



File Code: 2230

Date: February 8, 2008

Mr. Walt Richburg
J.P. Morgan-Chase
PO Box 2050-TX-1351
Fort Worth, Texas 76113

Dear Mr. Walt Richburg:

This document serves as your 2008 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 13 Mile Rock 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 2008 Authorized Use Requests have been approved and you are authorized the following Livestock Numbers and Periods of Use:

265 Adult Cattle (cow/calf)	March 1, 2008 to February 28, 2009
30 Adult Cattle (bulls)-moved to 13 Mile Rock	March 19, 2008 to February 28, 2009
10 Adult Cattle (bulls from Fossil Creek Allotment)	March 19, 2008 to May 31, 2008
135 Adult Cattle (cow/calf from Fossil Creek Allotment)	March 1, 2008 to May 31, 2008
6 Horses	March 1, 2008 to February 28, 2009

Non-Use of 110 adult cattle from 3/1/08 to 5/31/08 and 255 adult cattle from 6/1/08 to 2/28/09 has been approved for resource protection. I commend you for your voluntary reductions in livestock numbers.

II. GRAZING SCHEDULE

The following is the grazing sequence for the 2008 grazing season:

PASTURE NAME	PLANNED GRAZE PERIOD	LIVESTOCK NUMBERS
WINGFIELD EAST	3/1/07 – 3/21	446
WINGFIELD NORTH	3/22 – 4/16	446
WINGFIELD WEST	4/17 – 5/15	446
HEIFER	5/16 – 5/18	446
WINTER	5/19 – 5/31	446
TANQUE ALOMA (145 head of Fossil Creek cattle to Fossil Creek allotment)	6/1 – 6/5	301
MAVERICK BASIN SOUTH	6/6 – 6/18	301
TIN CAN NORTH	6/19 – 7/2	301



MEADOWS CANYON NORTH	7/3 – 7/16	301
TULE	7/17 – 7/30	301
WILBUR	8/1 – 8/8	301
TOMS	8/9 – 9/9	301
WILBUR	9/10 – 9/24	301
TULE	9/25 – 10/7	301
MEADOWS CANYON SOUTH	10/8 – 10/24	301
SHIPPING	10/25 – 10/31	301
TIN CAN SOUTH	11/1 – 11/21	301
MAVERICK BASIN NORTH	11/22 – 12/20	301
TANQUE ALOMA	12/21 - 12/31	301
WINTER	1/1/08 – 2/29/08	301

Rested (Ungrazed) Pastures for the 2008 Grazing Season:

Bobs Cactus

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 and winter ranges managed in an intensive deferred-rest rotation. Permitted livestock (cow/calf/heifer/bull) will be run together as a single herd for most of the year; bulls will be separated from the main herd in the fall and winter months. Gathering and shipping of stock to market will occur annually in the fall, generally in late October or early November.

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. An exception to the winter use period will occur in Winter pasture; this pasture will be used for approximately 60 days until the pasture can be divided by a proposed pasture division fence. 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.

IV. ALLOWABLE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

Upland areas:

The allotment's maximum allowable utilization in upland, non-riparian areas is 40%. 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:

The riparian and open water areas within Heifer pasture (West Clear Creek) have been 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. Since all three age classes of woody vegetation are present within this area, a maximum allowable utilization level of 20% on woody species is permitted. If the early or mid-age classes were absent, the maximum allowable utilization level on woody species would be limited to 5%.

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 13 Mile Rock 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 2008 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 2008 grazing season.**

VI. MITIGATION MEASURES FOR SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

The following livestock grazing mitigation measures are specific actions required for maintenance and improvement of Mexican spotted owl habitats within the 13 Mile Rock allotment. Forest Service personnel will field check your compliance with these mitigation requirements.

1. Specific livestock salting techniques to avoid livestock concentrations within or immediately adjacent to Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers are:

<u>Pasture Name</u>	<u>Salting Technique</u>
Meadow Canyon South	Salt south of Section 5 Tank only.
Wilbur South	No salt will be placed within 0.2 miles of Wilbur Canyon or Wilbur Canyon tributaries.
Toms	Salt only at Pothole, Idas, Back, and Dead Tanks.
Wilbur North	Salt only at Wilber and Bueno Tanks.
Tule North	Salt only within 0.25 miles of Forest Road #142B.
Meadow Canyon North	No salt.

2. No salt will be placed in mountain meadows or riparian areas or within 0.25 miles of riparian areas or mountain meadows. Salt will not be placed in non-riparian drainages in the ponderosa pine (MA3) areas, unless it is being used for a watershed restoration project.

Additionally, attached are three (3) grazing mitigation documents that include additional grazing mitigation measures for the Mexican spotted owl, the Peregrine falcon and the Chiricahua leopard frog. Please review and familiarize yourself with these required grazing measures.

VII. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

New Structural Range Improvements

1. Reconstruction of the waterlot fencing at Lone Pine Tank and the fencing for the Tule Holding pasture (general location of improvements: section 4, T13N, R8E). The existing fences (approximately 2 miles total) are no longer effective and will be reconstructed with a standard 4-wire barbed wire fence (3 strands barbed wire, bottom strand smooth wire). Material for this project will be supplied by the Forest Service and the permittee will provide the labor to remove the existing fence and construct the new barbed wire fence. No work may begin on this project until the appropriate clearances have been obtained and authorization is received from the Forest Service.

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).**

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.

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 HAULS

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 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 reporting, prevention, and suppression of fires will be expected as specified in Section 10 of General Terms and Conditions, page 4, of your Term Grazing Permit.

XI. MOTOR VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS

Restrictions on the use of motorized vehicles may exist within the 13 Mile Rock 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 appealable and subject to review under 36 CFR251.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact Colin Porter at (928) 203-7537 or Gary Hase, Jr. at (928) 527-8262.

Sincerely,

HEATHER C. PROVENCIO
District Ranger

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.

**Additional Mexican Spotted Owl and Peregrine Falcon Mitigation for
the Buckhorn, 13 Mile Rock, Walker Basin, and Hackberry/Pivot
Rock Allotments**

1. Follow the grazing guidelines listed in the MSO Recovery Plan:
 - A. Continue to monitor grazing use by livestock and wildlife in “key grazing” areas such as riparian areas, meadows and oak types. If cattle show an increasing utilization trend, then change management strategies to reduce the trend. If wild ungulates show an increasing utilization trend, 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 of woody vegetation 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 the following guidelines for placing salt and mineral blocks.
 - A. Do not place salt in riparian areas and mountain meadows. Do not place salt in non-riparian drainages in ponderosa pine (MA3) unless being used for a watershed restoration project.

 - B. To avoid placing salt in PAC’s, use the following guidelines:

Buckhorn Allotment

<i>Pasture</i>	<i>Mitigation for salting</i>
Buckhorn	No mitigation
South Maxwell	No salt in T14N, R9E, Section 31
Dukey	No salt
Willow Valley	Salt only at Peck’s Tank #2 and East Tank
Clover	No salt at Trap Tank
Brushy	No salt
Oak South	No salt within .25 miles of West Clear Creek
Chilson Mesa	Salt tanks only except Flatrock Tank

1. Do not place salt blocks within 1 mile of West Clear Creek in the Dukey or South Maxwell pastures, or at trap Tank in the Clover Pasture to reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species forage and cover near the Tram Trail and Maxwell Trail eyries.

13 Mile Rock Allotment

<i>Pasture</i>	<i>Mitigation for salting</i>
Meadow Canyon N.	No salt
Tule North	Salt only within .25 miles of 142B Road
Wilbur North	Salt only at Wilbur and Bueno Tanks
Toms	Salt only at Pothole, Idas, Back, Dead Tanks
Meadow Canyon S.	Salt south of Section 5 Tank only
Wilbur South	No salt within .2 miles Wilbur Canyon or tributaries

1. Do not place salt blocks within 1 mile of West Clear Creek in the Toms or Wilbur pastures to reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species forage and cover near the Tram Trail and Maxwell Trail eyries.

Walker Basin Allotment

<i>Pasture</i>	<i>Mitigation for salting</i>
Steer	No salt south of Dozer Tank in the Steer Pasture

Hackberry/Pivot Rock Allotment

<i>Pasture</i>	<i>Mitigation for salting</i>
Potato North	Salt at tanks only, but not within .5 miles of Potato Lake Draw
Potato South	Salt at tanks only, but not within .5 miles of Potato Lake Draw
Bald 1	No salt
Bald 3	No salt
Bald 4	No salt east of 136A or 136B roads
West Bedbug	Salt only east of Cart Cabin Tank
Kehl	No salt in T12N, R10E, Sections 4, 9, and 33
Toms	No salt in T13N, R9E, Section 28
Sandrock	No salt within 1/8 mile of Horsetank Wash
Miller	No salt in T12N, R10E, Section 33
Clear Creek	Salt only at tanks
Twenty-Seven Mile	No salt within 1/8 mile of Horsetank Wash
Horse Pasture	Salt in private land only

1. Do not place salt blocks in the south half of the Kehl pasture to reduce animal concentrations and trampling of vegetation which may impact prey species cover near the Webber eyrie.

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: 13 MILE ROCK

Year: 2008 (3/1/2008 to 2/29/2009)

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
WINGFIELD EAST	3/1/07 – 3/21		446					
WINGFIELD NORTH	3/22 – 4/16		446					
WINGFIELD WEST	4/17 – 5/15		446					
HEIFER	5/16 – 5/18		446					
WINTER	5/19 – 5/31		446					
TANQUE ALOMA (145 HEAD OF FOSSIL CREEK CATTLE TO FOSSIL CREEK ALLOTMENT)	6/1 – 6/5		301					
MAVERICK BASIN SOUTH	6/6 – 6/18		301					
TIN CAN NORTH	6/19 – 7/2		301					
MEADOWS CANYON NORTH	7/3 – 7/16		301					
TULE	7/17 – 7/30		301					
WILBUR	8/1 – 8/8		301					
TOMS	8/9 – 9/9		301					
WILBUR	9/10 – 9/24		301					
TULE	9/25 – 10/7		301					
MEADOWS CANYON SOUTH	10/8 – 10/24		301					
SHIPPING	10/25 – 10/31		301					
TIN CAN SOUTH	11/1 – 11/21		301					
MAVERICK BASIN NORTH	11/22 – 12/20		301					
TANQUE ALOMA	12/21 - 12/31		301					
WINTER	1/1/08 – 2/29/08		301					
WINGFIELD EAST	3/1/07 – 3/21		446					
WINGFIELD NORTH	3/22 – 4/16		446					
WINGFIELD WEST	4/17 – 5/15		446					
HEIFER	5/16 – 5/18		446					
WINTER	5/19 – 5/31		446					

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+%)