Annual Operating Instructions

COYOTE-WHITMER/TURKEY CREEK ALLOTMENTS
Alpine Ranger District
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest

2018 grazing season

1. PASTURE USE SCHEDULE

The following is the grazing rotation schedule:

Herd A (104 head c/c)

Pasture	On	Off	Days	Comments
West Coyote	7/1	7/31	31	
East Coyote	8/1	9/30	61	
Turkey Creek, Dump	RESTED	RESTED	RESTED	Plan to rest these pastures but they are available to use if for some reason they are needed.

Herd B (160 head c/c)

Pasture	On	Off	Days	Comments
Little Creek	7/1	9/7	69	
Luna Lake	9/8	10/15	38	
Whitmer	RESTED	RESTED	RESTED	Wallow Fire High Burn Severity & destroyed range improvements

The schedule above is an estimate, and may be modified at any time during the grazing season if the utilization levels, identified below, are met, if water availability is inadequate, or for other resource management reasons.

2. UTILIZATION STANDARDS

The following utilization standards will be applied on the Coyote-Whitmer/Turkey Creek Allotments:

- 20% utilization by weight on riparian forage and browse.
- 40% utilization by weight on upland forage and browse.
- Within Northern goshawk territories, a utilization level in forested areas (includes small openings) of: 20% average by weight of grass and forbs and 40% of browse species.
- Within Mexican spotted owl habitat, in order to maintain prey species habitat needs, a utilization level of 20-40% of forage and browse species.

3. KEY AREA MONITORING

Livestock grazing utilization monitoring may be conducted in key areas near the midpoint or end of the grazing period, or at the end of the growing season for each pasture. It is your responsibility to take action so that livestock grazing does not exceed the allowable use guidelines. Proper salt placement (more than a ¼ mile from water, and away from roads), hauling water, and herding or riding are recommended. If the problem cannot be corrected with

preventative measures, then early exits from the pastures, adjustments in the AMP, stocking levels, or other management or administrative actions may be necessary.

The purpose of utilization monitoring is to ensure that herbaceous vegetation is managed to provide for suitable habitat and forage for various wildlife species (i.e. Mexican Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk prey base), to meet physiological requirements for forage and browse plants, and promote or maintain proper range/watershed conditions.

District personnel will contact the permittees to coordinate site visits to monitor key areas, when practical. Permittee participation is encouraged. Forage utilization estimates will be consistent with the Forest Service Range Analysis Handbook methodology, and may also include FS Regional stubble-height standards, as well as other techniques generally accepted in the field of range management.

4. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Maintenance of range improvements: Permittees will maintain assigned range improvements within their Allotment. This is in accordance with Part 3, clause 2 of the term grazing permit. If your neighbor is turning out before you on an adjacent pasture and the boundary fence is your responsibility, this **FENCE MUST BE REPAIRED BEFORE YOUR NEIGHBOR TURNS OUT.** Routine maintenance of existing improvements does not require written clearance; however, construction or reconstruction of improvements must be authorized in writing from this office.

5. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Livestock Distribution: Salting and maintaining improvements are good ways to achieve proper livestock distribution. Frequent riding may be necessary to break up concentrations of livestock.
A full time rider may be needed to herd livestock onto lightly used areas, reducing grazing pressure on riparian areas and meadows.

Fire Prevention: All vehicles should be equipped with a properly functioning exhaust system. A shovel and axe for use in extinguishing camp and forest fires should be carried. All open camp and branding fires, when allowed, must have a fire ring down to the mineral soil, and be handled in a safe manner. All State and local fire regulations and restrictions will be observed. Report any fires to the fire dispatcher in Show Low at **928-532-2700.**

We appreciate your cooperation in the management of the Coyote-Whitmer/Turkey Creek allotments. If you have any questions regarding these instructions, please contact my Rangeland Management Staff or myself at (928) 339-5000.