

Glenwood Ranger District

Gila National Forest

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2007

Pueblo Creek Allotment #310

And

Leggett Allotment #619

Prepared By: _____ Date: _____
District Range Staff

Approved By: /s/ Pat Morrison Date: 4/04/07
District Ranger

Agreed to By: _____ Date: _____
Permittee

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

These Annual Operating Instructions document your discussion with George Douds and District Ranger Morrison on January 17, 2007, at the Glenwood Ranger District. Under the temporary permit issued to you the permitted and authorized stocking for the 2007 grazing season on the Pueblo Creek and Leggett allotments is as follows:

Permitted and Authorized Livestock Numbers

Allotment	Number and class of livestock	Dates
Pueblo Creek	100 Cattle-Cow/calf	03/01/2007 – 06/01/2007
Leggett	Up to 100 Cattle-Cow/calf that are gathered from the Pueblo Creek Allotment.	03/01/2007 – 06/01/2007

Pueblo Creek Allotment Pasture rotation schedule for 2007

Number	Class of Livestock	Dates	Pasture
100 cattle	Cow/Calf	03/01/07 – 06/01/07	Powerline (Leggett)
100 cattle	Cow/Calf	05/16/07 – 06/01/07	Home Pasture for gathering and counting
TBD	Cow/Calf	06/02/07 – 11/15/07	TBD
TBD	Cow/Calf	11/16/07 – 02/28/08	TBD

TBD = To be determined.

- All cattle on both allotments are to be gathered into Leggett Allotment power-line pasture. Powerline pasture includes west holding, leggett, and quarry pastures.
- All cattle are to be removed from the Pueblo Creek Allotment by June 1, 2007. All cattle removed from the allotment must be presented for counting by Forest Service personnel on June 5, 2007. If livestock were removed and sold please provide documentation.
- Only cattle bearing the Pueblo Creek brand, and tagged with provided ear tags will be counted back onto the Pueblo Creek allotment.
- No cattle will be placed on the allotment until fences of the pasture to be entered are maintained (cow tight) and inspected. The fences of the next scheduled pasture need to be maintained and inspected prior to scheduled entry. You may choose specific pastures within the following timeframes,

Time of Year	Pasture	Date
Spring	Cotton Wood	June 1 – July 1
	Home	
Summer	Johnson	June 1 – Nov. 15
	Hinkle	
	Black Bull	
	Chimney Rock	
Winter	Bear Canyon	Nov. 15 – April 1
Incidental	Home	April 1 – April 15
	Highway	

- Utilization guidelines will apply to any stocked pasture (See section VI). Scheduled time in pastures will be estimated based upon the number of cattle stocked. Monitoring dates will be set accordingly.
- You may choose to take Resource Protection non-use until fence and water repairs have been accomplished.
- Due to the Martinez fire and planned prescribed fires in the Reserve Wildland Urban Interface treatment areas, no cattle (Leggett allotment) will be permitted on the east side of US 180 until further notice.

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.

III. IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

You will reconstruct 3 miles of fence (5078) on the North boundary of Bear Canyon pasture by 1/1/08. Please come to the district office and pick up the 3 miles of fence material the district is providing and sign your permit modification. You will notify the Forest Service when this fence is ready for inspection.

The Bear Canyon pasture boundary fences will be maintained to a functional condition (cow tight) by 11/15/07. Please notify the Forest Service when this fence is ready for inspection. Livestock will not be permitted on to the pasture until all fences bordering this pasture pass inspection.

All range improvements 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.

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

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. 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. 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.

V. ALLOTMENT STATUS

Under this temporary permit, direction for management of this allotment will be documented in these Annual Operating Instructions.

VI. Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas

Monitoring results from 2006

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Key area	Actual Use	Allowable Use
Indian Hill (Pueblo)	2/2/06	P3	5% (two unauthorized bulls)	0%
Bear Canyon (Pueblo)	4/27/06	P4	15%	35%

Monitoring schedule for 2007

Pasture	Key Area	Date	Allowable Use
Powerline (Leggett Allotment)	Entire Pasture	05/9/2007	Conservative (31 – 40%)
Cotton Wood	P1n, C7n	07/04/2007*	
Home	C3n		
Johnson	To be determined with the permittee.	11/15/2007*	
Hinkle	To be determined with the permittee.		
Black Bull	P9n, P10n,		
Chimney Rock	C6n, P2n, P7n	02/27/08*	
Bear Canyon	C2s, P2s, P3s, P6s		
Home	C3n	06/05/08*	
Highway	To be determined with the permittee.		

***Monitoring dates will change as livestock are removed and/or placed on the allotment.**

Monitoring of herbaceous forage will be conducted by ocular estimate of use within a pasture (utilization mapping). Verification of ocular estimates will be conducted using common methodology such as weigh/clip, grazed plant numbers, or stubble height. Grazing use will be described and mapped in the following utilization categories.

Qualitative Grazing Intensity Category	Use of Forage by Weight	Qualitative Indicators of Grazing Intensity
Light to no-use	< 30%	Only choice plants and areas show use. There is no use of poor forage plants.
Conservative	31-40%	Choice forage plants have abundant seed stalks. Areas more than a mile from water show little use. About on third to one half of primary forage plants show grazing on key areas.
Moderate	41-50%	Most of accessible range shows use. Key areas show patch appearance with one half to two thirds of primary forage plants showing use. Grazing is noticeable in zone 1-1.5 miles from water.
Heavy	51-60%	Nearly all primary forage plants show grazing on key areas. Palatable shrubs show hedging. Key areas show a lack of seed stalks. Grazing is noticeable in areas over 1.5 miles from water.
Severe	61 +%	Key areas show a clipped or mowed appearance (no Stubble height. Shrubs are severely hedged. There is evidence of livestock trailing to forage. Areas over 1.5 miles from water lack stubble height.

Holechek, J.L. and D. Galt. 2000. Grazing Intensity Guidelines. Rangelands 22(3), pg 11-14.

If the utilization guideline for the pasture is exceeded on 30% or more of the pasture in any year, livestock will be immediately removed from the pasture. Within a pasture, areas found to exceed allowable use will become key areas for monitoring the following year. The AOI for the next year will be adjusted to correct livestock management practices (distribution, number, timing, salt and water availability, etc.) that may have led to the overuse.

In the event that 30 percent or more of the pasture exceeds the set allowable use in a grazing year, that area will be required to be less than or equal to allowable use the next year. If that same area, or a substantial portion of the same area, exceeds allowable use in two consecutive grazing years the entire pasture will be rested for one calendar year and stocking will be adjusted to balance with forage supplies. If the same area of a pasture exceeds allowable use in two years out of five, the stocking rate and management plan will be adjusted to balance with forage supply.

Monitoring of utilization for woody riparian species will be conducted on a reach basis in identified riparian areas.

Pasture	Reach description	Management	Allowable Use
Bear Canyon	Pueblo Creek within the Bear Canyon Pasture	Grazed 3/1 – 6/1	Woody riparian not to exceed 25% of stems in a reach heavily hedged.
Black Bull	Pueblo Creek within the Black Bull Pasture	Grazed 3/1 – 6/1	
Bear Canyon	West fork of Pueblo Creek within the Bear Canyon Pasture	Grazed 3/1 – 6/1	
Bear Canyon	Chimney Rock Canyon within the Bear Canyon Pasture	Grazed 3/1 – 6/1	
Highway	Saliz Creek within the Highway Pasture	Grazed 3/1 – 6/1	
Cottonwood	Cottonwood Canyon within the Cottonwood Pasture	Grazed 3/1 – 6/1	
Bear Canyon	Bear Canyon	Grazed 3/1 – 6/1	
Bear Canyon	Tige Canyon	Grazed 3/1 – 6/1	
Indian Hill	Pueblo Creek within the Indian Hill Pasture (Five years of rest. When riparian area is properly functioning an interdisciplinary team will determine time of use and number of cattle.)	No Grazing	Woody riparian 0%. Herbaceous riparian 0%.
Hinkle Park	Sheep Basin Wet Meadow (Two years of rest. When in upward range condition trend and properly functioning condition, interdisciplinary team will determine time of use and number of cattle.)	No Grazing	Woody riparian 0%. Herbaceous riparian 0%.

If allowable use is exceeded on 30% or more of the riparian reach within the pasture, livestock will be removed from the pasture. If that same reach, or a substantial portion of the same reach, exceeds allowable use in two consecutive grazing years the entire pasture will be rested for one calendar year and stocking will be adjusted to prevent overuse of the riparian reach. If the same reach of a pasture exceeds allowable use in two years out of five, the stocking rate and management plan will be adjusted to prevent overuse of the riparian reach.

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.