

**2016 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
SPRINGVILLE RANGER DISTRICT**

Allotment Name: St. Mary
Benton Creek

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers and dates:

St. Mary	40 c/c	7/01-10/10
Benton Creek	19 c/c	7/01-10/31

Annual Authorization livestock numbers and dates:

St. Mary/Benton Creek	59 c/c	6/15-10/15
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Table 1. Pasture rotation schedule for the North Escudilla Allotment

Pasture	Use Period*	Midpoint Date	Number Of Days	Key Species**	Allowable Use Guideline
Home	06/15-06/30	06/22	15	CARE/POA/Fear/Deca/Muwr /Bltr/Mumo Bogr/Kocr/Fear/Mumo/Pofe	35%
Benton Creek	07/01-07/15	07/07	15		
St. Mary	07/16-09/15	08/15	62		
Old Horse	09/16-10/15	09/30	30		

*Dates will be adjusted if maximum allowable utilization levels in the stocked pastures are reached sooner than anticipated.

**CARE=sedges, POA=bluegrass species, Fear=Arizona fescue, Kocr=Junegrass, Muwr=Spiked muhly,

Mumo=Mountain muhly, Bltr=pinedropseed and Bogr=Blue grama. Key species may be adjusted as necessary to reflect those receiving the most grazing pressure based on time of the year.

Utilization Monitoring: The allowable use guideline for each pasture is shown in Table 1. Livestock grazing utilization monitoring may be conducted in key areas near the midpoint or end of the grazing period, or at the end of the growing season for each pasture. It is your responsibility to take action so that livestock grazing does not exceed the allowable use guidelines. Proper salt placement (more than a ¼ mile from water or away from roads), hauling water, and herding or riding are recommended. If the problem cannot be corrected with preventative measures, then early exits from the pastures, adjustments in the AMP, stocking levels, or other management or administrative actions may be necessary.

The purpose of utilization monitoring is to ensure that herbaceous vegetation is managed to provide for suitable habitat and forage for various wildlife species (i.e. Mexican Spotted Owl and Northern Goshawk prey base), to meet physiological requirements for forage and browse plants, and promote or maintain proper range/watershed conditions.

Maintenance of range improvements: Permittees will maintain assigned range improvements within their allotment. This is in accordance with Part 3, clause 2 of the term grazing permit. If your neighbor is turning out before you and you have maintenance responsibility for a boundary fence, this **FENCE MUST BE REPAIRED BEFORE YOUR NEIGHBOR TURNS OUT.**

Livestock Distribution: Salting and maintaining improvements are good ways to achieve proper livestock distribution. Frequent riding may be necessary to break up concentrations of livestock. A full time rider may be needed to herd livestock onto lightly used areas, reducing grazing pressure on riparian areas and meadows.

Fire Prevention: All vehicles should be equipped with a properly functioning exhaust system. A shovel and axe for use in extinguishing camp and forest fires should be carried. All open camp and branding fires, when allowed, must have a fire ring down to the mineral soil, and be handled in a safe manner. All State and local fire regulations and restrictions will be observed. Report any fires to the fire dispatcher in Show Low at **928-532-2700**.