



File Code: 2210

Date: March 3, 2003

Hugh B McKeen

Dear Mr. McKeen,

This letter serves as your March 1, 2003 to June 15, 2003 Annual Operating Plan/Instructions.

**Allotment:** Cedar Breaks

**Permittee:** Hugh B McKeen

1. **Authorization:** (From Bill for Collection)

Permittee	Number and class	Dates Authorized
Hugh B McKeen	106 Cattle (cow/calf)	3/01/03-2/28/04
	6 Horses (saddle)	3/01/03-2/28/04
	6 Cattle (cow/calf)	3/01/03-2/28/04

2. **Management System:** Cattle are scheduled to graze the following in 2003:

- **2003 Grazing System:** Management will include a “best pasture” (adequate stock water and above minimum stubble height requirements for key species) rotational system designed to rotate livestock through each of the four main pastures twice each plant year (July 1 – June 30). Deferment scheduled during the summer growing season (July – October1), as per the grazing rotation plan, must be adhered to. Livestock will not be allowed to graze a pasture that is scheduled for deferment. The San Francisco River would be excluded to livestock.
- **Prescribed Use:** Residual stubble heights of at least 1.2+ inches on “sodbound” Blue grama ( Holechek 2001) identified and 2.5+ inches (Holechek and Galt 2000) on the “bunchgrass” Blue grama sites will be maintained throughout the year.

Pasture	Time Frame Estimates*	Comments



S. Cedar Breaks Pasture	To be determined: May 1- June 15 <sup>th</sup> objective, with total deferment this growing season	Scheduled for May 1 pending establishment and monitoring of key areas.
East CCC Pasture	mid March – April 30	Cool season species and annuals may afford relief to the perennial key species.
West CCC Pasture	Present – mid March	Cool season species and annuals may afford relief to the perennial key species
Wiley Morgan Pasture	Horses/Bulls	Pending
River Pasture	To be determined	Bull and Horses presently in pasture.....until standard reached.

**\*Time frames are estimates, grazing within the stubble height standards should supersede dates when use standards are met for a given pasture. Use in excess of the described standards is not authorized.**

### 3. Special Instructions:

- a) Stock tanks must be surveyed for possible aquatic habitat and archeological concerns before maintenance cleaning is authorized. We should plan ahead for these surveys.
- b) Generally, salt or mineral blocks should not be placed within a quarter mile of water and ideally no closer than one-half mile unless authorized to meet a specific objective. Otherwise, place blocks in lightly used areas until allowable forage use is achieved and then move them to the next least utilized area. Blocks should not be placed in meadow bottoms or near roads.
- c) Any changes made in this plan because of any of the above will be made in cooperation with the District Range Staff and approved prior to the change by the District Ranger. The permittee will give the District at least Five-day notice of an anticipated change.

### 4. Use Standards and Monitoring

- Monitoring:

Pre, mid, and post monitoring will be conducted. Monitoring will be conducted prior to cattle entry, midway through the scheduled use, and as soon as possible upon cattle removal (for each planned grazing period).

Pre monitoring: pasture readiness, describe existing conditions, and document average stubble-height. The Forest Service in cooperation with the permittees will conduct the pre monitoring sessions.

Mid monitoring: these sessions will be conducted on an informal basis to determine use levels and adjust timeframes in the pasture if necessary. Mid

monitoring will be the primary responsibility of the permittee. Photo documentation is encouraged.

Post monitoring: the primary purpose of this session is to document success in meeting the stubble heights standards, which will also demonstrate prescribed management. These objectives will be quantitatively documented through average stubble height measurements. Post monitoring reports may provide insight for the next scheduled rotation back into the pasture. The Forest Service in partnership with the permittees will conduct the post-monitoring sessions.

- The monitoring locations will be at Key area locations collaboratively mapped for the allotment. Each key area location will be identified by its vegetative characteristics of sodbound or bunchgrass. The measurement sites within the key areas will be permanent.
  - Methodology of measuring stubble heights (monitoring) will be applied to the defined key species in measuring the current year's leaf growth (growth from the most recent growing season). The lengths should be measured in inches, averaged by plant species measured, along two permanent transect locations within each designated key area. The transect origin locations should be placed on lines that represent the site characteristics (physical and vegetative) within the individual key area. Each transect should target the measurement of 25 plants per key species. The average stubble height (leaf lengths) will be determined for that transect for 25 plants per key species, then subsequently averaged between the two transects for that key area. The length of the line will be determined by meeting 25 measurements per key species. The interval for measurement should be every other pace with measurements made to the closest key species plant(s). (Personal Communication, Holechek, March 19, 2002).
- ❖ An allowable use rate of 20% would be assigned to measure, by grazed-ungrazed plant method, of the woody obligate riparian plant species located in Keller Canyon.
  - ❖ If minimum stubble heights are exceeded in a key area in a given pasture by 20% or more of the assigned levels, that pasture will receive a subsequent growing season deferment and recovery prior to the resumption of grazing.
  - ❖ When monitoring results indicate one or more key areas in all pastures have reached minimum stubble heights by 20% or more of the assigned levels, and scheduled deferment cannot be achieved, livestock will be removed from the allotment.

**Key Areas\*: (Map Attached)**

ID	NAME	KEY_SPP_	ACRES	STUBBLE_HEIGHT
1	WestCCC 1	Bogr Bocu	18.305	2.5 inches +
2	West CCC2	Bogr	18.152	2.5 inches +
3	West CCC 3	Bogr	17.119	2.5 inches +
4	WestCCC4	Bogr	17.610	2.5 inches +
5	EastCCC1	Bogr	13.581	2.5 inches +
6	EastCCC2	Bogr	15.125	2.5 inches +
7	EastCCC3	Bogr	14.742	2.5 inches +
8	NorthCB1	Bogr	12.977	2.5 inches +
9	NorthCB2	Bogr	9.891	2.5 inches +
10	NorthCB4	Bogr	9.725	1.2 inches +
11	NorthCB3	Boer	11.329	2.5 inches +
12	SouthCB1	Bogr	12.987	1.2 inches +
13	SouthCB2	Bogr	10.866	1.2 inches +
14	SouthCB3	Bogr Boer	12.655	2.5 inches +
15	SouthCB4	Bogr	9.049	2.5 inches +
16	SouthCB5	Bogr	10.076	2.5 inches +
17	Community1	Bogr	8.901	2.5 inches +
18	Community2	Bogr	9.951	2.5 inches +
19	New River 1	Bogr	2.520	2.5 inches +
20	New River 2	Bogr	2.000	2.5 inches +

**\*As the areas are placed on the allotment, it is anticipated that location area may be adjusted and key species added through a collaborative effort. This Key Area location work should start as soon as possible upon implementation of this grazing system.**

**5. Range Improvements:**

**a) Fences:** Proper maintenance of fences will help ensure they will hold livestock in a pasture and will extend their useful life. Fences in need of reconstruction will be inventoried and prioritized by the District for reconstruction. Please let us know if any other fences than the above described are beyond reasonable repair and are in need of reconstruction.

Permit-Modification	Unit	Completed by date:	Status

**b) Water:** Stock water is important for proper livestock distribution. If natural water is not available to achieve good distribution, it may be necessary to haul water. In addition, maintenance of pipelines, troughs, spring boxes, and dirt tanks will help provide water throughout the year. If any of these improvements need repair work, you are authorized to do so, unless it requires ground disturbance, such as dirt tank cleaning. Advance planning is needed for authorizing tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled during the summer months if the pipelines and troughs are beyond reasonable repair, we are willing to work with you to replace them. Please protect natural springs and areas with riparian type vegetation. Drainage bottoms, creeks, springs, and cienegas where water is available are most susceptible to livestock concentrations.

Permit-Modification	Unit	Completed by date:	Status

**c) Other improvements:**

Permit-Modification	Unit	Completed by date:	Status

**6.**

The Annual Operating Plan/Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 3, Section 8. It complies with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan, including the 1996 Forest Plan Amendment. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act as found in the Biological Assessment for the Cedar Breaks Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.

This decision/instructions are subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90 (see enclosed copy of 36 CFR 251 regulations). In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).

A notice of appeal must be filed with Marcia R. Andre, Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest, 3005 E. Camino del Bosque, Silver City, New Mexico, 88061-7863, within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with Larry D. Raley, District Ranger, Glenwood Ranger District, P. O. Box 8, Glenwood, New Mexico, 88039-9704.

Sincerely,

Larry Raley  
District Ranger

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Permittee

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Date

36 CFR 251 REGULATIONS

TITLE 36 - - PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC PROPERTY

CHAPTER II - - FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PART 251 - - LAND USES - - Table of Contents

Subpart C - - Appeal of Decisions Relating to Occupancy and Use of National Forest System  
Lands

Sec. 251.90 Content of notice of appeal.

- (a) It is the responsibility of an appellant to provide a Reviewing Officer sufficient narrative evidence and argument to show why a decision by a lower level officer should be reversed or changed.
- (b) An appellant must include the following information in a notice of appeal:
  - (1) The appellant's name, mailing address, and daytime telephone number;
  - (2) The title or type of written instrument involved, the date of application for or issuance of the written instrument, and the name of the responsible Forest Service Officer;
  - (3) A brief description and the date of the written decision being appealed;
  - (4) A statement of how the appellant is adversely affected by the decision being appealed;
  - (5) A statement of the facts of the dispute and the issue(s) raised by the appeal;
  - (6) Specific references to any law, regulation, or policy that the appellant believes to be violated and the reason for such an allegation.
  - (7) A statement as to whether and how the appellant has tried to resolve the issue(s) being appealed with the Deciding Officer, the date of any discussion, and the outcome of that meeting or contact; and
  - (8) A statement of the relief the appellant seeks.
- (c) An appellant may also include one or more of the following in a notice of appeal: a request for oral presentation (Sec. 251.97); a request for stay of implementation of the decision pending decision on the appeal (Sec. 251.91); or, in those States with a Department of Agriculture certified mediation program, a request for mediation of grazing permit cancellation or suspensions pursuant to Sec. 251.103.

[54 FR 3362, Jan. 23, 1989; 54 FR 13807, Apr. 5, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 34510, Aug. 21, 1989;

64 FR 37846, July 14, 1999]