

**Turkey Run 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 will be sent 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
Rafter Spear Ranch (#61217)	Turkey Run (#228)	94 c/c	03/1-02/28	1489

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

Allotment	Authorized	Season	AUMS
Turkey Run	94 c/c	03/01-02/28	1489

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 suggested 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>
Winter	03/01	04/30	94
Turkey Run	05/01	06/30	65
Wildcow	5/01	09/30	15
Round Mtn.	05/01	09/30	14
Round Mtn	07/01	09/30	65
Shipping and Holding	10/01	10/31	79
Winter	10/01	02/28/08	15
Winter	11/01	02/28/2008	65
Stiver	RESTED		
Breeding	RESTED		

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>
Winter	03/01	04/30	94
Turkey Run	05/01	06/30	69
Wildcow	RESTED	RESTED	0
Round Mtn	RESTED	RESTED	0
Shipping and Holding	10/01	10/31	69
Winter	10/01	02/28/2009	25
Winter	11/01	02/28/2009	69
Stiver	05/01	09/30	25
Breeding	07/01	09/30	69

Cattle are to be completely removed from a pasture by the off date. I will allow you 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 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 Turkey Run C&H Allotment maximum allowable forage utilization levels are listed below:

Turkey Run 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:

- ½ mile of this fencing will be used at Turkey Spring – COMPLETED
 - 3 miles instead of ¼ mile mending the Stiver pasture fence COMPLETED
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- 74 Draw Well. NOT COMPLETED
- Cox Trick Tank Construction NOT COMPLETED
- ¼ mile fence at Cox Trick Tank NOT COMPLETED

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

74 Draw Well Storage Tank

Need quickcrete amount: 16.4 cubic yards with 6 inch thick floor,
6 ga. Remesh 884 square feet.

Cox Trick Tank Construction

¼ mile fence Cox Trick Tank

Wire Spring Drinker

Consolation Spring Drinker

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.

- Round Mountain pasture –1/4 mile southeast of the Round Mountain cluster
- Turkey Run pasture –Clusters in Turkey Run and 74 Draw
- Winter pasture –1/4 down Hoyt Creek from the confluence of Lower Hoyt creek and the vicinity of the mouth of Turkey Draw

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 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 determined that livestock grazing will either have no effect or will not adversely affect the Chiricahua leopard frog. As a result of this

determination, there were no changes required of your grazing permit. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with this determination. Therefore, consultation has been completed. A copy of this consultation is on file with your local Ranger District.

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 1st, these calves must be removed from the Forest or counted against the authorized numbers.

The Lookout Mountain Trick-Tank was constructed with wildlife funding; therefore, the valves to the drinking troughs must remain open to provide water for wildlife.

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 Turkey Run Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the Annual Operating Instructions.

These 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 Dick Markley, Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest, at 3005 E.

