

Glenwood Ranger District

Gila National Forest

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2008

Devils Park Allotment #427

Prepared By: _____ Date: _____
District Range Staff

Approved By: _____ Date: _____
District Ranger

Agreed to By: _____ Date: _____
Permittee

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

George Douds met with you on December 21, 2007, to discuss management of the Devil's Park Allotment during the 2007 grazing year and to plan grazing management for the upcoming 2008 grazing season. These Annual Operating Instructions are the result of that discussion.

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 2008

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 2008

Class of Livestock	Rotation Date	Pasture
Cow/Calf	03/01/08 – 04/01/08	Frisco Pasture
Cow/Calf	04/01/08 – 11/01/08	Devils Park Pasture
Cow/Calf	11/01/08 – 02/28/09	Six Bar 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 lead to 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 may lead to adverse action against your Term Grazing Permit.

III. IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year Term Grazing Permit are to 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.

Inspection of range developments in 2007 documented that that your range improvements were in functioning condition. I appreciate your willingness to maintain your improvements.

The final non priority improvement specified in the 2001 National Environmental Policy Act decision was reconstruction of fence # 3146, the Devil's Park Holding Pasture. Reconstruction of this holding pasture is necessary and needs to be done in the near future. The fencing material is available now, so contact District personnel to pick up the material and sign the permit modification.

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 may 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: In order to close out permit modifications you must provide documentation of materials and labor constituting your contribution to the permit modification.

You must provide documentation of cattle numbers; dates of entering and leaving pastures, shipping dates and cattle losses (grown stock and calves). This information is used to substantiate the carrying capacity of the allotment. The information demonstrates use and the need for forage to meet the economic needs of the county. This information may also be used to establish cause and effect if there is a significant change in calf crop (Example, a wolf pack becomes established near your allotment).

3. Heavy Equipment Use: Please notify district well in advance of any plans to use heavy equipment so that necessary clearances and/or permits can be obtained. You will be notified by the district when you can proceed.

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

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:

- 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, protein blocks or molasses licks on National Forest land is permitted when used in the same manner as salt.
- 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 within ¼ mile from water and/or in natural concentrations areas which receive heavy grazing use.

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.

As time and workload permit District personnel will get the necessary clearances to get a tracked vehicle into Six Bar Tank and Frying Pan Tank. Once the two tanks have been maintained the ranger will consider options for a more reliable water source in Six Bar pasture and a bigger storage tank at the north end of the pipeline in Frisco Pasture. District personnel will also get the necessary clearances to get equipment into the Devil's Creek well.

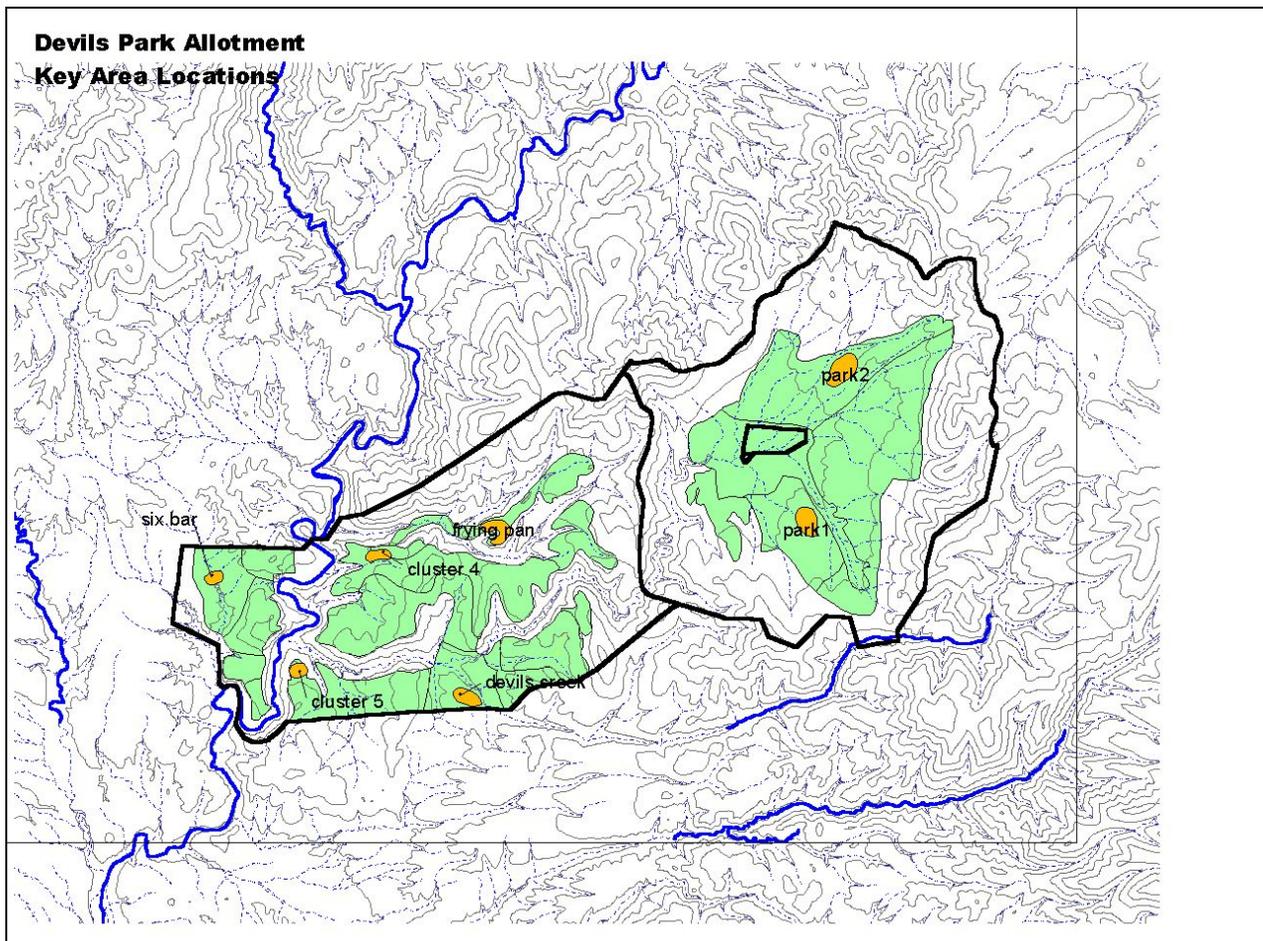
VII. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

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. The forecast for the upcoming winter and spring is dry and warm. If dry conditions continue through the summer growing season, a reduction in herd size may be recommended. If the herd size is reduced, restocking of allotments to full numbers will not take place until forage plants regain vigor.

VIII. Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas

Monitoring schedule for 2008

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Key Area
Frisco	04/03/08	Frying Pan, Devils Creek, C4 & C5
Devils Park	11/04/08	Park 1 & 2
Six Bar	03/12/08 and 03/03/09	Six Bar



Monitoring results from 2007

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Actual Use	Key Area
Frisco	10/26/07	10 -15%	C3, C4
Sheep Spring	10/26/07	0%	Riparian
Frying Pan Well	10/26/07	0%	Riparian
San Francisco River	10/26/07	0%	Riparian
Devil's Park	07/11/07	0 - 10%	Entire Pasture
Devil's Park	07/11/07	5%	Riparian Exclosure in Devil's Creek

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) Holechek and Galt, June 2000).

When utilization standards are met within one of the described key areas, cattle will 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) (Holechek, 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.	10/15/08 – 11/15/08
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.

If unforeseen operational conditions require a change in the management specified in this AOI please contact rangeland management personnel at the Glenwood Ranger District to obtain approval of change(s). Advanced notice of change is requested so that field inspections can be conducted. Verbal approval of changes will be followed with a letter documenting the change. Failure to follow the instructions provided in this AOI, or other instructions (verbal or written) of a Forest Officer may lead to adverse action against your Term Grazing Permit (Part 1, Section 3 of your Term Grazing Permit).

Open and positive communications concerning all AOI content is encouraged. Feel free to contact George Douds or me if you have any questions or concerns.