

File Code: 2230
Date: April 11, 2016

Quarter Circle U Ranch
Chuck Backus
1220 W. Pacific Dr.
Gilbert, AZ 85233

Dear Chuck:

On April 11, 2016, Andy, Matt, and Kendell met with you and Casey Murph to discuss the 2016 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 are listed below:

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Head</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Ortega	Ortega	400 Head	May 12 to June 12
Ortega	East Mormon	400 Head	June 13 to June 24
Ortega	West Mormon	386 Head	June 25 to July 16
Ortega	Woolhouse	386 Head	July 17 to August 13
Sponseller	East Sponseller	386 Head	August 14 to September 10
Sponseller	South Sponseller	386 Head	September 11 to October 2
Sponseller	West Sponseller	386 Head	October 3 to October 10
Sponseller	Holding Pastures	386 Head	October 11 to October 28
Ortega	East Mormon	14 Bulls	June 24 to October 31

The Bourdon Pasture will be rested this year while they continue vegetation treatments. The desired utilization level for the 2016 grazing season will be 35% for all pastures. Adjustments to this rotation may be needed during the grazing season. By this letter, I also authorize you or Casey 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 Casey while engaged in any tree cutting.

Discussed at the meeting was the progress that has taken place on vegetation treatments within the Bourdon Pasture. They will continue working in this pasture over the summer and most likely into the fall. The Bourdon Well windmill blew over this spring and caused damage to the wiring and water lines. You are currently working to get that well functioning again. We also talked about the Mexican Gray Wolf re-introduction program and how that may affect you in the future. The Fish and Wildlife service has representatives for the wolf program that are available to meet with you if you have any additional questions or concerns. Kendell talked about the ongoing 4-Fri (Four Forests Restoration Initiative) analysis that encompasses mainly the Sponseller Allotment. The analysis is currently being worked on and implementation of vegetation treatments is still unknown at this time.



If you have any questions, please contact Kendell, Matt, or Andy at the Lakeside office, (928) 368-2100, or at the Black Mesa office, (928)535-7300. This letter will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions for the 2016 grazing year for the Sponseller and Ortega Allotments. If needed, I am willing to meet with the permittee to hear and discuss any concerns or issues related to these Annual Operating Instructions during the grazing season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Collins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

EDWARD COLLINS
District Ranger