

Glenwood Ranger District

Gila National Forest

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2006

Tennessee Allotment #422

Prepared By:

George Douds
District Range Staff

Date: 1/23/2006

Approved By:

Pat Morrison
District Ranger

Date: 1/23/2006

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

These Annual Operating Instructions are in reference to the discussion you had with Allen Graves on November 19, 2005, at your home. The authorized stocking for the 2006 grazing season on the Tennessee Allotment is as follows:

Tennessee Allotment

22 cattle	cow/calf	03/01/06 – 02/28/07	East/West
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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. Failure to do so may result in adverse action against your Term Grazing Permit.

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

III. IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year Term Grazing Permit should be maintained in a 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.

The following improvements will be completed in 2006: **¼ mile of fence # 543**. Please come into the district office and sign your permit modification for this project.

You may apply for a free use post and stay permit for the maintenance of fences and corrals on your allotment.

Non-compliance with the instructions set forth in the free use permit could lead to adverse actions taken against your Term Grazing Permit.

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 - please keep track of materials used, and the days and dollars spent on maintenance of improvements. It is also necessary to keep track of cattle numbers, dates of entering and leaving different pastures, shipping dates, and cattle losses (both grown stock and calves).

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 number in order for a credit/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. There is no administrative fee for the normal "split billing" on yearlong allotments. This fee will be collected to pay for the cost associated with issuing an additional bill for collection.

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 - the following practices will be adhered to:

- 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 vitamin or mineral supplements on National Forest land will be permitted if a detailed plan is approved, or if carried out in conjunction with salting.
- c. 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 in natural concentrations areas, which receive heavy grazing use.

V. ALLOTMENT STATUS

You will be receiving a new 10 year Term permit.

VI. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

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

VII. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

As you are aware, forage and water became scarce on most allotments during the past several years and we are having another dry winter season. **If forage and/or water availability becomes even more of a problem on your allotment, you may be required to change your management and possibly remove your livestock from the National Forest lands.** 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 during the drought period.

VIII. Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas

In order to insure proper utilization of the forage produced on your allotment, you should monitor use in the pastures that are scheduled to be grazed this year. Use on perennial forage in key areas should not result in an average percent utilization of more than 35%. No more than 30% of woody riparian plants should be grazed in the riparian areas. It is very important that you do not exceed the allowable use in key areas. If, during the year, you feel that the utilization level is approaching the allowable use level, 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.

District personnel will continue utilization monitoring on key areas. In order to insure allowable use levels are not exceeded, monitoring will be conducted during the end of the scheduled use periods for each pasture. It is necessary that utilization is in compliance with the established allowable use levels. You are responsible for recognizing utilization levels and complying with established allowable use levels. At a minimum, forest personnel will monitor key areas within two weeks before or after livestock leave a pasture. The percent grazing use will be determined at that time. The following dates have been scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. You are highly encouraged to participate in monitoring.

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Allowable Use	Key Area
Prospect	11/14/06	35%	C6, C7, C8
SI	11/14/06	35%	C1, C2, C3

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds utilization on the uplands or heavily hedging of woody riparian plant sprouts/seedlings, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than allowable use. In the event all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at allowable use levels, livestock will be required to be moved to the next scheduled pasture. This requirement is necessary to prevent overuse on forage plants.

VIII. APPEAL RIGHTS

This Annual Operating Instruction decision is subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90 (see attached copy of 36 CFR 251 regulations). In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).

A notice of appeal must be filed with **Marcia Andre, Forest Supervisor, 3005 E. Camino del Bosque, Silver City, NM 88061**, within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with **Pat Morrison, District Ranger, Glenwood Ranger District, P.O. Box 8, Glenwood, NM 88039**.

Open and positive communications dealing with these or any other concerns is encouraged. Feel free to contact George Douds or Pat Morrison if you have any questions or problems. We will be happy to discuss allotment management, conditions on your allotments, Forest Plan standards and guidelines, or any other concerns you may have.