

2018 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Glenwood Ranger District

Gila National Forest

Kelly Allotment #428

Prepared By: /s/ Andrew Bryant **Date:** 01/18/2018
District Range Specialist

Approved By: /s/ Tobe Haught **Date:** 01/18/2018
Acting District Ranger

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

Andrew Bryant (Forest Service) met with Danny Fryar and Danny Montoya (permittees) on January 18, 2018 at the Glenwood Ranger District Office to discuss management of the Kelly Allotment during the current grazing year and to plan grazing management for the upcoming grazing season. These Annual Operating Instructions are the result of that discussion.

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers:

Permittee	Number & Class of livestock	Dates
Danny & Jacqueline Fryar	49 Cow/Calf & 2 Horses	03/01 – 02/28
Danny & Genevieve Montoya	41 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28
Jimmy Serna	14 Cow/Calf & 2 Horses	03/01 – 02/28

Authorized Use:

Permittee	Number & Class of livestock	Dates
Danny & Jacqueline Fryar	49 Cow/Calf & 2 Horses	03/01 – 02/28
Danny & Genevieve Montoya	41 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28
Jimmy Serna	14 Cow/Calf & 2 Horses	03/01 – 02/28

Pasture Rotations:

Class of Livestock	Rotation Date	Pasture
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 04/30	West/Spurgeon
Cow/Calf	05/01 – 10/30	Middle
Cow/Calf	11/01 – 02/28	West
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28	Willy Holding/Little*
Cow/Calf	Fall Weaning (Nov.)	Willy Holding
	Rest	Middle/Big
	Growing Season Rest	West/Spurgeon & East/Sally

**Weaning, doctoring, holding, etc.*

Note: No livestock grazing is authorized in the San Francisco River, except designated water points.

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 a functioning condition. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to a functioning condition, you should notify the Range Staff at the Glenwood Ranger District to schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available.

The following permit modifications have been authorized for the allotment.

Permittee	Modification #	Type	Remarks
Kelly		Spurgeon Tank (Pending dry conditions)	Needs to be cleaned

You requested permission to divide Spurgeon Pasture. Permittees have flagged in a proposed alignment. Kendall will arrange clearances. This fence will improve distribution and allow more control over use. This will provide additional recovery opportunities. It will provide a beginning for moving toward a shorter spring calving season any may improve calving percentages.

In 2018, Spurgeon tank was cleaned.

Would like to rebuild 2.5 miles of fence between Holding/Middle and Spurgeon pastures (3179) and 2.5 miles of fence between Big and Middle Pastures (3173). Will look into clearances. (Looking into funding from NRCS)

Old Highway and Willie Tanks need cleaning. Will look into clearances.

Proposed going from Willy Well with above ground pipeline into Middle and Spurgeon Pasture. Kendall will work with permittees to further develop this proposal. Need estimated 2 miles of pipeline.

Discussed future range developments such as:

- Installing a pipeline (approximately 4 miles) to provide reliable water in West Pasture from Brushy Well into various locations within the pasture. Please coordinate with Kendall to develop a proposal on the ground. A well may be installed at Dark Skies Campground in the future that would partially negate this pipeline need.

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 may allow naturally ignited fires to burns on the district this coming year. We will notify you if we plan to let a fire

burn on your allotment.

2. Records: In order to close out permit modifications you must provide documentation of materials and labor constituting your contribution to the permit modification.

You must provide documentation of cattle numbers such as dates of entering and leaving pastures. This information is used to substantiate the carrying capacity of the allotment. The information demonstrates use and the need for forage to meet the economic needs of the county. This information may also be used to establish cause and effect if there is a significant change in calf crop (Example, a wolf pack becomes established near your allotment).

3. Heavy Equipment Use: Please notify district well in advance of any plans to use heavy equipment so that necessary clearances and/or permits can be obtained. You will be notified by the district when you can proceed.

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.

6. Salting and Supplemental Feeding:

- a. Feeding of hay or other bulk feeds on National Forest land will not be permitted unless a proven need to use the supplement is shown, and a detailed plan is developed and approved. All supplemental hay must be **certified weed free** hay and you must provide the proper documentation.
- b. 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.
- c. 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 from water and/or in natural concentrations areas which receive heavy grazing use.

V. ALLOTMENT STATUS

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

VI. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

You are in favor of managed wildfire on your allotment. You will be notified if a wildfire occurs and your input will be solicited when management decisions are being made. The District Ranger will authorize changes to this AOI to accommodate fire management if necessary.

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.		

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.

Monitoring Schedule

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Key Area
West	05/01	Pasture-wide
Spurgeon	05/01	Pasture-wide
Middle/Big	Rest in 2017	Pasture-wide
Willy Holding/Little	11/15	Pasture-wide
Sally/East	11/15	Pasture-wide

Monitoring of utilization on woody riparian will be conducted in the areas below and concurrently with the associated pasture. (See Table Below).

Pasture	Reach description	Management	Allowable Use
Sally & East	San Francisco River between the East & Sally pastures.	Excluded geographically & by fencing.	0% with the exception of two designated watering points.*
Holding	San Francisco River that borders the Holding pasture.	Excluded geographically and by fencing.	0% with the exception of one designated watering point.*
Middle	San Francisco River that borders the Middle pasture.	Excluded geographically and by fencing.	0% with the exception of one designated watering point.*
Spurgeon Mesa	San Francisco River that borders the Spurgeon Mesa pasture.	Excluded geographically and by fencing.	0%
Sally	Saliz Creek that borders the Sally pasture.	Excluded geographically and by fencing.	0%

* The allowable use for water points is for woody riparian not to exceed 25% of stems in a watering point heavily hedged.

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

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).

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