

**Glenwood Ranger District**

**Gila National Forest**

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

2015

CEDAR BREAKS #404

**Prepared By:**       /s/ Kendal Brown        
District Range Staff

**Date:**       01/08/15      

**Approved By:**       /s/ Kendal Brown for Debbie Cress        
District Ranger

**Date:**       01/08/15

## Annual Operating Instructions

### I. INTRODUCTION

Kendall Brown (Forest Service) met with Hugh B. & Marge McKeen (permittee) on January 8, 2015 to discuss management of the Cedar Breaks Allotment during the current grazing year and to plan grazing management during the upcoming grazing season. These Annual Operating Instructions implement the 2002 Decision and are the result of those discussions.

The authorized stocking for the upcoming grazing season on the Cedar Breaks Allotment is as follows:

#### **Term Permitted Livestock Numbers**

Number and Class of Livestock	Dates
145 Cattle-Cow/calf	03/01 – 02/28
5 Horses-Saddle	03/01 – 02/28

#### **Cedar Breaks Allotment Annual Authorization**

Number and Class of Livestock Authorized	Dates Authorized
135 Cattle-Cow/calf	03/01 – 02/28
4 Horses-Saddle	03/01 – 02/28

#### **Cedar Breaks Allotment Rotation Schedule**

Class of Livestock	Dates	Pasture
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 03/31	West CCC
Cow/Calf	04/01 – 05/15	East CCC
Cow/Calf	05/16 – 07/15	South Cedar Breaks/Alma Flat/Mineral Creek
Cow/Calf	07/15 – 08/15	North Cedar Breaks
Cow/Calf	08/16 – 10/30	East CCC
Cow/Calf	11/01 – 02/28	West CCC
Horses/Bulls	03/01 – 02/28	Community
Horses/Cattle	Holding/Doctoring 03/01 – 02/28	Highway 180, River
<b>Note: No cattle or horses are allowed in the San Francisco River.</b>		

You did not use Highway 180 holding pasture in **2014**.

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. Credit/Refund applications will not be processed unless District personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time of removal of stock.

## **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**

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 your allotment. The following is a list of improvements that we discussed that need reconstruction.

- Reconstruct 1 mile of fence #106 on South Cedar Breaks pasture.
- Reconstruct ½ mile of fence #006 on North side of Wylie Morgan (Alma allotment boundary).
- Reconstruct fence #122 and move across to south side of WS ditch. We will need to set up a field meeting and determine clearance needs.
- Reconstruct section of #122 from Wiley Morgan pvt land south to #505 (division fence between East CCC and River pastures).
- ~~Reconstruct water lot around Section 36 tank. Completed 2014.~~
- Clean out of Section 20 tank in Community pasture. We will check for cultural resource clearances to let you know when work can begin.
- Replace Juniper tank with a new stock tank in the North East corner of West CCC in the lower end drainage. Allen Graves will go out with you to map out where the tank is proposed.
- Section 5 tank washed out (breached dam) during the recent floods in September. Need to re-construct.

## **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 planning to 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 complete Permit Modifications, you must provide the District

with an accounting of materials used and the days and dollars spent on your part to complete the permit modification. This information provides evidence of your contribution to range developments.

3. Heavy Equipment Use: Written permission from the District Ranger will be required for any heavy equipment use on the National Forest. Examples of this are cleaning out stock tanks, road maintenance, etc.

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.

To insure that payment is credited to your account, you must write the bill number on your check prior to submitting it to the lockbox.

5. 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 be permitted as an attractant for your cattle. I approve this use of hay as long as you limit hay locations to those where salting is permitted and to Community Pasture for horses only. You may use either **certified weed free** hay or hay grown on your private land in Alma. Allowable use guidelines will still apply to all pastures.
- c. Feeding of vitamin or mineral supplements, protein blocks, or molasses lick tubs on National Forest land will be permitted if carried out in conjunction with salting.
- 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  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of water and/or in natural concentrations areas which receive heavy grazing use. To facilitate gathering, you may place salts in corrals **only** during the week before scheduled pasture move dates.
- e. No salting within the following areas of special management concern:
  - Alma Flat Pasture
  - The southeast corner of Community Pasture (the south half of the west half of the northwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 28, Township 10 South, Range 20 West)
  - Keller Canyon within West CCC Pasture
  - The easy country along the fence in the northeast side of West CCC pasture (West  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the Southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 25, Township 10 South, Range 21 West)

## V. ALLOTMENT STATUS

The Cedar Breaks Allotment has been analyzed through the 2002 NEPA analysis process. The resulting Decision Notice meets Forest Plan standards and guidelines. This decision along with the terms of your Ten-Year Term Permit and these Annual Operating Instructions provide direction for management on this allotment.

The terms and conditions of Part Three of your Term Grazing Permit constitute your allotment management plan.

## **VI. 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. There are three areas of special management concern. These are listed below. Do not place salt or supplements within these areas.

- Alma Flat Pasture in South Cedar Breaks. Shut off water at the well once grazing intensity levels have been achieved to encourage stock to move to other areas of the pasture.
- Southeast corner of the Community Pasture. As long as water is available in Section 20 tank or the Ditch Tank, do not provide water in this area.
- Keller Canyon in West CCC pasture. Since Keller Canyon has the only currently reliable water in the West CCC pasture, it is imperative that we closely monitor use to avoid exceeding allowable use in the canyon.

## **VII. STUBBLE HEIGHT MONITORING OF KEY AREAS**

You will be notified when monitoring is to be conducted on your allotment in order for you to be involved. This monitoring will be used to develop the grazing strategy for next year's Annual Operating Instructions. Monitoring will follow the protocol specified in the 2002 Decision.

Monitoring will consist of minimum stubble height measurements in key areas, or photo of the key area when key species growth is clearly greater than the minimum stubble height. Stubble heights are to be at least 1.2+ inches on "sod bound" Blue grama and 2.5+ inches on the "bunchgrass" Blue grama sites. Monitoring will be conducted shortly after cattle have been moved from the pasture. Other monitoring may be needed for any requested changes in the rotation schedule.

Stubble height measurements (monitoring) will be taken on the current year's growth of key species. The measured stubble height lengths will be averaged for each key plant species measured. The interval for measurement will be every other pace, with measurements taken on the closest key plant species.

An allowable use of 20% is assigned to woody obligate riparian plant species located in Keller Canyon. The measurement of woody riparian species will be conducted using the grazed/ungrazed plant method. The San Francisco River is excluded from livestock grazing.

If, during the year, you feel that the utilization level is approaching the minimum stubble height, you will need to take some action to stop grazing the area. There are many actions that can be taken, such as pasture moves, locating your livestock on different waters, etc. We will work with you in order to insure that any actions you may take are appropriate and do not compound the problem.

At a minimum, forest personnel will monitor key areas within two weeks before or after livestock leave a pasture. The percent grazing use and/or stubble height will be

documented at that time. The following dates have been scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. You are strongly encouraged to participate in monitoring.

<b>Pasture</b>	<b>Monitoring Date</b>	<b>Key areas</b>
West CCC	05/15	Pasture
South Cedar Breaks	07/15	Pasture
North Cedar Breaks	08/15	Pasture
Community	11/30	Pasture
Highway 180	11/30	Forest Service portion only
San Francisco River	periodic	Riparian area, verify no use.

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock is below minimum stubble heights, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where stubble heights are greater than the minimum. In the event all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at minimum stubble heights, livestock will be required to move to the next scheduled pasture. The option to return livestock to a pasture that has received adequate plant re-growth will be considered if all resource objectives can be met.

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