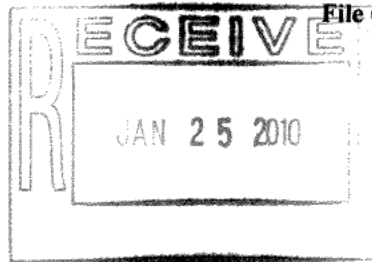


(b) (6)



File Code: 2210
Date: January 7, 2010

Dear **(b) (5)**

These are the annual operating instructions (AOI) for the 2010 grazing season on the Poison Springs and Sierra Ancha grazing allotments. They have been developed in coordination with you as well as using information from resource specialists and information on current resource conditions on the allotment. Please consider them as Forest Officer instructions as provided for in Part 2, Clause 8(a) of your term grazing permit.

Permitted Use

At your request and Forest Service concurrence, you are authorized to graze as follows on the Poison Springs/ Sierra Ancha Allotments:

To be determined as allotment improvements are brought back to standard

Management Schedule

The Poison Springs and Sierra Ancha Allotments are managed using a deferred rotation grazing schedule. The sequence and dates for scheduled rotation are as follows:

Pasture Name	Date In	Date Out	# of Livestock
Hackberry			
Chalk Creek			
Baker			
North Black Mesa			
South Black Mesa			
Braddock			
North Willow			
South Willow			
Zig Zag			
East Highway			
West Highway			
Holding			

We understand that livestock have not been turned out on the allotment for approximately 10 years. As a result, current resource conditions and livestock distribution patterns will be observed closely once livestock are returned to the allotment and adjustments may need to be



made to the rotation or number of livestock to ensure proper use criteria are met and not exceeded.

Managing rangelands using a rotation grazing schedule requires that we monitor livestock use, current resource conditions and other factors to ensure that we achieve, but do not exceed, proper use criteria. As a result, these dates are approximate. We will conduct allotment inspections in each individual unit to determine appropriate move times. You will be invited to participate in these inspections. It is important that the out dates for each unit not be exceeded without prior authorization from the Forest Service. The out dates represent the date the unit is to be cleaned of livestock. You will need to open the gates and begin the movement into the next unit in advance of the date.

Resource Use Guidelines

Livestock management is based on ecological principles tied to range condition and trend and on the improvement or maintenance of satisfactory watershed, riparian, soils, and wildlife habitat conditions while providing forage for livestock and wildlife. It is your responsibility as permittee to take action so that livestock grazing does not exceed the following levels. Actions may include salt placement away from water sources, water control, and herding or riding. If seasonal use of available forage approaches these levels, please contact our District Range Manager to arrange for an allotment inspection and to refine the rotation schedule.

Upland key herbaceous species	30-40% of current year's growth
Upland key browse species	50% of current year's growth
Riparian key herbaceous species	Limited to 40% of plant species biomass
Riparian woody species	Limited to 50% of leaders browsed on upper 1/3 of plants up to 6 feet tall
Streambanks (where applicable)	Limited to less than 20% alteration of alterable streambanks
Mexican Spotted Owl PAC's (where applicable)	20% optimum-40% maximum

Once proper use been reached, you will be required to move your livestock to the next scheduled pasture or remove them from the National Forest.

Monitoring

Grazing intensity on key herbaceous and woody species in riparian and upland areas will be evaluated during the growing season by monitoring residual vegetation, vigor of plants, and the phenological state. Utilization levels will be assessed near the midpoint and end of the grazing period for each pasture. Other attributes including soil condition and stream bank stability will be considered as allotments are monitored and management progresses through the grazing season.

Monitoring will be conducted in key areas for each pasture. Key areas will be representative of a larger area of the same vegetation type, and can also include sites where use must be closely monitored because of management plan objectives. This could include riparian areas, springs, or areas where threatened, endangered, or sensitive species may occur. Key areas may be relocated if it is found that they are not representative of grazing use. Methodology for monitoring procedures is found in the Region 3 Rangeland Analysis Guide dated June 1997, and the supplemental 1996 Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements Interagency Technical Guide.

Range Improvements

As the grazing permittee you are responsible for maintenance of all structural range improvements to Forest Service standards as provided for in Part 2, Clause 8(i) of your term grazing permit. This must be accomplished before livestock enter the allotment. We understand that improvements on the Poison Springs/ Sierra Ancha Allotments have not been maintained during the years of non-use so we will work with you to develop a schedule to get all improvements maintained to standard. Pastures which do not have adequate water development or fencing cannot be used until they have been brought back up to standard. Please ensure that wildlife access and escape ramps are in place and completely functional at all times. This is essential to our commitment to multiple use management. Routine maintenance of range improvements does not require approval however the use of heavy equipment for cleaning tanks, etc. requires notification to the District in advance of the project.

Scheduled Structural Improvement work, 2010 grazing season

Pasture name	Type of Improvement	Description of work
To Be Determined		

Actual Use

In an effort to better determine the carrying capacity of our rangelands, we are requiring all grazing permittees to keep accurate records of the number and exact dates that cattle are in each management unit and the allotment overall. This information, along with monitoring information, will help us determine the carrying capacity of each unit and the allotment as a whole. We have made a commitment to stock our rangelands with permitted cattle, keep accurate records of use and effects, and then use this information to refine our management over time. You are required to keep these records current and to present them to the Forest Service when requested. They must be submitted to the Forest Service no later than December 31, 2010 for the 2010 grazing season.

Appeal Rights

This decision is subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and 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). Additionally, 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).

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Cress, Range Staff, at (928) 467-3220.

Sincerely,



DONAL LUHRSEN
Acting District Ranger