2017 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Glenwood Ranger District

Gila National Forest

Pleasanton Allotment #416

Prepared By: /s/ for Kendall Brown **Date:** ~~01/17/2017~~ 10/19/2017

District Range Staff

Approved By: /s/ **Date:** 01/19/2017

District Ranger

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

Andrew Bryant (Forest Service) met with Russell Slaughter (permittee) on October 19, 2017 to discuss management of the Pleasanton 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:

Number & Class of livestock	Dates
499 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28
13 Horses	03/01 – 02/28

Authorized Use:

Number & Class of livestock	Dates
75 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28

Pasture Rotations:

Class of Livestock	Rotation Date	Pasture
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28	Cherry, Cherry Canyon, Pine, Lloyd, Powerline & Lightning Mesa
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28	All other traps and holding pastures. *

* Livestock can remain in the pasture until allowable use is reached.

Note: No livestock grazing is authorized in the San Francisco River.

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.

At this time the interior and exterior fences are in disrepair and the pipeline is non-functional. In 2013 we developed a Memorandum of Understanding, please refer to it for schedule of maintenance.
You may apply for a free use post and stay permit for the maintenance of fences and corrals on your allotment.

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 and solicit your input 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 you 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 Allotment Management Plan for this allotment needs some updates. At the present time, direction for management on this allotment will be documented in these Annual Operating Instructions. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is planned for the allotment in upcoming years.

VI. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

You indicated that you are not 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 necessary changes to this AOI to accommodate fire management.

VII. 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. Forage is good at this time but forage is limited. If dry conditions occur through the summer growing season, a reduction in herd size may be recommended. If the herd size is reduced, restocking of the allotment to full numbers will not take place until forage plants regain vigor.

Thank you for your attention to keeping cattle off the river. Please continue this effort to ensure that no cattle are within the river.

VIII. 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	Allowable Use	Key Area
Cherry	05/01	Conservative (31 - 40%)	Pace 6
Cherry Canyon	05/01	Conservative (31 - 40%)	Coyote Ridge
Lightening Mesa	05/01	Conservative (31 - 40%)	C4
Goat	05/01	Conservative (31 - 40%)	P1
Loyd	05/01	Conservative (31 - 40%)	C3
Powerline	05/01	Conservative (31 - 40%)	C2

Monitoring within riparian will be conducted periodically in the areas below. Cattle are excluded from these areas through a combination of natural barriers and fencing.

Pasture	Reach description	Management	Allowable Use
Lightning Mesa	San Francisco River within and/or bordering the allotment boundary.	Excluded (geographically)	0%
Lloyd	San Francisco River within and/or bordering the allotment boundary.	Excluded (geographically)	0%
Powerline	San Francisco River within and/or bordering the allotment boundary.	Excluded (geographically)	0%

IX. 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.

X. 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.