ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

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

Reserve Ranger District
Gila National Forest

O Bar O Allotment

Agreed To By: Jim Blair Date: 11/24/2015
Cripple T LLC, *Permittees*

Approved By: John D. Pierson Date: 12/14/2015
John D. Pierson, *District Ranger*

Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotment: O Bar O
Permittee: Cripple T LLC
Permit Number: 61416

Permitted Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Cripple T LLC	460 Cow/Calf	Term	3/01-2/28

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

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Cripple T LLC	319 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 **A signed affidavit from the owner for the virgin status of bulls 12 TO 24 months of age is no longer applicable.** Non-virgin Breeding age Bulls must be tested negative prior to import into New Mexico.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**: O Bar O 2016 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	Time Frame
Horse Camp/O Bar O Canyon/ Elk Spring	3/01-5/31 (all cattle)
O Bar O Mountain/Hay Canyon/Scrub Oak	6/1-10/31 (all cattle)
Horse Camp/O Bar O Canyon/ Elk Spring	11/1-2/28 (all cattle)

Please notify us of 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:**
   In accordance with the Decision Memo signed on 12/14/2012, the allowable use level set for the O Bar O Allotment will be conservative use (**31-40%).** Key areas and restricted areas (PAC's) will be visited to determine actual grazing use / seasonal use by livestock and wildlife. 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.

Pasture	Monitoring date
Horse Camp/O Bar O Canyon/Elk Spring	6/03/2016
O Bar O Mountain/Hay Canyon/Scrub Oak	10/21/2016

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. **Grazing Restriction:**
   The O Bar O allotment includes Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Centers (PACs). In these PACs the following activities are restricted during the breeding season (March 1-August 31): livestock concentrations or trailing, fence construction, and livestock salting. Routine maintenance of range improvements is allowed.

6. **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.

7. **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 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.

Fences:

1. Allotment Boundary Fence #6337 needs repaired.

Water Systems: The following earthen stock tanks need cleaned or repaired.

2. Divide Tank #006372
3. North Tank #006371
4. Mine Tank #617006
5. Bear Tank #006475
6. West Elk Tank #006507
7. Middle Tank #6508
8. Little Turkey Tank #006278
9. Evaluate new well location Northeast of Gene Tank.

*Additional water range improvements that were identified in the December 14th 2012 O Bar O Allotment Decision Notice for the O Bar O Allotment may be constructed additionally with outside funding sources.

8. **The O Bar O Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)** 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 December 14th 2012 O Bar O Allotment Decision Notice for the O Bar O Allotment, the July 10th 2013 O Bar O Allotment Management Plan and in the Gila National Forest Plan. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act on-going grazing consultation for the O Bar O Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.