

Glenwood Ranger District

Gila National Forest

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2008

Pueblo Creek Allotment #310

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 14, 2007, to discuss management of the Pueblo Creek 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.

2008 Permitted and Authorized Livestock Numbers

Allotment	Number and class of livestock	Dates
Pueblo Creek	75 Cattle-Cow/calf	03/01/2008 – 02/28/2009
Pueblo Creek	10 Horses	03/01/2008 – 02/28/2009

- This is the second year of partial non-use per the 2007 Memorandum of Understanding for Resource Management and Non-Use Agreement.
- You may choose to take total non-use for resource protection until fence and water repairs have been accomplished.
- 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.
- 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. If no other pastures are available when utilization guidelines have been achieved cattle may have to be removed from the allotment.
- Continue to remove cattle you have not accounted for from the allotment with reasonable speed. Cattle without white eartags and bearing the Pueblo Creek brand will be considered unauthorized cattle.

Pueblo Creek Allotment Pasture rotation schedule for 2007

Number	Class of Livestock	Dates	Pasture
75	Cow/Calf	03/01/08 – 04/30/08	Home Pasture for gathering and counting
75	Cow/Calf	05/01/08 – 05/31/08	House
75	Cow/Calf	06/01/08 – 06/30/08	Holding2
75	Cow/Calf	07/01/08 – 11/15/08	Cottonwood
75	Cow/Calf	11/16/08 – 02/28/09	TBD
10	Horses	03/01/08 – 04/15/08 08/01/08 – 02/28/09	Highway*

- Livestock can remain in pasture until allowable use is reached. Once allowable use is reached the horse may have to be moved to private land.

During the 2007 cattle were gathered into Home and House pastures. Home and House pastures were grazed year round and allowable use was not exceeded. In order to provide deferment from livestock grazing cattle will be rotated through Home, House and Holding 2 pastures. As soon as the Cottonwood pasture fence has been maintained/reconstructed and inspected cattle will be authorized to move into the pasture.

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

Since gathering cattle last year took longer than expected you did not finish maintaining/reconstructing the Cottonwood Pasture fence. To provide deferment for Home, House and Holding 2 pastures the following needs to occur,

- Finish maintaining/reconstructing the Cottonwood Pasture fence #003191 by June 15, 2008. Contact District personnel to schedule and inspection when maintenance/reconstruction has been completed.

The 2007 Allotment Management Plan provides a scheduled for maintenance/reconstruction of pasture fences. The following table is directly out of the AMP,

Pasture fences (Includes exclosures)	Completed by
Exterior Boundary, Highway	Before Stocking
Bear Canyon, Cottonwood, Indian Hill	End of year 1
Chimney Rock	End of year 2
Johnson Canyon	End of year 3
Hinkle Park	End of year 4
Black Bull	End of year 5
Home	End of year 6

You are currently behind schedule in fixing the fences on the allotment. If these fences are not maintained on schedule cattle may have to be removed from the allotment to achieve scheduled deferment.

Maintain and/or reconstruct exterior boundary fences #005062OA, #005015, and #5014 by November 1, 2008. Contact the District personnel to schedule and inspection.

Maintain and/or reconstruct fences #005078OA and #005078 by February 28, 2009. When finished contact the District personnel to schedule and inspection.

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 may allow naturally ignited fires to burns 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 you 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.

You must write the bill number on your check prior to submitting it to the lockbox 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. To aid in the gathering and moving of livestock salt may be placed near water or in corrals within one week of scheduled move date. Notify District personnel when you are doing this.

V. ALLOTMENT STATUS

This allotment has recently undergone environmental analysis and has sufficient NEPA and a current Allotment Management Plan (AMP). The fence maintenance scheduled outlined in the AMP stated that you would maintain all exterior boundary fences in the first year before you can stock the allotment. You are now in the second year and still in the process of maintaining all of the exterior boundary fences. At this time management direction is provided in this AOI which implements the AMP.

VI. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

You indicated that you are in favor of Fire Use on your allotment as long as there is another allotment to move your cattle to. Your concerns will be considered when deciding to place a fire into the Fire Use. The District Ranger will authorize necessary changes to this AOI to accommodate fire management.

VII. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

You were to remove all cattle from the Pueblo Creek Allotment and you believe you have accomplished this. I am still receiving reports of cattle sign in Cottonwood Pasture and recently a bull was seen around the Pueblo Creek Camp Ground (presumed to be your cattle). Continue to remove

cattle you have not accounted for from the allotment. Cattle without white eartags and bearing the Pueblo Creek brand will be considered unauthorized cattle.

You are now in the second year of partial non-use for resource protection. The 2007 Memorandum of Understanding is based on you completing the scheduled fence maintenance described in the Pueblo Creek Allotment Management Plan (AMP). In the first year you were to maintain all exterior boundary fences and you have not done this. I understand that finding and removing the cattle from the allotment took longer than you anticipated. Even though this was harder than you thought, it is important to maintain the fences on schedule outlined in the AMP.

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 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 results from 2007

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Key area	Actual Use	Allowable Use
Bear Canyon	05/29/07	P6	10% (two unauthorized bulls)	Conservative 31-40%
Chimney Rock	05/29/07	C7	10%	Conservative 31-40%
Johnson Canyon	05/26/07	Johnson Canyon	35%	Conservative 31-40%
Home	10/11/07	Entire Pasture	0-5%	Conservative 31-40%
Cottonwood	10/11/07	Entire Pasture	0-5%	0%
House	10/11/07	Entire Pasture	0-5%	Conservative 31-40%
Highway	10/11/07	Entire Pasture	0-5%	Conservative 31-40%

Monitoring schedule for 2008

Pasture	Key Area	Date	Allowable Use
Cotton Wood	P1n, C7n	07/10/2008*	Conservative 31-40%
Home	C3n		
Johnson	To be determined with the permittee.	To be determined when the pasture is stocked.	
Hinkle	To be determined with the permittee.		
Black Bull	P9n, P10n,		
Chimney Rock	C6n, P2n, P7n	To be determined when the pasture is stocked.	
Bear Canyon	C2s, P2s, P3s, P6s		
Home	C3n	06/05/08*	
Highway	Entire pasture	04/16/08 06/05/08	

*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 will be conducted in the areas below and concurrently with the associated pasture. (See table below)

Pasture	Reach description	Allowable Use
Bear Canyon	Pueblo Creek within the Bear Canyon Pasture	Woody riparian not to exceed 25% of stems in a reach heavily hedged.
Black Bull	Pueblo Creek within the Black Bull Pasture	
Bear Canyon	West fork of Pueblo Creek within the Bear Canyon Pasture	
Bear Canyon	Chimney Rock Canyon within the Bear Canyon Pasture	
Highway	Saliz Creek within the Highway Pasture	
Cottonwood	Cottonwood Canyon within the Cottonwood Pasture	
Bear Canyon	Bear Canyon	
Bear Canyon	Tige Canyon	Woody riparian 0%. Herbaceous riparian 0%.
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.)	
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.)	

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.

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 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.