



File Code: 2210-1/2230-3

Date: May 13, 2010

Allen and Juliana Grantham  
418 Grantham Ranch Rd  
Williams, AZ 86046

Dear Allen and Juliana:

This document contains your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Pine Creek and Spitz Hill Grazing Allotments during the 2010 grazing season.

**1. Season of Use and Numbers to be Grazed**

Your 2010 annual validation and billing period will allow for the following period of use with the following numbers allowed:

Pine Creek: 120 adult cattle and 16 yearlings from June 1 to October 31.

Spitz Hill: 75 adult cattle from June 1 to October 16.

**2. Pasture Sequence**

**Pine Creek**

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

**Spitz Hill**

Pasture	Grazing Period	Number of Days
Curry/Randall*	6/1 – 8/31	92
Sawmill	9/1 – 10/16	46
Spring Valley	Rested	0
Spitz Hill	Rested	0
	Total Days	138

\*Curry and Randall pastures are to be used as a single grazing unit with the gates open so that animals can move freely between the two pastures. It is the permittee's responsibility to ensure that livestock are distributed throughout the two pastures during the grazing period described above.



Grazing Periods and Number of Days in each pasture are tentative, and subject to adaptive management. It may be necessary to adjust the pasture rotation and/or the number of days spent in each pasture based on the amount of available forage, grazing intensity (i.e., animal demand and level of defoliation), forage utilization, water availability, and livestock distribution. It is important for both the Permittee and Forest Service personnel to notify each other promptly if it appears that an adjustment to this schedule is necessary. It is a permit violation to make changes to the Grazing Schedule without first notifying and receiving approval from the Forest Service.

It is the Permittee's responsibility to actively herd livestock from one pasture to the next, and should occur within 5 days of the scheduled off-date for that particular pasture. If the Permittee can not meet this time frame, the Permittee should contact the Forest Service before this period has expired to request an extension.

**\*\* 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 deferral. **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. 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 Randall pasture, and realign the boundary fence separating the Shipping and Curry pastures. Both projects listed above are described in the 2006 Spitz Hill Allotment Management Plan signed by Williams District Ranger Stephen Best.

#### **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.

### 4. Livestock Distribution

Livestock distribution may be improved by using water hauls, waterlot controls, salt and supplement stations, and/or herding.

The following apply to portable water hauling:

- a) Coordinate with your grazing permit administrator prior to the grazing period to identify portable water haul locations for individual pastures.
- b) Provide wildlife escape ramps in water troughs and open metal storage tanks. The Kaibab National Forest may supply ramps given supplies are available.
- c) Remove portable haul water storage tanks and troughs when livestock leave the pasture.

The following 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.

Appropriate locations for portable water troughs and salt/supplement stations are:

- a) At least ¼ mile away from permanent water.
- b) Areas of light forage utilization. Moving the water or salt/supplement when the Allowable Use Standard has been met is recommended.
- c) Alternate sites than were used the previous year.
- d) On soils that are not fragile, eroding, or susceptible to erosion.
- e) On sites that are not in wetlands or drainages.
- f) On sites that are not in Mexican Spotted Owl protected or restricted habitat.
- g) On sites that do not have populations of rare plants, if known.

Gates in waterlot fences should 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 voluntarily reduce numbers of animals during drought periods. Allowable Use Standards will be met much earlier during the Grazing Period if the drought persists. If the Permittee is authorized to stock full numbers during drought periods, livestock may be required to move through the pastures more quickly and removed from the allotment at an earlier date if carrying capacity (i.e., Animal Unit Months (AUMs) available) is reduced due to low forage production.

## 6. **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).

Mexican Spotted Owl Critical habitat is found in Spring Valley Pasture of the Spitz Hill Allotment.

Northern Goshawk nesting areas (cluster of past nest sites) are located within the Allotment in both Spring Valley and Sawmill Pastures of the Spitz Hill Allotment.

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

Permittees are encouraged to estimate and record Grazing Intensity in each pasture during the permitted Grazing Period. It is preferred that Grazing Intensity be estimated for preferred forage species in key areas that are located at least ¼ mile away from water or salt/supplement stations, and that are preferred by livestock within each pasture.

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 can arrange for upon request.

#### **8. Motor Vehicle Restrictions**

If you need to enter a motor vehicle restricted area, you must have special authorization in the form of an Off-Road Vehicle Permit or specific authorization through your Annual Operating Instructions. Entering a restricted area without authorization is a violation of 36 CFR 261.

The Kaibab National Forest has actively pursued a road closure program for the last several years. This program is aimed at reducing non-essential roads for watershed protection and to decrease disturbance to wildlife. These closures must also be honored by the Permittees.

Additionally, the District policy is to discourage the public from use of vehicles off road. Permittees should also refrain from this practice for resource protection. Please contact the District when off-road vehicle use is anticipated.

#### **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 ([jasonstevens@fs.fed.us](mailto:jasonstevens@fs.fed.us)), or FAX at (928) 635-5681.

Sincerely,

**/S/MARTIE SCHRAMM**  
MARTIE SCHRAMM  
District Ranger

cc: Elizabeth M Otero