

2019 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Glenwood Ranger District
Gila National Forest

Blue Creek Allotment #403

Prepared By: /s/ Andrew Bryant **Date:** 02/5/2019
District Range Specialist

Approved By: /s/ Erick Stemmerman **Date:** 02/5/2019
District Ranger

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

Andrew Bryant (Forest Service) met with Sharon Kartchner (permittee) over the phone on February 5, 2019 to discuss management of the Blue Creek 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
Y6 Ranch, Inc	145 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28

Authorized Use:

Permittee	Number & Class of livestock	Dates
Y6 Ranch, Inc	145 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28

Pasture Rotations:

Class of Livestock	Rotation Date	Pasture
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 05/31	North/South
Cow/Calf	06/01 – 10/31	North
Cow/Calf	11/01 – 02/28	North/South
Cow/calf	03/01 – 02/28	Bircher (10 head)*

*Bircher is not fenced off from private pasture. Bircher gets incidental (light) use due to terrain and distance from water.

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 reported that forage and water are abundant. 2013 - 2017 summer rains grew good grass on the allotment and good water was caught, tanks are mostly filled completely. This winter (2017-18) however has been very dry, so far.

The permittee is responsible for monitoring water availability and forage utilization and moving livestock when sufficient water is no longer available or when proper forage utilization is achieved in a pasture. The permittee is responsible for keeping track of and maintaining

control of livestock. In the event livestock are found to be out of the scheduled pasture, it is required to find, gather, and return those 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.

Would like to reconstruct portion of fence 088 (forest boundary) around Kneeling Buck tank (est. ¼ mile of fence).

The fence between Blue Creek Allotment and Apache Creek Allotment (#071) needs attention. The permittee on Apache Creek has the responsibility to fix this fence. Kendall will visit with them about repairing/reconstructing this fence.

IV. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Lower Apache Creek is an area that sometimes get heavy use from recreational campers/hunters as well as cattle. Placement of salt and supplement and possibly herding may be necessary to prevent overuse of these areas.

The Apache Creek area receives heavy recreational use during the fall deer hunts. We will try to get some documentation (photos, etc) this fall to document this use.

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 availability becomes a problem, we may need to adjust the rotation schedule. Contact Kendall Brown if there is a need to adjust the schedule.

VI. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

You indicated that you have interest in creating two fuelwood areas on the allotment. In South pasture near Woodyard Rim a public fuelwood area accessed by the county road, and in North pasture near Quien Sabe, Forest, and Post Park tanks would serve well for a commercial fuelwood area. You stated that you would be willing to allow access through private land for harvest of this commercial fuelwood area. The Glenwood District will pursue these as fuelwood areas for the year 2019 and beyond.

V. 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.