

**Glenwood Ranger District**

**Gila National Forest**

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS**

2020

Copper Creek Allotment #412

**Prepared By:** /s/ DK Brown **Date:** 01/15/2020  
District Range Specialist

**Approved By:** /s/ Erick Stemmerman **Date:** 01/15/2020  
Acting District Ranger

## Annual Operating Instructions

### I. INTRODUCTION

Kendall Brown (Forest Service) met with Yolanda O'Connell (permittee) on January 15, 2020 to discuss current grazing year management of the Copper Creek Allotment 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 and class of livestock	Dates
80 Cattle-Cow/calf	03/01 – 02/28
5 horses (saddle)	03/01 – 02/28

#### Allotment Annual Authorization

Number and class of livestock	Dates Authorized
80 Cattle-Cow/calf	03/01 – 02/28
3 horses (saddle)	03/01 – 02/28

#### Allotment Pasture Rotation

Class of	Rotation	Pasture
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 03/31	Silver
Cow/Calf	04/01 – 05/30	Stout Mesa
Cow/Calf	06/01 – 10/15	Indian Creek
Cow/Calf	10/15 – 02/28	Bearwallow

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds utilization on the uplands or heavy hedging of woody riparian plant sprouts/seedlings becomes apparent, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than allowable use (i.e., Upper and Lower Bearwallow within the Bearwallow pasture). In the event livestock continue to return to areas that have previously met or exceeded allowable use levels, livestock will be required to be moved to the next scheduled pasture. This requirement is necessary to prevent overuse on forage plants.

### 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 for livestock distribution 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 should be maintained in a 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.

District personnel completed the reconstruction of the Lower Bearwallow enclosure fence in 2007 and is scheduled for maintenance this year (by FS personnel). Livestock use of this enclosure is not authorized.

Any gaps/trails in the bluffs that constitute your southern exterior boundary near Mineral Creek must be "plugged" so that cattle cannot stray to the south of Mineral Creek.

You have made good progress in maintaining your assigned boundary fences. Please continue to keep these fences in good repair.

### **IV. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS**

No livestock are authorized within the Bearwallow enclosure. The following areas are of special management concern:

- Bearwallow Park
- Waterman Spring
- Copper Creek
- Mineral Creek Riparian area
- Indian Creek

No salting is permitted within ¼ mile of these locations. You are expected to monitor use and move cattle when use is approaching allowable levels. These areas are considered critical grazing areas.

Keep track of conditions on your allotment and make plans to reduce or remove livestock if vegetative or watershed conditions could be substantially harmed due to continued grazing.

### **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.