

GILA NATIONAL FOREST
WILDERNESS RANGER DISTRICT
ANNUAL OPERATING PROVISIONS

2009

FOWLER CATTLE COMPANY

Taylor Creek, Jordan Mesa, & East Canyon



Prepared By: _ /s/ Tawnya Brummett_____ Date: _ 12/29/2009 _____
District Range Staff

Approved By: _ /s/ Alan E. Koss _____ Date: 12/29/2009 _____
District Ranger

Agreed to By: _/s/ John H. Fowler _____ Date: 12/29/2009 _____
Permittee

PERMITTED USE:

Amendment # 1

ALLOTMENT	PERMITTED #	PERMITTED SEASON
Jordan Mesa	200 Cattle	03/01-02/28
	10 Horses	03/01-02/28
Taylor Creek	263 Cattle	03/01-02/28
	7 Horses	03/01-02/28
East Canyon	175 Cattle	03/01-03/31 11/01-02/28
	5 Horses	03/01-03/31 11/01-02/28

AUTHORIZED USE:

Your authorized use is amended as follows to reflect the additional grazing period.

ALLOTMENT	AUTHORIZED NUMBER	ON/OFF DATE	PASTURE INSTRUCTIONS
Jordan Mesa	10 horses	03/01-09/30	Pastures immediately adjacent to private only
Taylor Creek	23 cattle	03/01-02/28	Pastures immediately adjacent to private only
East Canyon	60 cattle 5 horses	01/01-07/01	Used as one pasture Prior schedule was Nov 1-March 30 *see note below

*** EAST CANYON:**

Last year’s notes: In 2008 due to adequate forage following a wet summer/fall; cattle were brought on to East Canyon Jan 1 instead of Nov 1 in order to extend grazing season to July 1, 2008. In June of 2008 surveys conducted on the allotment showed very low use levels and plenty of forage for cattle. At the request of the permittee the cattle were kept on the allotment until September 1, 2008. This is however, not a permanent change to the grazing schedule. A more thorough study of this allotment and options that would better suit both the need for resource protection as well as the needs of the permittee is being looked into presently. Due to very high work loads in range NEPA we are unable to do this study at this time. We will work with the permittee to use adaptive management on the allotment until which time a new NEPA document can be completed.

12/2009: As in 2008, the forest was not able to work on new NEPA for this allotment due to rescission act nepa priority on other districts. However, the district chose to continue with adaptive management approach for this allotment. Cattle were brought on to the allotment Feb 1, 2009. Cattle were removed by permittee when water became unavailable during the summer months (see notes in file for dates). Cattle were allowed to drift back on to allotment early fall

and then removed in Nov. 2009. During the course of this schedule regular ocular surveys were performed on the allotment to monitor usage levels. So far this approach has been very successful for this allotment. We will work with the permittee to use adaptive management on the allotment until which time a new NEPA document can be completed. Note old NEPA with very short usage season was meant for 175 c/c while the current stocking number is less than 72 and has been for 4+ years.

See separate notes attached for current status of Jordan Mesa and Taylor Creek allotments.

MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK:

The above schedule for stocking the allotments depends upon the availability of forage and water. Some flexibility is allowed for justifiable causes such as: weather conditions, livestock management needs, and range condition. If there is a need to deviate from the above schedule by more than ten (10) days, you need to immediately notify the District Ranger of the proposed change. The District Ranger must be notified five (5) days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest.

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 maintaining control of your livestock. Failure to maintain control of your livestock could lead to adverse action against your Term Grazing Permit.

SALTING:

Placement of salt will be used as a management tool to obtain even distribution of livestock and utilization of forage. Salt will be placed on areas of good forage production and light utilization. There will be no permanent salt grounds. Once the salt at a given salt ground has been used, the salt ground will be moved. Occasionally, cattle may have to be driven to new salt grounds to show them where it is. In this manner, it will be possible to draw the cattle into areas needing utilization. At no time will salt supplement be placed in areas of natural livestock concentration, closer than 1/4-mile to either permanent or semi-permanent stock watering locations, within drainage bottoms, or within visible distance to roads unless authorized by the District Ranger.

UTILIZATION GUIDELINES:

Forage use by grazing ungulates will be maintained at or above a condition that ensures satisfactory watershed conditions. To maintain satisfactory watershed conditions, we have established a maximum allowable use of 40 percent in key areas on the East Canyon Allotment. Key areas are as follows:

KEY AREA	UTILIZATION GUIDELINE	KEY SPECIES
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East Canyon	40%	Blue Grama
Water Canyon	40%	Blue Grama
McKnight Road Mesa tops	40%	Blue Grama

If allowable use exceeds 40 percent in any key area of a pasture during the season of use, livestock will be moved to the next pasture. If all remaining key areas in the allotment are at maximum use, livestock will be removed from the allotment.

Improvement Maintenance

All range improvements assigned in your Term Grazing Permit will be maintained in a good functioning condition. In the event these improvements cannot be maintained, you should notify this office so we may schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available.

Improvements which we have agreed that you are going to maintain in 2010 include:

IMPROVEMENT NAME	IMPROVEMENT NUMBER	ACTIVITY	FUNDING SOURCE
Lower windmill fence	5226	Fence maintenance	FS provide materials/ Permittee to do work

Appeal Rights

Jordan Mesa Allotment had NEPA completed on April 14, 1999. Taylor Creek and East Canyon Allotments had NEPA completed on September 1, 1995. These Annual Operating Provisions are a reaffirmation of a prior decision and therefore may not be appealed.

Feel free to contact Tawnya Brummett or Al Koss, if you have any questions or problems. They will be happy to discuss allotment management, conditions on your allotments, Forest Plan standards and guidelines, or any other concerns you may have.