



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mogollon Rim
Ranger District

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File Code: 2230

Date: May 17, 2004

Robert Randall
P.O. Box 96
Pine, AZ 85544

Dear Robert:

This letter comprises your 2004 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI). I approve your application of May 11, 2004, when you applied for 50 head of cattle and 3 horses from June 1 to October 19. Partial nonuse of 90 head of cattle is approved for resource protection. You will follow the schedule below in 2004.

<i>PASTURE</i>	<i>DATES OF USE</i>	<i>NUMBERS</i>
D7 ("C" in AMP)	June 1- July 1	50 cattle
Antelope ("A" in AMP)	July 2 - August 4	50 cattle
Mud Lake ("B" in AMP)	August 5 - September 3	50 cattle
Deer ("D" in AMP)	September 4 – October 3	50 cattle
Randall	October 4 – October 19	50 cattle

You will not be able to use the V-V pasture (Walker Basin Allotment) just north of the Randall Pasture in 2004. The horses will be grazed on the private land in Willow Valley and the adjoining Randall Pasture.

We are still in an extreme drought recovery situation and will have to take particular care in our management so as to protect the resource. This may involve additional reductions in cattle numbers, accelerating pasture moves, and possibly early removal of cattle from the National Forest, if conditions warrant.

Any changes in the grazing schedule will need prior approval by the District Ranger. If you see a need to modify the grazing schedule, please notify this office at least 10 working days before the planned date of moving.

The Riparian pasture will be rested in 2004. It will be necessary to maintain the fences this year to prevent cattle from using the Riparian pasture.

We will contact you when the materials will be available to replace the electric fence dividing the allotment between the Mud Lake and Deer pastures (approximately one mile). You will provide the labor to construct the fence. All range improvements assigned to you on the Willow Valley allotment should be maintained in good working condition. Any maintenance or improvement work on the allotment should be coordinated with the District Range Staff so that the appropriate clearances can be completed prior to actually starting the project.



The following is a list of Best Management Practices (BMP's) developed for this AOI:

- One of the main goals for livestock grazing practices on the Willow Valley Allotment is to maintain or improve water quality.
- The location, timing, and intensity of livestock grazing activities should be controlled with the objective of achieving soil cover to prevent accelerated erosion and to protect water quality.
- Structural range improvements, such as fences, water developments, trail, and corrals should be planned, constructed, and utilized in a manner to enhance or maintain water quality.
- Land treatments to manage vegetation or practices to reduce erosion should be planned, implemented, and maintained to minimize adverse impacts on water quality.
- Livestock management activities, such as parasite control, feed, and salting should be done in a manner that protects water quality.
- Monitor and enforce permittee compliance with terms and conditions of the grazing permit.

To monitor forage utilization, we (FS and permittee) installed cages in riparian, mountain grassland, and Ponderosa pine key areas in the spring of 1998. The cages were placed in key areas on productive soils, on level to intermediate slopes, and where possible 1/4 to 1 mile from water. The cages will be used to determine forage production on the key areas and as a base line to determine utilization on other areas of the allotment. The key areas are identified in the Forest Plan as MA 3, 9, and 12. You will be required to document actual grazing dates for each pasture and to monitor, under Forest Service direction, forage utilization in each pasture (before and after livestock use, and at the end of the growing season). A copy of the monitoring form is attached. It is important that these forms be returned to the Forest Service at the end of the grazing season.

The enclosure *Mitigation for the Mexican Spotted Owl and Peregrine Falcon on Grazing Allotments for Annual Operating Plans* has been made a part of the 2004 AOI, and must be adhered to in the locations specified in the following table during the breeding season (March 1 to August 31).

Mitigation For Mexican Spotted Owls and Peregrine Falcons. No activities (such as gathering, salting, etc.) allowed in: (as specified in the Mitigation enclosure)

Pasture	Mitigation
Antelope (A)	<i>No activities allowed (as specified in the mitigation enclosure) within 1/4 mile of Antelope Draw, from Antelope Draw Tank west to the pasture boundary</i>
D7 (C)	<i>No activities allowed (as specified in the mitigation enclosure) within 1/4 mile of Antelope Draw</i>
Mud Lake (B)	<i>No activities allowed (as specified in the mitigation enclosure) south of an east-west line from the southern boundary of Clear Creek Pine Unit #1 west to the pasture boundary</i>

Salt and/or mineral supplements will be used to help distribute livestock. All salt and mineral supplements will be placed at least 1/4 mile away from water unless agreed to in writing by the District Ranger.

The attached document *Mitigation for Chiricahua Leopard Frogs* is part of the 2004 AOI for the Willow Valley Allotment. You are expected to follow this mitigation during your time on the allotment.

Caution needs to be used during any activities that could potentially start a fire. All ranch vehicles need to be equipped with the following: Water bucket, shovel, and axe. All open camp and branding fires will require a fire ring down to mineral soil cleared at least 10 feet in diameter.

All internal combustion engine equipped tools and equipment require an inspection prior to use on National Forest lands. All state and local fire regulations and restrictions will be observed. Report any fires to the Mogollon Rim Ranger District at 477-2255, or 354-2216, or the Coconino National Forest fire dispatcher at 526-0600.

The Annual Operating Instructions are hereby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit, as provided in Part 2, Section 8(a). If you fail to comply with any of the terms and conditions specified in Parts 1, 2, and 3 of your Term Grazing Permit, we may suspend or cancel your permit, in whole or in part, after written notice. This is found in Part 1, Section 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. The AOI complies with the standards and guidelines found in the LMP.

The Annual Operating Instructions have been reviewed by District Wildlife biologists and found to be consistent with the Endangered Species Act, as amended, and with all conditions agreed to in consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Annual Operating Instructions are appealable and subject to review under 36 CFR 251.82 (a) (3) Grazing and livestock permits issued under 36 CFR part 222, subpart A. Appealable decisions apply to written decisions of Forest Service line officers related to issuance, denial, or administration of written instructions to occupy and use National Forest System lands.

If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Gonzales at (354-2216).

Sincerely,

/S/ LARRY G. SEARS
LARRY G. SEARS
District Ranger

cc: Carol Boyd, S.O.

MONITORING FORM

Allotment Name: Willow Valley

Year: 2004

Pasture Name	Graze Period Planned	Graze Period Actual	Livestock Numbers	*Plant Growth	**Before Livestock	**After Livestock	**End of Growing Season	**Key Species	% Use on Key Area	LMP Mgmt Area
D7	6/01-7/01		50 cattle							
Antelope	7/02-8/04		50 cattle							
Mud Lake	8/05-9/03		50 cattle							
Deer	9/04-10/03		50 cattle							
Randall	10/04-10/19		50 cattle							

*D = Dormant S = Slow Growth F = Fast Growth

**N = No use (0-10%) L = Light use (11-25) M = Moderate Use (26-50%)
 H = Heavy Use (51%-70%) E = Extreme Use (71+%)

Key Area Monitoring

Year: 2004

Pasture Name	Graze Period Planned	Graze Period Actual	Livestock Numbers	*Plant Growth	**Before Livestock	**After Livestock	**End of Growing Season	**Key Species	% Use on Key Area	LMP Mgmt Area
D7	6/01-7/01		50 cattle							MA9
Riparian	Not Used		0							MA12
Mud Lake	8/05-9/03		50 cattle							MA3

MA9 (Mtn Grassland) MA12 (Riparian Meadow) MA3 (Ponderosa pine)

*D = Dormant S = Slow Growth F = Fast Growth

**N = No use (0-10%) L = Light use (11-25) M = Moderate Use (26-50%)
 H = Heavy Use (51%-70%) E = Extreme Use (71+%)

Mitigation for the Mexican Spotted Owl and Peregrine Falcon On Grazing Allotments for Annual Operating Instructions

The following mitigation measures apply to the Buck Springs, Bar-T-Bar, Willow Valley, Baker Lake/Calf Pen, Apache-Maid, Beaver Creek, Lost Eden, Fossil Creek, Buckhorn, 13 Mile Rock, Walker Basin, and Hackberry/Pivot Rock Allotments.

The purpose of the mitigation measures is to improve and protect habitat for prey species such as birds and small mammals in sensitive areas, and to protect nesting birds from disturbance associated with gathering or construction activities. Thank you for your cooperation.

1. Follow these guidelines to meet the intent of the grazing guidelines listed in the Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Plan:
 - A. Continue to monitor grazing use by livestock and wildlife in "key grazing" areas such as riparian areas (MA12), meadows (MA9), pine/oak types (MA3), and aspen (MA5). If cattle show an increasing utilization trend, then change management strategies to reduce the trend. If wild ungulates show an increasing utilization trend, the Forest Service will work with the Game and Fish Department to reduce this trend.
 - B. Continue to implement and enforce grazing utilization standards to improve range conditions in "key areas" over time, and to strive for good to excellent conditions.
 - C. Continue to restore good conditions to degraded riparian communities by maintaining or promoting three age classes in woody vegetation. If the mid-age class is absent, 5% utilization or less is required to promote three structural stages. If all three classes are present, utilization of 20% or less of woody vegetation is acceptable.
2. To reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species forage and cover, follow these guidelines for placing salt, mineral blocks or food supplements.
 - A. Do not place these items in riparian areas, mountain meadows, or non riparian drainages in ponderosa pine unless being used for a watershed restoration project.
 - B. Do not place these items in spotted owl habitat or near peregrine falcon nesting areas. The attached map shows areas (shown as mitigation) where salt, supplemental feeding, or mineral blocks should not occur.
 - C. Rotate salt and mineral supplement sites regularly.
3. To eliminate potentially disturbing activities in spotted owl habitat or near peregrine nesting areas during their breeding season, do not allow the following types of activities in areas displayed in red on the map between March 1 and August 31 without prior consultation with the district Range Staff.
 - A. Spring branding or fall gathering.
 - B. Construction activities such as: new construction of fences, corrals, or buildings, or cleaning or construction of tanks.

Mitigation For Chiricahua Leopard Frogs

Live fish, crayfish, bullfrogs, leopard frogs, salamanders, or other aquatic organisms shall not be moved among livestock tanks or other aquatic sites.

If a site is identified as occupied by Chiricahua leopard frogs, water shall not be hauled to the site from another aquatic site or tank that supports leopard frogs, bullfrogs, crayfish, or fish.

If Chiricahua leopard frogs are found on the allotment, the permittee shall be required to clean any equipment, boots, etc. used at an aquatic site and treat with a 10 percent bleach solution, or allow such equipment, boots, etc. to dry thoroughly, before using the same equipment, boots, etc. at another aquatic site on the allotment.

All ranch hands, construction personnel, and others implementing the proposed action shall be given a copy of these terms and conditions, and informed of the need to comply with them.

At least 60 days prior to maintaining or cleaning out livestock tanks, the permittee shall inform the Coconino of planned activities. The Coconino shall survey the tank for Chiricahua leopard frogs and if frogs are found, shall work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop and implement a plan to minimize take of frogs. Measures to minimize take should include salvage and temporary holding of frogs, limiting disturbance and work areas to the minimum area practicable, leaving stands of emergent vegetation in place, and/or measures to minimize the likelihood of disease transmission. Plans to minimize take shall be approved by the USFWS.