Underwood & Trout/Dillman Creek

Quemado Ranger District

2015 Annual Operating Instructions

(11/14/14)

As per your Annual meeting held with Ralph Fink and Wayne Witty, please see the following instructions. Please utilize these instructions as direction for management on your grazing allotment during the 2015 Grazing Season. We appreciate your cooperation in the management of your livestock throughout the grazing year.

2015 Underwood Lake Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	From	To	Number	Allowable Use by Species	Allowable Use by Species
Lost Spring	05/01/15	06/15/15	185 Cow/calf	Bluegrass 40%	Blue Grama 35%
Underwood	06/16/15	08/15/15	185 Cow/calf	Bluegrass 40%	Blue Grama 35%
Steel	08/16/15	09/15/15	185 Cow/calf	Bluegrass 40%	Blue Grama 35%
Romero	09/16/15	10/31/15	185 Cow/calf	Bluegrass 40%	Blue Grama 35%

Creek and Big Bend pastures will not be used during the 2015 grazing year. See Allowable Use Section for Riparian Utilization Levels of Woody Vegetation.

2015 Trout/Dillman Creek Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	From	To	Number	Allowable Use by Species	Allowable Use by Species
Bill Lee	05/01/15	08/15/15	48 Cow/calf	Bluegrass 30%	Blue Grama 20%
Mesa	08/16/15	09/30/15	48 Cow/calf	Bluegrass 30%	Blue Grama 20%
Foxy Grandpa	10/01/15	01/31/16	48 Cow/calf	Bluegrass 30%	Blue Grama 20%

*** *The Dillman Pasture will NOT be used during the 2015 Grazing year.***

Grazing Restriction:

The following grazing restrictions will apply in portions of the Romero Pasture of the Underwood Lake Allotment.

No salt, mineral or supplemental feed may be placed in this area from February 1 to August 31, and no concentrations of livestock, i.e., corral use, traps or large gathering of livestock is allowed. Routine maintenance of range developments is allowed. Construction or reconstruction of range developments is permitted only outside the restricted season. The purpose of this restriction is to mitigate impacts to wildlife.

Allowable Use:

Proper utilization of forage plants is a necessity to maintain long term productivity of the rangeland and to protect soils from erosion. Proper utilization will maintain sufficient ground cover to prevent erosion and meet the physiological needs of key forage plants for maintenance and reproduction over the long term. Allowable use is determined from considering proper use and all influencing factors such as grazing system, range condition, watershed condition, timing and duration of livestock use and scheduled amount of rest between use periods.

The Underwood Lake Decision Notice dated September 16, 2002 established key area forage utilization guidelines of 40% allowable use on Kentucky Bluegrass and 35% allowable use on remaining forage species. When livestock are permitted to graze within Creek and Big Bend pastures, utilization of woody riparian species is limited to no more than 10% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings within a pasture heavily hedged. Within other

riparian areas on the allotment that contain woody riparian plants, utilization is limited to no more than 25% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings within a riparian area.

The Trout Creek/Dillman Decision Notice dated December 17, 2002 established key area forage utilization guidelines of 30% allowable use on Kentucky Bluegrass, and 20% allowable use on other forage species during growing and dormant season. When livestock are permitted to graze within Trout Creek, Dillman Creek and Trout Campground pastures, utilization of woody riparian species is limited to no more than 10% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings within a pasture. Within other riparian areas on the allotment that contain woody riparian plants, utilization is limited to no more than 25% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings within a riparian area.

Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas:
Utilization monitoring will be conducted on or near key areas of your allotment. District personnel will monitor pasture use and determine utilization percentage at that time. Monitoring dates will be set according to the previous year's monitoring results. If pastures were approaching allowable use during the 2014 grazing season they will be monitored at the mid-point of the pasture use period to determine if it is necessary for livestock to be moved to the next pasture in the rotation. Please note the following approximate dates that are scheduled for monitoring on the Trout/Dillman and Underwood Lake Allotments. You are encouraged to participate in monitoring utilization levels.

2015 Monitoring Dates:

Underwood

Pasture	Monitoring Date
Lost Spring	06/02/15
Underwood	08/04/15
Steel	09/01/15
Romero	10/16/15

Dillman/Trout Creek

Pasture	Monitoring Date
Bill Lee	08/04/15
Mesa	09/10/15
Foxy Grandpa	12/03/15 & 01/15/16

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds utilization on the uplands or heavily hedging of woody riparian plant sprouts/seedlings, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than allowable use. If all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at allowable use, livestock will be required to be moved early to the next scheduled pasture. This requirement is necessary to prevent overuse on forage plants.

Forage Growth and Water Availability:
If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2015 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the grazing permit provides this option.

Range Developments:
All assigned range developments identified in the Term Grazing Permit will be maintained to a functional status.

The following tanks have received clearances from the Archeologist. Please coordinate timing of project work with the District at least one month in advance of planned start date to ensure all appropriate paperwork is completed.

-Draw Tank

If you have any questions or comments concerning these Annual Operating Instructions, please do not hesitate to call Wayne Witty at (575) 773-4678.

Emily Irwin

Emily Irwin
District Ranger

2/20/2015
Date