

Glenwood Ranger District

Gila National Forest

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2008

CEDAR BREAKS #404

Prepared By: _____ Date: _____
District Range Staff

Approved By: _____ Date: _____
District Ranger

Agreed to By: _____ Date: _____
Permittee

I. INTRODUCTION

George Douds and I met with you on November 1, 2007 and December 20, 2007 to discuss management of the Cedar Breaks Allotment during the 2008 grazing year and to plan grazing management during the upcoming 2008 grazing season. These Annual Operating Instructions implement the 2002 Decision and are the result of those discussions.

Please note that I have accepted your suggested rotation schedule with the exception of use of the River Pasture. Based on your concern that cured forage in River Pasture may constitute a fire hazard, I have altered the rotation to allow you to stock sufficient cattle to attain the allowable use. The scheduled period of use is designed to minimize the need to reconstruct or maintain the river fence while cattle are in the pasture but to allow grazing of the cured forage prior to the summer fire season. Due to the lack of water on the forest part of this pasture, livestock will water on private land.

If you wish to request changes in these instructions, particularly to the rotation schedule, you must make the request no less than 5 business days prior to the proposed effective date for the change. All changes to the Annual Operating Instructions must be approved, in writing, by the District Ranger prior to implementation.

The authorized stocking for the 2008 grazing season on the Cedar Breaks Allotment is as follows:

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers

Number and Class of Livestock	Dates
108 Cattle-Cow/calf	03/01 – 02/28
10 Horses-Saddle	03/01 – 02/28

Cedar Breaks Allotment Annual Authorization for 2008

Number and Class of Livestock Authorized	Dates Authorized
108 Cattle-Cow/calf	03/01/2008 – 02/28/2008
10 Horses-Saddle	03/01/2008 – 02/28/2008

Cedar Breaks Allotment Rotation Schedule for 2008

Class of Livestock	Dates	Pasture
Cow/Calf	03/1/2008 – 04/01/2008	East CCC
Cow/Calf	04/1/2008 – 07/01/2008	West CCC
Cow/Calf	07/1/2008 – 10/01/2008	North Cedar Breaks
Cow/Calf	10/1/2008 – 01/01/2009	South Cedar Breaks/Alma Flat/Mineral Creek
Cow/Calf	01/1/2009 – 02/28/2009	West CCC
Horses/Bulls	03/1/2008 – 02/28/2009	Community
Horses/Cattle	Holding/Doctoring	Highway 180
Horses/Cattle	03/01/08-06/30/08	River
Cow/Calf	In conjunction with private land in pasture	Wiley Morgan
Note: No cattle or horses are allowed in the San Francisco River.		

The above schedule for stocking the allotment depends upon the availability of forage and water. Some flexibility in the above pasture rotation dates will be allowed for justifiable causes such as weather conditions, livestock management needs, and range conditions. The District Ranger must be notified 5 days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest if the placing on or removal of livestock is not planned in the above schedule, and more than 10 head are being moved. Credit/Refund applications will not be processed unless District personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time of removal of stock.

II. MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK

You are responsible for monitoring water availability and forage utilization. It is your responsibility to move your livestock when sufficient water is no longer available or when proper forage utilization is achieved in a pasture. You are responsible for keeping track of and maintaining control of your livestock. In the event your livestock are found to be out of the scheduled pasture, you will be required to find, gather, and return your animals to the proper pasture as soon as possible.

III. IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year Term Grazing Permit are to be maintained in functioning condition. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to a functioning condition, you should notify this office so we can schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available. You may apply for a free use post and stay permit for the maintenance of fences and corrals on your allotment.

Inspection of range developments in 2007 documented two fences (000107 on Stout Mesa, in South Cedar Breaks, 000760, Sliver Pasture) in need of maintenance. You maintained the Sliver Pasture fence in June. You notified me on November 1, 2007 that you had completed maintenance of the Stout Mesa fence. I appreciate your timely response once these fences were brought to your attention.

Fence #000771, Mineral Creek Pasture fence is in need of maintenance. I understand that this fence has been in this condition for some time. If materials are needed for reconstruction, contact George Douds. I see no reason to abandon this fence at this time.

I am enclosing an updated map and list of your maintenance responsibilities. These incorporate the corrections from last summer.

IV. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fire: Branding and warming fires should be used with good judgment - not on windy days or during times when fires are specifically restricted. The Glenwood District is planning to allow naturally ignited fires to burn on the district this coming year. We will notify you if we plan to let a fire burn on your allotment.
2. Records: In order to complete Permit Modifications, you must provide the District with an accounting of materials used and the days and dollars spent on your part to complete the permit modification. This information provides evidence of your contribution to range developments. In order to verify actual use, you need to document cattle numbers, dates of entering and leaving different pastures, shipping dates, and cattle losses (both grown stock and calves). Copies of shipping tickets, sales records, and other written records are required to support your documentation. A suggested form is enclosed for your use.
3. Heavy Equipment Use: Written permission from the District Ranger will be required for any heavy equipment use on the National Forest. Examples of this are cleaning out stock tanks, road maintenance, etc.
4. Credit/Refund: Any credit or refund applications for grazing fees must be made as far in advance as possible. Credit/Refund applications are not retroactive and will be approved only if the District Ranger is notified of livestock removal prior to or at the time the livestock are taken off the allotment. You will be required to provide your Social Security or tax ID number in order for a refund to be processed.

A \$25 administrative fee will be charged for any additional bills for collection that are sent to you due to either late payment or for split billing on seasonal allotments. This fee will be collected to pay for the cost associated with issuing an additional bill for collection. There is no administrative fee for the normal "split billing" on yearlong allotments.

To insure that payment is credited to your account, you must write the bill number on your check prior to submitting it to the lockbox.

5. Short Age Calf Policy: Any short-aged calves (calves less than 6 months old on December 31) must be removed from the National Forest by April 1, or you will need to apply for and pay grazing fees for these animals from April 1 to the time they are removed from the National Forest. Calves that are 6

months old or older on December 31 need to be paid for starting January 1.

6. Salting and Supplemental Feeding:

- a. Feeding of energy supplements on National Forest land will not be permitted unless a proven need to use the supplements is shown, and a detailed plan is developed and approved.
- b. Feeding of hay on National Forest land will not be permitted unless a proven need to use the supplement is shown. You have requested to use hay as an attractant for your cattle. Please work with George Douds to develop a specific plan for use of hay. You may use either certified weed free hay or hay grown on your private land in Alma.
- c. Feeding of vitamin or mineral supplements, protein blocks, or molasses lick tubs on National Forest land will be permitted if a detailed plan is approved, or if carried out in conjunction with salting.
- d. Salting practices will be in agreement with the 10-Year Term Grazing Permit. Salt will be placed in areas of available feed to help draw cattle to them. Salt will not be placed within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of water and/or in natural concentrations areas which receive heavy grazing use. To facilitate gathering, you may place salts in corrals **only** during the week before scheduled pasture move dates. .
- e. No salting within the following areas of special management concern: Alma Flat Pasture, the southeast corner of Community Pasture (the south half of the west half of the northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28, Township 10 South, Range 20 West), Kellar Canyon within West CCC Pasture, and the easy country along the fence in the northeast side of West CCC pasture (West $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 25, Township 10 South, Range 21 West)

V. ALLOTMENT STATUS

The Cedar Breaks Allotment has been analyzed through the 2002 NEPA analysis process. The resulting Decision Notice meets Forest Plan standards and guidelines. This decision along with the terms of your Ten-Year Term Permit and these Annual Operating Instructions provide direction for management on this allotment.

The terms and conditions of Part Three of your Term Grazing Permit as modified by a letter of instruction dated May 22, 2006, constitute your allotment management plan. The following range developments remain to be completed to implement the 2002 Decision.

- West CCC pipeline reconstruction. You reported that you have completed the pipeline reconstruction from the well to the steel rim tank. George Douds will inspect this during the upcoming monitoring trip. You rejected my suggestion to consider an alternate route for the pipeline from the steel rim tank to the north part of the West CCC Pasture. Therefore, you will need to complete the reconstruction of the pipeline in the current location. George has the material on hand and has prepared a Permit Modification for the remainder of this project. I have extended the completion date for this project to May 15, 2008.
- Section 5 stocktank reconstruction was scheduled for 2008. I arranged for the Forest Service engineering crew to complete this job this year. The reconstruction dirt work has been completed. I am considering armoring the spillway to decrease the risk of losing the structure in the future.
- Alma Flat Pasture fence reconstruction. I have evaluated potential alternate locations for this fence to determine if another alignment would meet the intent of the decision. No other alignment would provide the necessary control of livestock use in Alma Flat but retain access to water (Alma Flat Well) for both Cedar Breaks and Alma Flat pastures. This project is scheduled for completion by June 30, 2009 but since Section 5 Tank has been completed at no cost to you, I expect you to begin this project this year and complete it by September 30, 2008. Materials are on hand for this fence and a Permit Modification has been prepared. You may obtain a free use permit for posts and stays for this fence.
- Alma Flat corral reconstruction. This is scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2010. You have

expressed an interest in completing this project this year. As soon as you have completed the Alma Flat Pasture fence reconstruction, contact George Douds for materials and a Permit Modification.

VI. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

. Other items discussed during the annual validation meeting are presented below.

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- Proposed projects that were not included in the 2002 Decision Notice.
 - You have a Permit Modification for the Wiley Morgan brush removal and road modification.
 - The scoping letter for the proposed re-channeling of the San Francisco River was sent to the public on February 19, 2008.
 - You requested permission to re-align the fence that parallels (on the north side) the irrigation ditch in the Community Pasture to a location on the south side of the irrigation ditch access road. You indicated that you would bear the entire cost of this fence realignment. Cultural Resource clearance has been completed. As soon as you have completed the NEPA projects listed above for this grazing year, contact George Douds to flag the fenceline. I approve relocation of this fence as long as it is located within six feet of the south shoulder of the road and does not include significant amounts of riparian habitat or river floodplain within the Community Pasture.
 - Other suggested projects (i.e. River Pasture brush removal, River Pasture and East CCC water developments) will be considered as time and personnel are available.
- Sliver Pasture is not part of your allotment. I am working with Clifton Ranger District personnel to consider administratively adding this pasture to your allotment.
- Road #40561 in Alma Flat Pasture between the highway and private land has been maintained by the Forest engineering crew. The road was turnpiked, rolling dips installed and some surface material applied.
- You expressed concern with language on page 7 of the AOI "If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock is below minimum stubble heights, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where stubble heights are greater than the minimum". If cattle continue grazing a key area after it is at or below minimum stubble heights it would result in overuse. Good management addresses areas of heavier use and distributes livestock use around within a pasture to allow these areas to recover while making use of forage in other locations, Please note that the areas of special management concern below are examples of these areas of heavier use.

VII. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Keep track of conditions on your allotment and make plans to reduce or remove livestock if vegetative/watershed conditions could be substantially harmed due to continued grazing. The forecast for the upcoming spring is dry and warm. If dry conditions continue through the summer growing season, a reduction in livestock numbers may be necessary. If livestock numbers are reduced, restocking of allotments to full numbers will not take place until forage plants regain vigor.

There are four areas of special management concern. These are listed below and marked on the enclosed map. Do not place salt or supplements within these areas

- Alma Flat Pasture in South Cedar Breaks. Shut off water at the well once grazing intensity levels have been achieved to encourage stock to move to other areas of the pasture.
- Southeast corner of the Community Pasture. As long as water is available in Section 20 tank or the Ditch Tank, do not provide water in this area.
- Kellar Canyon and the easy county along the northeast fence in West CCC pasture. If water and forage are available on the south portion of the pasture and/or around Juniper Tank, do not provide livestock water from the pipeline.

VIII. PERMIT MODIFICATIONS

Permit modifications completed this grazing year:

- 07-01 Reconstruction of river fence washed out by flood.
- 07-05 Reconstruct river fence

Permit modifications currently issued:

- 07-02 CCC pipeline reconstruction from well to steel rim tank (you reported on December 20 that you had completed this part of the pipeline, George will verify during next monitoring visit).
- 07-03 North Cedar Breaks pipeline reconstruction (EQIP project) (expires March 1, 2008).
- 07-04 Clear mesquite from road to Wiley Morgan pasture and push juniper and mesquite on portion of Forest in Wiley Morgan pasture. (expires 11/1/08)

Range developments specified in the environmental analysis, as modified by the letter of instruction May 22, 2006, are high priority developments. Other range developments will be considered when the high priority developments have been completed and inspected.

IX. STUBBLE HEIGHT MONITORING OF KEY AREAS

Monitoring results from 2007

Pasture	Min. Stubble Heights Required	Key Area	Date	Actual Stubble Heights
North Cedar Breaks	1.2 in. Sodbound 2.5 in. Bunchgrass Blue Grama (30%)	North CB1 North CB2, North CB3	01/25/07 05/17/07	0-10% 10% Higher than the minimum requirement
South Cedar Breaks	1.2 in. Sodbound 2.5 in. Bunchgrass Blue Grama (30%)	South CB1 South CB2 South CB4 South CB5 South CB6	01/25/07 05/17/07 09/27/07	0% 0-10% 0-30% Higher than the minimum requirement
East CCC	1.2 in. Sodbound 2.5 in. Bunchgrass Blue Grama (30%)	East CCC1 East CCC2 East CCC3 East CCC4	01/18/07 05/17/07	0-5% 0% Higher than the minimum requirement
West CCC	1.2 in. Sodbound	West CCC1 West CCC2 West CCC3 West CCC4	01/18/07 05/17/07	0-20 10-30% Higher than the minimum requirement
River	1.2 in. Sodbound 2.5 in. Bunchgrass Blue Grama (30%)	River 1	01/18/07	0% Higher than the minimum requirement
Community	1.2 in. Sodbound 2.5 in. Bunchgrass Blue Grama (30%)	Community 1	01/25/07	5% Higher than the minimum requirement

Three areas need to be watched closely:

1. Alma Flat, as noted in the September 2007 monitoring visit, needs to be rested for an entire spring and summer growing season and the rotation schedule in Part I provides this.
2. Key areas 1 and 2 in West CCC pasture.

Although allowable use in 2007 was not exceeded in these areas, they were used harder than other areas of the allotment. All of these areas are close to water. When use is getting close to allowable use, denying access to water or other methods of distributing cattle will need to be employed.

You will be notified when monitoring is to be conducted on your allotment in order for you to be involved. This monitoring will be used to develop the grazing strategy for next year's Annual Operating Instructions. Monitoring will consist of minimum stubble height measurements in key areas, or photo of the key area when key species growth is clearly greater than the minimum stubble height. Stubble heights are to be at least 1.2+ inches on "sodbound" Blue grama and 2.5+ inches on the "bunchgrass" Blue grama sites.

Since 2004 no instances of overuse have been documented. Therefore pre-grazing and during grazing monitoring is not needed. Monitoring will be conducted shortly after cattle have been moved from the pasture. Other monitoring may be needed for any requested changes in the rotation schedule.

Stubble height measurements (monitoring) will be taken on the current year's growth of key species. The measured stubble height lengths will be averaged for each key plant species measured. The interval for measurement will be every other pace, with measurements taken on the closest key plant species.

An allowable use of 20% will be assigned to woody obligate riparian plant species located in Keller Canyon. The measurement of woody riparian species will be conducted using the grazed/ungrazed plant method. The San Francisco River is excluded from livestock grazing.

If, during the year, you feel that the utilization level is approaching the minimum stubble height, you will need to take some action to stop grazing the area. There are many actions that can be taken, such as pasture moves, locating your livestock on different waters, etc. We will work with you in order to insure that any actions you may take are appropriate and do not compound the problem.

At a minimum, forest personnel will monitor key areas within two weeks before or after livestock leave a pasture. The percent grazing use and/or stubble height will be documented at that time. The following dates have been scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. You are strongly encouraged to participate in monitoring.

Monitoring Schedule for 2008

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Min. Stubble Height*	Key Area
North Cedar Breaks	10/02/08	1.2 in. Sodbound 2.5 in. Bunchgrass Blue Grama	North CB1, North CB2, North CB3
South Cedar Breaks	01/06/09	1.2 in. Sodbound 2.5 in. Bunchgrass Blue Grama	South CB1, South CB2, South CB4, South CB5, South CB6
East CCC	04/02/08	1.2 in. Sodbound 2.5 in. Bunchgrass Blue Grama	East CCC1, East CCC2, East CCC3, East CCC4
West CCC	07/02/08	1.2 in. Sodbound blue grama 2.5 in. Bunchgrass blue grama 20% use by grazed-ungrazed plant method riparian woody species (Keller Canyon)	West CCC1, West CCC2, West CCC3, West CCC4
River	04/02/08	1.2 in. Sodbound 2.5 in. Bunchgrass Blue Grama	River 1
Community	04/02/08	1.2 in. Sodbound 2.5 in. Bunchgrass Blue Grama	Community 1
180	TBD	1.2 in. Sodbound 2.5 in. Bunchgrass Blue Grama	Whole pasture
San Francisco River	periodically	No livestock grazing	Entire FS reach

* Additional key species can be measured and minimum stubble heights will follow the guidance provided by the USDA Forest Service Region 3 Office in April of 2003.

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock is below minimum stubble heights, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where stubble heights are greater than the minimum. In the event all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at minimum stubble heights, livestock will be required to move to the next scheduled pasture. The option to return livestock to a pasture that has received adequate plant re-growth will be considered if all resource objectives can be met.

Open and positive communications concerning all AOI content is encouraged. Feel free to contact George Douds or me if you have any questions or concerns