

2002
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
 for
WALNUT CREEK ALLOTMENT

The objectives of these instructions are, prior to the grazing season, to:

- review general permit requirements,
- identify livestock management requirements,
- document any needs for agreements beyond the standard directions, and
- identify resource objectives.

*Utilize Harris Pasture w/ Turkey Creek to reduce use in Turkey Creek (concerns
 1° for riparian area.*

*Improve livestock distribution so get equivalent amount of
 utilization in uplands as drainages by improving herbaceous
 component on the uplands.*

I. AUTHORIZATION In 2002/2003 you are authorized to graze:

<u>Livestock</u>	<u>Period of Use.</u>	<u>Pasture</u>
128	Early Spring	Apache Creek
128	Late Spring	Private
128	Early Summer	Turkey Creek
128	Mid Summer	Private
128	Late Summer	Eby
128	" Summer	Hyde Creek
128	Early Fall	Apache Creek
128	Mid Fall	Private
128	Winter	Turkey Creek

II. ADMINISTRATION

1. Grazing fees must be paid before March 1, 2002. In the case of removal of livestock, credit for unused grazing fees may be granted, provided permittee submits a Credit Application, (Form 2200-1 available from Forest Service). This application needs to be submitted at or about the time of livestock removal in order to obtain full credit.
2. Sub-leasing is prohibited. You must own the livestock placed on the allotment. They must be branded and registered in your name. A current copy of your brand certificate must be on file at the Chino Valley District office.

3. If you elect to take non-use, it needs to be requested in writing at least 45 days prior to the grazing period.

4. You are asked to record actual use as it occurs. "Actual use as it occurs" means livestock numbers and dates your permitted livestock are in a pasture. Please show the number of head and dates livestock are moved between pastures. Livestock on your allotment from an adjacent allotment as a result of broken fences or open gates will also be noted. You will be asked to provide the Forest Officer with the actual use record for 2002/2003 in the AOI meeting for the following grazing year.

5. Any change from these Annual Operating Instructions is to be coordinated and confirmed with the Forest Officer, best if 7 days in advance. If emergency conditions require making a change immediately, notify the Forest Officer promptly.

6. You will have an opportunity to field check utilization with the Forest Officer. You will be requested to move livestock before the date specified above if allowable use is reached earlier. At least 14 days prior notice of an early move date will be given. See also Section IV.

7. At least 90% of the permitted livestock must be moved by the rotation date specified above or by the Forest Officer. It is expected that remaining strays will be actively gathered after the scheduled date, and all strays will be removed within two weeks after the scheduled date. Livestock allowed to remain in a pasture beyond this, allowed to drift between pastures, or allowed in a rested pasture may be considered a violation of your Term Grazing Permit.

8. The permittee is responsible for his/her proportionate share of the maintenance of all structural range improvements as listed in the permit and all new improvements as they are constructed. This maintenance will be completed before livestock move into the pasture. Improvement responsibilities are further identified on the permit map.

9. The permittee is responsible for their representatives and/or employees following all Forest Officer instructions.

III. KEY AREAS Key areas are identified on the attached allotment map. A key area is used to monitor forage, browse and soil. There is a minimum of one per grazing unit. A key area is normally 1/4 to 1 mile from water, located on productive soils on level to intermediate slopes, and is readily accessible for grazing. Where there are perennial or intermittent streams, key areas may be adjacent to the water. When allowable use levels are reached in any key area, one of the following actions will be needed to prevent overutilization:

1. More intensive management to move utilization off the key area, or
2. Move to the next scheduled unit, if applicable, or
3. Move off the allotment if all units available for use in that grazing year have reached allowable levels in key areas.

IV. ALLOWABLE USE The scheduled rotation, season of use, and livestock numbers are indicated in Section I. Adjustments in the rotation schedule, season of use, or numbers, will be made if allowable

use standards are about to be exceeded. Cattle will be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when allowable use standards are met. Minimizing forage use in areas livestock prefer is important. Some encouraged practices are closing off waters, moving salt, and herding.

For purposes of range analysis, proper use is defined as the degree of grazing use plus trampling damage that an individual species can sustain while maintaining the vigor, forage production, and reproductive capacity of the plants. Allowable use will be based on the morphological and physiological characteristics of each species. It should be kept in mind that the plant needs can be provided for over several growing seasons and may not necessarily be provided each year. However, the grazing schedule must provide sufficient plant recovery time to offset those times the plant is overgrazed during the growing season.

To compensate for the poor reproduction years, the allowable use factor must be conservative when related to average annual precipitation. The allowable use level may vary with differences in range condition class and season of use.

Allowable use will be set following the guide listed below from the Southwest Region Range Analysis and Management Handbook. Grass utilization percentage is measured by weight, not by height. Additional details are available from the grazing permit administrator.

A GENERAL GUIDE TO PROPER USE OF FORAGE SPECIES 1/

Scientific Name	Common Name	Symbol	Range in Fair Condition
Agropyron smithii	western wheatgrass	Agsm	40%
Andropogon saccharoides	silver bluestem	Ansa	30
Andropogon scoparius	little bluestem	Ansc	35
Aristida divaricata	poverty three-awn	Ardi	40
Aristida glabrata	Santa Rita three-awn	Argl	40
Aristida longiseta	red three-awn	Arlo	30
Blepharoneuron tricholepis	pine dropseed	Bltr	40
Bouteloua chondrosioides	sprucetop grama	Boch	30
Bouteloua curtipendula	side-oats grama	Bocu	35
Bouteloua eriopoda	black grama	Boer	30-40
Bouteloua filiformis	slender grama	Bofi	40
Bouteloua gracilis	blue grama	Bogr2	30
Bouteloua hirsuta	hairy grama	Bohi	30
Bouteloua rothrockii	rothrock grama	Boro	45
Danthonia	timber oatgrass	DANT	25
Festuca arizonica	Arizona fescue	Fear	25
Heteropogon contortus	tanglehead	Heco	30
Hilaria belangeri	curlymesquite	Hibe	30
Hilaria jamesii	galleta	Hija	30
Hilaria mutica	tobosa	Himu	30
Koeleria cristata	Junegrass	Kocr	30

Lycurus phleoides	wolftail	Lyph	30
Muhlenbergia rigens	deergrass	Muri	30
Muhlenbergia montana	mountain muhly	Mumo	30
Muhlenbergia emersleyi	bullgrass	Muem	20
Muhlenbergia porteri	bush muly	Mupo	25
Poa pratensis	Kentucky bluegrass	Popr	40
Scleropogon brevifolius	burrograss	Scbr	10
Sitanion hystrix	squirreltail	Sihy	30
Sporobolus airoides	alkali sacaton	Spai	25
Sporobolus contractus	spike dropseed	Spco	25
Sporobolus cryptandrus	sand dropseed	Spcr	25
Sporobolus interruptus	black dropseed	Spin	30
Stipa neomexicana	N. M. feathergrass	Stne	20
Trichachne californica	Arizona cottontop	Trca	30

These are guidelines as amended by nearly 50 years experience by the National Forests in Region 3 and were developed primarily under continuous year-long grazing systems. Intensive management systems with varying periods of use will provide different levels of allowable use. (END OF FS HANDBOOK REFERENCE)

Visual Guide to Utilization

The following guides are offered from the 1996 Utilization Studies and Residual Measurements FS-BLM Technical Reference, page 86:

0-5% utilization: key species show(s) no or negligible evidence of grazing use

6-20%: key species has (have) appearance very light grazing. Plants may be topped or slightly used. Current seedstalks and young plants are little disturbed.

21-40%: key species may be topped, skimmed, or grazed in patches. 60-80% of current seedstalks remain intact. Most young plants are undamaged.

41-60%: half the available forage by weight on key species appears to have been utilized (or knocked off). Fifteen to 25% of current seedstalks remain intact.

61-80%: More than half the available forage of key species appears to have been utilized. Less than 10 percent of the current seedstalks remain intact.

81-94%: key species appear(s) to have been heavily utilized and there are indications of repeated use. There is no evidence of reproduction or current seedstalks.

95-100%: key species appear(s) to have been completely utilized. The remaining stubble is utilized to the soil surface. (End of citation)

Woody riparian utilization

No more than 20% of the shoots (terminal leaders) of obligate * species should be browsed. This applies to trees of all ages and sizes, including recent regeneration. Judgement in this measurement will be needed by the permit administrator or permittee. There are two goals. Enough regeneration needs to be left unbrowsed that at least 3 age classes of obligate species will be recruited over time. There needs to be enough larger trees with unbrowsed main terminal leaders that these trees will move up in age class. Judgement will be required to assess the long-term ability of the riparian area to support woody riparian vegetation. Both flooding and lack of water in dry seasons and dry years are key factors to consider.

* obligate species are those which most often require free water for survival. Examples on the Prescott National Forest include ash, cottonwood, true willow, alder, box elder, and sycamore.

This standard will be superseded whenever the Forest Plan riparian standards are revised. This will keep all allotments on the same standard and allow for increased riparian-management knowledge to be applied.

Browse utilization

A level which would ensure the vigor rating, per R3 Range Handbook, is at medium or high on the preferred species such as mountain mahogany, cliffrose, and ceanothus.

V. MONITORING PLANNED

The Forest Service plans to check each pasture when the planned grazing period is approximately 3/4 over. Utilization and general inspection notes will be taken. If other high priority monitoring needs arise, they will be accomplished. John will plan to move livestock when utilization standards dictate.

VI. SALT AND MINERAL BLOCK

Requirements: Salt or mineral block will not be placed within a quarter mile of water, riparian areas, meadow bottoms, over-utilized areas, or near roads. Place blocks on hard ground not susceptible to erosion. Remove blocks when allowable use has been met. Provide a salt map to the Forest Officer after salt or supplement blocks are distributed.

Suggestions: Ideally, salt and mineral more than one-half mile from water helps widen livestock use. Moving salt to lightly used areas also helps.

See Salt Map

VII. ACCESS MANAGEMENT POLICY

Cross country motor vehicle use is generally prohibited on the Prescott National Forest. Full-size motor vehicles are allowed on forest system roads indicated on the official access map and signed on-the-ground. System trail access is limited to uses shown on trail signs and does not include use of full-size vehicles. There are no restrictions on cross-country horse use on the allotment.

~~Permittee may be granted permission to travel cross country (including closed or obliterated roads) with motor vehicles if necessary to manage the allotment. Permission needs to be obtained from the District~~

Ranger prior to use. Permission will be noted in the Annual Operating Instructions or by letter to permittee. Permittee is encouraged to contact District Ranger for changes in road management. Changes may be considered in yearly updates of the Access Management Plan.

See Salt Map

VIII. FIRE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION

The permittee and agents, employees, contractors, and sub-contractors of the permittee will take all reasonable precautions to prevent fires, make efforts to suppress fires without endangering lives, and report fires on or endangering the National Forest as soon as practical.

IX. VANDALISM

If you should suffer any damage to your improvements or have anything stolen contact the Chino Valley Ranger District. We will contact the Sheriff's Department and conduct a joint investigation. This also pertains to historic or pre-historic resources. If you notice unusual activity or a damaged Indian ruin or historic structure, please call immediately. We are ordered by the laws of the land to diligently protect cultural resources. You can assist us in meeting that responsibility by getting a good description of the individuals and/or vehicles plus license numbers. We encourage you not to contact suspected violators.

X. HERITAGE RESOURCE PROTECTION

Projects involving ground-disturbing activities require prior written approval by the District Ranger (permit modification form). Notification of maintenance is also needed. This allows the Forest Service to document the permittee's contributions to allotment-management costs.

Ground-disturbing activities also require a heritage review. The level of heritage review for any given project will be recommended by the Forest Service Heritage Specialist based on Region 3 guidelines. The following activities require that the District Ranger be notified and a heritage review be conducted:

- all new construction (examples: pipelines, fences, wells, corrals, roads)
- road maintenance
- stock tank cleaning
- access routes for machinery
- fence reconstruction
- prescribed burns
- mechanized site preparation
- other activities involving ground disturbance

Maintenance involving the following actions usually do not require a heritage review.

- wire tightening
- replacement of short segments of wire
- installation/restabilization of an occasional fence post
- sign installation or repair
- repairing gates and cattleguards (if no new ground disturbance is involved)

At the time of the preparation of the Annual Operating Plan, please provide the grazing permit administrator with a list of your proposed projects. We will review this list and determine which

projects will need a heritage review. If the permittee is not able to provide a list, then the Forest Service will need to be notified at least 2 months prior for any proposed projects.

XI. PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR THE COMING YEAR

If project activities disturb/damage either a known or a previously unknown heritage resource site, the permittee is responsible for stopping all project activities within and adjacent to the site and notifying the Forest Service immediately. Notification is required whether or not a heritage review was conducted. After an investigation has been completed, the permittee could be held responsible for heritage-resource damage.

*John has juniper/brush problem. He would like to see more thinning/Burning. Suggests contact Tony Shaha & meet w/him.
I'll contact Mike Crouch to seek his advice.*

Would also like to have all wood sales on PNF on his allotment for next 5 years.

NW Turkey Creek fence needs some maintenance.

XII. PERMIT CONDITIONS

These Annual Operating Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(a). They comply with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan. Revisions can be made by the District Ranger if environmental conditions adversely affect the livestock operation or the resource.

Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions specified in Parts 1, 2, and 3 of your Term Grazing Permit may result in suspension or cancellation, in whole or in part, after written notice. (Refer to Part 1, Section 3 of your permit.)

Approval of these Annual Operating Instructions is a decision subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR 251. Appeals must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90 "Content of Notice of Appeal" and must be filed with Mike King, Forest Supervisor, 344 S. Cortez St., Prescott, AZ 86303, with a copy going to Mark Johnson, District Ranger, P.O. Box 485, Chino Valley, AZ 86323, within 45 days of the date of the District Ranger signature below.

PREPARED BY:

Grazing Permit Administrator

Date

x D. D. C.

1 February 2002

APPROVED BY:

District Ranger

Date

D. D. C. For D.R.

1 Feb 2002

AGREED TO BY:

Permittee
Signature Redacted for
Privacy Reasons

Date

x

2/1/02