

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2014 Grazing Season
(5/15/2014-10/15/2015)

Reserve Ranger District
Gila National Forest

T Bar Allotment



Agreed To By: */s/ Nelson D. Shirley*
Nelson D. Shirley, *Permittee*

Date: *3/21/2014*

Approved By: */s/ John D. Pierson*
John D. Pierson, *District Ranger*

Date: *3/21/2014*



2014 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI)

Allotment: T Bar

Permittee: Nelson D. Shirley

Permit Number: 61381 (Special Limit)

Total Permitted Livestock:

Permittee	Permitted	From	To	Allotment
Nelson D. Shirley	Up to 3,000 yearlings (10,500 AUMs)	5/15	10/15	T Bar
Nelson D. Shirley	10 Horses (90 AUMs)	5/15	10/15	T Bar

Authorization: Authorized to graze the following in 2014:

Permittee	Permitted	From	To	Allotment
Nelson D. Shirley	Up to 2,000 yearlings (7,000 AUMs)	4/13	9/13	T Bar
Nelson D. Shirley	10 Horses (90 AUMs)	4/13	9/13	T Bar

Management: T Bar 2014 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	Time Frame
Bearwallow Pasture	04/13-06/10 up to 2,000 head. This will take 4 weeks with 500 head each week coming onto the Allotment in the Bearwallow Pasture.
Negrito Pasture	06/11-07/10 up to 2,000 head
Loco Pasture	07/11-08/11 up to 2,000 head
Canyon Creek Pastrure	08/12-09/01 up to 1,000 head
Pitchfork Pasture	08/12-09/01 up to 1,000 head
7HL Pasture	09/02-10/10 up to 2,000 head. This will take 4 weeks with 500 head each week being removed from the allotment.
West Trap/South Negrito Holding, Snow Lake Trap	Livestock will be placed in pasture or traps during the time of shipping on and off the allotment.

Temporary cow camps will be located at Fence Tank #3083 in 7HL Pasture and Snow Lake Trap for the 2014 grazing season during correlated pasture use. Camps will be removed promptly and are subject to fire restrictions that may be implemented on the Gila National Forest. Permittee is authorized to feed saddle horses noxious weed free hay, hay pellets or grain in the waterlot and pens only with approximately six horses at one time per cow camp.

No Livestock are allowed in the Snow Lake or Willow Creek Recreation areas. No livestock are allowed in the T Bar Canyon enclosure with the exception of the water points from the Loco Pasture. If livestock are found in the excluded areas you will need to remove them promptly.

Please monitor use levels in Negrito, Loco, Canyon Creek, and T Bar Canyon along with 7HL pastures and associated traps. If utilization levels meet allowable use levels, you will need to either move livestock to available forage within the pasture or to the next scheduled pasture. If allowable use levels are met prior to the scheduled off date and no other pastures or forage is available, livestock will be removed from the allotment.

Please notify us of cattle movements onto and off the allotment, as well any adjustments that may be needed to the 2014 T Bar Allotment rotation schedule. If you identify the need to differ from this schedule by more than 15 days, please contact this office at least two weeks in advance so that the district has time to conduct monitoring and assess your request.

1. Utilization Standards and Monitoring:

In accordance with the T Bar Allotment Decision Notice signed on 8/27/2009, utilization levels were implemented to maintain or improve range conditions on the allotment by limiting the grazing use of forage plants to a conservative use level, approximately **31 to 40 percent** utilization including wildlife use, throughout all areas. Within riparian areas the amount of woody sprouts, seedlings and saplings that are heavily hedged would be limited to not more than **25 percent**. Areas affected by 2006 Bear Fire will have herbaceous forage utilization set at a light use level, approximately **0 to 30 percent** utilization until full recovery is achieved. When accomplished, a conservative use level of 31 to 40 percent will applied. Key areas and restricted areas (PAC's) will be visited to determine actual grazing use and seasonal use by livestock and wildlife. If cattle cannot be effectively managed away from areas within the pasture that have met allowable use or if utilization objectives are met throughout the pasture prior to scheduled rotation, contact District Personnel. Cattle will be moved into the best available pasture within the annual rotation. In the event that forage utilization objectives are met in all available pastures, livestock will be removed from the allotment. Management adjustments will be made to the following years Annual Operating Instructions to avoid recurring situations.

The following dates have been tentatively scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. You are highly encouraged and invited to participate in monitoring with District personnel and/or on your own.

Bear Wallow Pasture	05/28
Negrito Pasture	07/02
Loco Pasture	08/05
Canyon Creek & Pitchfork Pastures	08/28
7 HL Pasture	09/10
Misc. Traps	As utilized

2. Provide supplement for livestock as follows:

Supplemental feeding of livestock is allowed (to strategically manage livestock distribution and forage use) as follows:

- a) Place supplements on previously disturbed areas (i.e., borrow pits) or natural bedrock outcrops when possible (supplement sites).
- b) Locate supplement sites 0.25 mile or more from waters and key areas except where prior written permission has been obtained from District Ranger.
- c) Locate supplement sites where forage is abundant and utilized less than average.
- d) Limit supplement types to non energy feeds such as salt, protein and mineral blocks.
- e) Use products that prevent the spread of noxious weeds. No feeding of hay on National Forest System Lands accept to feed horses at cow camp located at Fence Tank #3083 in 7HL Pasture, Snow Lake Trap, Gilita Canyon in Bear Wallow Pasture.

3. Forage Growth and Water Availability:

Per Part 2, Section 8(c) of your Term Grazing Permit; If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of the 2014 grazing season, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary.

4. Grazing Restriction:

The T Bar allotment includes Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Center's (PAC). In these PAC's the following activities are restricted during the breeding season of the Owl (March 1-August 31): livestock concentrations or trailing, fence construction, and livestock salting. Routine maintenance of range improvements is allowed.

5. Range Improvements:

All assigned range developments identified in your Term Grazing Permit must be maintained to a functional status.

Advance planning is needed for any range improvement reconstruction or replacement, including fences and water systems to evaluate the need for any additional surveys. General maintenance/repair is excluded. Advance planning is also needed for authorized stock tank cleaning so surveys can be scheduled accordingly. Please contact the District in advance if you are proposing this type of work.

Please protect natural springs and areas with riparian type vegetation. Drainage bottoms, creeks, springs, and cienegas, where water is available, are most susceptible to livestock concentrations.

The following range improvements are planned for the 2014 grazing season:

1. Clean cattleguard between Canyon Creek/Loco Pastures.
2. Maintenance of Gilita Ridge Tank #6512, Loco Tank #3069, Negrito Pasture Tank #3072, Lissie Tank #3100, Lower Canyon Creek Tanks #3064, Juniper Tank #3067, Loco Tank #3069, Elladene Tanks #3093, and Pipeline Tank #6479.
3. Complete existing water system #3077 including; Approximately five miles of pipeline and multiple troughs in Pitch Fork and Canyon Creek Pastures.
4. Extend and or replace existing water system #3077OA/OB in 7HL and Loco Pastures including; Approximately four miles of pipeline, multiple troughs, two storages, a solar system and necessary pumps.
5. Construct/Reconstruct fences #3062, 3061OB, 0606OA, 6061 prior to using the Bearwallow Pasture.

6. **The Annual Operating Instructions** are a part of the Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 3, Section 9. The AOI complies with the standards and guidelines found in the 8/27/2009 T Bar Allotment Decision Notice, AMP and in the Gila National Forest Plan. It also complies with the Endangered Species Act on-going grazing consultation for the T Bar Allotment. Any additional information collected during the year may be incorporated into the annual operating instructions.