

Glenwood Ranger District

Gila National Forest

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2007

Devils Park Allotment #427

Prepared By: _____ Date: _____
District Range Staff

Approved By: /s/ Pat Morrison Date: 2/28/07
District Ranger

Agreed to By: _____ Date: _____
Permittee

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

These Annual Operating Instructions document your discussion with Allen Graves on December 18, 2006, at the Glenwood District Office. The permitted stocking for the 2007 grazing season on the Devils Park Allotment is as follows:

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers

Number and class of livestock	Dates
67 Cattle-Cow/Calf (Not to exceed 808 Animal Months)	03/01 – 02/28

Devils Park Allotment Annual Authorization for 2007

Number and class of livestock	Dates
67 Cattle-Cow/Calf (Not to exceed 808 Animal Months)	03/01 – 02/28

Devils Park Allotment Pasture Rotation for 2007

67 cattle	cow/calf	03/01/07 – 6/01/07	Frisco Pasture
67 cattle	cow/calf	06/02/07 – 10/31/07	Devils Park Pasture
67 cattle	cow/calf	11/01/07 – 12/31/07	Six Bar Pasture
67 cattle	cow/calf	01/01/08 – 02/28/08	Frisco Pasture

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 the Range Staff at the Glenwood Ranger District to schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available.

In order to implement National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on the Devils Park Allotment there are several range improvements that need to be constructed. This grazing year you will need to rebuild the trap/holding pasture in Devils Park Pasture by September 1, 2007. Please come into the Glenwood District Office and sign your permit modification and pick up the materials for this project.

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 hay on National Forest land will not be permitted unless a proven need to use the supplement is shown, and a detailed plan is developed and approved. All supplemental hay must be **certified weed free** hay and you must provide the proper documentation.
 - c. 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.
 - d. 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. Salt must be placed ¼ mile or further from water. **Due to past heavy use do not place salt in the areas delineated on the attached map.**

V. ALLOTMENT STATUS

The Devils Park Allotment has sufficient NEPA and an Allotment Management Plan is in place.

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.

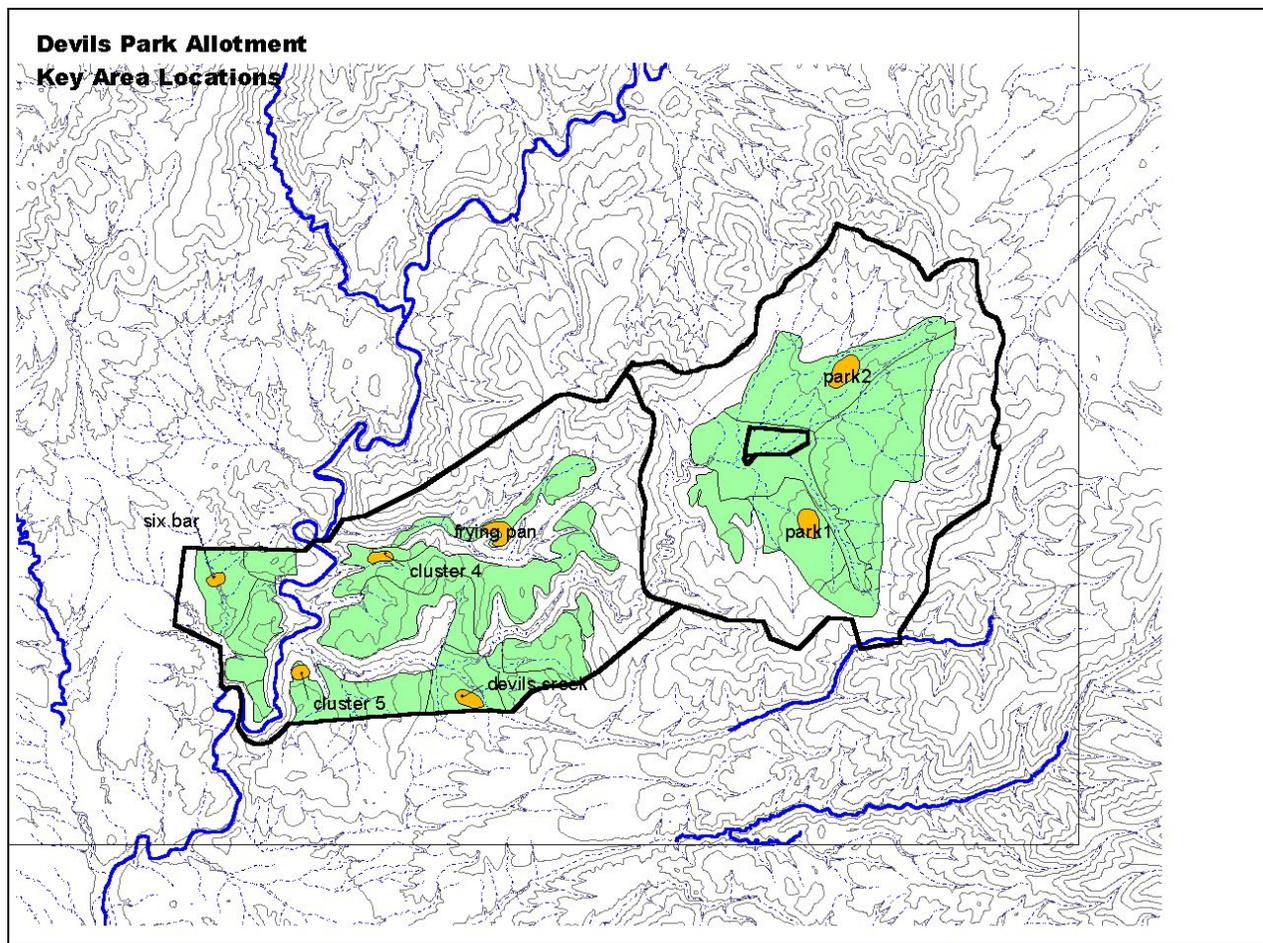
VII. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

As you are aware, forage and water became scarce on most allotments during the past several years. **If forage and/or water availability becomes 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. Even though there was a good growing season this past summer, it is recommended that restocking of allotments to full numbers not take place until the forage plants regain vigor and new forage plants become established.

VIII. Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas

Monitoring schedule for 2007

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Key Area
Frisco	3/05/07 & 6/01/07	Frying Pan, Devils Creek, C4 & C5
Devils Park	6/01/07 & 10/15/07	Park 1 & 2
Six Bar	11/01/07 & 12/28/07	Six Bar



Utilization management objectives for key perennial species:

Key species	Range condition	Season	Allowable Stubble heights & their percent equivalents
Blue grama	Fair condition range or better	Growing	2.5 inches (30% or Light use)
Blue grama	Fair condition range or better	Dormant	2.0 inches (35% or Moderate use)

Blue grama	Poor condition range	Growing/Dormant	2.5+ inches (20% or light use)
Sideoats grama	Fair condition range or better	Growing	9+ inches (30% or Light use)
Sideoats grama	Fair condition range or better	Dormant	8.0 inches (35% or Moderate use)
Sideoats grama	Poor condition range	Growing/Dormant	9+ inches (20% or light use)

(from Table 2. Grazing Intensity Guide. ...Rangelands 22(3) Holecheck and Gault, June 2000).

When utilization standards are met within one of the described key areas, cattle would be moved to another area of the pasture, a different pasture, or off the allotment.

The rotation schedule is not intended to identify specific dates for rotations but only to identify a general time frame. All rotations should be based on utilization or other resource objectives.

An inspection for pasture readiness would occur prior to placing cattle in a pasture. The range specialist and/or permittee must evaluate whether or not identified key species are ready to be grazed and are healthy; (previous year or current years growth is greater than 2.5 inches) (Holecheck, Galt 2000). If the pasture does not meet these criteria, then grazing would be delayed in this pasture until the criteria are met. In addition, it is critical that livestock are to be placed in pastures that have adequate water for the period to be grazed. The amount of time livestock are in a pasture would be based on pasture capacity, and monitoring of utilization standards at identified key area locations.

The San Francisco River will continue to be excluded to livestock grazing. The location and timing of river crossings has been identified by the Forest Fisheries Biologist to avoid direct effects to loach minnows. See the table below.

River crossing locations	River crossing date
Livestock are not to cross in locations of riffle habitat and or areas at the head of riffle habitat.	10/01/07 to 11/15/07
Livestock may cross in locations of pool habitat.	
Livestock may cross in locations of slow moving water.	

District personnel will continue utilization and stubble height monitoring on key areas. In order to insure that stubble height requirements are not exceeded, monitoring will be conducted during the end of the scheduled use period for each pasture. It is necessary that utilization is in compliance with the established stubble height requirements. You are responsible for recognizing utilization levels and complying with established stubble height requirements. At a minimum, forest personnel will monitor key areas within two weeks before or after livestock leave a pasture. Monitoring is scheduled for the following dates and you are highly encouraged to participate in monitoring stubble height requirements.

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.