



File Code: 2230
Date: April 3, 2012



Dear [Redacted]

On March 29, 2012, Andy Habgood met with you and [Redacted] to discuss the 2012 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Sponseller and Ortega Allotments. The two allotments will be run together by one herd with a rest rotation schedule. The pasture rotation and numbers agreed upon are as follows:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Ortega	East Mormon	390 cow/calf	May 15 to June 8
Ortega	West Mormon	390 cow/calf	June 9 to June 29
Ortega	Woolhouse	390 cow/calf	June 30 to July 20
Ortega	Bourdon	390 cow/calf	July 21 to August 10
Sponseller	East Sponseller	390 cow/calf	August 11 to August 31
Sponseller	South Sponseller	390 cow/calf	September 1 to October 5
Sponseller	West Sponseller	390 cow/calf	October 6 to October 31

The Ortega Pasture of the Ortega Allotment will be rested this year. The desired utilization level for the 2012 grazing season will be 35%. Adjustments to this rotation may be needed during the grazing season. By this letter, I also authorize [Redacted] and [Redacted] to cut, use or remove any trees needed for fence posts and stays for maintenance of structural range improvements within the Sponseller and Ortega Allotments. A copy of this letter must be in possession by them while engaged in any tree cutting.

The Timber Mesa/Vernon WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) Analysis was also discussed with you, stating that future vegetation treatments on your allotments are still being analyzed and as of now, the analysis has not been completed. You also went over the current and future status of your cattle operation and where you would like to see it in the coming years.

You completed all the projects that were discussed at last year's AOI meeting in 2011. We appreciate your dedication and work to improve these two allotments. All other projects must be discussed with the Forest Service and proper clearances must be obtained before continuation of the project. Please be aware that these clearances may take up to a year, possibly more, to obtain. If you have any questions, please contact Kendell, John, or Andy at 928-535-7300. This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions for the 2012 grazing year. I am willing to meet with the permittee to hear and discuss any concerns or issues related to these Annual Operating Instructions.



These Annual Operating Instructions are appealable under 36 CFR 251. If you decide to appeal these instructions, you must file a notice of appeal in accordance with 36 CFR 251.87. You have 45 days from the date of these Annual Operating Instructions to file a notice of appeal with the Forest Supervisor, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, P.O. Box 640, Springerville, AZ 85938 and you must send a copy of the appeal to the District Ranger, Lakeside Ranger District, 2022 W. White Mountain Blvd., Lakeside, AZ 85929. It is the responsibility of the appellant to provide the Forest Supervisor sufficient narrative evidence and argument to show why the decision should be reversed or changed in accordance with 36 CFR 251.90.

Sincerely,

/s/ Edward W. Collins
EDWARD W. COLLINS
District Ranger