
Date: May 17, 2023

Manterola Sheep Corporation
c/o Joe Manterola
Post Office Box 11227
Casa Grande, Arizona 85130

Dear Mr. Manterola:

This document serves as your 2023 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Mooney Mountain and Woody Mountain Allotments and Beaverhead-Grief Hill Driveway. This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, section 8(a). Please review all sections of this AOI and contact your Rangeland Management Specialist if you have any questions.

I. AUTHORIZED LIVESTOCK NUMBERS/PERIOD OF USE

Your 2023 Authorized Use Request has been approved and you are authorized the following Livestock Numbers and Periods of Use:

500 Sheep	July 17 to October 15, 2023	Mooney Mountain Allotment
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For the 2023 grazing season non-use has been authorized under the category of resource protection for the following allotments: Beaverhead Grief Hill Driveway 2721 AUMs, Beaverhead Grief Hill Driveway 14 AUMs, Woody Mountain 3738 AUMs, and Mooney Mountain 5565 AUMs.

The 2023 authorized livestock numbers and the authorized period of use were determined based on referencing the Western Regional Climate Center 12-month Standardized Precipitation Index (Northeast Division, Arizona; Climate Division 2) and allotment inspections conducted prior to the grazing season.

Any increase in the 2023 authorized livestock numbers will require that you file an additional Authorized Use Request. Be advised that the Forest Service will need a minimum of 45 days to assess resource conditions and process a supplemental grazing bill for additional livestock. Please contact your Rangeland Management Specialist prior to making any decisions regarding increased livestock numbers.

II. GRAZING SCHEDULE

The following is the planned grazing sequence for the 2023 grazing period. The grazing unit use periods shown are an estimate and may need to be amended based on actual conditions:



Mooney Mountain

Grazing Unit	Planned Graze Period	Livestock Numbers
Mooney Mountain West	7/17 to 8/17	500 Sheep
Mooney Mountain East	8/18 to 10/15	500 Sheep

Woody Mountain Allotment and the Beaverhead/Grief Hill Sheep Driveway will be rested this year for resource protection.

The Budweiser Tank grazing unit contains only State Trust land. The planned grazing period and planned livestock numbers shown in the table are provided for informational purposes only. Use of this grazing unit does not require Forest Service authorization and may be amended at the discretion of the permittee and/or the Arizona State Land Department.

Changes from the grazing schedule will be made only with Forest Service approval. The planned use period in a grazing unit may be shortened or lengthened depending on forage availability and utilization in key areas. Moves from one grazing unit to the next grazing unit will be completed within a two (2) day period; sheep will be actively herded from one grazing unit to another. Ensuring that sheep are grazing in the correct grazing unit at the correct time and preventing sheep from grazing adjacent allotments is the permittee's responsibility.

III.DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

Drought is an inevitable occurrence in the southwestern United States. Both the Forest Service and grazing permittees must plan for drought as a normal part of management. During periods of drought, the following management actions may be necessary:

- a) Stocking levels may need to be reduced. Reductions may be necessary prior to the permitted season of use and/or during the permitted season of use.
- b) Season of use may need to be shortened. Depending on the severity of the drought and the stocking level, a reduced grazing season may be necessary.
- c) Pasture use periods may need to be shortened. Pastures will not be re-grazed during the same grazing season, and this may ultimately result in an early exit from the allotment.
- d) Utilization and/or seasonal utilization (grazing intensity) standards may need to be reduced. Depending on the severity of the drought and the stocking level, reduced utilization standards will likely result in shortened pasture use periods and may ultimately result in an early exit from the allotment.
- e) Lack of livestock water, or poor distribution of livestock water, may result in reduced pasture/allotment use periods. Depending on forage conditions, this effect may be mitigated by hauling water to temporary livestock watering facilities.
- f) Allotment Management Plan direction for pastures requiring rest or deferment will be followed. Livestock use of planned rested pastures due to drought will not be authorized.

IV. GRAZING STRATEGY/MANAGEMENT

Beaverhead-Grief Hill Driveway

Use of the Prescott National Forest portion of the driveway will not occur this year.

Mooney Mountain

The Mooney Mountain allotment is used in conjunction with the Garland Prairie and Pomeroy allotments on the Kaibab National Forest. The 90-day use period of the Mooney Mountain allotment will be deferred annually. Typical examples of allotment 90 use periods are: June 1 to August 31; July 16 to October 15; June 1 to July 15 and September 1 to October 15. Sheep will be day herded and a deferred rotation grazing system will be used on the two grazing units of the allotment. The management of sheep movement on this allotment will be based upon seasonal utilization guidelines and allowable forage utilization standards.

Woody Mountain

Sheep will not be grazed to allow for pasture rest and resource protection.

V. ALLOWABLE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

Upland and Non-Riparian Areas

The maximum allowable level of utilization on herbaceous and non-riparian woody vegetation is 35%. This allowable use level is the utilization level permitted by both livestock and wildlife. Utilization is defined as the proportion or degree of current year's forage production by weight that is consumed or destroyed by animals. It is a comparison of the amount of herbage left with the amount of herbage produced during the year. Utilization will be measured at the end of growing season (typically October or November) when the total annual production can be accounted for and the effects of grazing in the whole management unit can be assessed.

Aspen

Utilization of aspen will be limited to 20% of current year's growth. Utilization of aspen will be measured at the end of the growing season (typically October or November).

Riparian Areas

Utilization of woody vegetation in riparian areas will not exceed 20%. Utilization of woody vegetation will be measured at the end of the growing season (typically October or November).

VI. SEASONAL UTILIZATION

A light to moderate seasonal utilization guideline of up to 50% will be used within grazing units on the allotments. Seasonal utilization is defined as the amount of herbage removed through grazing or trampling during the grazing period. Seasonal utilization may be measured during the grazing period and/or at the end of each pasture's livestock grazing period.

The seasonal utilization guideline will be the primary factor in determining when livestock need to move to the next grazing unit; but other factors such as climatic conditions, opportunity for plant growth, and previous year's utilization level will also be considered. Annual reductions in the seasonal utilization guideline may be made based on resource conditions.

VII. RESOURCE MONITORING

Forage Utilization

Forage utilization within each grazing unit will be monitored and the allowable utilization standards (section V) and the seasonal utilization guidelines (section VI) will be enforced. This may result in different planned grazing periods than shown in the Grazing Schedule (section II).

Forage utilization monitoring will occur at locations within pastures using the "key area" concept. Key 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 a part." Key areas will generally have the following characteristics: they will be approximately 20 to 500 acres in size; they will be located on productive soils with slopes less than 15%; they will have a plant community that is representative of the larger area; and they will generally be located 0.25 to 1.0 miles away from livestock water sources.

Forage utilization monitoring and its specific application to your allotment should be discussed with your Rangeland Management Specialist. Permittee participation in utilization monitoring is encouraged.

VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES FOR SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

The following mitigation measures are required for threatened and endangered species on the Beaverhead-Grief Hill Driveway and the Mooney Mountain and Woody Mountain Allotments.

Mexican Spotted Owl

1. No human disturbance or construction activities associated with livestock grazing operations will occur within protected activity centers (PACs) during the breeding season (March 1 through August 31).
2. Bedding of sheep is not allowed within PACs.
3. Continue to monitor grazing use by livestock and wildlife in the ponderosa pine/gamble oak vegetation type and specifically within PACs.
4. In addition to the Salting and Protein Block practices identified in Section XI, the following additional guidelines are required within Mexican spotted owl habitat:
 - a) Do not place salt, mineral block, or supplements within riparian areas, mountain meadows, or non-riparian drainages in ponderosa pine.
 - b) Do not place salt, mineral block, or supplements within spotted owl PACs.

IX. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Construction of New Structural Range Improvements

There are no new structural range improvements scheduled for your allotments this year.

Removal of Structural Range Improvements

There are no structural range improvements scheduled for removal this year.

Reconstruction/Replacement of Existing Structural Range Improvements

No projects planned this year.

Existing Structural Range Improvements

Structural range improvements assigned to you for maintenance are listed in your Term Grazing Permit and are also identified on the allotment maps. These improvements are to be fully maintained annually to comply with permit requirements (Part 2, Section 8i). Any maintenance you perform must conform to the standards specified by your District Rangeland Management Specialist. The grazing permittee is responsible for all maintenance materials, supplies and equipment necessary to properly maintain all range structural improvements. The Forest will replace range structural improvement materials and/or supplies at the end of the improvement's life; when maintenance and repair is no longer feasible to keep the improvement properly maintained and functioning. **Please note that you must notify the District Rangeland Management Specialist at least 60 days prior to the beginning of any maintenance work that requires the use of heavy equipment.**

X. SALTING AND PROTEIN BLOCK PRACTICES

Proper salt and protein block location can be a good tool to aid in livestock distribution and they will be used in a manner to spread livestock utilization throughout the pasture. The following guidelines will be used when placing salt and protein blocks:

1. In general, salt and protein blocks should not be placed within ¼ mile of water.
2. On the Beaverhead-Grief Hill Driveway, salt blocks or pellets will not be left on site after use.
3. Salt and protein blocks will not be placed in areas of depleted range, erosive soils, or sensitive plant or animal species. If applicable, areas of sensitive plant or animal species will be identified by your Rangeland Management Specialist and included in each year's AOI.
4. No more than three blocks (50 lb. blocks) of salt/protein will be placed at any location at any one time.
5. Salt/protein will not be placed at the same location twice during the same grazing season.
6. The use of portable salt/protein block containers is encouraged but not mandatory.

XI. PORTABLE WATER HAULING

Temporary sites for portable haul water may be needed and should be used as necessary to assist in livestock distribution. The following requirements will apply to portable haul water locations:

1. Coordinate with the District Rangeland Management Specialist to identify portable water haul locations for individual pastures prior to the grazing period.
2. To aid in livestock distribution, the portable water haul locations should generally be in areas of light forage utilization.
3. Generally, portable water haul locations will not be located at sites used in previous years.
4. Portable water hauls will not be located in areas of depleted range, erosive soils, or sensitive plant or animal species.
5. Portable water haul locations will be moved when the desired forage utilization levels have been reached.
6. Portable haul water storage tanks and troughs will be removed when livestock leave the pasture.

XII. FIRE

Please use caution during all ranch activities that could potentially start a fire. All ranch vehicles should be equipped with a firefighting tool (shovel, axe, pulaski, etc.) and water or an ABC dry chemical fire extinguisher. All open camp and branding fires require a ten-foot fire ring cleared down to mineral soil.

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

All Federal, State and Local fire restrictions and regulations must be observed.

Report all fires to the Flagstaff Ranger District Office at: (928) 526-0866.

Cooperation in the reporting, prevention, and suppression of fires will be expected as specified in Part 2, section 10 of your Term Grazing Permit.

XIII. MOTOR VEHICLE USE/RESTRICTIONS

On May 1, 2012, the Coconino National Forest began implementation of the Travel Management Rule. The Travel Management Rule requires the designation of roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use and these routes are identified on the Motor Vehicle Use Map. Implementation of the Travel Management Rule requires active management of all motorized use, including use related to permitted grazing activities. Motorized travel off the designated road system, including off-road access, by grazing permit holders will be based on the need to carry out required management practices necessary to comply with the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit. Examples of required management practices include but are not limited to the repair and maintenance of structural range improvements; transport and placement of mineral and protein supplement; herding of livestock; and tending to sick or injured animals. Legitimate motorized use off the designated road system, including off-road access, for conducting activities required under the Term Grazing Permit will be authorized as follows:

1. For motorized use with ATVs, UTVs, motorcycles, and full-size pickup or smaller vehicles (curb weight less than 8,000 pounds): Grazing permittee must obtain a grazing allotment specific Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit. Motorized vehicle use off the designated road system will be limited to only that use which is necessary for compliance with the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit.
2. For motorized use with larger vehicles (curb weight greater than 8,000 pounds or larger than a full-size pickup) or any heavy equipment: Grazing permittee must obtain a site specific Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit. Motorized vehicle use off the designated road system will be limited to only that use which is necessary for compliance with the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit.
3. To request site specific Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit, the grazing permittee must provide their Rangeland Management Specialist with the project details a minimum of 30 days prior to the proposed starting date for the permit.

4. A copy of the approved Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit must be with the vehicle operator while operating the vehicle off the designated road system.
5. A Permit Placard must be attached to all permitted vehicles while operating off the designated road system.
6. Off-Highway vehicles (ATVs, UTVs, and motorcycles) used for conducting activities required under the Term Grazing Permit must be licensed and permitted in accordance with Arizona State law.
7. The Motor Vehicle Use Map for the Coconino National Forest identifies certain roads as “Roads Open to Highway Legal Vehicles Only”. These roads are open only to motor vehicles licensed under State law for general operation on all public roads within the state. Grazing permittees operating motor vehicles on these roads must comply with the legal requirements. Operating a motor vehicle off the designated road system to avoid the legal requirements of “Roads Open to Highway Legal Vehicles Only” is not permitted.
8. Grazing permittees will utilize motorized vehicles off the designated road system in a manner that will not result in damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, wildlife, heritage, or other forest resources.
9. Failure to comply with the conditions of the Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit may result in the immediate cancellation of the Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit and may result in the issuance of a Notice of Non-Compliance for violation of the terms and conditions of your Term Grazing Permit.
10. Grazing permittees that do not obtain a Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit are required to operate motorized vehicles only on the designated road system. Operating a motorized vehicle off the designated road system without a valid Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit will result in the immediate issuance of a Notice of Non-Compliance for violating the terms and conditions of your Term Grazing Permit (Part 2, Section 8a). A Notice of Non-Compliance may result in Term Grazing Permit suspension or cancellation proceedings.

XIV. PERMITTEE REVIEW

On May 11, 2023, via phone you worked with William Gray to develop the 2023 Annual Operating Instructions for Mooney Mountain and Woody Mountain Allotments and the Beaverhead Grief Hill Sheep Driveway. You have reviewed and agreed to these instructions.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to William Gray at 480-547-9058 or at william.gray@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

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NICHOLAS MUSTOE
Date: 2023.05.25
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NICHOLAS MUSTOE
Deputy District Ranger