CLIFTON RANGER DISTRICT
APACHE/SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOI)
T-Link Ranches, Bob Fletcher

Pigeon Allotment
2012

I. PERMITTED USE:

The following table illustrates the number of livestock and season of use permitted on the Pigeon Allotment as per Term Grazing Permit 031901 issued to T-Link Ranches Inc., Bob Fletcher on January 17, 2006.

KIND	CLASS	NUMBERS	AUM	SEASON OF USE
Cattle	Cow/Calf	499	7904	3/1 – 2/28
Horses	Mature	10	144	3/1 – 2/28
	Total		8048	

II. AUTHORIZED USE:

The following numbers and classes of livestock are authorized to graze on the Pigeon Allotment this year.

KIND	CLASS	NUMBERS	AUM	SEASON OF USE
Cattle	Cow/Calf	0	0	3/1 – 2/28
Horses	Mature	11	173	3/1 – 2/28
	Total		173	

III. ROTATION SCHEDULE:

Actual dates may vary dependent on utilization levels, range conditions and time required moving livestock.

PASTURE	NUMBER	SEASON OF USE	USE STANDARD
HL/Spring Canyon	11	4/1 – 2/28	35 – 45%
Four Bar	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%
Cow Canyon	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%
Chitty	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%
Horse	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%
Pigeon	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%
Turkey Creek	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%
Dog Flat	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%
Sun Flower	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%
Pat Mesa	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%
Blue Trap, Wells Trap, Holding Trap, WJ Trap, Joe Tank Trap, Loading Trap, Shipping Trap	Nonuse	Nonuse	35 – 45%

IV. ALLOWABLE USE STANDARDS

Allowable use of forage is based on the amount and kind of forage on the allotment, plant needs, range condition, trend, and grazing management strategy. Duration, frequency, and timing may be manipulated within the grazing schedule to meet allowable use standards.

The allowable use levels for this allotment are established for key areas and key species by pasture for the time period livestock are in a pasture. The use on key species in key areas will ultimately determine the length of the grazing period in each pasture. The establishment of the utilization standards is consistent with 36 CFR 222 regulations, FSM 2210 and 2230, and FSH 2209.21.

For simplicity, key areas are generally considered as follows: 1) full capacity rangeland located on ridge tops/mesas within a 1/4 mile from available water sources; 2) canyon bottoms/riparian areas with free flowing water or springs regardless of distance from water; 3) any area containing full capacity range with erosive soils and insufficient/marginal ground cover to protect the soil; or 4) areas containing habitat, whether occupied, suitable and unoccupied, or potentially suitable habitat, for threatened, endangered, or proposed species that are of concern to the Forest Service.

Key areas may be designated in cooperation with the Forest Service and the permittee.

V. ADMINISTRATION

1. The permittee will record actual use as it occurs; including livestock numbers and dates your permitted livestock are in a pasture. This information will be reported at the next annual validation meeting.
2. Any change or deviation from this Annual Operating Instructions is to be coordinated with the District. If emergency conditions require making a change immediately, the permittee will notify the District as soon as practical.
3. Livestock remaining in pastures beyond the specified rotation date, that are allowed to drift between pastures, or grazing in rested pastures may be considered a violation of your Term Grazing Permit.
4. Livestock should be moved when forage utilization objectives have been met or within 1 week of planned rotation dates, unless changes have been confirmed with District Range personnel.
5. The District may spot check range improvements before the entry date to insure improvements are in a satisfactory condition. Livestock will not be allowed to enter pastures if assigned improvements are not maintained to proper standards. Livestock are not allowed to enter pastures if fences will not keep livestock where they are placed

VI. SALT AND MINERAL BLOCK

Typically, salt or mineral blocks are not to be placed within a quarter mile of water or drainage bottoms. Salt may be placed closer than a quarter of a mile to water for treatment purposes. If salt is placed less than a quarter mile from water, it will be moved every day or within 4 days at the most to a new location no matter where the salt is placed. Salt will be used to attract cattle to areas of a pasture typically not utilized and or for soil/range condition treatment purposes. Blocks may be removed by the District if found near water, over-utilized areas, meadow bottoms or roads. Blocks should be placed in a way that does not encourage erosion but treats the soil to upgrade it from the present condition.

VII. MONITORING

Monitoring and evaluation is an essential aspect of good rangeland management. Monitoring and evaluation can be described as the gathering of information so the manager knows what is happening to rangeland resources and why. The intent of monitoring and evaluation is to test the success of the management strategy and if needed, make adjustments. The following types of monitoring can be collected and will be used by the Forest Service for management decisions.

1. Forage Production
2. Forage Utilization
3. Photo Points
4. Condition of Improvements
5. Actual Use
6. Grazing Response Index
7. Precipitation.

VIII. RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE

The permittee will maintain all range improvements that are assigned for maintenance on pages 11 – 14 of the Term Grazing Permit. When improvements are completed the permittee will inform District Range personnel to schedule an inspection. Before using machinery to clean any pond, the permittee is required to give the District Office at least 45 days advance notice so that the tank can be inspected for threatened or endangered species. All work involving the use of heavy equipment will be accomplished only after prior approval of the District Ranger.

Current Year Improvement Scheduled		YEAR	2012/2013
Improvement Type / ID #	**Completion Date**	**Description/Comments**	**Status Done /Date**
	Year Long	Routine maintenance as assigned on your permit	
	2012	Clean tanks	

IX. PROTECTION

The permittee, his agents and employees, when acting within the scope of their employment, and his contractors and subcontractors will protect the land and property of the United States, waived private land and other land under jurisdiction of the Forest Service covered by and used in conjunction with this permit. Protection will include taking all reasonable precautions to prevent, make diligent efforts to suppress and report promptly all fires on or endangering such land and property. During periods of high fire danger, branding fires will be allowed by permit only.

X. ALLOTMENT INSPECTIONS

Forest personnel may conduct periodic brief inspections of pastures within the allotment at any time to verify actual use, improvement conditions, or other non-range related activity. The permittee will be notified and invited to participate on extended (3-5 days) inspections.

XI. DISCUSION

- Josh will take pictures of tanks to clean. Get list to Wildlife and Archeologist for clearances.
- Road 457E will need work to start this year. Permittee will also start work on spring at end of road.
- Permittee is interested in absorbing some of the Sandrock allotment. Mostly the area around the XXX ranch so they can work to fix the ranch house.

XII. PERMIT CONDITIONS

This Annual Operating Instructions is hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(a). It complies with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan.

Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions specified in Parts 1, 2, and 3 of your Term Grazing Permit may result in suspension or cancellation, in whole or in part, after written notice. This is found in Part 1, Section 3, of your permit.

This decision is subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90. In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).

A notice of appeal must be filed with Jim Zornes, Acting Forest Supervisor, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest's, P.O. Box 640, Springerville, AZ 85938 within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with Carol Telles District Ranger, Clifton Ranger District, 397240 AZ 75, Duncan, AZ 85534.

PERMITTEE	**DATE** 3-28-12
Carol Telles **DISTRICT RANGER**	**DATE** 3-30-12