ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2016 Grazing Season

(3/01/2016-2/28/2017)

Reserve Ranger District

Gila National Forest

Black Bob Allotment

Agreed To By: Myrna Christensen Date: 12/21/15

Myrna Christensen, *Permittee*

Agreed To By: Dallin Hulsey Date: 11/17/2015

Glen McCarty, *Permittee*

Approved By: John D. Pierson Date: 1/14/2016

John D. Pierson, *District Ranger*

2016 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotment: Black Bob
Permittees: Myrna Christensen and Glen McCarty
Permit Numbers: 61351 & 61233

Permitted Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Myrna Christensen	20 Cow/Calf	Term	3/01-4/30 7/01-2/28
Glen McCarty	299 Cow/Calf	Term	3/01-5/15 11/01-2/28

1. **Authorization:** Authorized to graze the following in 2016:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Myrna Christensen	20 Cow/Calf	Term	3/01-4/30 7/01-2/28
Glen McCarty	299 Cow/Calf	Term	3/01-5/15 11/01-2/28

Counting Livestock: The standard for counting livestock on an allotment is as follows:

a. All cattle six (6) months of age or older **at the time of entering** the National Forest **and all weaned** animals regardless of age will be counted against the permitted numbers on the allotment and charged for at the current rate.

Nonuse: Application for credit or refund must be made in "**writing**" and "**in advance**" by the permittee to the District Ranger using Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit or Transfer Application). When it is not possible to be timely in getting to the Ranger District Office, the permittee may phone in a request for refund or credit. The permittee will then complete Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application) at the next visit to the Reserve Ranger District Office. **Note**: Credit or refund applications will not be processed unless value is $100.00 or more and District personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time livestock are removed from NFS Lands.

Bovine Trichinosis: If bulls owned by either permittee are scheduled to be co-mingled with cattle owned by the other community allotment permittee, current Bovine Trichinosis test results will be provided to the Reserve Ranger District for our records prior to placement on the allotment.

Virgin bulls not exposed to breeding are exempt from testing if under 12 months of age. As of 2/26/10, bulls 12 months of age and older are required to have a negative trich test within 30 days prior to entry. **A signed affidavit from the owner for the virgin status of bulls 12 TO 24 months of age is no longer applicable.** Non-virgin Breeding age Bulls must be tested negative prior to import into New Mexico. Non-virgin Breeding age Bulls sold within the state of New Mexico must be tested negative within 30 days prior to change of ownership. Please contact the New Mexico Livestock Board for more details.

2. **Management:** Black Bob 2016 Pasture Rotation

Pasture	Permittee/Cattle Number	Time Frame
SU	McCarty - up to 100 head	3/01-5/15/2016
Cienega/West Mess Box	McCarty - up to 104 head	3/01-5/15/2016
East Largo	McCarty - up to 30 head	3/01-5/15/2016
West Largo	McCarty - up to 15 head	3/01-5/15/2016
3 Section/East Mess Box	McCarty - up to 50 head	3/01-5/15/2016
Unit I and Unit II Traps	McCarty – heifers and/or bulls as needed	3/01-5/15/2016
Landfill	McCarty – use for incidental gathering/shipping	4/15-5/15/2016
	McCarty – Cattle removed from Black Bob	**5/16-10/31/2016**
Landfill	McCarty – use for incidental gathering/shipping	11/01-11/30/16
East Largo	McCarty - up to 30 head	11/01-2/28/2017
West Largo	McCarty - up to 15 head	11/01-2/28/2017
SU	McCarty - up to 100 head	11/01-2/28/2017
Cienega/West Mess Box	McCarty - up to 104 head	11/01-2/28/2017
3 Section/East Mess Box	McCarty - up to 50 head	11/01-2/28/2017
Unit I and Unit II Traps	McCarty – heifers and/or bulls as needed	11/01-2/28/2017
Pasture	**Permittee/Cattle Number**	**Time Frame**
East Largo/West Largo	Christensen up to 20 head	3/01-3/31/2016
Barreras	Christensen up to 20 head	4/01-4/30/2016
	Christensen – Cattle removed from Black Bob	**5/01-6/30/2016**
SU or Cienega Pasture	Christensen up to 20 head	7/01-9/30/2016
Landfill	Christensen – use for incidental gathering/shipping	10/1-10/15/2016
East Largo/West Largo	Christensen up to 20 head	10/01-2/28/2017

Please work together to manage your cattle during the time you are both scheduled to use the East Largo pasture. Cattle shall be distributed to the northern portion of the East Largo pasture using tools such as water and supplement/salt in order to reduce the risk of over utilization in the Higgins Flat area. No livestock are allowed within the East Mess Box/3 Section/West Largo pastures or the riparian areas of the San Francisco River on National Forest System land. Please maintain all fences and water gaps necessary to keep your cattle out of these pastures and the San Francisco River on NFS lands. Please notify the Reserve Ranger District prior to cattle movements onto and off of the allotment, as well as refinements that may be needed to enhance the management system. If you identify the need to differ from this management system by more than 15 days, please contact this office at least two weeks in advance so the District has time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

3. **Utilization Standards and Monitoring:**
The maximum allowable use level set for the Black Bob Allotment is **35%.** Monitoring will be conducted within two weeks before or after livestock leave a scheduled pasture. If utilization levels within portions of a scheduled pasture approach allowable use, you are required to move livestock into areas not approaching allowable use. If cattle cannot be effectively managed away from areas within the pasture that have met allowable use or if utilization objectives are met throughout the pasture prior to scheduled rotation, contact District Personnel. Cattle will be moved into the next available pasture within the annual rotation. In the event that forage utilization objectives are met in all available pastures, livestock will be removed from the allotment. Management adjustments will be made to the following years Annual Operating Instructions to avoid recurring situations. The following dates have been tentatively scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. You are highly encouraged and invited to participate in monitoring with District personnel and/or on your own. Additional days will be scheduled to count cattle on and off the allotment and to inspect pasture fences as needed.

Pasture	Monitoring date	Comments
East Largo/SU	3/27/2016	Production/Utilization
East/West Largo, SU, Cienega, West Mess Box, Landfill Barreras Trap, Unit I and Unit II Traps	5/18-5/20/16	Production/Utilization
SU	8/09/2016	Production/Utilization
Landfill	11/03/2016	Production/Utilization
East Largo/SU	11/15/2016	Production/Utilization

4. **Forage Growth and Water Availability:**
Per Part 2, Section 8(c) of your Term Grazing Permit; if forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2016 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary.

5. **Salt and Supplement Policy**:
Supplemental feeding of livestock is allowed (to strategically manage livestock distribution and forage use) as follows:
   a) Place supplements on previously disturbed areas (i.e., borrow pits) or natural bedrock outcrops when possible (supplement sites).
   b) Locate supplement sites 0.25 mile or more from waters and key areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from District Ranger.
   c) Locate supplement sites where forage is abundant and utilized less than average.
   d) Limit supplement types to non energy feeds such as salt, protein and mineral blocks.
   e) Use products that prevent the spread of noxious weeds, no feeding of hay on National Forest System Lands.

6. **Range Improvements:**
All assigned range developments identified in your Term Grazing Permit must be maintained to a functional status. Fences must be maintained to ensure cattle remain in the correct pasture and are not allowed to access the San Francisco River riparian corridor.

Advance planning is needed for any range improvement reconstruction or replacement, including fences and water systems to evaluate the need for any additional surveys. General maintenance/repair is excluded. Advance planning is also needed for authorized stock tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled accordingly. Please contact the district in advance if you are proposing any of this type of work.

Please protect natural springs and areas with riparian type vegetation. Drainage bottoms, creeks, springs, and cienegas, where water is available, are most susceptible to livestock concentrations.

The following range improvements were identified as areas of focus for this grazing season:

Fences: Please contact district personnel to inquire about the availability of materials and for a permit modification.
1. Christensen responsibility: Permittee plans to reconstruct fence #6412 (app. 0.5 mile) between Unit 1 and Henley pastures.
2. McCarty responsibility; Rebuild Cienega Corral #006339

Water Sources:
3. Design solar system for Sawmill Well #006307 and pursue grant funding.
4. McCarty responsibility: Repair Wild Olive Spring #6112 in the East Largo Pasture.
5. Mountain Lion Tank #6111 and Higgins Flat Tank 2 #6110 need cleaned.

7. **The Annual Operating Instructions** are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 8. It complies with the standards and guidelines found in the 11/18/1983 Black Bob Decision Notice and in the 8/19/1983 Black Bob Allotment Management Plan and the Gila National Forest Plan. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act on-going grazing consultation for the Black Bob allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.