

2001/2002 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS  
K-4 ALLOTMENT

These instructions are to:

- identify specific management tools/resource objectives for this grazing season
- review general permit administration and livestock management requirements, and
- document any needs or agreements beyond the standard directions.

I. MANAGEMENT TOOLS / RESOURCE OBJECTIVES for this GRAZING SEASON  
(SPECIFIC)

*maintain riparian vegetation*  
*maintain perennial forage species & ground cover*

II. AUTHORIZATION In 2001/2002 you are authorized to graze:

<u>Number of Cattle</u>	<u>Pasture</u>	<u>Grazing Period (may be modified to meet utilization)</u>
150	Round Valley	10/24 - 4/12
300	Indian	10/3 - 4/7

III. ADMINISTRATION These procedures will be followed:

1. Please pay the grazing fee before March 1, 2001.
2. Sub-leasing is prohibited. You must own the livestock placed on the allotment. They must be branded with a brand registered in your name. A current copy of your brand certificate is on file at the District Office.
3. Request non-use, if need be, in writing at least 30 days prior to the grazing period. Let the Forest Officer know within two weeks of any livestock removed early, for credit.
4. Record actual use as it occurs. You will be asked to provide the Forest Officer actual use records at next year's AOI meeting.
5. Changes from these Annual Operating Instructions is to be coordinated and confirmed in advance with the Forest Officer, best if 7 days in advance. If emergency conditions require making a change immediately, notify the Forest Officer as soon as you can.
6. Move your livestock regardless of the date shown in Section II to avoid exceeding utilization levels. To fail to do so is serious. **If we cannot document that AOI utilization levels are not being exceeded or show that corrective action is being taken we cannot continue to authorize grazing on that piece of land! It's that simple!**  
Changes in management practices may be requested to address utilization concerns. See Allowable Use, Section V. You will have an opportunity to field check utilization with the Forest Officer as indicated in Monitoring, Section VI. At least 14 days prior notice of an early move date will be given.

7. Start as early as needed to accomplish pasture moves on time. At least 90% of the permitted livestock must be moved when utilization is reached (as estimated by the date in Section II) or when specified by the Forest Officer. Actively gather remaining strays after the specified date, aiming to complete the job within 2 weeks.

8. Forest personnel may spot check improvement maintenance. Livestock will not be allowed to enter a pasture if fences would not keep livestock where they are placed.

9. You are responsible for your representatives and/or employees following all Forest Officer instructions.

**IV. KEY AREAS** Key areas need to be verified with your help. A draft key area map is attached. A key area is used to monitor forage, browse and soil conditions. There is a minimum of one per pasture/grazing area. A key area is normally at least 1/4 mile to 1 mile out from water, located on productive soils on level to intermediate slopes, and is readily accessible for grazing.

**V. ALLOWABLE USE** The rotation, season of use, and livestock numbers are indicated in Section II. Adjustments in the duration of use or numbers, will be made if allowable use is about to be exceeded. Cattle will be moved to the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment when allowable use standards are met. Minimizing forage use in areas livestock prefer is important. Some encouraged practices are closing off waters, moving salt, and herding.

Maximum allowable use follows. *On grasses:* The allowable use in areas other than riparian is from the current Range Analysis and Management Handbook. (Section 53.2). The percentage is of the total weight of the current year's production. Dormant plant utilization can be 1/2 higher than the numbers shown on the list. For example, the 30% level shown for blue grama can be 45% *if the plant is dormant*. The utilization levels in section 53.2 are intended for fair condition range during the growing season. The allowable use in riparian areas is the minimum suggested by Clary and Webster, 1989, after a review of literature that examined the results of riparian grazing management. *On shrubs:* allowable use in riparian areas is interpreted from the Prescott National Forest Plan.

**List of possible key species and maximum allowable use during periods of growth, on areas other than riparian:**

Side Oats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*) 35%  
Blue Grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) 30%  
Black Grama (*Bouteloua eripoda*) 30%  
Hairy Grama (*Bouteloua hirsuta*) 30%  
Curly Mesquite (*Hilaria belangeri*) 30%  
Tobosa (*Hilaria mutica*) 30%  
Junegrass (*Koeleria cristata*) 30%  
Squirrel Tail (*Sitanion hystrix*) 30%  
Sand Dropseed (*Sporobolus crytandrus*) 25%  
New Mexico Needle grass (*Heterostipa neomexicana*) 20%  
Three Awn (*Aristida* species) 40%  
Western Wheat Grass (*Agropyron smithii*) 40%

Mountain Mahogany 40% of available leaders browsed  
Ceanothus 40% of available leaders browsed  
Apache plume 40% of available leaders browsed

**Key species and maximum allowable use in riparian areas include:**

Blue grass (*Poa pratensis*) 40% use  
Deer grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) 35% use  
Sedges (*Carex* species all) 35% use  
Wire grass (*Juncus* species all) 35% use  
All riparian woody species: 20% utilization; meaning no more than 50% of the available leaders browsed.

**VI. MONITORING PLANNED**

Permittee monitoring can help predict timely moves. We would appreciate being invited along during formal monitoring, or a day to ride together and generally check each pasture.

The Forest Service is planning to check only the Round Valley pasture if it is grazed. You will be invited to join in the check. Utilization and general inspection notes will be taken, with the focus on the riparian areas.

**VII. SALT AND MINERAL BLOCK** *Requirements:* Salt and protein block will be placed farther than a quarter mile of water. Place blocks on hard ground not susceptible to erosion. Remove blocks when allowable use has been met. Let's review the salt locations in this meeting. Provide a salt map to the Forest Officer after salt or supplement blocks are distributed, if it is different than the one on file. *Suggestions:* Ideally, salt and mineral more than one-half mile from water helps widen livestock use. Moving salt to lightly used areas also helps. *Exception:* If the mineral supplement (granules in a feed trough) must be placed near water according to the label; this is acceptable.

**VIII. FIRE PREVENTION** The permittee and their agents, employees, contractors, and sub-contractors will take all reasonable precautions to prevent fires, make efforts to suppress fires without endangering lives, and report fires on or endangering the National Forest as soon as practical.

Work involving the use of heavy equipment will be done only with prior approval. Under red flag conditions the equipment will be inspected to insure that the spark arrestor and muffler system meets Forest Service standards.

**IX. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS** Maintenance and construction of range improvements that disturbs the ground must not take place until proper archeological and biological clearances have been obtained from the Bradshaw District. Maintaining fences and water developments by hand is excepted from this requirement.

Maintenance follows the standards in Part 3 of your grazing permit.

Range improvements planned for maintenance prior to June 2002:

**X. SHORT-AGE CALVES** The following defines animals counted for billing: all weaned animals as of January 1. (reference FSM22.38.11a)

**X. OUTFITTER-GUIDE** Any guiding on National Forest, for which you or your representatives receive compensation, must be covered under an Outfitter-Guide Permit. A permit can be issued at the Bradshaw Ranger District.

**XI. VANDALISM** If your allotment improvements should suffer any damage, or anything be stolen contact the Forest Officer immediately. We will contact the Sheriff's Department and conduct a joint investigation. This also pertains to cultural resources. If you notice unusual activity or a damaged Indian ruin, please call immediately. We are ordered by Congress and laws of the land to diligently protect cultural resources. You can assist us in meeting that responsibility by getting a good description of the individuals and/or vehicles plus license numbers. We encourage you not to contact suspected violators.

**XII. PERMITTEE COMMENTS and SUGGESTIONS**

**XII. PERMITTEE COMMENTS and SUGGESTIONS (cont.)**

**XIV. PERMIT CONDITIONS** These Annual Operating Instructions are a part of the Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, Section 8(a). They comply with the standards and guidelines found in the Forest Plan.

Failure to follow any of the terms and conditions specified in Parts 1, 2, and 3 of your Term Grazing Permit may result in suspension or cancellation, in whole or in part, after written notice. (Refer to Part 1, Section 3, of your permit.)

Approval of these Annual Operating Instructions is a decision is subject to appeal in accordance with 36 CFR 251. Appeals must be fully consistent with 36CFR 251.90 "Contents of Notice of Appeal, ". Appeals must be filed with Mike King, Forest Supervisor, 344 S. Cortez Street, Prescott, Arizona 86303 with a copy simultaneously sent to Ernie del Rio, District Ranger, 344 South Cortez, Chino Valley, Arizona, 86303 within 45 days of the date of decision.

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
District Ranger Date

AGREED TO BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Redacted for Privacy Reasons Permittee Date  
8/1/01