



File Code: 2230

Date: September 25, 2006

Robert and Judy Prosser
Bar T Bar Ranch, Inc.
P.O. Box 190
Winslow, AZ 86047

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Prosser:

This document serves as your 2006 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Bar T Bar Allotment. This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, section 8(a).

I. AUTHORIZED LIVESTOCK NUMBERS/PERIOD OF USE/APPROVED NON-USE

Your 2006 Authorized Use Request has been approved and you are authorized the following Livestock Numbers and Periods of Use:

8,046 Head Months (cows/bulls/yearlings)	May 1, 2006 to November 15, 2006
75 Head Months (horses)	June 10, 2006 to October 1, 2006

Non-Use of 7,929 Head Months from 5/1/06 to 11/15/06 has been approved for resource protection. I commend you for your voluntary reductions in livestock numbers due to our extended drought conditions.

II. GRAZING SCHEDULE

The following is the planned grazing schedule for the 2006 grazing season:

PASTURE NAME	PLANNED GRAZE PERIOD	LIVESTOCK NUMBERS
North Grapevine/Cow Hill/South Grapevine	5/6 to 10/6	325 yearling heifers 25 bulls
Moqui/Wilkins	6/1 to 10/20	350 cows
Quayle/Red Hill	6/10 to 10/6	180 yearling heifers
Fisher/Trick Tank	5/25 to 11/1	250 cows
Lakes/Broomy	6/10 to 11/1	250 cows
Hay Lake/Lost Eden/Green Howard/Melatone	6/15 to 10/20	350 cows
Hay Lake/Lost Eden/Green Howard/Melatone	6/20 to 11/15	125 cows
Red Hill/Quayle/Waldrop	5/1 to 10/1	60 yearling bulls
Horse Pastures/Green Howard	6/10 to 10/1	20 horses



Rested (Ungrazed) Pastures for the 2006 Grazing Season

Yellow Jacket West Service

This schedule is designed to be flexible; dates, pastures, and timing of livestock moves may vary depending on available forage or other resource concerns. Changes from the grazing schedule will be made only with Forest Service approval. Livestock pasture moves will be completed within a five (5) day period and livestock will be actively herded from one pasture to the other. It is imperative that once a pasture move occurs, the livestock remain within the designated pasture. For various reasons (i.e. pasture gates left open, cattleguards not maintained, cut fences, etc.), cattle may stray from the designated pasture. Preventing livestock from grazing adjacent allotments, your allotment's rested pastures, or regrazing previously used pastures is the permittee's responsibility.

III. GRAZING STRATEGY

Graze multiple herds of livestock using both rest rotation and deferred rotation management strategies within the 8 management units (29 pastures) on the allotment. The management of the allotment is objective-driven; where management objectives determine the length of graze, length of rest, whether a pasture is grazed or re-grazed in a given year, and the number of livestock grazed. If management objectives are not being met, the strategy is changed to meet the objectives defined for the area. Flexibility is maintained to meet the resource needs, as well as the social and economic demands.

IV. FORAGE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

Grassland/Woodland/Forest Types

Manage livestock and wildlife to achieve site-specific forage utilization levels within a range of 35 to 50 percent of annual forage production depending on the management objectives defined for the area. These forage utilization levels are averages across the pasture and include grazing by both livestock and wildlife.

Riparian Areas

Forage utilization of woody vegetation will not exceed 20%.

Specific Resource Areas

Within Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers (PACs), Mexican spotted owl restricted habitat, and northern goshawk post-fledging family areas (PFAs), forage utilization will not exceed 35 percent of current forage production.

V. RESOURCE MONITORING

Forage Utilization

Forage utilization within each pasture will be monitored and the utilization standards (section IV) will be enforced. This may result in earlier pasture moves than indicated in the Grazing Schedule (section II).

Numerous key areas for forage utilization monitoring have been identified for the Bar T Bar allotment. Key areas are defined as, "...a portion of range, which because of its location, grazing or browsing value, and/or use, serve as an indicative sample of range conditions, trend, or degree of use seasonally. A key area guides the general management of the entire area of which it is a part." Key areas will generally have the following characteristics: they will be approximately 20 to 500 acres in size; they will be located on productive soils with slopes less than 15%; they will have a plant community that is representative of the larger area; and they will generally be located 0.25 to 1.0 miles away from livestock water sources.

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. Permittee participation in utilization monitoring is encouraged.

Permittee Monitoring

The Diablo Trust proposal (dated 2/2/98) for monitoring forage utilization is acceptable and will be followed for the 2006 grazing year. You and the Diablo Trust will ensure that the procedures as outlined in the proposal are followed and that the Forest Service receives copies of all the monitoring forms at the end of the 2006 grazing season.

VI. MITIGATION MEASURES FOR SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

Enclosed are two (2) grazing mitigation documents that include additional grazing mitigation measures for the Mexican spotted owl, the Peregrine falcon, and the Leopard frog. Please review and familiarize yourself with these required grazing measures. Forest Service personnel will field check your compliance with these mitigation requirements.

VII. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Structural Range Improvements

The following range structural improvements are scheduled for your allotment this year:

1. Placement of a cattleguard in section 34-T15N-R11E. The Forest Service will provide the cattleguard grates and the permittee will provide the material for the base and labor to install the cattleguard. No work may begin on this project until the appropriate clearances have been obtained and authorization is received from the Forest Service.
2. Placement of a cattleguard in section 1-T16N-R10E. The Forest Service will provide the cattleguard grates and the permittee will provide the material for the base and labor to install the cattleguard. No work may begin on this project until the appropriate clearances have been obtained and authorization is received from the Forest Service.

Non-Structural Range Improvements/Vegetation Treatments

Approximately 32,677 acres of vegetation treatments have been proposed for the allotment (EIS - Bar T Bar and Anderson Springs Allotment Management Plans; Record of Decision

2/3/2005). Implementation of these vegetation treatments is subject to obtaining the necessary archaeological clearances. For the 2006 fiscal year, the Forest Service has no funding to conduct the necessary archaeological clearances or to begin implementation. If the permittee is able to secure funding for the necessary archaeological clearances and implementation from other sources, the Forest Service will cooperate to the fullest extent to provide implementation authorization. Please be advised that no work may begin on this project until the appropriate clearances have been obtained and authorization is received from the Forest Service.

Range Improvement Maintenance

Range improvements assigned to you for maintenance have been identified in red on the permit maps of your term grazing permit. These improvements are to be fully maintained annually to comply with permit requirements (Part 2, section 8i). Any maintenance you perform must conform to the standards specified by your District Rangeland Management Specialist. The grazing permittee is responsible for all maintenance materials, supplies and equipment necessary to properly maintain all range structural improvements. The Forest will replace range structural improvement materials and/or supplies at the end of the improvement’s life; when maintenance and repair is no longer feasible to keep the improvement properly maintained and functioning. **Please note that you must notify the District Rangeland Management specialist at least 60 days prior to beginning any maintenance work that requires the use of heavy equipment (ex. Maintenance of earthen stock tanks).**

In the past there has been confusion on when the permittee needs prior approval from the Forest Service to do work on the range permit or the Long Lake ditch system. Adding to the confusion is the Chavez Pass off road vehicle closure area. Hopefully the following tables will help reduce the confusion and lead to better management. The approvals are based on the need to get Archaeological Clearances and Biological Evaluations completed for the projects. Depending on the activity, approval for other reasons may be needed.

DITCH MANAGEMENT

Activity Description	Activity Outside Closure	Activity Inside Closure
Non-motorized ditch inspection	No prior approval	No prior approval
Motorized ditch inspection	No prior approval	Need prior approval
Ditch maintenance within disturbed area	No prior approval	Need prior approval
Ditch maintenance outside disturbed area	Need prior approval	Need prior approval

RANGE PERMIT MANAGEMENT

Activity Description	Activity Outside Closure	Activity Inside Closure
Cattle grazing	No prior approval	No prior approval
Grazing management	No prior approval	No prior approval
Fence maintenance	No prior approval	No prior approval
Stock pond cleaning or repair	Need prior approval	Need prior approval
Cattle guard maintenance	No prior approval	Need prior approval
Cattle guard installation	Need prior approval	Need prior approval
Spring cleaning	Need prior approval	Need prior approval
Pipeline maintenance	No prior approval	N/A
Pipeline construction	Need prior approval	Need prior approval
Driveway maintenance	Need prior approval	Need prior approval
Well maintenance	No prior approval	N/A
Well installation	Need prior approval	Need prior approval
Drinker maintenance	No prior approval	N/A
Corral maintenance	No prior approval	No prior approval
Corral construction	Need prior approval	Need prior approval
Fence removal	No prior approval	No prior approval

VIII. SALTING AND PROTEIN BLOCK PRACTICES

Proper salt and protein block location can be a good tool to aid in livestock distribution and they will be used in a manner to spread livestock utilization throughout the pasture. A detailed description of the Coconino National Forest Salting and Supplemental Feeding policy can be found in Part 3 of your term grazing permit; however, the following guidelines are provided as a general reference:

1. In general, salt and protein blocks should not be placed within ¼ mile of water.
2. Salt and protein blocks will not be placed in areas of depleted range, erosive soils, or sensitive plant or animal species.
3. No more than three blocks (50 lb. blocks) of salt/protein will be placed at any location at any one time.
4. Salt/protein will not be placed at the same location twice during the same grazing season.
5. The use of portable salt/protein block containers is encouraged but not mandatory.

The above listed guidelines will be used in conjunction with the salting mitigation measures listed in Section VI, Mitigation Measures for Special Status Species.

IX. PORTABLE WATER HAULING

Temporary sites for portable haul water may be needed and should be used as necessary to assist in livestock distribution. The following requirements will apply to portable haul water locations:

1. Coordinate with the District Rangeland Management Specialist to identify portable water haul locations for individual pastures prior to the grazing period.
2. To aid in livestock distribution, the portable water haul locations should generally be in areas of light forage utilization.
3. Generally, portable water haul locations will not be located at sites used in previous years.
4. Portable water hauls will not be located in areas of depleted range, erosive soils, or sensitive plant or animal species.
5. Portable water haul locations will be moved when the desired forage utilization levels have been reached.
6. Portable haul water storage tanks and troughs will be removed when livestock leave the pasture.

X. FIRE

Please use caution during all ranch activities that could potentially start a fire. All ranch vehicles must be equipped with an axe, shovel, and water bucket. All open camp and branding fires require a ten foot fire ring cleared down to mineral soil.

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 Federal, State and Local fire restrictions and regulations must be observed.

Report all fires to the Ranger District Offices at: Beaver Creek/Sedona (928-282-4119), Happy Jack (928-477-2172), Blue Ridge (928-477-2255); or to the Coconino National Forest Fire Dispatch Office (928-526-0600).

Cooperation in the reporting, prevention, and suppression of fires will be expected as specified in Part 2, section 10 of your Term Grazing Permit.

XI. MOTOR VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS

Restrictions on the use of motorized vehicles may exist within the Bar T Bar allotment. If you need to enter a restricted area, you must have special authorization in the form of an Off-Road Vehicle Permit or specific authorization through your Annual Operating Instructions. Entering a restricted area without authorization is a violation of 36 CFR 261.

The Mogollon Rim Ranger District has actively pursued a road closure program for the last several years. This program is aimed at reducing non-essential roads for watershed protection and to decrease disturbance to wildlife. The District has put in many hours contacting recreation users in an effort to enforce these closures. Please remember that these closures must also be honored by the grazing permittee.

XII. APPEAL RIGHTS

Annual Operating Instructions are subject to appeal and review under 36 CFR 251.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact Gary Hase, Jr. at (928) 203-7517.

Sincerely,

/s/ Melinda Roth
MELINDA ROTH
District Ranger

cc: Carol Boyd

Grazing Allotment Annual Operating Mitigation Instructions **for Mexican Spotted Owl and Peregrine Falcon**

The following mitigation measures would apply for 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 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, 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 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 leopard frogs, water shall not be hauled to the site from another aquatic site or tank without the prior authorization of the Coconino National Forest.

At least 60 days prior to maintaining or cleaning out livestock tanks, the permittee shall inform the Coconino National Forest of planned activities. Authorized personnel shall survey the tank for leopard frogs and if leopard frogs are found, shall work with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and/or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to develop and implement a plan to minimize take of leopard frogs. Measures to minimize take may include salvage and temporary holding of leopard 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.

If chytrid fungus is detected and/or leopard frogs are found on the allotment, the permittee shall take precautions to minimize disease transmission and translocation of aquatic organisms. All equipment (front-end loader, shoes, waders, shovels, fence posts, etc.) used at an aquatic site shall be flushed clean of all dirt, mud, and debris, rinsed in a ten percent bleach solution, and allowed to thoroughly dry before coming into contact with another aquatic site.

All personnel implementing any actions at aquatic sites on the grazing allotment shall be given a copy of these mitigation measures and informed of the need to comply with them.