



File Code: 2210-1/2230-3

Date: September 29, 2010

Curt Wells  
P.O. Box 4320  
Chino Valley, AZ 86323

Dear Curt:

This document contains your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Partridge Creek Allotment during the 2010-2011 grazing season. 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 and billing period will allow for the following period of use with the following numbers allowed:

**250 adult cattle: November 01, 2010 – April 30, 2011**

**2. Pasture Assignments**

Cattle will be assigned to the following pastures with the following numbers:

Pasture	Livestock Numbers
Little Aso	80
Big Aso	35
Partridge Creek	25
South	80
Indian	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>

Cattle are to be scattered within each pasture, including the uplands of each. If this can not be accomplished by the permittee, we will amend this AOI and require the cattle to be placed into a single herd to move between pastures. **You may be required to consolidate all livestock into a single herd prior to the onset of the 2011 growing season to promote early season growth in portions of the allotment. Please contact the Forest Service prior to the onset of the growing season to discuss consolidation alternatives.**



These pasture assignments are tentative, and subject to adaptive management. It may be necessary to adjust them based on pasture conditions. 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. It is a permit violation to make changes to the Grazing Schedule without first notifying and receiving approval from the Forest Service.

### **3. Range Improvements**

The Permittee must follow the Heavy Equipment Policy before starting any work that involves soil disturbance.

#### Maintenance of Range Improvements –

Range improvements assigned to you need to be inspected and the problems found corrected on a yearly basis. All fences must be maintained to standard before livestock enter a pasture.

All maintenance must conform to the standards specified by your district grazing permit administrator. The Forest Service will not provide any material for routine maintenance.

The Forest Service has provided the permittee with bentonite clay for earthen tank sealing. The bentonite clay should be placed in the tanks as conditions become appropriate (e.g., tanks dry out). The permittee must adhere to the Heavy Equipment Policy prior to any such projects.

#### Reconstruction of Range Improvements --

The 1995 AMP for Partridge Creek identified six waterlots that needed to be reconstructed at existing tanks:

- 1) Costello
- 2) Indian
- 3) Punk
- 4) Little Aso
- 5) Heifer, and
- 6) Quarry.

The Forest Service has purchased materials for these projects. The AMP states that the Forest Service will provide the labor, however we would like to coordinate with the permittee to discuss our options and a timeline for completion.

#### 4. Livestock Distribution

Grazing Intensity will be more uniform across the pasture if livestock are well distributed. Distribution aids include: water hauls, waterlot control, salt and supplement stations, and herding. Livestock may remain in each pasture during the entire permitted use period if Grazing Intensity does not exceed the Allowable Use Standard throughout the pasture. If the Allowable Use Standard is exceeded in one area of the pasture because you don't move your animals from a preferred location, then livestock must be moved to the next pasture in the rotation or off the allotment. Areas exempt from this requirement are lands within ¼ mile of permanent water sources that are not fenced.

The following requirements apply to portable water hauling:

- a) Coordinate with your district grazing permit administrator at your annual validation meeting or prior to the Grazing Period to identify portable water haul locations for individual pastures.
- b) Provide wildlife escape ramps in all water troughs and open metal storage tanks. The Kaibab National Forest is in the process of acquiring ramps and should be able to provide each Permittees with at least one escape ramp.
- c) Remove portable haul water storage tanks and troughs when livestock leave the pasture.

The following requirements apply to the use of salt and supplements:

- a) Place salt in portable containers, rather than directly on the ground, in order to protect the soil.
- b) Remove the salt and supplements when the livestock leave the pasture.

Place portable water troughs and salt/supplement stations in these locations:

- a) At least ¼ mile away from permanent water
- b) Areas of light forage Utilization. Move the water or salt/supplement when the Allowable Use Standard has been met.
- c) Different sites than were used last year
- d) On soils that are not fragile or eroding
- e) On sites that are not in wetlands or drainages
- f) On sites that do not have populations of rare plants, if known

Hay may be used only when snow has greatly limited the use of available forage. The same considerations for distribution will apply when feeding hay as given above when using salt and supplements. The use of weed-free hay is strongly encouraged.

Gates in waterlot fences will be left open for wildlife, unless closed on a temporary basis to facilitate cattle distribution in the pasture.

## **5. Drought Management**

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.

## **6. Allowable Use (Utilization) Guidelines**

The Allowable Use Standards for the Partridge Creek Allotment in the key areas (grasslands and savannahs) are 30% during the growing season (March 15 – November 15) and 40% during the dormant season (November 16 – March 14). For this allotment, cattle will be moved to another pasture or off of the allotment when use reaches Conservative Grazing Intensity.

Allowable Use Standards for the allotment are set in the 1995 Allotment Management Plan (AMP). The AMP follows direction described within the 1995 Decision Notice and 1994 Environmental Assessment for the allotment.

## **7. Grazing Intensity Monitoring and Recordkeeping**

Permittees are encouraged to estimate and record Grazing Intensity and Actual Use in each pasture during the permitted Grazing Period. It is preferred that Grazing Intensity be estimated in key areas that are located at least ¼ mile away from water or salt/supplement stations. The Permittee may make estimates in several key areas within each pasture where livestock spend the most time. Make estimates on your key forage species, i.e. common palatable species.

Preferred 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
- date of observation

If you are not familiar with methods of estimating Grazing Intensity, we will arrange for training on an individual or group basis.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact Rangeland Management Specialist Jason Stevens at 928/635-5625 ([jasonstevens@fs.fed.us](mailto:jasonstevens@fs.fed.us)), or FAX at 635-5680.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Martie Schramm*  
MARTIE SCHRAMM  
District Ranger