



File Code: 2210/2230

Date: May 11, 2011

TG Ranch LLC
418 Grantham Ranch Road
Williams, AZ 86046

Dear Allen:

This document contains your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Pine Creek Grazing Allotment during the 2011 grazing season.

1. Season of Use and Numbers to be Grazed

Your 2011 annual validation will allow for the following livestock numbers and period of use:

105 adult cattle and 50 yearlings from June 1 to October 31, 2011

2. Pasture Sequence

<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Grazing Period</u>	<u>Number of Days</u>
South**	6/1 – 7/21	51
Northeast	7/22 – 9/10	51
West	9/11 – 10/31	51
	Total Days	153

Grazing Periods and Number of Days in each pasture are tentative and subject to adaptive management. If changes are needed, please contact your permit administrator. It is a permit violation to make changes to the Grazing Schedule without first notifying and receiving approval from the Forest Service.

Livestock are to be actively herded from one pasture to the other. It is the Permittee's responsibility to ensure that all livestock are removed from each pasture within 5 days of the scheduled off date.

**** Three Mile Lake:** Livestock effects to Three Mile Lake would use adaptive management techniques (primarily deferred grazing) to mitigate effects to the seasonal wetland and wildlife habitat. Livestock use of the South Pasture will be deferred to avoid utilizing this area when there is standing water in the wetland. If other pasture options within the allotment or even outside the allotment were not possible, then a nest survey would be performed in and around the dry wetland area to insure no nesting wetland birds would be impacted by livestock grazing. If nesting was occurring, the nest areas would be deferred, either by temporary fence or complete pasture deferment. **Please contact the Forest Service prior to entering South Pasture.**

Kaibab Lake: Livestock are to be excluded from within the Kaibab Lake perimeter fence. It is the permittee's responsibility to ensure that livestock are not entering this area.



3. Allowable Use (Utilization) Guidelines

Allowable Use shall be limited to 35% in grasslands and 20% in uplands. Grazing Intensity should not exceed a maximum of **Moderate Grazing Intensity** during the growing season (March 15-August 30) and a maximum of **Conservative Grazing Intensity** at, or near the end of the growing season (September 1 – March 14).

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 for the entire grazing period if Grazing Intensity does not exceed the Allowable Use Standard. Areas exempt from this requirement are lands within ¼ mile of permanent water sources that are not fenced.

The following requirements apply to the use of salt, supplements, hay*, and/or water hauls (**the permittee is encouraged to use certified weed-free hay*):

- Place in areas of light utilization, at least ¼ mile away from permanent water, and at different sites from the previous year.
- Place salt in portable containers, rather than directly on the ground, in order to protect the soil.
- Place on soils that are not fragile or eroding and on sites that are not in wetlands or drainages.
- Remove the salt, supplements, hay, and water hauls when the livestock leave the pasture.

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

5. Range Improvements

The Permittee must follow the Heavy Equipment Policy (amended December 2008) before starting any work that involves soil disturbance.

Maintenance of Range Improvements

Rangeland Improvements should be inspected and maintained on an annual basis. All fences should be maintained to standard before livestock enter a pasture.

The permittee is proposing to remove fence in the West Pasture adjacent to the Airport Fence.

Construction of New Range Improvements

No specific projects have been identified by the permittee at the time of this writing. As needs arise, please contact the Forest Service.

6. Travel Management

The Forest will be implementing its decision on Travel Management (alternative 3). This decision prohibits the use of motor vehicles for cross-country travel, as well as on closed roads. We understand that you regularly use an ATV and/or truck to drive and maintain your pasture and allotment boundary fences. You also travel cross country on a monthly basis to check on livestock, forage, and water conditions. Authorization for this use is granted in this AOI as long as it remains limited in scope, and occurs when the soils are dry and/or frozen.

7. Drought Management

The Kaibab National Forest needs your help to ensure that any grazing authorized during drought periods does not damage the soil, watershed, vegetation, wildlife forage and cover, and livestock forage. Leaving an adequate amount of residual vegetation after grazing (approximately 50% of the plant canopy) is always important in order to maintain or improve rangeland health, but it is especially important during and after droughts.

As always, 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.

8. Fire

Be careful with campfires and branding fires. Pile burning is not permitted.

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

Cooperation in the prevention and suppression of fires will be expected as specified in Section 10 of General Provision and Requirements, page 2, of your Term Grazing Permit.

9. Grazing Intensity Monitoring and Recordkeeping

All Permittees are encouraged to keep records of Grazing Use and Intensity in each pasture and submit them to their district grazing permit administrator in the middle and at the end of the permitted Grazing Period. 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, and date of observation.

Other notes may be recorded, such as precipitation records or observations. A form is attached. If you are not familiar with methods of estimating Grazing Intensity, we can arrange for some training.

Contact

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 or jasonstevens@fs.fed.us .

Sincerely,

/s/ Martie Schramm
MARTIE SCHRAMM
District Ranger

Enclosures