ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2014

Black Range Ranger District
Gila National Forest

Corduroy Allotment #226

Prepared By: /s/ Date: 4/15/14
Range Staff

Reviewed By: /s/ Date: 4/15/14
Permittee

Approved By: /s/ Date: 4/15/14
District Ranger

BLACK RANGE RANGER DISTRICT

2014 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Corduroy Allotment

I. INTRODUCTION

These Annual Operating Instructions document your discussion with Sean Brown on April 15, 2014 at the Black Range Ranger District Office.

Permitted Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Season
Jack and Carolyn Diamond	1,134 yearling cattle 10 Horses	04/15 - 10/15 3/1-2/28

Authorized Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Season
Jack and Carolyn Diamond	500 yearling cattle 10 Horses	04/15 - 10/15 3/1-2/28

Pasture Rotations:

Pasture	Number	On Date	Off Date
Taylor (rested 2013)	25	04/15	06/30
Inman-Cox	225	04/15	06/30
Inman-Cox	225	07/01	08/15
Burnt Cabin	225	08/16	10/15
Black Mountain&Bull	25	04/15	10/15
Corduroy and South Pastures	225	08/16	10/15
Indian and Spring	225	04/15	08/15

This pasture rotation schedule will depend on range readiness, available water, weather conditions and permittee needs. Changes to the grazing rotation must be approved by the Forest Officer in advance. An "**amended**" AOI must be developed to reflect the approved changes.

The off-date for a pasture is the date when the livestock are to be fully out of the unit, or in the case of the last pasture, fully off of National Forest System lands. We recognize that moves cannot usually be accomplished in one day. It is your responsibility to begin early movement of livestock to ensure that pastures are clean by the dates specified.

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.

III. IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year Term Grazing Permit are to be maintained in 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. You may apply for a "**Free Use**" post and stay permit for the maintenance of fences and corrals on the allotment. Maintenance to standard is required even if you have taken **"nonuse".**

Range Improvements: Range improvements planned for the Corduroy Allotment during the 2014 grazing season.

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year Term Grazing Permit are to be maintained in 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. You may apply for a "**Free Use**" post and stay permit for the maintenance of fences and corrals on the allotment. Maintenance to standard is required even if you have taken **"nonuse".**

Planned Improvements:

- Juniper Removal on Black Mtn Mesa
- Reconstruct fence between Styver and Lookout Mountain (1/4 mile left north from cattleguard on 226A)
- Continued maintenance of water developments, windmills, and corrals as needed to successfully facilitate the grazing operation.
- ¾ mile fence to complete from Kline Mountain to Highway 59

IV. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fire: Branding and warming fires should be used with good judgment - not on windy days or during times when fires are specifically restricted. The Black Range District may allow naturally ignited fires to burns on the district this coming year. We will notify you if we plan to let a fire burn on your allotment.

2. Records: In order to close out permit modifications you must provide documentation of materials and labor constituting you contribution to the permit modification.

You must provide documentation of cattle numbers; dates of entering and leaving pastures, shipping dates and cattle losses (grown stock and calves). This information is used to substantiate the carrying capacity of the allotment. The information demonstrates use and the need for forage to meet the economic needs of the county. This information may also be used to establish cause and effect if there is a significant change in calf crop (Example, a wolf pack becomes established near your allotment).

3. Heavy Equipment Use: Please notify district well in advance of any plans to use heavy equipment so that necessary clearances and/or permits can be obtained. You will be notified by the district when you can proceed.

4. Credit/Refund: Any credit or refund applications for grazing fees must be made as far in advance as possible. Credit/Refund applications are not retroactive and will be approved only if the District Ranger is

notified of livestock removal, prior to, or at the time, the livestock are taken off the allotment. **You will be required to provide your Social Security or Tax ID number in order for a refund to be processed.**

A $25 administrative fee will be charged for any additional bills for collection that are sent to you due to either late payment or for split billing on seasonal allotments. This fee will be collected to pay for the cost associated with issuing an additional bill for collection. There is no administrative fee for the normal "split billing" on yearlong allotments.

It is necessary for you to write the bill number on your check prior to submitting it to the lockbox. This is necessary to insure that your payment is credited to your account.

5. Short Age Calf Policy: Any short-aged calves (calves less than 6 months old on December 31) must be removed from the National Forest by April 1, or you will need to apply for and pay grazing fees for these animals from April 1 to the time they are removed from the National Forest. Calves that are 6 months old or older on December 31 need to be paid for starting January 1.

6. Salting and Supplemental Feed: Salt should be placed in such a way as to distribute livestock use throughout the area. Place salt well away (>¼ mile) from any water sources, or key areas that traditionally receive heavy use such as roads, parks, and riparian areas. Place salt in areas of light use to draw cattle to those areas such as oak thickets or under the aspen, spruce or pine. Salt locations must be moved every year and do not place more than one block in a location. The best distribution can be obtained by scattering one-half block chunks in areas of light use. Salt or supplement will not be placed near areas where such placement is liable to result in conflicts with other Forest users. Pick-up your salt after livestock are rotated to the next pasture.

Any hay, straw, or supplemental feed used in association with your grazing permit must be certified and tagged as free of noxious weeds and/or noxious weed seeds.

V. ALLOTMENT STATUS

These Instructions implement the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) decision for the Corduroy Allotment dated April 22, 1999 and the Corduroy Allotment Management Plan.

VI. OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

The District Ranger will authorize necessary changes to this AOI to accommodate fire management.

VII. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Keep track of conditions on your allotment. Make plans to reduce or remove livestock if vegetative/watershed conditions could be substantially harmed due to continued grazing. If forage growth is stunted due to last year's drought, adjustments may be necessary to the rotation plan.

Wildlife and Fish:

There is documentation that identifies protected and restricted Mexican Spotted Owl habitat on the Corduroy Allotment. Salt, mineral blocks, supplemental feeding, and the use of corrals, traps, and other handling facilities located within PAC's are prohibited during the nesting season (Corduroy BAE 7/17/1998).

Stock tanks must be surveyed for possible aquatic habitat before earth-disturbing maintenance is authorized.

An analysis was completed for all Gila allotments due to the listing of the Chiricauhua leopard frog as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We have determined that livestock grazing on the Corduroy Allotment will either have a may affect but not adversely affect the Chiricahua leopard frog. As a result of this determination, there may be some changes required of the grazing rotation.

The Forest Service will be directly engaged in communication and assistance in the Blue Range Wolf Reintroduction effort. Any management actions that may require movement of cattle, changes in rotation, season of use or removal from a pasture or allotment must be approved by the District Ranger. We encourage you to cooperate with the Interagency Field Team, New Mexico Game and Fish and U.S. Fish and Wildlife in management of the wolves. Please stay in communication with range personnel or the District Ranger if concerns or question arise.

Heritage and Cultural

You 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. Do not conduct any earth-disturbing activities on the Forest without written clearance from this office.

VIII. UTILIZATION MONITORING OF KEY AREAS

Allowable Use: (Standards by Pasture and Key Area)

Pasture	Key Area	Key Species	Allowable Use	
			Upland	Riparian
All	Grassland Openings	Bluegrass & native bunchgrass	30-40%	
All	Riparian Areas	Woody riparian species		Not to exceed 25%
All	During "growing season"	All riparian grass & sedge		35%
All	During "dormant season"	All riparian grass & sedge		40%

If allowable use is reached on any key area prior to the scheduled off date, you will need to immediately move your livestock to the next unit or off National Forest if that unit is the last in the rotation. This will usually necessitate beginning the move one or more days prior to reaching allowable use or the scheduled off date.

Monitoring: The range personnel will conduct allotment inspections each year to ensure compliance with the terms and condition addressed in the Term Grazing Permit, including the Allotment Management Plan and Annual Operating Instructions. The permittee may also schedule inspections at any time.

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Key Areas
Black Mountain		South Ridge of Bell Canyon
Indian		Indian Cienega, and the confluence of V+T & Doagy Canyons.
Burnt Cabin		Burnt Cabin Flat
Inman		Vicinity of the junction of FDRs 226 & 226A.
Cox		Halfway between Inman Cienega and Alexander Tank.
Taylor		Taylor Canyon (riparian) • Uplands between Alexander Canyon and Shallow 7 Keith Tanks

Key areas for monitoring are identified as riparian areas and transect cluster locations. Additional key areas may be identified during the season based on routine monitoring.

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.

Upland areas will be monitored for use on perennial grass species.

District personnel will contact the permittee 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, and may also include FS Regional stubble-height standards, as well as other techniques generally accepted in the field of range management.

IX. NEPA AND APPEAL RIGHTS

These Instructions implement the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) decision for the Corduroy Allotment dated April 22, 1999, and are not eligible for appeal under 36 CFR 218.