

**Corduroy C&H Allotment
2008 ANNUAL OPERATING PROVISIONS**

1. Permitted and Authorized Use

The 2008 cost per Head Month will be added to your Bill for Collection when received. The Bill has been mailed to you. Payment must be received by the due date listed on the Bill for Collection.

Your permit reads as follows:

Permittee	Allotment	Term Permit	Season	AUMs
Jack & Carolyn Diamond (#061185)	Corduroy (#226)	1134 yearlings	04/15-10/15	4802
		10 horses	03/01-02/28	144

Upon payment of fees, you are authorized to graze as follows:

Allotment	Authorized	Season	AUMS
Corduroy	1134 yearlings	04/15-10/15	4802
	10 horses	03/01-02/28	144

Actual on-dates and off-dates are dependant on range readiness and when allowable use standards are met. The Forest Service may approve changes to the grazing rotation in consultation with you, to address range condition and situations that may occur due to forage condition or weather related circumstances.

2. Grazing Management

It is strongly expected that livestock be moved before utilization standards are met. If allowable use levels are met early in the scheduled pasture, cattle will be rotated into the next pasture or off the Forest This should prevent non-compliance of standards, allowing for time to clean the unit of stragglers.

Monitoring will be conducted to measure utilization of riparian and upland vegetation throughout the grazing year.

The following illustrates last year's rotation:

<i>PASTURE</i>	<i>ON</i>	<i>OFF</i>	<i>NUMBER</i>
Black Mountain&Bull	04/15	06/30	Number TBD
Corduroy	04/15	06/30	“”
Taylor	04/15	06/30	“”
Indian	07/01	10/15	“”
Spring	07/01	10/15	“”
South	04/15	10/15	55 head
Inman/Cox	04/15	10/15	*
Burnt Cabin	04/10	5/15	50 head**

***Used together with less numbers relieve grazing intensity due to locoweed infestations**

**** Possibly used from Sept 1 to Oct 15 based on intensity of Burnt Cabin Prescribed Burn**

The following illustrates any changes made during the annual Validation Meeting to the 2008 grazing rotation on the allotment.

<i>PASTURE</i>	<i>ON</i>	<i>OFF</i>	<i>NUMBER</i>
Taylor	04/15	06/30	100
Inman-Cox	04/15	06/30	200
Inman-Cox	06/30	08/15	300
Burnt Cabin	08/15	10/15	300
Black Mountain&Bull	04/15	06/30	250
Corduroy	04/15	10/15	250
Indian	04/15	06/30	50
Spring	04/15	06/30	50
Black Mountain & Bull	07/01	10/15	350
South Pasture	Rest		
Indian and Spring	Rest July Aug Sept Oct		

The dates and numbers are approximate and can be adjusted during the season. Any adjustment must be communicated to Range Staff and approved by the District Ranger.

If no adjustments have been made, cattle are to be completely removed from a pasture by the off date. You will allowed two weeks prior to the off date to begin moving cattle into the next pasture. If two weeks is not adequate, you must request additional time from this office. Please notify this office when you begin to move cattle and when a pasture rotation is complete.

Permittees with livestock in rested units, grazing units outside the season of use, and grazing areas not authorized in advance, will be non-compliant with the terms and conditions of their Term Grazing Permit. Appropriate action, including billing at the unauthorized use rate, may be taken.

3. Gila National Forest Management Direction

Your Term Grazing Permit includes the specific maximum allowable utilization levels applicable to your allotment. Allowable use is calculated at a point-in-time. To comply with standards in the Corduroy Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice signed on December 3, 1999 and Gila National Forest Plan, livestock must be moved to another unit or remove them from National Forest System lands regardless of the time remaining in the grazing season before utilization standards are met.

You are responsible for tracking and complying with your permitted forage use levels. For your convenience, the Corduroy C&H Allotment maximum allowable forage utilization levels are listed below:

Corduroy C&H Allotment:

The following use standards will be applied on the allotment:

- Riparian areas are not to exceed 25% of current year’s growth on woody riparian species.

- Upland sites grazed during the growing season are not to exceed 35% of current year's growth of perennial grasses.
- Upland sites grazed during the dormant season are not to exceed 40% of current year's growth of perennial grasses.

Range Improvements

Range improvements must be maintained to standard before cattle are allowed into a pasture. It is the permittee's responsibility to ensure that range improvements remain functional. This includes boundary fences in pastures not currently being grazed. Routine maintenance of existing improvements does not require written clearance; however, construction/reconstruction of new improvements must be authorized in writing from this office.

2007 Improvement Planned:

We will need to inspect and close out the following improvements:

Corduroy/V+T allotment boundary fence (perm. mod. #05-09).

East Boundary – Scales Canyon – Inman Pasture 0.75 miles

2008 Improvements Planned (Work or Supplies Needed from 2007 and New Projects)

Extend Pipeline Taylor

East boundary – Scales Canyon – Inman

Cut Trees off fence wolf hollow to Black Mtn

Clean Jordan tank

Juniper Removal on Black Mtn Mesa

When improvements have been maintained, please call the Black Range Ranger Station and report that maintenance has been completed. If verification is not received from the permittee, inspections will be made. During that inspection, if we find maintenance has not been completed, and livestock are grazing an area unscheduled for use at the time, they will be considered unauthorized. Permittees may be billed for unauthorized use and/or permit action taken for maintenance.

All water developments must provide access and escape to and from water for all types of wildlife. Please contact the Kameron or Shane for assistance.

4. Monitoring

Key areas for monitoring were identified as riparian areas and transect cluster locations. In addition to the cluster sites, we have identified other upland sites which are listed below. Mexican spotted owl protected and restricted habitat will be monitored for compliance with the MSO recovery plan and consultation guidance criteria.

- Black Mountain Pasture – South ridgeline of Bell Canyon.
- Indian Pasture – Indian Cieniga, and the confluence of Corduroy and Doagy Canyons.
- Burnt Cabin Pasture – Burnt Cabin Flat.
- Inman Pasture – Vicinity of the junction of FDR's 226 & 226A.
- Cox Pasture – ½ ways between Inman Cieniga and Alexander Tank.
- Taylor Pasture – Taylor Canyon (riparian).
 - Uplands between Alexander Canyon and Shallow & Keith tanks.

The idea of a key area is to find a site that is representative of a larger area in which cattle obtain the majority of their required forage resources. Key area monitoring will avoid areas directly adjacent to permanent water sources, cattle trails, roads, and fence lines.

- Riparian areas will be monitored for use on riparian woody species as well as riparian herbaceous species.
- Upland areas will be monitored for use on perennial grass species.
- Mexican spotted owl protected and restricted habitat will be monitored to ensure that current management is providing cover for rodent prey species, the residual biomass that will support prescribed natural and ignited fires that would reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire in the Forest, and regeneration of riparian trees.

District personnel will contact the permittees to coordinate site visits to monitor key areas. 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.

5. Special Management Instructions

The following restrictions will be implemented so that management remains in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The instructions below relate to threatened, endangered, and proposed to be listed species as well as range/watershed conditions.

- No salt or mineral block may be placed in protected and restricted Mexican spotted owl habitat from February 1 to August 31, and no concentrations of livestock (i.e., corral use, traps, or large gatherings of livestock).
- Stock tanks must be surveyed for possible aquatic habitat before earth-disturbing maintenance is authorized.
- As you may know, the Chiricahua leopard frog is a threatened species. Because of the listing of the Chiricahua leopard frog as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an analysis was completed for all Gila allotments. We have determined that livestock grazing on the Corduroy Allotment has the potential to adversely affect the Chiricahua leopard frog. As a result of this determination, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will prepare a draft Biological Opinion, which may modify grazing management practiced to minimize the level of affect an action will have on a listed species. However, this determination has not yet resulted in any changes to your grazing permit. As the permittee of the Corduroy Allotment, you have applicant status that allows you the opportunity to provide comments to the draft Biological Opinion. This office will keep you informed on the process.
- *The Endangered Species Act requires that actions funded or carried out by the federal government go through the consultation process to insure these actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species. Please notify this office of any planned earth disturbing activities involving riparian areas, dirt tanks, or other sources of open water.*

6. Other Instructions

On yearlong ranges, calves under six months of age on January 1st will be counted against the authorized numbers.. By April 1, these calves must be removed from the Forest or counted against the authorized numbers.

The permittee must obtain permission from this office, before conducting earth- disturbing activities on the National Forest. The Forest Service will arrange inspections of project areas and will prepare appropriate environmental and cultural documents before earth-disturbing activities proceed. These activities include road/earthen tank maintenance, as well as construction/reconstruction of trails, roads, earthen tanks, etc. Do not conduct any earth-disturbing activities on the Forest without written clearance from this office.

Salt must be located at least ¼ mile from water, and preferably on ridges and/or areas of low use. Do not place salt blocks in the same location as the previous year, and locate blocks on hard ground not susceptible to erosion. Supplemental feeding, other than mineral or supplement block, is not authorized on the National Forest.

Accurate records of your operation will aid in planning and determining the effectiveness of the grazing system. Please maintain reasonably accurate records of cattle numbers throughout the grazing season.

The Annual Operating Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 1, Section 3. These instructions comply with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan, including the 1996 Forest Plan Amendment. They also comply with the Endangered Species Act found in the Biological Assessment for the Corduroy Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the Annual Operating Instructions.

Your compliance with these instructions is essential for the proper management of National Forest System lands. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and these instructions may result in issuance of a notice of noncompliance with the terms of your grazing permit. If needed during the grazing season, changes can be made in these instructions, provided the changes are first approved and documented by the District Ranger or other authorized Forest Service officer.

We look forward to working with you and solicit your cooperation and involvement in bringing about sound range and livestock management practices that will enhance all of the allotment's resources. If you have any ideas or suggestions that will improve the management of this allotment, we would like to hear from you.

This 2008 Annual Operating Provisions for the Corduroy C&H Allotment was discussed with the Permittee on Jan. 9, 2008. Understand that these operating instructions are issued by the Forest Officer in charge of the area under permit as provided in Clause 8a of your term grazing permit. As such, they require the same degree of compliance as the regular terms of your permit.

Approved By: Larry D. Coper, District Ranger February 15, 2008
Forest Officer in Charge Date

Reviewed By: _____ Date
Permittee

