

WILDERNESS RANGER DISTRICT
GILA NATIONAL FOREST

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2008

Headwaters Ranch Partnership

MIMBRES/POWDERHORN/SAPILLO/SHEPPARD
ALLOTMENTS

Prepared By: _____ Date: _____
District Range Staff

Approved By: _____ Date: _____
District Ranger

Agreed to By: _____ Date: _____
Permittee

PERMITTED USE:

ALLOTMENT	PERMITTED NUMBER	PERMITTED SEASON
Mimbres/Powderhorn/Sapillo/Sheppard	230 Cattle	03/01-02/28
	10 Horses	03/01-02/28

AUTHORIZED USE:

ALLOTMENT	AUTHORIZED NUMBER	PASTURE	ON/OFF DATE	PASTURE INSTRUCTIONS
Mimbres/Powderhorn /Sapillo	205 Cattle	Powderhorn /Kelly	12/01/07 – 03/15/08	
	Cattle	Elk	04/01-08/31	
	Cattle	S. Skates	09/01 – 10/01	
	Cattle	Railroad	10/02 – 11/30	
	Cattle	Divide trap	03/15-04/01 11/30 – 12/09	Approximate days for moving cattle
	Cattle	Powderhorn /Kelly	12/01/08- 04/30/09	
Sapillo	25 Bulls	Steer	11/15 – 05/25	
Sapillo	25 Bulls	Biddle	05/26-08/01	
Sheppard	70 Heifers	Stitzel	04/25-09/05	this is an additional grazing allowance based on available forage for 2008 grazing season on this allotment

Our objective for the 2008 grazing season is to have cattle out of Kelly pasture before sprouting of riparian vegetation along the river and to assess the fences on the Sheppard allotment. Pasture fences must be inspected and maintained prior to placing cattle in the next scheduled pasture. The forest service will assist in packing in fencing materials to Rosencran Canyon to fence off Cottonwood inclusion as noted in the Sheppard EA. Forest Service and TNC will assess new fence location in turkey pasture of Sheppard allotment as well (turkey pasture is not in scheduled rotation for 2008 grazing season).

MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK

The above schedule for stocking the allotments depends upon the availability of forage and water. Some flexibility is allowed for justifiable causes such as: weather conditions, livestock management needs, and range condition. **If there is a need to deviate from the above schedule by more than ten (10) days, you need to immediately notify the District Ranger of the proposed change.** The District Ranger must be notified five (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.

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. **You may begin to move cattle or open pasture gates to allow cattle to move from one pasture to another five (5) days prior to the scheduled rotation date, unless otherwise specified. The pasture the cattle are leaving should be “cleaned out” within (5) days after the scheduled date for moving. This will allow you ten (10) days to move cattle from one pasture to the next.**

SALTING

Placement of salt will be used as a management tool to obtain even distribution of livestock and utilization of forage. Salt will be placed on areas of good forage production and light utilization. There will be no permanent salt grounds. Once the salt at a given salt ground has been used, the salt ground will be moved. Occasionally, cattle may have to be driven to new salt grounds to show them where it is. In this manner, it will be possible to draw the cattle into areas needing utilization. **At no time will salt supplement be placed in areas of natural livestock concentration, closer than ¼-mile to either permanent or semi-permanent stock watering locations, within drainage bottoms, or within visible distance to roads unless authorized by the District Ranger.**

COUNTS

The permittee will notify the District Ranger or Range Staff at least five (5) days in advance of the date permitted livestock are either brought on or taken off the allotment.

UTILIZATION GUIDELINES

Forage use by grazing ungulates will be maintained at or above a condition that ensures satisfactory watershed conditions. To maintain satisfactory watershed conditions, we have established a maximum allowable use of 35 percent in key areas. Key areas are as follows:

KEY AREA	UTILIZATION GUIDELINE	KEY SPECIES
McKnight Canyon	35 %	Blue Grama
Mimbres Canyon	35 %	Blue Grama
Powderhorn Canyon	35 %	Blue Grama
Flat N & S of HWY 35 in Skates	35 %	Blue Grama
Rocky Canyon	35 %	Blue Grama
Divide Pasture	35 %	Blue Grama
Heifer Pasture	35 %	Blue Grama
Mesa Tops along N.Star Road	35 %	Blue Grama
Biddle Pasture	35 %	Blue Grama
Dutchman & Little McKnight Canyons	35 %	Blue Grama
Elk Pasture	35 %	Blue Grama

CULTURAL RESOURCES/VANDALISM OF IMPROVEMENTS

We are required by Congress and the State of New Mexico to diligently protect cultural resources. If you notice activity or a damaged Indian ruin please call immediately. This also pertains to damage to range improvement and stolen property. We will then contact the Sheriff's Department and conduct a joint investigation. You may assist us by getting a good description of the individuals and /or vehicles including license numbers. We discourage you from contacting the suspected violators.

Written permission from the District Ranger will be required for any heavy equipment use on the National Forest. Examples include cleaning stock tanks, road maintenance, etc.

REVISIONS

The Annual Operating and General Instructions may be revised and amended as necessary to provide better management on the allotment as the situation dictates. Any revisions will be mutually approved by the Wilderness District Ranger. The AOI and General Instructions are hereby made part of section 8 (a) of the term grazing permit.

MAINTENANCE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

All range improvements assigned in the ten-year Term Grazing Permit should be maintained in a good functioning condition. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to good functioning condition, you should notify this office, so we may schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available.

The permittee is responsible for maintenance on all assigned range improvements, as shown on the grazing permit (form 2200-5) and colored on the permit map. Particular attention should be given to fence maintenance. Maintenance will consist primarily of keeping fences tight, replacing staples as necessary and servicing gates to see that they may be opened and closed easily.

Improvements that we have agreed to pursue funding for or that you should maintain in 2008 include:

IMPROVEMENT NAME	IMPROVEMENT NUMBER	ACTIVITY	FUNDING SOURCE
Ridge Tank (Mimbres Allotment)	5110	Cleaning	Permittee
Unknown Tank (Mimbres Allotment)	5391	Fix Dam	Permittee
Corner Spring (Mimbres Allotment)	005121	Replace Water Trough	FS providing trough- put in by Permittee
Redsap Windmill (Sapillo Allotment)	5038	Replace Tire Trough	FS providing supplies- put in by Permittee

Non-compliance with the instructions set forth in this authorization could lead to adverse actions taken against your Term Grazing Permit.

Appeal Rights

The Mimbres, Powderhorn, and Sapillo Allotments had NEPA completed on September 30, 2006. The Sheppard Allotment had NEPA completed September 2007. These Annual Operating Instructions are a reaffirmation of a prior decision and therefore may not be appealed.

Open and positive communication dealing with these or any other concerns is encouraged. Feel free to contact Tawnya Brummett or Al Koss, if you have any questions or problems. They will be happy to discuss allotment management, conditions on your allotments, Forest Plan standards and guidelines, or any other concerns you may have.