

Annual Operating Instructions

UPPER CAMPBELL BLUE ALLOTMENT
Alpine Ranger District
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests

2014 grazing season

1. PASTURE USE SCHEDULE

I have approved your application to graze 190 head of cattle on the Upper Campbell Blue Allotment. The following table outlines the grazing rotation on the allotment for the 2014 grazing season.

Pasture	On	Off	# Days	Comments
West	7/1	8/14	45	
Cienega	8/15	8/30	16	
Campbell/Castle	9/1	10/30	60	
South and North Traps	Occasionally for gathering during the authorized grazing season.			
Turkey	Resource Protection Non-Use due to the 2011 Wallow Fire.			

The schedule above is an estimate, and may be modified at any time during the grazing season if the utilization levels, identified below, are met, if water availability is inadequate, or for other resource management reasons. If allowable use levels are met early in the scheduled pasture, cattle will be rotated into the next pasture or off the Forest. If you are scheduled to rotate livestock to the next pasture, but feel there is adequate forage to sustain them in the current pasture and would prefer to hold off on the rotation, please contact my range personnel for an inspection and approval. No re-grazing of any pasture will be allowed. Cattle are to be completely removed from a pasture by the off date unless otherwise authorized. Please notify this office when you begin to move cattle and when a pasture rotation is complete.

2. UTILIZATION STANDARDS

The following utilization standards will be applied on the Upper Campbell Blue Allotment:

- 40% use, by weight of current year's growth, on upland herbaceous and browse species in areas outside of TES species habitat.
- 45% use, current year's growth, on riparian herbaceous and browse species.
- 20% average, with 40% maximum use on herbaceous species within northern goshawk territories.
- 40% average, with 60% maximum use on browse species within Northern Goshawk territories.
- 20-40% use on woody and herbaceous species within Mexican spotted owl habitat.

3. KEY AREA MONITORING

Utilization levels will be checked prior to livestock entering the allotment and near the midpoint, or sooner, of the grazing period for each pasture at key areas. A key area is defined as: *“a portion of range, which because of its location, grazing or browsing value, and/or use, serves as an indicative sample of range conditions, trend, or degree of use seasonally. A key area guides the general area of which it is part” (Forest Service Region 3 Rangeland and analysis Management Guide, June, 1997).*

Utilization measurements will be taken on key livestock and/or wildlife forage plants (key species). Key forage species is defined as: *“1. Forage species (plants) whose use serves as an indicator to the degree of use of associated species. In many cases, key species include indicator species and species traditionally referenced as increaser, decreasers, desirables, or intermediates. 2. Those species (plants) which must, because of their importance, be considered in the management program” (Forest Service Region 3 Rangeland and Analysis Management Guide, June 1997).*

- Riparian areas will be monitored for use on riparian woody species' current year's leaders, as well as % use, by weight on riparian grasses.
- Upland areas will be monitored for use on perennial grass species.
- Mexican spotted owl protected and restricted habitat will be monitored to ensure that current management is providing cover for rodent prey species, the residual biomass that will support prescribed natural and ignited fires that would reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire in the Forest, and regeneration of riparian trees and shrubs.

District personnel will contact the permittees to coordinate site visits to monitor key areas, when practical. 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.

4. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Range improvements must be maintained to standard. It is the permittee's responsibility to ensure that range improvements remains functional, whether the allotment is stocked or not. This includes boundary fences in pastures not currently being grazed. Fences must remain in a state that prevents the passage of cattle. Routine maintenance of existing improvements does not require written clearance; however, construction/reconstruction of improvements must be authorized in writing from this office.

5. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

The following restrictions will be implemented so that management remains in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The instructions below relate to threatened, endangered, and proposed to be listed species as well as range/watershed conditions.

