

This document serves as your 2005 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Buck Springs Allotment. This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as indicated in part three of your permit.

I. Annual Application Approval/Authorized Livestock Numbers/Season of Use

Annual Application Approval: July 6, 2005
Authorized Livestock Numbers: 357 Yearling Cattle; 5 Horses
Season of Use: June 26, 2005 to October 15, 2005

II. Grazing Schedule

2005 Grazing Schedule for the Buck Springs Allotment

PASTURE	DATES
Steer	June 26 – June 30
Lane	July 1 – July 3
North – East Side	July 4 – August 25
North – West Side	August 26 – September 26
Moonshine	September 27 – October 9
Schneider	October 10 – October 11
Genes	October 12 – October 13
Limestone	October 14 – October 15

All other pastures on the Buck Springs allotment will be rested in 2005.

In accordance with the Buck Springs Range Analysis Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), a new fence is to be constructed in the Knolls pasture to create the Knolls North pasture. If this fence is constructed prior to September 15, 2005, this grazing schedule will be amended to include use of Knolls North pasture.

Changes from the grazing schedule will be made only with Forest Service approval. Stays in each pasture may be shortened or lengthened, depending on forage availability and percent utilization in key areas. Pasture moves will be completed within the time frame of 5 days before and/or after the scheduled move date. Cattle are to be actively herded from one pasture to the other. Once initiated, pasture moves will be completed within 5 days.

III. Forage Utilization Standards

The Buck Springs Range Analysis EIS establishes a maximum allowable utilization level of 35 percent in the pastures scheduled for use this year.

This allowable use level is the utilization level permitted by both livestock and wildlife. If use levels in key areas exceed the maximum allowable utilization level before livestock enter a pasture, the pasture will not be used. Use within each pasture will be closely monitored and the forage utilization standards will be strictly enforced. This may result in earlier pasture moves than indicated in the Grazing Schedule (section II) and may ultimately require an early exit from the allotment. The location of key areas for forage utilization monitoring, key vegetation species, and the specific application to your allotment should be discussed with your rangeland management specialist.

The permittee will monitor and document utilization rates prior to livestock entry into a pasture, during livestock use, and when livestock leave the pasture. The Diablo Trust documentation form (dated 2/29/98) for monitoring forage utilization is acceptable and will be used this year (copy attached). **It is very important that this monitoring be done during the time frames specified, and that all of the monitoring forms be turned in to the Forest Service at the end of the season.**

IV. Grazing Management

You will be responsible to ensure that the livestock are kept out of sensitive areas such as meadows, riparian areas, riparian pastures, livestock exclusion areas, and rested pastures. It is important that you maintain the fences in the pastures before cattle enter the allotment, as this will help you maintain control of the livestock, and prevent unauthorized use in rested pastures as well as in sensitive areas.

Livestock must be gathered and shipped off the Forest by October 15, 2005. It is important that you remove all livestock on, or before, the scheduled off-date to avoid billing for excess use, at the unauthorized use rate, after the end of the permitted grazing season.

You will need to ensure that the temporary electric fences are in place in the following locations before you enter the pastures:

1. North pasture; temporary electric fence preventing livestock access to Yeager Canyon where FS road 96 crosses Yeager Canyon.
2. North pasture; temporary electric fence where necessary to prevent livestock access to Leonard Canyon.

All temporary electric fencing will be removed when livestock have been moved from the pasture.

V. Range Improvements

A) Maintenance of Range Improvements – All range improvements assigned to you must be maintained in good working condition and will be inspected by the District Range Management Specialist. The Forest Service cannot provide the material for routine improvement maintenance. The grazing fee that you pay takes into consideration the

costs incurred by you for improvement maintenance, including labor and material. Any required range improvement maintenance you perform must conform to the standards as specified by your District Range Management Specialist. Additionally, any maintenance or improvement work on the allotment must be coordinated with the District Range Management Specialist so that the appropriate clearances can be completed prior to starting the project.

- B) Construction of North Knolls pasture fence – In accordance with the Buck Springs Range Analysis EIS, a new fence is to be constructed in the Knolls pasture to create the Knolls North pasture. The Forest Service will supply the material for this project and the permittee will provide the labor to construct this fence. Work may not begin on this project until authorization has been received from the Forest Service.

Livestock will not use the Knolls pasture until this fence has been constructed and authorization for use is obtained.

VI. Salting Practices and Supplemental Feeding

Salt blocks, protein blocks and supplement will be used as a tool for rangeland management to aid in the distribution of livestock. They will be used in a manner to spread utilization throughout the pastures within your allotment. Salt blocks, protein blocks and supplement will not be placed within ¼ mile of water, or within areas of depleted rangeland, erosive soils, or sensitive areas. Placement of salt blocks, protein blocks and supplement is also subject to the requirements specified in Section VII (Mitigation for Special Status Species).

VII. Mitigation for Special Status Species

The following documents are included as part of your 2005 Annual Operating Instructions. The mitigation measures and requirements specified in each document must be followed.

1. *Mitigation for the Mexican Spotted Owl and Peregrine Falcon on Grazing Allotments for Annual Operating Instructions.*
2. *Mitigation for Chiricahua Leopard Frogs.*

VIII. Fire

During the fire season, be careful with all types of open fires on the forest. All open camp and branding fires, when allowed, are required to have a fire ring down to mineral soil at least ten feet in diameter, and must be handled in a safe manner. All ranch vehicles should be equipped with a serviceable water bucket, shovel, and axe for use in extinguishing fires.

During periods of critical fire danger the Forest Supervisor may declare a Red Flag Alert

or issue other special orders. Under these conditions, the building or use of fires, the use of power saws, heavy equipment, ATV's and other motorized equipment may be prohibited on Forest Service land. All state and local fire regulations and restrictions will be observed. Report any fires to the Mogollon Rim Ranger District at (928) 477-2255, or (928) 354-2216, or the Coconino National Forest fire dispatcher at (928) 526-0600.

Cooperation in the prevention and suppression of fires will be expected as specified in Section 10 of General Provision and Requirements, page 2, of your Term Grazing Permit.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the District Range Staff at (928) 203-7537.

DIABLO TRUST MANAGES FOR SPECIFIC WATERSHED VALUES AS THEY RELATE TO ITS LANDSCAPE VALUES

PASTURE GRAZE MONITORING KEY AREAS SPOTTED OWL HABITAT

PLOT# _____ LOCATION _____

DATE _____ MONITORER(S) _____

PASTURE _____ ACRES _____ KEY AREA ACRES _____

L/S CLASS & NO. _____ L/S CONDITION _____

DATES GRAZED _____ ADAs _____ AUMs _____

RECOVERY PERIOD _____ days DATE OF LAST GRAZE _____

WEATHER _____

PRECIPITATION: GAUGE _____ EST _____ WIND _____

AVG: _____ BELOW AVG: _____ ABOVE AVG: _____

WATER # _____ WATER CONDITION _____

GRAZE LEVEL BEFORE L/S 0-20 _____ 20-40 _____ 40-60 _____ 60-80 _____ 80-100 _____

GRAZE LEVEL AFTER L/S 0-20 _____ 20-40 _____ 40-60 _____ 60-80 _____ 80-100 _____

GROWTH RATE Cool Seasons fast _____ slow _____ dormant _____

GROWTH RATE Warm Seasons fast _____ slow _____ dormant _____

PLANT VIGOR Warm Seasons below average _____ average _____ above average _____

PLANT VIGOR Cool Seasons below average _____ average _____ above average _____

SPECIES _____

_____ present: _____ occurrence: _____ seeded: _____ stubble height _____ L M H

_____ present: _____ occurrence: _____ seeded: _____ stubble height _____ L M H

_____ present: _____ occurrence: _____ seeded: _____ stubble height _____ L M H

_____ present: _____ occurrence: _____ seeded: _____ stubble height _____ L M H

_____ present: _____ occurrence: _____ seeded: _____ stubble height _____ L M H

_____ present: _____ occurrence: _____ seeded: _____ stubble height _____ L M H

_____ present: _____ occurrence: _____ seeded: _____ stubble height _____ L M H

LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION _____

GENERAL COMMENTS _____

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Plot: # or name Location: Sec.#, road#, distance from road, compass reading to post
GPS reading if possible.
2. Date: the day of monitoring Monitorer person or persons doing the monitoring
3. Pasture: name of pasture its acres, and the acres of the key area
4. L/S Class: cows & calves or yearlings L/S Condition: poor fair good excellent
5. Dates grazed mo/day/yr - mo/day/yr
ADA's: animal days per acre formula/ number of animals times number of days divided by acres =
AUM's: animal unit months formula/ number of animals times number of days divided by 30.4 =
6. Recovery period: number of days since last graze Date of last graze: mo/day/yr
7. Weather: during graze period wet, dry, windy, snow, cold, hot what happened
8. Precipitation: rain gauge contact USFS for closest gauge amount, or best estimate, was it windy
9. Water#: how many waters in pasure Water condition: full, low, puddles from rain
10. Graze level: on key species, percent utilization, before livestock
11. Graze level: on key species, percent utilization, after livestock
12. Growth rate: of plants check fast, slow or dormant for both warm and cool season plants
13. Plant vigor: check below, average, or above for both warm and cool season plants
14. Species: list the key species in plot or area and check off if present, if they seeded, what is the
percent of occurrence in area and measure the stubble height. Then circle L M or H for light,
moderate, or heavy use of that species.

**Mitigation for the Mexican Spotted Owl and Peregrine Falcon
On Grazing Allotments for Annual Operating Instructions
for
The Buck Springs Allotment**

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 attain good to excellent range conditions in "key areas" over time.
 - 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, or mineral blocks.
 - 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.

Salting is allowed in the following areas, based on consultation between the wildlife biologist and Phil Knight on 8-14-98:

- **Holding Pastures:** All current holding pastures except the west half of the Schneider pasture and the west half of the Horse Pasture.
 - **Forest Service Pasture:** East of the Forest Road (FR) 137.
 - **C. North Pasture:** Within 1/8 mile of the FR 137/137B intersection. Within 1/8 mile of FR 96C in sections 12 and 1.
 - **Pinchot Pasture:** Within 1/8 mile of the intersection of FR 95/139 and the intersection of FR 95/95D.
 - **McCarty Pasture:** In the future, if this pasture is used, it is acceptable to salt within 1/8 mile of FR 141C/141A intersection.
 - **Burn Pasture:** Within the entire pasture.
 - **Knoll Pasture:** Within 1/8 mile of the intersection of FR 300/295.
 - **Battleground Pasture:** Within 1/8 mile south of FR 123/123E intersection.
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.

Gathering may continue to occur in the holding pastures named Schneider Springs and Horse Pasture. Salting on the east half of the pastures will be used to draw cattle away from existing PAC's.

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 frogs¹ 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.

¹ Surveys shall include a night visit to prospective habitat during which all or at least 1,200 feet of the best habitat along creeks and the entire perimeter of tanks are searched for frogs. Surveys shall be carried out with flashlights/headlamps, and a dip net shall be used to sample for tadpoles and frogs concealed in undercut banks or at the base of emergent vegetation. Surveyors shall also listen for the distinctive call of the Chiricahua leopard frog (Davidson 1996) and watch for egg masses. Surveys shall be carried out from April-September when frogs are most active.