

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2015

Black Range Ranger District
Gila National Forest

South Wahoo Allotment #219



Prepared By: _____/s/_____ Date: 07/30/2015
Range Technician

Reviewed By: _____/s/_____ Date: 07/30/2015
Permittee

Approved By: _____/s/_____ Date: 07/30/2015
District Ranger

BLACK RANGE RANGER DISTRICT

2015 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

South Wahoo Allotment

I. INTRODUCTION

These Annual Operating Instructions document your discussion with Shane Shannon on July 30, 2015 at the Black Range Ranger District Office.

Permitted Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Season
Wahoo Ranch LLC	350 cattle, cow/calf	09/01-12/15

Authorized Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Season
Wahoo Ranch LLC	233 cattle, cow/calf	08/15-12/01

Counting Livestock: The standard for counting livestock on “**seasonal use**” allotments is as follows:

All cattle six (6) months of age or older at the time of entering the National Forest and all weaned animals regardless of age will be counted against the permitted numbers on the allotment and charged for the current rate.

Nonuse: Application for credit or refund must be made in “**writing**” and “**in advance**” by the permittee to the District Ranger using Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application). When it is not possible to be timely in getting to the Ranger District Office, the permittee may phone in a request for refund or credit. When this happens, the District will document the phone call and send a copy to the SO Resource Clerk, with their recommendations noted. The permittee will then complete Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application) at the next visit to the Ranger District Office. **Note:** credit/refund applications will not be processed unless District personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time of removal of livestock.

Pasture Rotations:

Pasture	Number	On Date	Off Date
North	Rest	Rest	Rest
South	233	08/15	12/01

This pasture rotation schedule will depend on range readiness, available water, weather conditions and permittee needs. Changes to the grazing rotation must be approved by the Forest Officer in advance. An “**amended**” AOI must be developed to reflect the approved changes.

The off-date for a pasture is the date when the livestock are to be fully out of the pasture, or in the case of the last pasture, fully off of National Forest System lands. We recognize that moves cannot usually be accomplished in one day. It is your responsibility to begin early movement of livestock to ensure that pastures are clean by the dates specified.

Range Improvements: Range improvements are planned for the South Wahoo Allotment during the 2015 grazing season.

- Continued maintenance of water developments, windmills, and corrals as needed to successfully facilitate the grazing operation.
- ½ mile fence materials for fence # 2012
- Solar pump system for White Saddle Well
- Solar pump system for Wahoo Well

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year Term Grazing Permit are to be maintained in 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 the allotment. Maintenance to standard is required even if you have taken “nonuse”.

Allowable Use: (Standards by Pasture and Key Area)

Pasture	Key Area	Key Species	Allowable Use	
			Upland	Riparian
All	Grassland Openings	Bluegrass & native bunchgrass	30-40%	
All	Riparian Areas	Woody riparian species		Not to exceed 25%
All	During “growing season”	All riparian grass & sedge		35%
All	During “dormant season”	All riparian grass & sedge		40%

If allowable use is reached on any key area prior to the scheduled off date, you will need to immediately move your livestock to the next unit or off National Forest if that unit is the last in the rotation. This will usually necessitate beginning the move one or more days prior to reaching allowable use or the scheduled off date.

Monitoring: The range personnel will conduct allotment inspections each year to ensure compliance with the terms and condition addressed in the Term Grazing Permit, including the Allotment Management Plan and Annual Operating Instructions. The permittee may also schedule inspections at any time.

Key areas for monitoring are identified as riparian areas and transect cluster locations. Additional key areas may be identified during the season based on routine monitoring.

Pasture	Location	Species Monitored
North	Cluster C-4 (Vicinity)	Upland grasses
South	Cluster C-1 (Vicinity)	Upland grasses
South	Cluster C-3 (Vicinity)	Upland grasses
South	Cluster C-2 (Vicinity)	Upland grasses
Allotment-wide	Grassland openings	Upland grasses

The idea of a key area is to find a site that is representative of a larger area in which cattle obtain the majority of their required forage resources. Key area monitoring will avoid areas directly adjacent to permanent water sources, cattle trails, roads, and fence lines.

Upland areas will be monitored for use on perennial grass species.

District personnel will contact the permittee to coordinate site visits to monitor key areas. Permittee participation is encouraged. Forage utilization estimates will be consistent with the Forest Service Range Analysis Handbook methodology, and may also include FS Regional stubble height standards, as well as other techniques generally accepted in the field of range management.

Salting: Salt should be placed in such a way as to distribute livestock use throughout the area. Place salt well away (>¼ mile) from any water sources, or key areas that traditionally receive heavy use such as roads, parks, and riparian areas. Place salt in areas of light use to draw cattle to those areas such as oak thickets or under the aspen, spruce or pine. Salt locations must be moved every year and do not place more than one block in a location. The best distribution can be obtained by scattering one-half block chunks in areas of light use. Salt or supplement will not be placed near areas where such placement is liable to result in conflicts with other Forest users. Pick-up your salt after livestock are rotated to the next pasture.

Supplemental Feed: Any hay, straw, or supplemental feed used in association with your grazing permit must be certified and tagged as free of noxious weeds and/or noxious weed seeds.

Other Resources:

Wildlife and Fish:

There is no documentation that identifies any protected and restricted Mexican Spotted Owl habitat on the South Wahoo Allotment, therefore there are no restrictions regarding this species on the livestock management.

Stock tanks must be surveyed for possible aquatic habitat before earth-disturbing maintenance is authorized.

An analysis was completed for all Gila allotments due to the listing of the Chiricauhua leopard frog as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We have determined that livestock grazing on the South Wahoo Allotment will either have no effect or will not adversely affect the Chiricauhua leopard frog. As a result of this determination, there were no changes required of your grazing permit. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with this

determination. Therefore, consultation has been completed. A copy of this consultation is on file with this District Office.

Heritage and Cultural:

You must obtain permission from this office, before conducting earth- disturbing activities on the National Forest. The Forest Service will arrange inspections of project areas and will prepare appropriate environmental and cultural documents before earth-disturbing activities proceed. These activities include road/earthen tank maintenance, as well as construction/reconstruction of trails, roads, earthen tanks, etc. Do not conduct any earth-disturbing activities on the Forest without written clearance from this office.

NEPA and Appeal Rights:

These Instructions implement the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) decision for the South Wahoo Allotment dated 09/25/1995, and are not eligible for appeal under 36 CFR 218.

