

Coyote Allotment Annual Operating Instructions

Escalante Ranger District, Dixie National Forest
2009 grazing season

The following are the Annual Operating Instructions for the 2009 grazing season on the Coyote allotment which was developed during our annual validation meeting. This AOI is made part of your term grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

1. PERMITTED AND AUTHORIZED USE

| <u>Permittee</u> | <u>Permitted Livestock</u> | <u>Permitted Season</u> | <u>Authorized Livestock</u> | <u>Authorized Season</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Glen, Karl and Scott Allen | 201 c/c | 6/16 to 10/15 | 201 c/c | 6/16 to 10/15 |
| Buckskin Ranch | 84 c/c | | 84 c/c | 6/16 to 10/15 |
| Ricky Gleave | 85 c/c | 6/16 to 10/15 | 85 c/c | 6/16 to 10/15 |
| Hal & Athalia Jensen | 92 c/c | 6/16 to 10/15 | 92 c/c | 6/16 to 10/15 |
| Kenneth G. King | 210 c/c | | 210 c/c | |
| Security Ranches c/o Gary Hallows | 556 c/c | 6/16 to 10/15 | 450 c/c* | 6/16 to 10/15 |

*Security Ranches is authorized to take voluntary partial non-use for resource protection as reported moisture is below average (80% at time of application at the Clayton Sno-Tel site).

2. PASTURE USE SCHEDULE

It is the permittee(s) responsibility to see that this grazing schedule is followed.

| <i>PASTURE</i> | <i>DATES AVAILABLE FOR USE</i> | | <i>COMMENTS</i> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|--|
| Pollywog Lake | 6/16/09 | 7/30/09 | Security Ranch *see special management instructions |
| Antimony Ck./Pacer Lake | 6/16/09 | 7/20/09 | Buckskin, Gleave, Jensen, King, Allen |
| Coyote Hollow | 7/21/09 | 7/30/09 | Buckskin, Gleave, Jensen, King, Allen |
| Coyote Hollow | 7/31/09 | 8/30/09 | All permittees together |
| Big Swale/Clayton | 8/31/09 | 9/30/09 | All permittees together *see special management instructions |
| Pollywog Lake | 10/1/08 | 10/15/08 | Security Ranch *see special management instructions |
| Antimony Ck./Pacer Lake | 10/1/08 | 10/15/08 | Buckskin, Gleave, Jensen, King, Allen |

The above schedule is an estimate and may be modified at any time if the utilization levels are met, if water availability is inadequate, or for other resource management reasons such as

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drought, delayed forage development or wet soil conditions. If allowable use levels are met early in the scheduled pasture, cattle will be required to be moved to another area of the pasture, moved to another pasture, or removed from the Forest.

3. ALLOWABLE FORAGE USE

The following applicable utilization standards will be applied on the Coyote allotment:

| Dixie NF - Maximum Allowable Forage Use Criteria | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|------------|-------|--------------------|--|
| UTILIZATION BY SERAL STAGE | | | | | |
| Vegetation Type | Very Early | Early | Mid | Late | Comments * SH = Stubble Height |
| Riparian Hydric Species | 6" SH | 6" SH | 4" SH | 4" SH | Remaining at end of growing season |
| Riparian Emphasis Management Areas | 6" SH | 6" SH | | | Remaining at end of growing season |
| Hydric Species in wet meadows not influenced by streams | 6" SH | 6" SH | 4" SH | 4" SH | Remaining at end of growing season |
| Non-hydric Species in Riparian Areas | 2" SH | 2" SH | 2" SH | 2" SH | Remaining at end of growing season |
| Upland Species | 50% | 50% | 50% | 50% | Varying in specific unit from 40-60% |
| Wheatgrass Seedings | 60% | 60% | 60% | 60% | Management option to exceed 60% use to maintain healthy seedings |
| Riparian Browse | <50% | | | | New Leader Production |
| Streambanks | <20% disturbance | | | | Sloughing, trampling, dislodged stones, animal tracks |
| Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs) | Pond Pine/ Mixed Species | Grass/Forb | | Avg 20% NTE 40% | Applies in up to 2-acre openings in 600-acre areas |
| Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs) | Pond Pine/ Mixed Species | Shrub | | Avg 40% NTE 50% | Applies in up to 2-acre openings in 600-acre areas |
| Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs) | Spruce-Fir | Grass/Forb | | Avg 20% NTE 40% | Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 600-acre areas |
| Goshawk Post-Fledgling Family Areas (PFAs) | Spruce-Fir | Shrub | | Avg 40% NTE 50% | Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 600-acre areas |
| | | | | | |
| Goshawk Foraging Areas | Pond Pine/ Mixed Species | Grass/Forb | | Avg 20% NTE 40% | Applies in up to 4-acre openings in 6000-acre areas |
| Goshawk Foraging Areas | Pond Pine/ Mixed Species | Shrub | | Avg 40% NTE 50% | Applies in up to 4-acre openings in 6000-acre areas |
| Goshawk Foraging Areas | Spruce-Fir | Grass/Forb | | Avg 20% NTE 40% | Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 6000-acre areas |
| Goshawk Foraging Areas | Spruce-Fir | Shrub | | Avg 40% NTE 50% | Applies in up to 1-acre openings in 6000-acre areas |

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3.1 MONITORING

Key areas for monitoring have been identified as follows:

- Center Creek, Mud Lake, coyote Hollow, Sink Holes, Dry Lake, Smoot Cabin, Dry Hollow, Pollywog Lake, Death Hollow, Big Swale.

- *See attached prioritized monitoring plan.

The idea of a key area is to find a site that is representative of a larger area in which cattle obtain the majority of their required forage resources. Key area monitoring will avoid areas directly adjacent to permanent water sources, cattle trails, roads, and fence lines.

District personnel will contact the permittees to coordinate site visits to monitor key areas. Permittee participation is encouraged. Forage utilization estimates will be consistent with the Forest Service Range Analysis Handbook methodology, as well as other techniques generally accepted in the field of range management.

4. STRUCTURAL RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Range improvements must be maintained to standard, as outlined in Part 2 section 8(i) of your Term Permit, before cattle are allowed into a pasture. It is the permittee's responsibility to ensure that range improvements remains functional. This includes boundary fences in pastures not currently being grazed. Routine maintenance of existing improvements does not require written clearance; however, construction/reconstruction of new improvements must be authorized in writing from this office.

4.1 New Construction or Reconstruction:

- Rebuild the water lot in the Sink Holes enclosure. Will be done jointly between FS and permittees.

- Reconstruct the east and north boundary of the middle Antimony fisheries enclosure and put in a water lot. Boundary reconstruction will be taken care of by the FS, but the water lot may require the help of the permittees in conjunction with the FS.

5. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

- Cattle will need to be pushed off of the riparian vegetation on Antimony Creek when utilization levels are met. Permittees did a good job of this during GY08 when the cattle were in the Big Swale Clayton pasture; however the creek portions of the Pollywog pasture were hit too hard. This can be avoided this year by pushing cattle off the creek areas and keeping them out of the pasture when not scheduled to be there.

- When pushing cattle back through the Pollywog pasture in the fall cattle must not be allowed back on Antimony Creek.

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6. OTHER MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Your annual grazing bill must be paid and notification received in our office prior to turning livestock onto the Forest. It may take 10 days or more from the time you mail your payment until we receive payment notification so plan accordingly.

Herding and salting are essential to proper livestock distribution. Cattle must be moved away from water and stream bottoms on a frequent basis. Failure to do so may significantly shorten your grazing season. Salt must be located at least ¼ mile from water, and preferably on ridges and/or areas of low use. Do not place salt blocks in the same location as the previous year, and locate blocks on hard ground not susceptible to erosion. Supplemental feeding, other than mineral or supplement block is not authorized on the National Forest.

The cattle should be properly distributed throughout each pasture as scheduled. Each pasture should be inspected regularly to ensure proper livestock distribution. Cattle should be herded away from heavily used areas. When herding, check adjoining pastures and allotments for strays, and if found, return them to their scheduled pasture or permitted allotment(s).

When moving between pastures please plan to have all cattle moved within 5 days. When it is time to remove livestock at the end of the grazing season, be sure to start early enough that your livestock are removed from the National Forest by the last day on your Bill for Collection. No cattle are allowed on the allotment before the authorized on-date and all cattle must be removed by the authorized off-date.

Permitted livestock on an allotment outside the permitted season, in the wrong location, or on the forest prior to the payment of fees, even within the permitted season, are considered to be excess use. This will be charged at the unauthorized use rate. This could also result in suspension or cancellation of your term grazing permit in whole or in part.

Accurate records of your operation will aid in planning and determining the effectiveness of the grazing system. Please maintain reasonably accurate records of cattle numbers throughout the grazing season.

The permittee must obtain permission from this office, before conducting earth-disturbing activities on the National Forest. The Forest Service will arrange inspections of project areas and will prepare appropriate environmental and cultural documents before earth-disturbing activities proceed. These activities include road/earthen tank maintenance, as well as construction/reconstruction of trails, roads, earthen tanks, etc.

As of January 1, 1994 all hay, grain, and straw brought or used on National Forest lands is required to be certified free of noxious weeds.

We appreciate your cooperation in the management of the Coyote allotment. If you have any questions regarding these instructions, please contact Ron Mortensen, Rangeland Management Specialist (435)826-5433. Thank you.

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I have read and understand these Operating Instructions.

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| _____ <i>Permittee signature</i> | _____ <i>Date</i> |
| _____ <i>District Ranger signature</i> | _____ <i>Date</i> |