West Apache Creek

Quemado Ranger District
2014 Annual Operating Instructions
(12/18/13)

As per your Annual meeting held with Sara Marta, please see the following instructions and utilize these as direction for management on your grazing allotment during the 2014 Grazing Season. We appreciate your cooperation in the management of your livestock throughout the 2014 grazing year.

2014 Pasture Rotation:

Pasture	From	To	Numbers	Allowable Use
Lee Russell (Hog)	04/01/14	05/15/14	17	30%
Kerr	05/16/14	10/15/14	17	30%
Finishing	Non- Use during the 2014 grazing year.			

Allowable Use:

Proper utilization of forage plants is a necessity to maintain long term productivity of the rangeland and to protect soils from erosion. Proper utilization will maintain sufficient ground cover to prevent erosion and meet the physiological needs of key forage plants for maintenance and reproduction over the long term. Allowable use is determined from considering proper use and all influencing factors such as grazing system, range condition, watershed condition, timing and duration of livestock use and scheduled amount of rest between use periods.

Consultation in 2001 dictated 40% allowable use during the dormant season, (Oct. 16th – Apr. 14th) and 30% allowable use during the growing season, (Apr. 21st – Oct 15th) annually.

In addition, allowable use levels were established for riparian woody species with no more than 25% of the riparian sprouts/seedlings within riparian areas. These riparian areas include Whiskey Creek, Apache Creek, and Kerr Canyon.

Utilization Monitoring:

Utilization monitoring will be conducted on or near key areas of your allotment. District personnel will monitor pasture use and determine utilization percentage at that time. Monitoring dates will be set according to the previous year's monitoring results. If pastures were approaching allowable use during the 2013 grazing season they will be monitored at the mid-point of the pasture use period to determine if it was necessary for livestock to be moved to the next pasture in the rotation. Please note the following approximate dates that are scheduled for monitoring on the West Apache Creek Allotment. You are encouraged to participate in monitoring utilization levels.

2014 Monitoring Dates:

Pastures	Monitoring Dates
Hog	04/30/14
Kerr	07/31/14 & 10/03/14
Finishing	04/30/14 & 07/31/14

If any one key area in a pasture being grazed by livestock exceeds utilization on the uplands or heavily hedging of woody riparian plant sprouts/seedlings, livestock will be moved to another area of the pasture where actual use is less than allowable use. If all remaining key areas in the grazed pasture are at allowable use, livestock will be required to be moved early to the next scheduled pasture. This requirement is necessary to prevent overuse on forage plants.

2013 Monitoring Results:

Pasture	Date	Key Area	Use%
Hog	05/08/13	C5	3
Finishing	07/16/13	PW	50-65
Finishing	07/16/13	PW	10 new growth
Kerr	07/22/13	PW	3

During the 2013 grazing year, we received reports of excessive use within the Finishing Pasture during a time not scheduled for use according the 2013 Annual Operating Instruction. By the time Forest Service personnel were able to monitor the pasture, there were no cattle present. However, there were signs of minimal growth as well as heavy use on old growth forage. Please help to ensure cattle are in designated pastures during the appropriate time and that allowable use is being followed during the 2014 grazing year.

Actual Use:
Actual use data provided to the District was calculated at 187 AM's for the 2013 grazing season.

Forage Growth and Water Availability:
If forage growth and water availability are not adequate during all or portions of 2014, total or partial livestock removal from the allotment may be necessary. Part 2, clause 8(c) of the permit provides this option.

Range Improvements:
All assigned range developments identified in the Term Grazing Permit will be maintained to a functional status.

If you have any questions or comments concerning these Annual Operating Instructions, please do not hesitate to call Monte Topmiller or Sara Marta at (575) 773-4678.

Monte Topmiller for

JANICE S. STEVENSON
District Ranger

1/23/14

Date