



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Red Rock
Ranger District

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File Code: 2230

Date: February 20, 2015

Mr. Herb Ward

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Dear Herb,

This document serves as your 2015 Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Fossil Creek Allotment. This AOI is part of your Term Grazing Permit as provided for in Part 2, section 8(a).

I. AUTHORIZED LIVESTOCK NUMBERS/PERIOD OF USE/APPROVED NON-USE

Your 2015 Authorized Use Request has been approved and you are authorized the following Livestock Numbers and Periods of Use:

200 Cattle (cow/calf)	3/1/15-2/28/16
50 Yearlings	5/1/15-2/28/16
20 Bulls	3/1/15-2/28/16
6 Horses	3/1/15-2/28/15

II. GRAZING SCHEDULE

The Annual stocking level (annual authorized livestock numbers and dates) are considered approximate. The actual dates and numbers may change due to many variables. Annual stocking level is based on current and expected forage production. The planned use period in a pasture and livestock numbers can/should be adjusted if conditions change, either (shortened or lengthened, depending on forage availability but not in excess of the permitted numbers and utilization in key areas).

*Changes from the grazing schedule will be made only with prior Forest Service Approval.



The following is the planned grazing sequence for the 2015 grazing year:

Pasture Name	Planned Grazing Period	Livestock Numbers
Main Cow/Calf Herd		
Sally May	3/1 - 3/22	150 C
Boulder	3/23 - 4/25	150 C
Grass Patch	4/26 - 5/4	150 C
Grass Patch	5/5 - 5/21	200 C
Upper Ed's Point	5/22 - 6/20	200 C
Pine	6/21 - 7/20	200 C
Tin Can	7/21 - 8/29	200 C
House	8/30 - 9/30	200 C
Tanque Aloma	10/1 - 10/13	200 C
Shipping	10/14 - 10/28	200 C
House	10/29 - 11/1	200 C
Mud Tank	11/2 - 11/21	200 C
Hogback	11/22 - 11/27	200 C
Hogback	11/28 - 12/7	150 C
Grass Patch	12/8 - 12/21	150 C
Lower Ed's Point	12/22 - 1/7	150 C
Boulder Trail Thru	1/8 - 1/12	150 C
Stehr Trail Thru	1/13 - 1/15	150 C
Surge	1/16 - 2/7	150 C
Chalk Springs	2/8 - 2/28	150 C
10-Mile Unit		
Sycamore Canyon/ Funnel/ Doe Skin	3/1 - 3/6	50 C
Basin	3/7 - 5/4	50 C
Basin	11/28 - 12/5	50 C
Sycamore Canyon/ Funnel/ Doe Skin	12/6 - 2/28	50 C
Bulls		
Bull	3/1 - 4/1	20 B
With Main Cow Herd	4/2 - 7/5	20 B
13 - Mile Ridge	7/6 - 10/15	50 B
Natural	10/16 - 11/17	50 B
Rafter (Tric Testing)	11/18 - 11/28	50 B
Bull	11/29 - 2/28	50 B

Yearling Heifers		
Private Land	1/1 – 5/31	50
Tanque Aloma	6/1 – 8/1	50
Shipping	8/2 – 9/1	50
Salmon Lake	9/2 – 10/28	50
House (back in with main herd)	10/29	50

Rested (Ungrazed) Pastures for the 2015 Grazing Season

Upper and Lower Wilderness and Stehr.

III. DROUGHT MANAGEMENT

To aide in determining the initial livestock numbers the Standard Precipitation Index (SPI) and the US Drought Monitor Report was discussed. The SPI and the US Drought Monitor showed our area in a Moderate drought. It was agreed that due to the above factors as well as that with the current precipitation conditions and the fact that there was abundant forage left over at the end of the growing season the livestock numbers would remain at (300 cattle/bulls/horses) unless the allotment moves into a negative drought status.

See Allotment Management Plan (AMP)

IV. GRAZING STRATEGY

The management of livestock pasture moves will be based on both a plant forage phenology scheme of management and proper allowable grazing use. Pasture rotations would be planned at the onset of spring, but may be modified later in response to environmental changes, such as drought or a wet season.

Livestock pasture moves will be completed within a five (5) day period, where feasible, and livestock will be actively herded from one pasture to the other. Once a pasture move occurs, cattle are not authorized to graze outside the newly occupied pasture. In the event cattle escape the assigned pasture (i.e. pasture gates left open, cattle guards become filled, cut fences, etc.), the permittee will return the cattle to the correct pasture in a timely manner. Preventing livestock from grazing adjacent allotments, your allotment's rested pastures, or from re-grazing previously used pastures is the permittee's responsibility.

Gates are to be left open at water-lots when cattle leave a pasture if not used by the neighboring pasture.

V. RESOURCE MONITORING

Allowable Grazing Intensity/Utilization Guidelines

Grazing Intensity

Grazing intensity is defined as the amount of herbage removed through grazing or trampling during the grazing period. Grazing intensity would be managed to allow for the physiological needs of plants, as a result, the planned use period indicated in the Grazing Schedule (section II) in a pasture may be lengthened or shortened depending on forage intensity in key areas.

Forage Utilization

Utilization is defined as the proportion or degree of current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by animals (including insects). It is a comparison of the amount of herbage left compared with the amount of herbage produced during the year. Utilization is measured at the end of the growing season when the total annual production can be accounted for and the effects of grazing in the whole management unit can be assessed. This allowable use level includes both livestock and wildlife. If use levels in key areas exceed the maximum allowable use before livestock enter a pasture, the pasture will not be used.

Upland areas

A maximum allowable intensity/utilization level in upland areas is 40% on key species.

Riparian Areas

A maximum allowable intensity/utilization level in riparian areas is 40% on key grass species.

A maximum allowable utilization level of 20% on key woody species is acceptable if all three classes of riparian vegetation are present. If the mid-age class is absent, the maximum allowable utilization level on key woody species will be limited to 5%.

Permittee Monitoring

The permittee is encouraged to participate in the Intensity/Utilization/Trend Monitoring.

The permittee will document the following items on the enclosed Actual Use Form during the 2015 grazing year: 1) Actual Grazing Period; 2) Actual Livestock Numbers.

***It is very important that this Actual Use form be completed and submitted to your Rangeland Management Specialist at the end of the grazing year.**

VI. MITIGATION MEASURES FOR SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

There are two (2) grazing mitigation documents that include grazing mitigation measures for the Mexican spotted owl and the Chiricahua leopard frog. Please review and familiarize yourself with these required grazing measures; Forest Service personnel may field check your compliance with these mitigation requirements. (See AMP)

VII. RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Structural Range Improvements

New fence projects will be implemented only with prior approval and after a successful completion /clearance of both biological and archeological surveys from Forest Service personnel.

Range Improvement Maintenance

Range improvements assigned to you for maintenance have been identified in red on the permit maps of your term grazing permit. These improvements are to be fully maintained annually to comply with permit requirements (Part 2, section 8i). Any maintenance you perform must conform to the standards specified by your District Rangeland Management Specialist. The grazing permittee is responsible for all maintenance materials, supplies and equipment necessary to properly maintain all range structural improvements. The Forest may replace range structural improvement materials and/or supplies at the end of the improvement's life; when maintenance and repair is no longer feasible to keep the improvement properly maintained and functioning. **Please note that you must notify the District Rangeland Management specialist at least 60 days prior to beginning any maintenance work that requires the use of heavy equipment (ex. Maintenance of earthen stock tanks).**

Scheduled for Maintenance

- All work will be completed by September 30, 2015.

VIII. SALTING AND PROTEIN BLOCK PRACTICES

Proper salt and protein block location can be a good tool to aid in livestock distribution and they will be used in a manner to spread livestock utilization throughout the pasture. A detailed description of the Coconino National Forest Salting and Supplemental Feeding policy can be found in Part 3 of your term grazing permit; (See AMP and Term Grazing Permit for the complete list of the guidelines.)

- In general, salt and protein blocks should not be placed within ¼ mile of water, roads, or trails.
- Salt and protein blocks will not be placed in sensitive area such as archeological sites, areas of depleted range, erosive soils, or sensitive plant or animal species.
- No more than three blocks (50 lb. blocks) of salt/protein will be placed at any location at any one time.

- The use of portable salt/protein block containers is encouraged but not mandatory.
- All salt/protein blocks and their containers will be promptly removed from the pasture when the livestock are moved out of the pasture.

IX. PORTABLE WATER HAULING

Temporary sites for portable haul water may be needed and should be used as necessary to assist in livestock distribution. (See AMP for requirements)

X. FIRE

Please use caution during all ranch activities that could potentially start a fire. All ranch vehicles must be equipped with an axe, shovel, and water bucket. All open camp and branding fires require a ten foot fire ring cleared down to mineral soil.

During periods of critical fire danger the Forest Supervisor may declare a Red Flag Alert or issue other special orders. Under these conditions, the building or use of fires, the use of power saws, heavy equipment, ATV's and other motorized equipment may be prohibited on Forest Service land. All Federal, State and Local fire restrictions and regulations must be observed.

Report all fires to the Ranger District Offices at: Red Rock (928-282-4119), Happy Jack (928-477-2172), Mogollon Rim (928-477-2255); or to the Coconino National Forest Fire Dispatch Office (928-526-0600). Cooperation in the reporting, prevention, and suppression of fires will be expected as specified in Part 2, section 10 of your Term Grazing Permit.

XI. MOTOR VEHICLE RESTRICTIONS

On May 1, 2012, the Coconino National Forest began implementation of the Travel Management Rule. The Travel Management Rule requires the designation of roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use and these routes are identified on the Motor Vehicle Use Map.

Implementation of the Travel Management Rule requires active management of all motorized use, including use related to permitted grazing activities.

Motorized travel off the designated road system, including off-road access, by grazing permit holders will be based on the need to carry out required management practices necessary to comply with the terms and conditions of the Term Grazing Permit.

Grazing permittees that do not obtain a Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit are required to operate motorized vehicles only on the designated road system. Operating a motorized vehicle off the designated road system without a valid Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit will result in the immediate issuance of a Notice of Non-Compliance for violating the terms and conditions of your Term Grazing Permit (Part 2, Section 8a). A Notice of Non-Compliance may result in Term Grazing Permit suspension or cancellation

proceedings. Legitimate motorized use off the designated road system, including off-road access, for conducting activities required under the Term Grazing Permit will be authorized under a Restricted Road, Trail and Off-Road Administrative Use Permit. (See Permit)

If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact or Kathy Sevy, Rangeland Management Specialist at (928) 203-7537 and/or Marc Stavropoulos, Supervisory Rangeland Management Specialist at (928) 203-7515.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Branton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Branton
District Ranger

