South Fork C&H Allotment
2007 ANNUAL OPERATING PROVISIONS

1. **Permitted and Authorized Use**

The 2007 cost per Head Month will be added to your Bill for Collection when received. The Bill will be mailed to you. Payment must be received by the due date listed on the Bill for Collection.

Your permit reads as follows:

Permittee	Allotment	Term Permit	Season	AUMs
Kristie Forrister (#61210)	South Fork (#212)	212 c/c	03/01/-2/28	3358

Upon payment of fees, you are authorized to graze as follows:

Permitee	**Allotment**	**Authorized**	**Season**	**AUMS**
Kristie Forrister	**South Fork**	**212 c/c**	**03/01-02/28**	**3358**

Actual on-dates and off-dates are dependant on range readiness and when allowable use standards are met. The Forest Service may approve changes to the grazing rotation in consultation with you, to address range condition and situations that may occur due to forage condition or weather related circumstances.

2. Grazing Management

It is expected that livestock be moved before utilization standards are met. If allowable use levels are met early in the scheduled pasture, cattle will be rotated into the next pasture or off the Forest This should prevent non-compliance of standards, allowing for time to clean the unit of stragglers.

Monitoring will be conducted to measure utilization of riparian and upland vegetation throughout the grazing year.

The following illustrates last year's grazing rotation:

PASTURE	***ON***	***OFF***	***NUMBER***
Monument	02/28/2006	04/28/2006	212
Lodge	05/01/2006	11/30/2006	212
Haggins	12/01/2006	02/28/2006	212

The following illustrates any changes made during the annual Validation Meeting to the 2007 grazing rotation on the allotment.

PASTURE	***ON***	***OFF***	***NUMBER***
Haggins	03/01/07	07/30/07	212
Monument	08/01/07	11/30/07	212
Lodge	12/01/07	02/28/07	212

Cattle are to be completely removed from a pasture by the off date. You will be allowed two weeks prior to the off date to begin moving cattle into the next pasture. If two weeks is not adequate, you must request additional time from this office. Please notify this office when you begin to move cattle and when a pasture rotation is complete.

Permittees with livestock in rested units, grazing units outside the season of use, and grazing areas not authorized in advance, will be non-compliant with the terms and conditions of their Term Grazing Permit. Appropriate action, including billing at the unauthorized use rate, may be taken.

3. Gila National Forest Management Direction

Your Term Grazing Permit includes the specific maximum allowable utilization levels applicable to your allotment. Allowable use is calculated at a point-in-time. To comply with standards in the Gila National Forest Plan, livestock must be moved to another unit or remove them from National Forest System lands regardless of the time remaining in the grazing season before utilization standards are met.You are responsible for tracking and complying with your permitted forage use levels. For your convenience, the South Fork C&H Allotment maximum allowable forage utilization levels are listed below:

South Fork C&H Allotment:

The following use standards will be applied on the allotment:

- Riparian areas are not to exceed 25% of current year's growth on woody species.
- All Upland sites grazed during the growing season are not to exceed 35% of current year's growth of perennial grasses.
- All Upland sites grazed during the dormant season are not to exceed 40% of current year's growth of perennial grasses.

4. Range Improvements

Range improvements must be maintained to standard before cattle are allowed into a pasture. It is the permittee's responsibility to ensure that range improvements remain functional. This includes boundary fences in pastures not currently being grazed. Routine maintenance of existing improvements does not require written clearance; however, construction/reconstruction of new improvements must be authorized in writing from this office.

2006 Improvement Planned:

- **New Fence in Turkey Run is complete. The permit modification will be closed out as soon as the abandoned section of fence #2077 is rolled up and removed from the Forest. Please inform this office of a schedule for fence removal. This #2077A fence must be in such a condition as to be effective in keeping cattle out of the Diamond Pasture before cattle will be allowed in the Lodge Pasture. Completed □ Not Completed □**
- **Cattleguard to install across FDR #226 at JHW Well Completed □ Not Completed □**
- **Tricktank in the Hagins Pasture Completed □ Not Completed □**
- **Storage tank at JHW. Completed. Need drinkers**
- **Pine trees are blocking the windmill at Turkey Run well(Trees to big to cut down, need solar pump instead)**
- **14' gate to place at the Lucky Well corral. Completed**
- **Building a small corral at the US Treasury windmill (need clearances)**

2007 Improvements Planned (Work or Supplies Needed from 2006 and New Projects)

- **FS to put in Cattleguard on #226**
- **Tricktank in Hagins Pasture**
- **Need Drinkers at JHW well Storage tank**
- **Need Solar Pump at Turkey Run Well Windmill**
- **14' gate at Luck Well. Verify Completion**
- **Small Corral at the US Treasury Windmill**
- **Black Hawk Trough Pipeline**
- **Need 300' pipe at Cold Springs, Given to permittee in December 2006, Verify Completion**

When improvements have been maintained, please call the Black Range Ranger Station and report that maintenance has been completed. If verification is not received from the permittee, inspections will be made. During that inspection, if we find maintenance has not been completed, and livestock are grazing an area unscheduled for use at the time, they will be considered unauthorized. Permittees may be billed for unauthorized use and/or permit action taken for maintenance.

All water developments must provide access and escape to and from water for all types of wildlife. Please contact the Kameron or Shane for assistance.

Monitoring

Key areas for monitoring have been identified as transect cluster locations. Additional key areas may be identified during the season based on routine monitoring.

PASTURE	***LOCATION***	***SPECIES MONITORED***
Monument	Cluster C-1	Upland grasses
Hagin's	Cluster C-2	Upland grasses
Hagin's	Cluster C-3	Upland grasses
Lodge	Cluster C-4	Upland grasses
Lodge	NW1/4 SEC 21,T11S,R9W	Upland grasses
Allotment-wide	Riparian areas	All riparian species
Allotment-wide	MSO PAC's & habitat	Residual forage on grasses

The idea of a key area is to find a site that is representative of a larger area in which cattle obtain the majority of their required forage resources. Key area monitoring will avoid areas directly adjacent to permanent water sources, cattle trails, roads, and fence lines.

Upland areas will be monitored for use on perennial grass species.

Mexican spotted owl protected and restricted habitat will be monitored to ensure that current management is providing cover for rodent prey species, the residual biomass that will support prescribed natural and ignited fires that would reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire in the Forest, and regeneration of riparian trees.

District personnel will contact the permittees to coordinate site visits to monitor key areas. Permittee participation is encouraged. Forage utilization estimates will be consistent with the Forest Service Range Analysis Handbook methodology, and may also include FS Regional stubble-height standards, as well as other techniques generally accepted in the field of range management.

5. Special Management Instructions

The following restrictions will be implemented so that management remains in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The instructions below relate to threatened, endangered, and proposed to be listed species as well as range/watershed conditions.

- Stock tanks must be surveyed for possible aquatic habitat before earth-disturbing maintenance is authorized.

- The Diamond Pasture is closed to livestock grazing. Fences must be maintained to a standard which prevents cattle passage into the Diamond Pasture.

- Because of the listing of the Chiricahua leopard frog as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an analysis was completed for all Gila allotments. We have determined that livestock grazing on the South Fork Allotment has the potential to adversely affect the

Chiricahua leopard frog. As a result of this determination, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will prepare a draft Biological Opinion, which may modify grazing management practiced to minimize the level of affect an action will have on a listed species. However, this determination has not yet resulted in any changes to your grazing permit. As the permittee of the South Fork Allotment, you have applicant status which allows you the opportunity to provide comments to the draft Biological Opinion. This office will keep you informed on the process.

The Endangered Species Act requires that actions funded or carried out by the federal government go through the consultation process to insure these actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species. Please notify this office of any planned earth disturbing activities involving riparian areas, dirt tanks, or other sources of open water.

Other Instructions

The permittee must obtain permission from this office, before conducting earth- disturbing activities on the National Forest. The Forest Service will arrange inspections of project areas and will prepare appropriate environmental and cultural documents before earth-disturbing activities proceed. These activities include road/earthen tank maintenance, as well as construction/reconstruction of trails, roads, earthen tanks, etc. Do not conduct any earth-disturbing activities on the Forest without written clearance from this office.

Salt must be located at least ¼ mile from water, and preferably on ridges and/or areas of low use. Do not place salt blocks in the same location as the previous year, and locate blocks on hard ground not susceptible to erosion. Supplemental feeding, other than mineral or supplement block, is not authorized on the National Forest.

On yearlong ranges, calves under six months of age on January 1st will be counted against the authorized numbers. By April 1st, these calves must be removed from the Forest or counted against the authorized numbers.

The Annual Operating Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 1, Section 3. These instructions comply with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan, including the 1996 Forest Plan Amendment. They also comply with the Endangered Species Act found in the Biological Assessment for the South Fork Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the Annual Operating Instructions.

These provisions are 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 enclosed 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, Gila National Forest, at 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 Larry Cosper, District Ranger, Black Range Ranger

District at 1804 Date Street, Truth or Consequences, NM 89701.

Your compliance with these instructions is essential for the proper management of National Forest System lands. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and these instructions may result in issuance of a notice of noncompliance with the terms of your grazing permit. If needed during the grazing season, changes can be made in these instructions, provided the changes are first approved and documented by the Area Ranger or other authorized Forest Service officer.

We look forward to working with you and solicit your cooperation and involvement in bringing about sound range and livestock management practices that will enhance all of the allotment's resources. If you have any ideas or suggestions that will improve the management of this allotment, we would like to hear from you.

This 2007 Annual Operating Provisions for the South Fork C&H Allotment was discussed with the Permittee on __Dec. 15, 2006 . Understand that these operating instructions are issued by the Forest Officer in charge of the area under permit as provided in Clause 8a of your term grazing permit. As such, they require the same degree of compliance as the regular terms of your permit.

Approved By: _____/s/ Kameron Sam for Larry D. Cosper, District Ranger _____March 14, 2007_____
Forest Officer in Charge Date

Reviewed By:_____ _____
Permittee Date

South Fork C&H
2007 ACTUAL USE RECORD

Planned use from the AOI:

Allotment	**Units**	**Numbers**	**Season**
South Fork		**c/c**	

Please fill in your actual use by the unit grazed and the number of livestock and dates grazed in each unit. Bulls count as part of your permitted numbers.

Unit	Number of Livestock	Date entered Unit	Date left Unit

LOSSES: Indicate number and class of animals lost by cause.

Unit	Class of Lvstk	Predators	Poison	Other

Days spent maintaining allotment improvements:_____Approximate cost of materials: $_____
Approximate cost to manage livestock on National Forest, including riding, salting etc.:$_____
COMMENTS:

_____

_____

Signature:_____Date:_____