

Glenwood Ranger District

Gila National Forest

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2008

Kelly Allotment #428

Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

District Range Staff

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

District Ranger

Agreed to By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Permittee

# Annual Operating Instructions

## I. INTRODUCTION

George Douds met with you in November to discuss management of the Kelly Allotment during the 2007 grazing year and to plan grazing management for the upcoming 2008 grazing season. These Annual Operating Instructions are the result of that discussion.

### Term Permitted Livestock Numbers

Permittee	Number and class of livestock	Dates
Danny & Jacqueline Fryar	49 Cattle-Cow/Calf & 2 horses	03/01 – 02/28
Lewis Kelly	41 Cattle-Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28
Jimmy Serna	14 Cattle-Cow/Calf & 2 horses	03/01 – 02/28

### Kelly Allotment Annual Authorization for 2008

Permittee	Number and class of livestock	Dates
Danny & Jacqueline Fryar	49 Cattle-Cow/Calf & 2 horses	03/01 – 02/28
Lewis Kelly	41 Cattle-Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28
Jimmy Serna	14 Cattle-Cow/Calf & 2 horses	03/01 – 02/28

### Kelly Allotment Pasture Rotation for 2008

Class of Livestock	Rotation Date	Pasture
Cow/Calf	03/01/08 – 04/01/08	West Pasture
Cow/Calf	04/01/07 – 10/15/08	Middle
Cow/Calf	10/15/08 – 11/15/08	Gutache Holding Pasture*
Cow/Calf	11/15/08 – 04/01/09	West Pasture
Cow/Calf	03/01/08 – 02/28/09 (As needed)	Big & Little Holding Pastures*
No Cattle	Rest	Spurgeon Pasture
No Cattle	Rest	East & Sally Pastures

Note: No livestock grazing is authorized in the San Francisco River, except designated water points

\* Pastures will be used for holding and/or doctoring. Livestock can remain in the pasture until allowable use is reached.

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. If there is a need to deviate from the above pasture rotation schedule by more than 15 days, you must notify the District Ranger of the proposed change in the pasture rotation date and the reason for the change. A deviation from the above schedule of more than 15 days must be approved by the District Ranger verbally or in writing. 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.

## 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 a functioning condition. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to a functioning condition, you should notify the Range Staff at the Glenwood Ranger District to schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available.

Fence #3168 from Highway 180 east (.5 miles assigned to Mr. Serna) was identified as either needing reconstruction or heavy maintenance. Mr. Serna was instructed in the Kelly Allotment 2007 Annual Operating Instructions to complete the fence by April 15, 2007. Mr. Serna is now instructed to maintain or reconstruct the fence on or before, April 15, 2008. If the fence needs to be reconstructed contact district personnel so the permit modification and material can be issued.

The following permit modifications are overdue for completion. Original completion dates are listed below. I am providing you with a new schedule to bring the improvements up to standard.

Permit Modification No. (Serna)	Original Completion Date	2008 Scheduled Completion Date	Inspection Date	Work to be done
3-03	March 2005	May 15, 2008	May 16, 2008	H-Braces need to be set at corners and at gates. Wire needs to be pulled tight.
7-03	March 2005	May 15, 2008	May 16, 2008	Wire needs to be pulled tight and old electric fence wire needs to be rolled up and removed.

Permit Modification No. (Kelly)	Original Completion Date	2008 Scheduled Completion Date	Inspection Date	Work to be done
1-06	August 31, 2006	May 15, 2008	May 16, 2008	Old barbed wire needs to be rolled up and removed from the allotment.

The improvements listed above for both Mr. Serna and Mr. Kelly are to be maintained to standard. The improvements will not be accepted until maintained to standard.

When you have completed a project, notify George Douds or Allen Graves to schedule an inspection. It is imperative that you implement the 2002 National Environmental Policy Act decision. No other permit modifications will be issued until these have passed inspection.

The final range improvement in need of construction as listed in your Term Grazing Permit is a waterlot around Spurgeon Tank. All three permittees agree that the tank needs to be cleaned before the waterlot is constructed. Whether or not the tank gets cleaned this year I am instructing you to construct the waterlot by January 31, 2009. District personnel will flag the location of the waterlot and make it large enough to allow dozer access.

Fisheries biologist needs to inspect the water points on the San Francisco River.

The following improvements reported finished need to be inspected and permit modification closed:

- 1-00 construct lane fence and wing fence
- 2-00 river fence 45 ft.

- 1-03 river fence 3192
- 4-03 .7 miles of Gutache fence
- 5-03 .5 miles of Gutache fence
- 6-03 construction of water lot around Gutache tank
- 1-06 reconstruction of .75 miles of fence #3166
- 1-07 reconstruction of .25 miles of fence #3768

#### 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 may 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 close out permit modifications you must provide documentation of materials and labor constituting your contribution to the permit modification.

You must provide documentation of cattle numbers; dates of entering and leaving pastures, shipping dates and cattle losses (grown stock and calves). This information is used to substantiate the carrying capacity of the allotment. The information demonstrates use and the need for forage to meet the economic needs of the county. This information may also be used to establish cause and effect if there is a significant change in calf crop (Example, a wolf pack becomes established near your allotment).

**3. Heavy Equipment Use:** Please notify district well in advance of any plans to use heavy equipment so that necessary clearances and/or permits can be obtained. You will be notified by the district when you can proceed.

**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.

It is necessary for you to write the bill number on your check prior to submitting it to the lockbox. This is necessary to insure that your payment is credited to your account.

**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:

- 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.
- Feeding of hay on National Forest land will not be permitted unless a proven need to use the supplement is shown, and a detailed plan is developed and approved. All supplemental hay must be **certified weed free** hay and you must provide the proper documentation.
- Feeding of vitamin or mineral supplements, protein blocks or molasses licks on National Forest land is permitted when used in the same manner as salt.
- 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 ¼ mile from water and/or in natural concentrations areas which receive heavy grazing use.

## V. ALLOTMENT STATUS

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

## VI. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

You are in favor of Fire Use on your allotment. The District Ranger will authorize necessary changes to this AOI to accommodate fire management.

Discussed future range developments such as:

- A fence to divide Spurgeon Pasture, creating another winter pasture and summer pasture.
- Installing a pipeline to provide reliable water in Spurgeon Pasture.

The above range improvements will be considered as time and personnel are available and after the waterlot has been constructed around Spurgeon Tank.

## 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 herd size may be recommended. If the herd size is reduced, restocking of the allotment to full numbers will not take place until forage plants regain vigor.

## VIII. Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas

### Monitoring results for 2007

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Actual Use*	Allowable Stubble Heights	Key Area
Spurgeon	04/04/2007	0%	35%	C1, C8
Spurgeon	03/05/2007	0%	35%	C1
Middle	03/05/2007	0%	35%	C2

\* Cattle were authorized to enter Spurgeon pasture later in the year. Cattle were not in the pasture at the time of monitoring.

### Utilization management objectives for key perennial species:

Key species	Season	Allowable Stubble heights & their percent equivalents
Blue grama	Growing	2.5 inches (30% or Light use)
Blue grama	Dormant	2.0 inches (35% or Moderate use)
Sideoats grama	Growing	9+ inches (30% or Light use)
Sideoats grama	Dormant	8+ inches (35% or Moderate use)

(From Table 2. Grazing Intensity Guide. ...Rangelands 22(3) Holechek and Galt, June 2000).

Since 2002 there has been one instance of overuse documented (1 of 19 inspections). Overuse only occurred on one of the two forage species monitored. 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.

You will be invited to participate in monitoring during the grazing season. Results 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 a 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.

Stubble height measurements (monitoring) will be taken on key species growth from the most recent growing season (current year's growth). The length should be measured in inches and averaged by plant species measured. The interval for measurement should be every other pace, with measurements taken on the closest key plant species.

Monitoring is scheduled for the following dates and you are highly encouraged to participate:

**Monitoring Schedule for 2008**

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Allowable Stubble Heights	Key Area
Spurgeon	10/21/08	1.2 or 2.5 inches on Blue grama	C7, C1
East & Sally	Will not be inspected	1.2 or 2.5 inches on Blue grama	C3, C4
Big & Little Holding	10/21/08	1.2 or 2.5 inches on Blue grama	C5
Gutache Holding	11/18/08	1.2 or 2.5 inches on Blue grama	C2
West	04/09/08	1.2 or 2.5 inches on Blue grama	C6
Middle Pasture	10/21/08	1.2 or 2.5 inches on Blue grama	

Monitoring of utilization on woody riparian will be conducted in the areas below and concurrently with the associated pasture. (See Table Below)

Pasture	Reach description	Management	Allowable Use
Sally & East	San Francisco River between the East and Sally pastures.	Excluded geographically and by fencing.	0% with the exception of two designated watering points.*
Holding	San Francisco River that borders the Holding pasture.	Excluded geographically and by fencing.	0% with the exception of one designated watering point.*
Middle	San Francisco River that borders the Middle pasture.	Excluded geographically and by fencing.	0% with the exception of one designated watering point.*
Spurgeon Mesa	San Francisco River that borders the Spurgeon Mesa pasture.	Excluded geographically and by fencing.	0%
Sally	Saliz Creek that borders the Sally pasture.	Excluded geographically and by fencing.	0%

\* The allowable use for water points is for woody riparian not to exceed 25% of stems in a watering point heavily hedged.

If unforeseen operational conditions require a change in the management specified in this AOI please contact rangeland management personnel at the Glenwood Ranger District to obtain approval of change(s). Advanced notice of change is requested so that field inspections can be conducted. Verbal approval of changes will be followed with a letter documenting the change. Failure to follow the instructions provided in this AOI, or other instructions (verbal or written) of a Forest Officer may lead to adverse action against your Term Grazing Permit (Part 1, Section 3 of your Term Grazing Permit).

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.