

2015 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

**Glenwood Ranger District
Gila National Forest**

Whiterocks Allotment #401

Prepared By: /s/ DK Brown **Date:** 1/8/15
District Range Staff

Approved By: /s/ DK Brown for Debbie Cress **Date:** 1/8/15
District Ranger

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

Kendall Brown (Forest Service) met with Alan Tackman (permittee) on January 8, 2015 to discuss management of the Whiterocks Allotment during the current grazing year and to plan grazing management for the upcoming grazing season. These Annual Operating Instructions are the result of that discussion.

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:

| Permittee | Number & Class of livestock | Dates |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Alan Tackman | 45 Cow/Calf | 03/01 – 02/28 |

Authorized Use:

| Permittee | Number & Class of livestock | Dates |
|--------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Alan Tackman | 45 Cow/Calf | 03/01 – 02/28 |

Pasture Rotations:

| Class of Livestock | Rotation Date | Allotment | Pasture |
|--------------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|
| Cow/Calf | 03/01 – 07/15 | Whiterocks | Lower/Middle/Upper |
| Cow/Calf | 07/16 – 11/15 | Whiterocks | Middle/Upper |
| Cow/Calf | 11/16 – 02/28 | Whiterocks | Lower/Middle/Upper |

The above schedule takes into account the deteriorated condition of the interior fences and the inability to implement a pasture rotation that has the entire herd in a single pasture in 2015. The fences should all be maintained/repared this grazing year and in 2016 a more detailed rotation should be able to be implemented.

The above schedule also 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, wolf/livestock interactions 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.

You are required to maintain all exterior boundary and interior fences and all water developments on the Whiterocks Allotment.

You would like to maintain the following earthen tanks this year: Pasture Tank (Bull Pasture), Jones Draw (on boundary of Middle and Lower Pasture), Whiterocks Tank (Upper Pasture). If weather conditions allow (tanks need to be dry) you plan on cleaning/maintaining these tanks in 2015. Work with Kendall to provide the necessary clearances.

The Forest Service may have a water right to apply to Indian Hill well. We will investigate opportunities to move the well location to a more productive area. Once we have reliable water in this area, we will work together to design additional pipelines to water the Lower Pasture.

V. 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. 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.
3. 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.**
4. 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.
 - 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.

VI. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

You indicated that you are in favor of Fire Use on your allotment as long your cattle and management are taken into account. 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.

Permittee uses orange ear-tags in the right ear.

VII. UTILIZATION MONITORING OF KEY AREAS

Monitoring schedule

| Pasture | Monitoring Date | Allowable Use | Key Area |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Lower/Middle/Upper | 06/30 | Conservative (31 – 40%) | Pasturewide |
| Lower | 11/15 | Conservative (31 – 40%) | Pasturewide |

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 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 11-14. | | |

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 |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Bearwallow | Deep Creek within the Bearwallow pasture. | Accessible to livestock when pasture is grazed. | Conservative (31-50%) on herbaceous and not to exceed 25% woody riparian heavily hedged. |
| Round Mountain | Deep Creek within the Round Mountain pasture. | Accessible to livestock when pasture is grazed. | Conservative (31-50%) on herbaceous and not to exceed 25% woody riparian heavily hedged. |
| Round Mountain | Devils Creek within the Round Mountain pasture. | Accessible to livestock when pasture is grazed. | Conservative (31-50%) on herbaceous and not to exceed 25% woody riparian heavily hedged. |
| Lower Pasture of Whiterocks Allotment | San Francisco River | No cattle are permitted within the San Francisco River riparian area. | 0% use. |

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).