

2015 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Glenwood Ranger District
Gila National Forest

Dry Creek Allotment #407

Prepared By:	<u>/s/ DK Brown</u> District Range Staff	02/03/15 Date: _____
Approved By:	<u>/s/ DK Brown for Debbie Cress</u> District Ranger	02/03/2015 Date: _____

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

These Annual Operating Instructions document the discussion between Kendall Brown (Forest Service), and Tommy Humphreville (permittee) & Jerry Jump (ranch manager) on February 03, 2015 at the Glenwood Ranger District Office.

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:

Permittee	Number & Class of livestock	Dates
Thomas Humphreville	275 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28
Thomas Humphreville	5 Horses	03/01 – 02/28

Authorized Use:

Permittee	Number & Class of livestock	Dates
Thomas Humphreville	225 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28

Pasture Rotations:

Class of Livestock	Rotation Date	Pasture
Cattle	03/01 – 04/15	Big Dry
Cattle	04/15 – 05/30	Sundial & Cedar Breaks
Cattle	06/01 – 09/30	Estes, Steer
Cattle	10/01 – 11/30	Roadstrip
Cattle	12/01 – 02/28	Big Dry (entire herd)
Horses	6 months use	Cedar Breaks
Heifers (25 head)	03/01 – 06/30	Sandrock
Heifers (25 head)	07/01 – 09/30	Bobcat
Heifers (25 head)	10/01 – 11/30	Roadstrip

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.

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 a functioning condition. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to a functioning condition, you should notify the Range Staff at the Glenwood Ranger District to schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available.

The permittee has requested permission to clear tanks and lead ditches. Rubber tired equipment and existing roads for access will be used to complete maintenance on the tanks discussed.

Projects competed in 2014:

Extend pipeline from Dead Steer Corral (set storage here) to the SW thru Sec. 29 and set drinker SW ¼ of Sec. 29. All done as of 2/3/14, except for laying the pipeline.

Clean Scorpion (\$1105.00 permittee cost at \$65/hr tractor and operator), Blacktail (\$2535 permittee cost), PDQ (\$455.00 permittee cost), Fence (\$1040.00 permittee cost), and Norris tanks (\$750 permittee cost).

Maintenance waterlot at Sundial Tank.

Installed gate in Hwy 180 right-of-way fence, across the highway from ranch entrance (Estes pasture).

Range improvements planned to be replaced/reconstructed in 2015:

Replace pipeline 235OD and 235OC in Big Dry pasture (estimated need of 5500 feet of pipe = 11 rolls and one trough).

Seal and repair storage tank 235OE (North Goat Storage Tank). FS will supply sealant. Tank is 30'. Estimated 1350 sq. ft. (570 ft. steel wall & 800 ft. concrete floor) coverage needed.

Replace pipeline 251 from valve box back up to Sheridan Storage Tank. Estimate 6-7 rolls (3000-3500') of pipe.

Clean Hill, One Horn, & Dozer Tanks.

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 may 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 close out permit modifications you must provide documentation of materials and labor constituting your 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.

It is necessary for you to write the bill number on your check prior to submitting it to the lockbox. This is necessary 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.

V. ALLOTMENT STATUS

The Allotment Management Plan for this allotment may need some updates to meet Forest Plan standards and guidelines. At the present time, direction for management on this allotment will be documented in these Annual Operating Instructions. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is in progress for the allotment.

VI. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

You indicated that you may be in favor of Fire Use on your allotment. Your concerns will be considered when deciding to place a fire into the Fire Use category. The District Ranger will authorize necessary changes to this AOI to accommodate fire management.

It is critical that livestock do not get into the San Francisco River. When you stock the pastures bordering the river check the river for livestock.

VII. 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.

VIII. Utilization Monitoring of Key Areas

Monitoring will occur periodically on Dry Creek Allotment. When monitoring of grazing utilization occurs it will be targeted within 2 weeks before or after move dates. Monitoring for forage utilization will occur after the summer growing season.

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-

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 species will be conducted on a reach basis in identified riparian areas (see table below).

Pasture	Reach description	Management	Allowable Use
Big Dry	Big Dry Creek, from the confluence of Spruce Creek down to private land.	Conservative (31 – 40%)	25% riparian woody sprouts and saplings heavily hedged in a reach
Steer	From private land to the water gap.	Conservative (31 – 40%)	25% riparian woody sprouts and saplings heavily hedged in a reach

Livestock are excluded by natural barriers from Spruce Creek and Big Dry Creek above the confluence of Spruce Creek and Big Dry Creek. 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).