CLIFTON RANGER DISTRICT
APACHE/SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST
ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOI)
Spur Ranch Cattle Co, LLC

Alma Mesa Allotment
2016

I. PERMITTED USE:
The following table illustrates the number of livestock and season of use permitted on the Alma Mesa Allotment as per Term Grazin Permit 30103018 issued to Spur Ranch Cattle Co., LLC on June 11, 2012.

KIND	CLASS	NUMBERS	AUM	SEASON OF USE
Cattle	Cow/Calf	226	4610	3/1 – 2/28
Horses	Mature	6	86	3/1 – 2/28
	Total	232	4696	

II. AUTHORIZED USE:
The following numbers and classes of livestock are authorized to graze on the Alma Mesa Allotment this year.

KIND	CLASS	NUMBERS	SEASON OF USE
Cattle	Cow/Calf	180	3/1 – 2/28
Horses	Saddle	1	3/1 – 2/28

III. ROTATION SCHEDULE:
Actual dates may vary dependent on utilization levels, range conditions and time required moving livestock.

PASTURE	NUMBER	SEASON OF USE	USE STANDARD
New Mexico South	76	3/1/16 – 4/15/16	35% - 45%
New Mexico North	70	3/1/16 – 7/1/16	35% - 45%
Alma Mesa	70	10/1/16 – 12/31/16	35% - 45%
New Mexico North	76	1/1/17 – 2/28/17	35% - 45%
Banjo Trap	15	10/1/16 – 12/31/16	35% - 45%
Morgan/Antelope Trap	27	10/1/16 – 12/31/16	35% - 45%
Cradle Mesa Trap	27	10/1/16 – 12/31/16	35% - 45%
North and South Traps	27	10/1/16 – 12/31/16	35% - 45%
New Mexico South	46	1/1/17 – 2/28/17	35% - 45%
Maple/Charlie Moore	46	1/1/17 – 2/28/17	35% - 45%
Bear Valley	16	3/1/16 – 6/1/16	35% - 45%
Six Shooter part of MCM	16	6/2/16 – 1/31/17	35% - 45%
Bear Valley	16	2/1/17 – 2/28/17	35% - 45%
Morgan Trap	*1	3/1/16 – 2/28/17	35% - 45%

*Horse – Intermittent use.

IV. ALLOWABLE USE STANDARDS

Allowable use of forage is based on the amount and kind of forage on the allotment, plant needs, range condition, trend, and grazing management strategy. Duration, frequency, and timing may be manipulated within the grazing schedule to meet allowable use standards.

The allowable use levels for this allotment are established for key areas and key species by pasture for the time period livestock are in a pasture. The use on key species in key areas will ultimately determine the length of the grazing period in each pasture. The establishment of the utilization standards is consistent with 36 CFR 222 regulations, FSM 2210 and 2230, and FSH 2209.21.

For simplicity, key areas are generally considered as follows: 1) full capacity rangeland located on ridge tops/mesas within a 1/4 mile from available water sources; 2) canyon bottoms/riparian areas with free flowing water or springs regardless of distance from water; 3) any area containing full capacity range with erosive soils and insufficient/marginal ground cover to protect the soil; or 4) areas containing habitat, whether occupied, suitable and unoccupied, or potentially suitable habitat, for threatened, endangered, or proposed species that are of concern to the Forest Service.

Key areas may be designated in cooperation with the Forest Service and the permittee.

V. ADMINISTRATION

1. The permittee will record actual use as it occurs; including livestock numbers and dates your permitted livestock are in a pasture. This information will be reported at the next annual validation meeting.
2. Any change or deviation from this Annual Operating Instructions is to be coordinated with the District. If emergency conditions require making a change immediately, the permittee will notify the District as soon as practical.
3. Livestock remaining in pastures beyond the specified rotation date, that are allowed to drift between pastures, or grazing in rested pastures may be considered a violation of your Term Grazing Permit.
4. Livestock should be moved when forage utilization objectives have been met or within 1 week of planned rotation dates, unless changes have been confirmed with District Range personnel.
5. The District may spot check range improvements before the entry date to insure improvements are in a satisfactory condition. Livestock will not be allowed to enter pastures if assigned improvements are not maintained to proper standards. Livestock are not allowed to enter pastures if fences will not keep livestock where they are placed

VI. SALT AND MINERAL BLOCK

Typically, salt or mineral blocks are not to be placed within a quarter mile of water or drainage bottoms. Salt may be placed closer than a quarter of a mile to water for treatment purposes. If salt is placed less than a quarter mile from water, it will be moved every day or within 4 days at the most to a new location no matter where the salt is placed. Salt will be used to attract cattle to areas of a pasture typically not utilized and or for soil/range condition treatment purposes. . Mineral supplements will not be allowed to be placed near roads, meadows or wetland/riparian bottoms. Blocks may be removed by the District if found near water, over-utilized areas, meadow bottoms or roads. Blocks should be placed in a way that does not encourage erosion but treats the soil to upgrade it from the present condition.

VII. MONITORING

Monitoring and evaluation is an essential aspect of good rangeland management. Monitoring and evaluation can be described as the gathering of information so the manager knows what is happening to rangeland resources and why. The intent of monitoring and evaluation is to test the success of the management strategy and if needed, make adjustments. The following types of monitoring can be collected and will be used by the Forest Service for management decisions.

1. Forage Production
2. Forage Utilization
3. Photo Points
4. Condition of Improvements
5. Actual Use

6. Grazing Response Index
7. Precipitation.

VIII. RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE

The permittee will maintain all range improvements that are assigned for maintenance on pages 11 – 14 of the Term Grazing Permit. When improvements are completed the permittee will inform District Range personnel to schedule an inspection. Before using machinery to clean any pond, the permittee is required to give the District Office at least 45 days advance notice so that the tank can be inspected for threatened or endangered species. All work involving the use of heavy equipment will be accomplished only after prior approval of the District Ranger.

Current Year Improvement Scheduled		YEAR	2016
Improvement Type / ID #	**Completion Date**	**Description/Comments**	**Status Done /Date**
	Year Long	Routine maintenance as assigned on your permit	
		Correct and complete Antelope and Cradle Mesa Trap fences	
		Construct new fence on ridge (Maple/Charlie Moore).	Needs Archy and Bio clearances and permit mod before construction can begin.

IX. PROTECTION

The permittee, his agents and employees, when acting within the scope of their employment, and his contractors and subcontractors will protect the land and property of the United States, waived private land and other land under jurisdiction of the Forest Service covered by and used in conjunction with this permit. Protection will include taking all reasonable precautions to prevent, make diligent efforts to suppress and report promptly all fires on or endangering such land and property. During periods of high fire danger, branding fires will be allowed by permit only.

X. ALLOTMENT INSPECTIONS

Forest personnel may conduct periodic brief inspections of pastures within the allotment at any time to verify actual use, improvement conditions, or other non-range related activity. The permittee will be notified and invited to participate on extended (3-5 days) inspections.

XI. DISCUSION

See notes from Permittee on 1/19/2016.

XII. PERMIT CONDITIONS

This Annual Operating Instructions is hereby made a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(a). It complies with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan.

Failure to comply with any of the terms and conditions specified in Parts 1, 2, and 3 of your Term Grazing Permit may result in suspension or cancellation, in whole or in part, after written notice. This is found in Part 1, Section 3, of your permit.

2/9/16

PERMITTEE DATE

2-17-16

DISTRICT RANGER DATE