ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2016 Grazing Season

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

Reserve Ranger District

Gila National Forest

Frisco Plaza Allotment

Agreed To By: Shane & Janice Atwood Date: 11/24/2015

Shane and Janice Atwood, *Permittees*

Agreed To By: Danny R. & Jacqueline Fryar Date: 11/24/2015

Danny and Jacqueline Fryar, *Permittee*

Agreed To By: Julio Cordova Date: 11/24/2015

Julio Cordova, *Permittee*

Approved By: Colleen B. Nicholas Acting District Ranger for/ Date: 12/18/2015

John D. Pierson, *District Ranger*

2016 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotment: Frisco Plaza
Permittees: Shane and Janice Atwood, Danny and Jacqueline Fryar, Julio Cordova
Permit Numbers: 61406, 61404, 61407

Permitted Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Shane and Janice Atwood	82 Cow/Calf	Term	3/01-2/28
Danny and Jacqueline Fryar	58 Cow/Calf	Term	3/01-2/28
Danny and Jacqueline Fryar	2 Horses	Term	3/01-2/28
Julio Cordova	25 Cow/Calf	Term	3/01-2/28

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

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Shane and Janice Atwood	82 Cow/Calf	Term	3/01-2/28
Danny and Jacqueline Fryar	58 Cow/Calf	Term	3/01-2/28
Danny and Jacqueline Fryar	2 Horses	Term	3/01-2/28
Julio Cordova	25 Cow/Calf	Term	3/01-2/28

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: 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:

Frisco Plaza 2016 Pasture Rotation

Pasture	Time Frame
Apache Peak Unit & West	3/01-4/30 (all cattle)
Middle (Willow Unit)	5/1-10/31 (all cattle)
Apache Peak Unit & West	11/1-2/28 (all cattle)
Holding (Juan Anaya)	(Gathering and shipping only)
North (Frisco Plaza)	Rest

With the exception of water points on the San Francisco River, no livestock are allowed within the riparian areas of the Tularosa River, Negrito Creek, or the San Francisco River on National Forest System land. Continue to maintain and monitor all fences and water gaps necessary to keep your cattle out of these riparian areas on NFS lands.

Please notify us of cattle movements onto and off 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 that the District has time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

3. Utilization Standards and Monitoring:

In accordance with the Frisco Plaza Allotment Decision Notice dated April 19th 2012, and the Frisco Plaza Allotment Management Plan dated November 15th 2012, the allowable use level set for the Frisco Plaza Allotment will be conservative use (30-40%) including wildlife use, throughout all areas. Monitoring will typically 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. The San Francisco River riparian exclosure will have additional monitored dates from those identified below. You are highly encouraged and invited to participate in monitoring with District personnel and/or on your own.

Pasture	Monitoring date
Apache Peak Unit & West (including river)	05/06/2016
Middle (Willow Unit) & Holding (Juan Anaya)	11/17/2016
Apache Peak Unit & West	02/25/2017

4. **Forage Growth and Water Availability:**
   Per Part 2, clause 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. **Range Improvements:**
   All assigned range developments identified in your Term Grazing Permit must be maintained to a functional status.

   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 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 discussed and planned for this grazing season:

   Fences:
   1. Devils Park – Frisco Plaza Allotment Boundary Fence #003145 (2 miles) needs repaired. Maintenance assigned to Atwood.
   2. Evaluate boundary fence affected by the 2006 Martinez Fire between Frisco Plaza and Leggett Allotments.
   3. Fence #3169 (approximately 3 miles) needs repaired. Maintenance assigned to Fryar. Please contact District Personnel to inquire about the availability of fence materials, necessary clearances and for a permit modification.

   Water:
   4. Long Tank (no improvement number) is breached and needs repaired.
   5. Fryar's Delight Tank #006550 needs dam repaired.
   6. Gatlin Tank #3299 needs cleaned.
   7. Evaluate expanding Frisco Plaza water system into Willow Unit and Frisco Plaza Pasture.

6. **Salt and Supplement Policy**:
   Supplemental feeding of livestock is allowed (to strategically manage livestock distribution and forage use) as follows:
   - Locate supplement sites 0.25 mile or more from waters and key areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from District Ranger.
   - Locate supplements where forage is abundant and current grazing use levels are low.
   - Place supplements on previously disturbed areas (i.e., borrow pits) or natural bedrock outcrops when possible (supplement sites).
   - Supplements should not be placed at any one location more than once during the grazing season to prevent the concentration of livestock.

- Limit supplement types to salt, protein and mineral blocks to reduce risk of spreading noxious weeds and to reduce the risk of creating areas of concentrated livestock use.
- If there is a need to use energy supplements such as grain, noxious weed free hay, surplus milk products, ethanol production by-products or molasses based products; a supplemental plan will need to be developed and approved by the District Ranger prior to placing these energy type supplements on National Forest lands.

7. **The Annual Operating Plan/Instructions** are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 3, Section 8. The AOI complies with the standards and guidelines found in the April 19th 2012 Allotment Decision Notice for the Frisco Plaza Allotment, the November 15th 2012 Frisco Plaza Allotment Management Plan and in the Gila National Forest Management Plan. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act on-going grazing consultation for the Frisco Plaza Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.