

Agua Fria
Quemado Ranger District
2016 Annual Operating Instructions
(01/12/2016)

As per your Annual meeting held with Wayne Witty, please see the following instructions. Please utilize these instructions as direction for management on your grazing allotment during the 2016 Grazing Season. We appreciate your cooperation in the management of your livestock throughout the grazing year.

2016 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	Start Date	End Date	Number of Head	Allowable Use
Private	03/01/15	06/15/16	160	N/A
West	06/16/16	09/30/16	160	40%
Middle	10/01/16	01/15/17	230	40%
East	01/16/17	02/28/17	230	40%

Since 1999 private lands have been combined with the allotment and managed as one single ranch unit. This rotation was tentatively scheduled and is subject to change based on summer green up and forage availability. If at any time this schedule needs adjustment, please contact Wayne Witty to discuss the change and develop an amendment to the current Annual Operating Instructions.

Allowable Use:

Proper utilization of forage plants is a necessity to maintain long term productivity of the rangeland and to protect soils from erosion. Proper utilization will maintain sufficient ground cover to prevent erosion and meet the physiological needs of key forage plants for maintenance and reproduction over the long term. Allowable use is determined from considering proper use and all influencing factors such as grazing system, range condition, watershed condition, timing and duration of livestock use and scheduled amount of rest between use periods.

The Decision Notice dated 09/01/95 set guidelines for forage utilization in key areas of 40% allowable use. Within riparian areas that contain woody riparian plants, utilization is limited to no more than 25% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings within a riparian area.

Utilization Monitoring:

Utilization monitoring will be conducted on or near key areas of your allotment. District personnel will monitor pasture use and determine utilization percentage at that time. Monitoring dates will be set according to the previous year's monitoring results. If pastures were approaching allowable use during the 2015 grazing season they will be monitored at the mid-point of the pasture use period to determine if it is necessary for livestock to be moved to the next pasture in the rotation. Please note the following approximate dates that are scheduled for monitoring on the Agua Fria Allotment. You are encouraged to participate in monitoring utilization levels.

2016 Monitoring Dates:

Pasture	Monitoring Date
West	08/23/16, 09/29/16
Middle	01/19/17
East	02/15/17

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds utilization on the uplands or heavily hedging of woody riparian plant sprouts/seedlings, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than allowable use. If all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at allowable use, livestock will be required to be moved early to the next scheduled pasture. This requirement is necessary to prevent overuse on forage plants.

Forage Growth and Water Availability:

If forage growth and/or water availability are not adequate during all or portions of 2016 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the permit provides this option.

Range Improvements:

All assigned range developments identified in the Term Grazing Permit will be maintained to a functional status.

Follow up Items from AOI Meeting:

East Well Storage – When funds become available the District will look at purchasing a 10,000 gallon storage tank.

PJ Encroachment – The district will reearch possible Categorical Exclusions that would be appropriate.

Pipeline in Middle Pasture – District will add the project to the list of projects that need clearances performed.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the Annual Operating Instructions, please do not hesitate to contact Wayne Witty at (575) 773-4678.

/S/ Emily Irwin
Emily Irwin
District Ranger

02/23/16
Date