

Dixie NF Maintenance Standards for Range Improvements

The following maintenance standards apply to all range improvements on the allotment. The permittee shall maintain all range improvements assigned in Part 3 of their Term Grazing Permit. All improvements are to be maintained to standard prior to livestock entering the area. The permittee shall promptly notify the Forest Officer regarding improvements that cannot be maintained to these standards; these improvements will then be scheduled for reconstruction.

Maintenance work resulting in ground disturbance will require prior authorization due to the possible need for archeological or biological clearances.

Water Developments

1. Spring sources shall be protected from livestock trampling to prevent soil displacement, turbidity, spring source compaction and damage to water collection system. Fences around spring sources will be maintained to the standards established for "Range Fences" (as below) to prevent livestock from accessing the spring source.
2. Head box lids or covers shall be in place, or if broken replaced, to prevent dirt, rodents or other refuse, from entering the head box.
3. Collection structures need to be cleaned and flushed annually to assure maximum water flow.
4. All outlet pipes and valves from head boxes must be functioning properly.
5. Pipeline leaks will be repaired or the damaged section replaced with like materials and the repaired section buried to the original depth.
6. Non-functioning valves will be repaired or replaced.
7. Pipelines with valve cover boxes will be kept covered and repaired as needed.
8. Water troughs (tanks) will be kept at heights that make them usable to livestock. Troughs that become elevated from livestock trampling will be periodically backfilled to maintain a usable height.
9. Troughs with holes need to be plugged, mended or replaced.
10. Water troughs that become uneven due to settling will be reset and leveled.
11. Water shall not be allowed to overflow the sides of the troughs. Overflow pipes must be kept clear. Overflow pipes will be buried at least six inches deep (unless steel pipe is used)

and the end of the overflow pipe must be protected from trampling by livestock (use rocks). Water from the overflow pipe must be directed away from the trough area at least 30 feet.

12. Inlet and outlet pipe shall be protected by anchoring to the trough with single post next to the vertical pipe and brace or pole supporting the horizontal pipe. Inlet and outlet pipeline will be buried at least 6" deep to ensure protection from trampling. Steel pipe will be used where rock or hardpan prohibits digging.
13. All troughs shall be equipped with a wildlife escape ramp. Wildlife escape ramps shall be maintained in a functional capacity to provide access for small mammals and birds.
14. Troughs, storage tanks, and pipelines will be drained and cleaned annually to prevent algae and debris buildup and damage from freezing.
15. Poles, posts and trough-framing materials used in the construction of the water development will be maintained, repaired or replaced as needed.
16. Stock water ponds will be kept clear of debris, floating logs, dead animals, etc. Where outlet works are provided, they need to be cleaned and inspected regularly. Spillways should be inspected for damage. Rock rip-rap on spillway may need to be repaired or replaced.
17. Ponds need to be drained and cleaned out periodically.
18. Old posts, troughs, pipe, wire and other materials that have been removed will be promptly hauled off the National Forest.

Fences and Corrals

1. Fence clearing is six feet wide on each side of the fence line. All logs, trees, slash brush or other material will be removed unless otherwise specified. All overhanging material will be removed to eight feet vertical clearance. Dead trees in danger of falling on the fence will be felled.
2. All broken wires will be spliced and repaired in such a manner that tension on a wire can be maintained. Wire splices will be made with quality barbwire, 12-gauge size wire or type of wire used in initial construction. Nicro-press sleeves may also be used. If there are three or more splices within a distance of 20 feet the strand will need to be replaced to limit the splices.
3. Twisting or kinking of wire to take up slack weakens the wire and is therefore not permitted.
4. Wire will not be stapled or wrapped directly to live trees.

5. Broken or rotten posts, broken braces and missing staples will be replaced where and when needed to maintain fence. Replacement post will be cedar (juniper) or treated materials.
6. Wires will be re-stretched where needed.
7. Broken or missing stays will be replaced where needed. Replacement stays will be 2-3 inches in diameter.
8. Fences will be maintained to meet big game standards (bottom wire 16" above ground, top wire 40-42" above ground). All fences shall be constructed to this standard.
9. Staples will not be driven so deep into the post that they scar or create a weak spot in the wire.
10. All gates should be closed before livestock enter the grazing units and opened and tied back in the fall after livestock leave the allotment.
11. Gates will be maintained with three or four evenly spaced stays between the uprights.
12. Wire gate tension will be sufficient to prevent the gate from sagging and still be easily opened and closed. Gate loops should be made from smooth wire (barbless wire), not barbed wire.
13. Trees that fall on fences will be cut and removed; broken wires will be spliced and re-stretched; broken poles will be replaced.
14. Broken or rotten sections of log or pole fences and corrals will be replaced as needed.
15. Braces will be tight and in good condition. Loose or leaning brace posts will be straighten and reset. Replacement posts will be four to six inches in diameter at the small end.
16. Corrals will be kept clean of litter, in good repair, and usable condition.
17. Steel posts will be straightened and re-driven deep enough that the spade is below ground level. Replaced as necessary. Clips will be used to fasten wire onto metal posts.
18. Posts that have been pushed too deep by the snow will need to be pulled and reset.
19. "Let-down" fences will be let-down promptly when livestock exit the allotment and raised and tightened each spring.
20. Old posts and wire that have been replaced or removed will be promptly hauled off the National Forest.