

**2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

**Glenwood Ranger District  
Gila National Forest**

**ROBERTS PARK ALLOTMENT #418**

**Prepared By:** /s/ DK Brown  
District Range Staff **Date:** 01/14/2016

**Approved By:** /s/ Vernon Lente for  
Anne L. Casey  
District Ranger **Date:** 01/14/2016

## Annual Operating Instructions

### I. INTRODUCTION

Kendall Brown (Forest Service) met with Marinell Poppie (permittee) on January 14, 2016 to discuss management of the Roberts Park 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
Marinell Poppie	396 Cow/Calf*	03/01 – 02/28
Marinell Poppie	10 Horses	03/01 – 02/28

\*See MOU for non-use

#### Authorized Use:

Number & Class of livestock	Dates
200 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28
6 Horses	03/01 – 02/28

#### Pasture Rotations:

Class of Livestock	Rotation Date	Pasture
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 07/31	Frisco/River
Cow/Calf	08/01 – 11/30	Beaver
Cow/Calf	12/01 – 02/28	Cabin
Horse	03/01 – 02/28	Park & Horse
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28	Hicks/Vigil/ Horse*
	REST	Fox/Park

\* For weaning/holding and bulls use until utilization levels are met.

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. If water availability or lack of forage requires changes in the scheduled pasture rotation, you must notify the District Office in advance and receive permission to deviate from the schedule. 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 maintained in a functioning condition, you should notify the Range Staff at the Glenwood Ranger District to schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available. Failure to maintain your assigned range developments to functional condition is considered non-compliance with the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit.

There are two critical range developments that must be maintained to standard:

- Charlie Moore pipeline must be operable and the Stateline rim tank must be full of water when cattle are present in Fox/Beaver unless earthen tank water is adequate to ensure distribution of cattle.
- Ridge Well pipeline must be operational and supplying water when cattle are in Frisco/River Pasture unless earthen tanks are adequate to ensure distribution of cattle.

The riparian enclosure at Vigil Spring was modified/reconstructed by the permittee in 2013. The permittee is responsible for maintenance of these fences and keeping gates closed. No livestock use is authorized in Vigil Spring riparian enclosure.

The Vigil WRAP has been funded this year which will entail the rebuilding of the Vigil Enclosure as pipe of cable and re-routing of the road around the enclosure. You will still have your water lane at Vigil spring and one or two corrals will be built to replace the corral at Vigil spring that will be torn down. You stated that tentatively you would like a corral near Ellis Tank and a corral at the east end of Beaver pasture. Kendall will get with you in the near future to firm up locations and design for these corrals.

See MOU signed 08/23/2013 for schedule of reconstruction/maintenance of existing range improvements.

### 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 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.

**6. 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**

These Annual Operating Instructions and the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) of March 22, 2010 provide direction for management of the allotment and implement the 2008 NEPA Decision.

**VI. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED**

You indicated that you are not 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 changes to this AOI to accommodate fire management if necessary.

**VII. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS**

The exclosure at Vigil Springs is functioning properly. The water lane will remain for your livestock to access water. 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 pasture moves of livestock. The percent grazing use will be documented at that time. The following dates have been tentatively been scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. You are strongly encouraged to participate in monitoring.

**Monitoring schedule**

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Allowable Use	Key Area
Frisco / River/ Hicks	06/01	Conservative (31 – 40%)	C1 & C4
Cabin/ Park	06/01	Conservative (31 – 40%)	Near Poe & Chub Tanks
Horse & Vigil	06/01	Conservative (31 – 40%)	Entire pastures
Vigil riparian enclosure	12/01	None – Complete rest	Entire pasture
Beaver /Fox	12/01	Conservative (31 – 40%)	C3

Monitoring of utilization for woody riparian will be conducted in the areas below concurrently with the associated pasture (see table below).

Pasture	Reach Description	Management	Allowable Use by cattle
Fox	Vigil Canyon area	Grazed	NTE 25% woody riparian heavily hedged
Fox	Vigil Spring	Excluded by fencing.	0%
Frisco	San Francisco River area	Excluded (geographically)	0%
River	San Francisco River area	Excluded by fencing.	0%

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).