

2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Glenwood Ranger District
Gila National Forest

Rain Creek/74 Mountain Allotment #725

Prepared By: /s/ DK Brown **Date:** 01/15/2016
District Range Staff

Approved By: /s/ Anne L. Casey **Date:** 01/15/2016
District Ranger

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

These Annual Operating Instructions document the discussion between Kendall Brown (Forest Service), Charlotte Griffin (permittees), and Jerrell & Terrell Shelley (managers) on January 15, 2016 at the Glenwood Ranger District Office.

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:

Number & Class of livestock	Dates
302 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 03/31
151 Cow/Calf	04/01 – 04/30
151 Cow/Calf	08/15 – 09/14
302 Cow/Calf	09/15 – 02/28

Authorized Use:

Number & Class of livestock	Dates
228 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 03/31
151 Cow/Calf	04/01 – 04/30
151 Cow/Calf	08/15 – 09/14
302 Cow/Calf	09/15 – 02/28

Pasture Rotations:

Class of Livestock	Rotation Date	Pasture
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 03/31	Juniper, Haystack & West Fork (100 head)
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 04/30	Shelley Peak & Mogollon (128 head)
Cow/Calf	08/15 – 02/28	Juniper, Haystack & West Fork (151 head)
Cow/Calf	09/15 – 02/28	Shelley Peak & Mogollon (151 head)

The rotation schedule is not intended to identify specific dates for rotations but only to identify a general time frame. All rotations should be based on utilization or other resource objectives. 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 Ranger District 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 verbally or in writing. Credit/Refund applications will not be processed unless District personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time of removal of stock.

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 proposed cleaning of Trail Tank with a rubber tired backhoe if it dries sufficiently. Since this will not cause soil disturbance, the backhoe may be walked into the tank. Cleaning activity must be limited to within the already disturbed area of the tank.

74 Mountain trailhead road: Terrell recommends leaving this road alone for the time to prevent washing out. He also recommends the same for the Rain Creek Trailhead road.

Rebuild fence 8014. 1 ½ mile estimated length. FS will provide material and permittee will construct. Kendall will prepare a permit modification prior to work beginning and materials issued. COMPLETED 2015 by permittee.

Reconstruct ½ mile fence 8033 pasture division fence between Juniper and Haystack pastures, from road and gate going west to junction with fence 8028. This portion of fence was burned during the Whitewater/Baldy fire. The FS will pursue a contract to replace this fence if funding allows. If no funding is available, the FS will provide the materials to the permittee who will reconstruct this portion. COMPLETED 2015 with Forest Service seasonal work crew.

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 such as dates of entering and leaving pastures. 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.

5. Salting and Supplemental Feeding:

- a. Feeding of hay or other bulk feeds 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.
- b. Feeding of vitamin or mineral supplements, protein blocks, molasses licks, etc on National Forest land is permitted when used in the same manner as salt.
- c. 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 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process was completed for the allotment in 2008 with the signing of the decision notice. The Allotment Management Plan for this allotment is being developed. You will be contacted to work with District personnel to develop this plan. These Annual Operating Instructions implement the 2008 Decision.

VI. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

You indicated that you may be in favor of managed wildfire on your allotment. You will be notified if a wildfire occurs and your input will be solicited when management decisions are being made. The District Ranger will authorize necessary changes to this AOI to accommodate fire management.

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

You will be notified when monitoring is to be conducted on your allotment in order for you to be involved.

Monitoring of herbaceous forage will be conducted by ocular estimate of utilization of forage plants within a pasture. When necessary, 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.		

If you observe utilization levels approaching moderate intensity (40% or greater use) you will need to take action for making changes to the grazing in that area. There are many actions that can be taken, such as pasture moves, locating your livestock on different waters, moving of salt and supplements, etc. We will work with you in order to insure that any actions taken are appropriate.

Utilization monitoring will normally coincide with removal dates of livestock from the allotment. The percent grazing use will be documented at that time. The following dates have been tentatively scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. You are strongly encouraged to participate in monitoring.

Monitoring schedule

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Allowable Use	Key Area
Shelley Peak & West Fork & Mogollon	May	Conservative (31 – 40%)	Pasture
Juniper & Haystack	May	Conservative (31 – 40%)	C3, Pace 2

Monitoring of utilization for woody riparian species will be conducted on a reach basis in identified riparian areas (see table below). Riparian monitoring will coincide with monitoring of pasture uplands.

Pasture	Reach description	Management	Allowable Use
West Fork	West Fork of Mogollon Creek within West Fork Pasture.	Accessible to livestock when pasture is grazed.	Not to exceed 25% of woody riparian heavily hedged.
Haystack	Mogollon Creek & Rain Creek within Haystack Pasture.	Accessible to livestock when pasture is grazed.	Not to exceed 25% of woody riparian heavily hedged.
Mogollon	Mogollon Creek within Mogollon Pasture.	Accessible to livestock when pasture is grazed.	Not to exceed 25% of woody riparian heavily hedged.
Mesquite	Mogollon Creek within Mesquite Pasture.	Accessible to livestock when pasture is grazed.	Not to exceed 25% of woody riparian heavily hedged.

Open and positive communications concerning all AOI content is encouraged. Feel free to contact Kendall Brown if you have any questions or concerns.

If unforeseen operational conditions require a change in the management specified in this AOI please contact rangeland management personnel at the Glenwood Ranger District. Change requests should be made in advance so that field inspections (if necessary) can be conducted. Approval of changes to this AOI may be verbal or written, depending on the nature of the change requested. Verbal changes will be documented to your file for record keeping purposes. Failure to follow the direction 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).