



File Code: 2230
Date: April 10, 2013



Dear [REDACTED]:

On April 3, 2013, Andy Habgood met with you and [REDACTED] to discuss the 2013 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 authorized are listed below:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Ortega	Bourdon	403 Head	May 1 to June 7
Sponseller	East Sponseller	403 Head	June 8 to July 5
Sponseller	South Sponseller	388 Head	July 6 to July 29
Sponseller	West Sponseller	388 Head	July 30 to August 20
Ortega	Woolhouse	388 Head	August 21 to September 4
Ortega	West Mormon	388 Head	September 5 to September 25
Ortega	Ortega	388 Head	September 26 to October 31
Ortega	East Mormon	15 Bulls	July 6 to September 25

The East Mormon Pasture of the Ortega Allotment will only be used for the bulls this year and will be rested from the rest of the herd. The desired utilization level for the 2013 grazing season will be 35% for all pastures. Adjustments to this rotation may be needed during the grazing season based on available forage and water. By this letter, I also authorize you or [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 you or [REDACTED] while engaged in any tree cutting.

The Timber Mesa/Vernon WUI analysis was signed and completed last year, which covers portions of both the Sponseller and Ortega Allotments. Cultural resource surveys within the analysis area are currently in progress. These must be completed before any work can be performed. Prior to any on the ground work related to the right of way fence for the south side of Porter Mountain Road, cultural resource surveys and coordination with the Arizona Game and Fish must occur. Any stock tank maintenance requires cultural resource survey before any ground disturbing activities can be performed. All other projects must be discussed with the Forest Service and proper clearances must be obtained before implementation of the project.



If you have any questions, please contact Kendell, John, or Andy at 928-535-7300 or 928-368-2105. This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions for the 2013 grazing year. If needed, I am willing to meet with you to hear and discuss any concerns or issues related to these Annual Operating Instructions during the grazing season.

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

cc: [REDACTED]