

Glenwood Ranger District

Gila National Forest

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2018

CEDAR BREAKS #404

Prepared By: /s/ Andrew Bryant
District Range Specialist

Date: 01/10/2018

Approved By: /s/ Kendall Brown
District Ranger

Date: 01/10/2018

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

Andrew Bryant and Kendall Brown (Forest Service) met with Hugh B. & Marge McKeen (permittees) on January 10, 2018 to discuss management of the Cedar Breaks Allotment during the current grazing year and to plan grazing management during the upcoming grazing season. These Annual Operating Instructions are the result of those discussions.

The authorized stocking for the upcoming grazing season on the Cedar Breaks Allotment is as follows:

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers

Number and Class of Livestock	Dates
145 Cattle-Cow/calf	03/01 – 02/28
5 Horses-Saddle	03/01 – 02/28

Cedar Breaks Allotment Annual Authorization

Number and Class of Livestock Authorized	Dates Authorized
145 Cattle-Cow/calf	03/01 – 02/28
5 Horses-Saddle	03/01 – 02/28

Cedar Breaks Allotment Rotation Schedule

Class of Livestock	Dates	Pasture
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 03/31	West CCC
Cow/Calf	04/01 – 05/30	East CCC
Cow/Calf	06/01 – 08/1	South Cedar Breaks/Alma Flat/Mineral Creek
Cow/Calf	08/1 – 09/1	North Cedar Breaks
Cow/Calf	9/1-9/30	East CCC
Cow/Calf	10/01 – 02/28	West CCC
Horses/Bulls	03/01 – 02/28	Community
Horses/Cattle	Holding/Doctoring 03/01 – 02/28	Highway 180, River
Note: No cattle or horses are allowed in the San Francisco River.		

You did not use Highway 180 holding pasture in **2016**.

The above schedule for stocking the allotment depends upon the availability of forage and water. Some flexibility in the above pasture rotation dates will be allowed for justifiable causes such as weather conditions, livestock management needs, and range conditions. If there is a need to deviate from the above pasture rotation schedule by more than 15 days, you must notify the Ranger District of the proposed change in the pasture rotation date and the reason for the change. A deviation from the above schedule of more than 15 days must be approved verbally or in writing. Credit/Refund applications will not be processed unless District personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time of removal of stock.

II. MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK

You are responsible for monitoring water availability and forage utilization. It is your responsibility to move your livestock when sufficient water is no longer available or when proper forage utilization is achieved in a pasture. You are responsible for keeping track of and maintaining control of your livestock. In the event your livestock are found to be out of the scheduled pasture, you will be required to find, gather, and return your animals to the proper pasture as soon as possible.

III. IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year Term Grazing Permit are to be maintained in functioning condition. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to a functioning condition, you should notify this office so we can schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available. You may apply for a free use post and stay permit for the maintenance of fences and corrals on your allotment. The following is a list of improvements that we discussed that need reconstruction.

- Reconstruct 1 mile of fence #106 on South Cedar Breaks pasture.
- Reconstruct fence #122 next to WS ditch. Clearances have been obtained and reconstruction can proceed. **Completed 2017.**
- Reconstruct section of #122 from Wiley Morgan pvt land south to #505 (division fence between East CCC and River pastures). Clearances have been obtained and reconstruction can proceed. **Completed 2017**
- Clean out of Section 20 tank in Community pasture. We will check for cultural resource clearances to let you know when work can begin.
- Section 5 tank washed out (breached dam) during the recent floods in September 2013. Need to re-construct. Clearances have been obtained and reconstruction can proceed. The Glenwood District will have our FS dozer and operator perform this work.
- Permittee proposes burying a pipeline from private land across HWY 180 and into South Cedar Breaks pasture near Highway Tank and setting a drinker. This work will require environmental clearances.

IV. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fire: Branding and warming fires should be used with good judgment - not on windy days or during times when fires are specifically restricted. The Glenwood District is planning to allow naturally ignited fires to burn on the district this coming year. You have indicated that you are in favor of managed fire on your allotment. We will notify you and solicit your input if we have a wildfire on your allotment.

2. Records: In order to complete Permit Modifications, you must provide the District with an accounting of materials used and the days and dollars spent on your part to complete the permit modification. This information provides evidence of your contribution to range developments.

3. Heavy Equipment Use: Written permission from the District Ranger will be required for any heavy equipment use on the National Forest. Examples of this are cleaning out stock tanks, road maintenance, etc.

4. Credit/Refund: Any credit or refund applications for grazing fees must be made as far in advance as possible. Credit/Refund applications are not retroactive and will be

approved only if the District Ranger is notified of livestock removal prior to or at the time the livestock are taken off the allotment. You will be required to provide your Social Security or tax ID number in order for a refund to be processed.

5. Salting and Supplemental Feeding:

- a. Feeding of bulk feeds on National Forest land will not be permitted unless a proven need to use the supplements is shown, and a detailed plan is developed and approved.
- b. Feeding of hay on National Forest land will be permitted as an attractant for your cattle. Approval of this use of hay as long as you limit hay locations to those where salting is permitted and to Community Pasture for horses only. You may use either **certified weed free** hay or hay grown on your private land in Alma. Allowable use guidelines will still apply to all pastures.
- c. Feeding of vitamin or mineral supplements, protein blocks, molasses licks, etc. on National Forest land is permitted when used in the same manner as salt.
- d. Salting practices will be in agreement with the 10-Year Term Grazing Permit. Salt will be placed in areas of available feed to help draw cattle to them. Salt will not be placed within ¼ mile of water and/or in natural concentrations areas which receive heavy grazing use. To facilitate gathering, you may place salts in corrals during the week before scheduled pasture move dates. No salting within the Alma Flat area.

V. ALLOTMENT STATUS

The Cedar Breaks Allotment has been analyzed through the NEPA analysis process. The resulting 2002 Decision Notice meets Forest Plan standards and guidelines. This decision along with the terms of your Ten-Year Term Permit and these Annual Operating Instructions provide direction for management on this allotment.

The terms and conditions of Part Three of your Term Grazing Permit constitute your allotment management plan.

VI. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Keep track of conditions on your allotment and make plans to reduce or remove livestock if vegetative/watershed conditions could be substantially harmed due to continued grazing. If water and/or forage availability becomes a problem, we may need to adjust the rotation schedule. Contact Kendall Brown if there is a need to adjust the schedule.

Cattle are not authorized to be in the San Francisco River. Please promptly remove any cattle that stray into these areas.

VII. UTILIZATION MONITORING

You will be notified when monitoring is to be conducted on your allotment in order for you to be involved.

Monitoring of herbaceous forage will be conducted by ocular estimate of utilization of forage plants within a pasture. When necessary, verification of ocular estimates will be conducted using common methodology such as weigh/clip, grazed plant numbers, or stubble height. Grazing use will be described in the following utilization categories.

Qualitative Grazing Intensity Category	Use of Forage by Weight	Qualitative Indicators of Grazing Intensity
Light to no-use	< 30%	Only choice plants and areas show use: there is no use of poor forage plants.
Conservative	31-40%	Choice forage plants have abundant seed stalks: Areas more than a mile from water show little use: About on third to one half of primary forage plants show grazing on key areas.
Moderate	41-50%	Most of accessible range shows use: Key areas show patch appearance with one half to two thirds of primary forage plants showing use: Grazing is noticeable in zone 1-1.5 miles from water.
Heavy	51-60%	Nearly all primary forage plants show grazing on key areas: Palatable shrubs show hedging: Key areas show a lack of seed stalks: Grazing is noticeable in areas over 1.5 miles from water.
Severe	61 +%	Key areas show a clipped or mowed appearance (no stubble height): Shrubs are severely hedged: There is evidence of livestock trailing to forage: Areas over 1.5 miles from water lack stubble height.
Holechek, J.L. and D. Galt. 2000. Grazing Intensity Guidelines. Rangelands 22(3), pg 11-14.		

An allowable use of 20% is assigned to woody obligate riparian plant species located in Keller Canyon. The measurement of woody riparian species will be conducted using the grazed/ungrazed plant method. The San Francisco River is excluded from livestock grazing.

If you observe utilization levels approaching moderate intensity (40% or greater use) you will need to take action for making changes to the grazing in that area. There are many actions that can be taken, such as pasture moves, locating your livestock on different waters, moving of salt and supplements, etc. We will work with you in order to insure that any actions taken are appropriate.

Utilization monitoring will normally coincide with pasture moves of livestock. The percent grazing use will be documented at that time. The following dates have been tentatively been scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. You are strongly encouraged to participate in monitoring.

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Key areas
West & East CCC	06/01	Pasture
South Cedar Breaks	08/15	Pasture
North Cedar Breaks	RESTED	Pasture
Community	11/30	Pasture
Highway 180	11/30	Forest Service portion only
San Francisco River	periodic	Riparian area, verify no use.

VIII. TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

The Gila National Forest Travel Management Decision signed in September 2013 was implemented January 1, 2017 on the Glenwood Ranger District. This rule prohibits cross country motorized travel and has restricted all motorized vehicle travel on the Gila National Forest (GNF) to authorized motorized routes only on NFS land.

Some motorized uses are exempt from the prohibitions of the designation process (36 CFR 212.51(a): "Motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written

authorization issued under Federal law or regulation” (CFR 212.51(a) (8) is one of the exempted uses. The permittees and/or their employees must comply with all GNF Travel Management regulations, except those allowed under this authorization as described below:

1. The permittees and/or their employees will be authorized for off road or unauthorized travel routes on their specific grazing allotment(s) to carry out the necessary activities for grazing and livestock management. This includes range improvement maintenance and/or reconstruction as designated in their grazing permit, placement of salt or other supplements, and for emergency livestock health purposes.
2. It is prohibited to operate any vehicle off NFS lands, State or County roads in a manner which damages or unreasonably disturbs the land, wildlife, or vegetative resources (36 CFR 261.15(h)). Moist soils are especially susceptible to damage through rutting or compaction; therefore, use of motorized vehicles on saturated soils should be avoided.
3. Utilize roads or trails designated for motor vehicle use to access range improvements, salting grounds, or livestock emergencies where possible. This includes trails and roads open for public use, those specified as “administrative use only”, and keeping within fence rights-of-way while accomplishing fence maintenance where possible.
4. This authorization and associated activities are specific to your grazing permit(s) and allotment management only; recreational use including hunting or game retrieval with motorized vehicles is not authorized.

IX. MODIFICATIONS

Open and positive communications concerning all AOI content is encouraged. Feel free to contact Kendall Brown if you have any questions or concerns.

If unforeseen operational conditions require a change in the management specified in this AOI please contact rangeland management personnel at the Glenwood Ranger District. Change requests should be made in advance so that field inspections (if necessary) can be conducted. Approval of changes to this AOI may be verbal or written, depending on the nature of the change requested. Verbal changes will be documented to your file for record keeping purposes. Failure to follow the direction provided in this AOI, or other instructions (verbal or written) of a Forest Officer may lead to adverse action against your Term Grazing Permit (Part 1, Section 3 of your Term Grazing Permit).