

# 2020 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

**Glenwood Ranger District**

Gila National Forest

*Potholes Allotment #417*

**Prepared By:** /s/ DK Brown **Date:** 01/29/2020  
District Range Specialist

**Approved By:** /s/ Erick Stemmerman **Date:** 01/29/2020  
District Ranger

## Annual Operating Instructions

### I. INTRODUCTION

Kendall Brown (Forest Service) met with Raymond Freeman (permittees) on January 29, 2020 to discuss management of the Potholes 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
195 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 04/15
80 Cow/Calf	06/16 – 11/15
195 Cow/Calf	11/16 – 02/28

#### Authorized Use:

Number & Class of livestock	Dates
40 Cow/Calf	03/01 – 04/15
40 Cow/Calf	06/16 – 02/28

At this time the interior and exterior fences are in disrepair and the pipeline is non-functional. We developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2013, please refer to it for schedule of maintenance.

Due to the non-functional condition of the range improvements you continue to conservatively stock the allotment. Lack of water in the dirt stock tanks may be a limiting factor. Therefore, resource protection non-use (see 2013 MOU for non-use) is approved until adequate water becomes available.

#### Pasture Rotations:

Class of	Rotation Date	Pasture
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 04/15	East & West
Cow/Calf	06/16 – 02/28	East & West
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 02/28	All other traps & holding pastures. *

- \* Livestock can remain in traps and holding pastures until allowable use is reached. Cattle will be distributed throughout both pastures (East & West) of the allotment.

**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. If stock water in dirt tanks becomes inadequate, you will repair and charge up the pipeline to supply water on the allotment.

## **III. IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE**

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year Term Grazing Permit are to be maintained in a functioning condition. We developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2013, please refer to it for schedule of maintenance/reconstruction.

## **IV. 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 as well as tank water looks good at this time. If dry conditions occur as we enter spring and continue into 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.

## **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.