



File Code: 2230-3

Date: June 8, 2007

Mr. Eugene Monroe
Apache Maid Ranch LTD
500 East Cornville Road
Rimrock, AZ 86335

Dear Mr. Monroe:

This document serves as your 2007 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Apache Maid 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 2007 Authorized Use Requests have been approved and you are authorized the following Livestock Numbers and Periods of Use:

450 Adult Cattle (cow/calf/bull) March 1, 2007 to February 29, 2008

Non-Use of 595 adult cattle from 3/1/07 to 2/29/08 and 400 Calves from 1/1/08 to 1/31/08 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 grazing sequence for the 2007 grazing season:

PASTURE NAME	PLANNED GRAZE PERIOD	LIVESTOCK NUMBERS
WINTER NORTH	3/1 – 3/27	450
BEAVERHEAD FLAT EAST	3/28 – 4/17	450
BEAVERHEAD FLAT WEST	4/18 – 5/7	450
BEAVERHEAD FLAT EAST	5/8 – 5/12	450
WINTER SOUTH	5/13 – 5/18	450
RED TANK DRAW	5/19 – 5/20	450
LOWER ROUND MOUNTAIN	5/21 – 6/11	450
UPPER ROUND MOUNTAIN	6/12 – 7/2	450
WOODLAND	7/3 – 7/23	450
CAMPBELL SPRING	7/24 – 8/13	450
PINE MOUNTAIN WEST	8/14 – 9/3	450
WILD HORSE	9/4 – 9/24	450
PINE MOUNTAIN EAST	9/25 – 10/15	450
SHIPPING LANE EAST	10/16 – 10/17	450
BARGAMANS	10/18 – 10/19	450

SHIPPING LANE WEST	10/20 – 10/21	450
SUMMER HEADQUARTERS	10/22 – 10/24	450
CAMPBELL SPRING	10/25 – 11/13	450
WOODLAND	11/14 – 12/5	450
UPPER ROUND MOUNTAIN	12/6 – 1/3/08	450
LOWER ROUND MOUNTAIN	1/4 – 1/28/08	450
RED TANK DRAW	1/29 – 1/31/08	450
WINTER SOUTH	2/1 – 2/29/08	450

Rested (Ungrazed) Pastures for the 2007 Grazing Season:

Cornville	House Mountain	Middle Verde North
Middle Verde South	Horse (winter)	White Hills
Hog	Lower Blue Grade	Upper Blue Grade
Rarick	Rattlesnake	Stoneman
Blind Lake	*Gash Flat East*	Gash Flat Middle
Gash Flat West	Blind Lake Horse	Hutch
Sawmill	Snake Tanks	

* Gash Flat East pasture is not available for livestock grazing due to the presence of Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*). As a temporary measure to prevent the further spread of this noxious weed, livestock are not authorized to use this pasture. This population of Leafy spurge is scheduled for herbicide treatment in the fall of 2007.

Changes from the grazing schedule will be made only with Forest Service approval. The planned use period in a pasture may be shortened or lengthened depending on forage availability and utilization in key areas. 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 are left open, cattleguards are not maintained, fences are cut, etc.), cattle may stray from the designated pasture. Preventing livestock from grazing adjacent allotments, grazing of your allotment's rested pastures, or regrazing previously used pastures is the permittee's responsibility.

III. GRAZING STRATEGY

Continue to graze livestock in an intensive rest half/graze half management strategy on alternate years in the allotment's high elevation summer ranges, with the transition (during drought conditions only) and winter ranges managed in an intensive deferred-rest rotation. Permitted livestock (cow/calf/heifer/bull) will be run together as a single herd. Annually, spring branding and culling occurs in early June; with fall culling and shipping of stock to market taking place in late September or early October, followed by the year's final culling and shipping in the last week of January.

The management of livestock pasture moves will continue to be based upon a forage plant phenology scheme of management. During the winter when most forage plants are dormant, livestock grazing periods will be longer, but will not exceed 30 days. In contrast, during the spring/summer active growth periods for forage plants, livestock use

will be shortened to approximately 15 to 20 days per pasture. In the Allotment's North and South Winter pastures, the grazing period will not exceed 5 days during the woody riparian species active growing season.

IV. FORAGE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

UPLAND AREAS:

The allotment's maximum allowable utilization in upland, non-riparian areas is 50%. 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.

RIPARIAN AREAS:

Many of the allotment's riparian areas have been partially fenced to control livestock grazing use. These very important and diverse habitat areas will be closely monitored to insure that the proper allowable use is not exceeded. To comply with the Forest Land Management Plan, the District will coordinate with you to improve and maintain riparian vegetative communities by promoting three age classes of woody vegetation. A maximum allowable utilization level of 20% on woody species is acceptable if all three classes of riparian vegetation are present. If the mid-age class is absent, the maximum allowable utilization level on woody species will be limited to 5%.

Forage utilization 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). 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.

V. RESOURCE MONITORING

Forage Utilization

Forage utilization within each pasture will be monitored and the allowable utilization standards (section IV) will be strictly 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 Apache Maid 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%; 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 permittee will monitor and document the following items on the attached Forage Utilization Monitoring Form during the 2007 grazing year: 1) Actual Grazing Period; 2) Actual Livestock Numbers; 3) Plant Growth Stage during the livestock grazing period; and 4) Average Utilization of all forage species at three different times; just prior to livestock entering the pasture, immediately after livestock exit the pasture, and at the end of growing season. **It is very important that this monitoring be completed during the timeframes specified, and that the Forage Utilization Monitoring Form is submitted to the Forest Service at the end of the 2007 grazing season.**

VI. MITIGATION FOR SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

In June of 1998 you met with Mary Ann Benoit, Wildlife Biologist at the Long Valley Ranger District. The purpose of this meeting was to further define Mexican spotted owl and Peregrine Falcon management mitigation measures for grazing activities on the Apache Maid Allotment. A site-specific map was prepared which allowed salting in some areas adjacent to the protected activity centers (PAC's) of the known spotted owl management territories. This 1998 map and the mitigation measures prescribed for livestock grazing management are valid and current for the 2007 grazing seasons and must be incorporated and followed.

Additionally, attached are two (2) grazing mitigation documents that include additional grazing mitigation measures for the Mexican spotted owl and the Chiricahua 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

New Structural Range Improvements

No new structural range improvements are scheduled for the Apache Maid allotment during the 2007 grazing year.

MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

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 heavy equipment (ex. maintenance of earthen dam stock tanks).**

The District acknowledges two areas of recent grazing conflict involving private/forest boundary fences on the Apache Maid Allotment, which include: the Stoneman Lake area within the Blind Lake Pasture and the south boundary of Winter South Pasture. In your January 2004 letter to Jerry Bradley you cited concerns relating to the removal of three miles of national forest boundary fence within the Winter South pasture by private land owners. We have discussed with you and private land owners in the past that it is the private land owner's responsibility to construct and maintain boundary fences to stop the trespass of livestock from Forest lands. The District will not provide fence materials for the construction and maintenance of these fences. The State of Arizona is an "open-range" state and therefore fence integrity is the responsibility of the private land owner. Private land owners are legally responsible for any and all damage or loss of property.

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 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 boxes is encouraged but not mandatory.

IX. PORTABLE WATER HAULS

Portable sites for 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 location 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 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

During the fire season, be careful with all types of open fires on the forest, such as branding, trash burning, etc. Should there be a need for these types of fires, either on Forest or Private land, please notify this office or the Forest Dispatcher prior to burning. This will enable us to notify our fire personnel and avoid an unnecessary trip to investigate a smoke.

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.

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.

XI. MOTOR VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS

Restrictions on the use of motorized vehicles may exist within the Apache Maid 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 Red Rock and Mogollon Rim Ranger Districts have 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 Districts have 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/ Heather C. Provencio
HEATHER C. PROVENCIO
District Ranger

cc: Melinda D Roth, Carol Boyd

Grazing Allotment Annual Operating Mitigation Instructions for Mexican Spotted Owl

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 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. When water is needed, such as for a bentonite application, all precautions shall be taken (use of fish screens of 1/8 inch or smaller mesh and adding bleach or use of municipal water source) to ensure that fish, bullfrogs, and their tadpoles, and crayfish are not moved among tanks.

If the 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 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. Authorized personnel shall survey the tank for Chiricahua leopard frogs and if frogs are found, shall work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 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.

FORAGE UTILIZATION MONITORING FORM

Allotment Name: APACHE MAID

Year: 2007 (3/1/2007 to 2/29/2008)

Pasture Name	Planned Graze Period	Actual Graze Period	Planned Livestock Numbers	Actual Livestock Numbers	Plant Growth Stage	Forage Utilization		
						Before Livestock	After Livestock	End of Growing Season
WINTER NORTH	3/1 – 3/27		450					
BEAVERHEAD FLAT EAST	3/28 – 4/17		450					
BEAVERHEAD FLAT WEST	4/18 – 5/7		450					
BEAVERHEAD FLAT EAST	5/8 – 5/12		450					
WINTER SOUTH	5/13 – 5/18		450					
RED TANK DRAW	5/19 – 5/20		450					
LOWER ROUND MOUNTAIN	5/21 – 6/11		450					
UPPER ROUND MOUNTAIN	6/12 – 7/2		450					
WOODLAND	7/3 – 7/23		450					
CAMPBELL SPRING	7/24 – 8/13		450					
PINE MOUNTAIN WEST	8/14 – 9/3		450					
WILD HORSE	9/4 – 9/24		450					
PINE MOUNTAIN EAST	9/25 – 10/15		450					
SHIPPING LANE EAST	10/16 -10/17		450					
BARGAMANS	10/18 – 10/19		450					
SHIPPING LANE WEST	10/20 – 10/21		450					
SUMMER HEADQUARTERS	10/22 – 10/24		450					
CAMPBELL SPRING	10/25 – 11/13		450					
WOODLAND	11/14 – 12/5		450					
UPPER ROUND MOUNTAIN	12/6 – 1/3/08		450					
LOWER ROUND MOUNTAIN	1/4 – 1/28/08		450					
RED TANK DRAW	1/29 – 1/31/08		450					
WINTER SOUTH	21/ - 2/29/08		450					

Plant Growth Stage: D = Dormant S = Slow Growth F = Fast Growth

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