Annual Operating Instructions
2015
Asay Bench Allotment
Cedar City RD, Dixie NF

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some or part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Failure to follow these instructions is a violation of your permit.

Permittee	Ear Tag Color & #'s	Permitted*			Authorized**		
		Number	Class	Season	Number	Class	Season
Orval Palmer	NA	30	Cow/calf	6/16-9/30	30	Cow/calf	6/16-9/30
Leon Brinkerhoff	NA	65	Cow/calf	6/16-9/30	65	Cow/calf	6/16-9/30
Yardley Ranches LLC	NA	171	Cow/calf	6/16-9/30	171	Cow/calf	6/16-9/30

*Permitted use is the livestock numbers and season of use listed on your grazing permit.
**Authorized use is the number of livestock and season of use you are authorized for in the current grazing season and reflects stocking and/or season of use adjustments for the given year.

Non-use
Please be aware that nonuse in excess of 10% of your permitted numbers must be requested at least 30 days before the "on" date. Nonuse for personal convenience may be approved on a year-to-year basis for a maximum of three consecutive years and not more than four years in any 10-year period. Longer periods of nonuse for range protection will only be approved under a written agreement.

Non-use requested: None.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Grazing Schedule

Unit (Pasture)	Tentative Dates*
Buck Knoll	6/16-7/9
Tippets Valley	7/9-8/5
Anderson/Reeds Valley	8/5-9/4
Asay Knoll	9/4-9/30

*The above schedule is an **estimate** and may be modified at any time if: utilization levels are met, water availability is inadequate, drought, delayed forage development or wet soil conditions.

Allowable use levels are more important than tentative dates listed above. If allowable use levels are met early in the scheduled pasture, cattle will be required to be moved to another area of the pasture, moved to another pasture, or removed from the Forest. If early pasture moves occur, District range personnel or the District Ranger must be notified. Delayed pasture moves require prior approval by the District Ranger.

Type of rotation: Deferred Rotation

All livestock must be removed from the Forest by the permitted off date listed above.

Previous year's grazing results: **Full permit compliance was achieved in the 2014 grazing season.**

Notice of Non-compliance/Suspension Actions: **None**

Additional instructions: **If drought persists a reduction of head months will be enacted. This will be as a reduction of numbers and/or days.**

UTILIZATION STANDARDS & MONITORING

Maximum Allowable Forage Use Criteria

Vegetation Type		Very Early	Early	Mid	Late	Comments
Riparian Hydric Species (i.e. rushes & sedges)		6”	6”	4”	4”	Stubble height remaining at end of growing season.
9A Intensive Riparian Management Areas		6”	6”	6”	6”	Stubble height remaining at end of growing season.
Hydric species in wet meadows not influenced by streams (i.e. rushes & sedges)		6”	6”	4”	4”	Stubble height remaining at end of growing season.
Non-hydric species in riparian areas (i.e. Kentucky bluegrass)		2”				Stubble height remaining at end of growing season.
Upland species		50%				Varying in specific unit from 40-60%.
Wheatgrass seedings		60%				Management option to exceed 60% to maintain healthy seedings.
Riparian browse		<50%				New leader production.
Streambank alteration		<20%				Sloughing, trampling, dislodged stones, & animal tracks.
Goshawk nest areas & post-fledging family areas (PFAs)	Grass & forbs	<20%				Average <20% by weight and not exceed 40% in any given area.
	Shrubs	<40%				Average <40% by weight and not exceed 50% in any given area.

The above utilization standards take precedence over the tentative dates listed in the grazing schedule. You are responsible to monitor your livestock and comply with the listed utilization standards and to move livestock prior to **any** of the above standards being exceeded.

Compliance monitoring inspections will be conducted by Forest Service personnel throughout the grazing season in key areas across the allotment. You are invited and it is recommended that you participate in these inspections.

Exceeding the utilization standards may be considered as non-compliance with your Term Grazing Permit and may be subject to suspension or cancellation of the permit.

Additional instructions: **The Anderson Spring Pasture has a study that has shown a downward trend due to a reduction in ground cover. This pasture will be heavily monitored to determine the cause. If livestock are determined as the cause AND new management actions fail a stocking rate reduction will be considered. Salting and herding will be used to manage livestock to improve the trend.**

BILLING

Your annual grazing bill must be paid and notification received in our office prior to turning livestock onto the National Forest. It may take 10 days or more from the time you mail your payment until we receive payment notification so plan accordingly.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

You are responsible for maintaining the range improvements assigned to you in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. All improvements are to be maintained to standard prior to livestock entering the allotment, even in the event of non-use. Standards are included as part of this document. Livestock entry onto the Forest may be delayed if improvements are not maintained to acceptable standards.

Scheduled reconstruction for upcoming season: **Tippets Valley / Reeds Valley division fence. Cattleguard between Buck Knoll and Asay Knoll pastures needs new supports. Look into possibility of repairing the corral in Tippets Valley.**

You must obtain prior written approval from the District Ranger before constructing/installing structural range improvements or using or applying any pesticide/herbicide except for personal use of insect repellant.

Any improvement, which is no longer functional or no longer needed, will be removed from the allotment by the permittee. The removal of any improvement must have prior approval by the District Ranger.

Failure to maintain your assigned range improvements may be considered as non-compliance with your Term Grazing Permit and may be subject to suspension or cancellation of your permit.

Additional instructions: **All improvements must be up to standard before authorization will be given to move into the allotment**

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

You or the association will furnish sufficient riders or herders for proper distribution, protection and management of livestock on the allotment as required by the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and/or Annual Operating Instructions (AOI).

You are required to submit actual use information for the allotment. Please complete the enclosed form and return it to the district office within 30 days of removal of livestock from the Forest.

Salt and other dietary supplements are a distribution tool, and as such, should not be placed within ¼ mile of riparian areas, water troughs and ponds; within 200 ft. of designated roads, trails, trail heads or camping spots which have frequent use. Avoid salting in or near tree plantations or regenerating aspen stands. Exceptions to these standards must have prior approval.

Salt will be moved from areas where feed has been used to standards.

The Dixie National Forest Travel Plan must be followed while managing livestock unless approved in advance and in writing by the District Ranger.

Livestock should be drifted instead of trailed wherever possible. Previously grazed units must have all livestock removed from them.

All livestock feed or straw brought onto the Forest must be certified weed free per Regional Forester's Order #04-00-058, dated March 26, 1996 (http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/dixie/resources/rangemgt.shtml).

Dead livestock shall be moved at least ¼ mile from roads, water sources, and camping spots, which have evidence of frequent use.

All garbage resulting from activities associated with this permit shall be removed from National Forest lands and disposed of properly.

Additional instructions: **None**

RANGE IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE AND LIVESTOCK HERDING STANDARDS

The following maintenance standards apply to all range improvements on the allotment. The permittee shall maintain all range improvements assigned in this permit to the standards listed below. The permittee shall promptly notify the Forest Officer regarding improvements that cannot be maintained to these standards; these improvements will then be scheduled for reconstruction. The livestock herding standards listed below will be followed.

Maintenance work resulting in ground disturbance will require prior authorization. In many instances, archeological and biological surveys will need to be done.
Range Structural Improvements

All improvements (range facilities) on the allotment will be maintained by the assigned permittee (as provided for in Part 2, 8i of the Term Grazing Permit) to a condition adequate to perpetuate the life of the facility and to serve the purpose intended.

All construction or reconstruction of improvements may be done through cost-sharing between the permittees and the Forest Service unless otherwise specified.

Stockwater Developments -- Water Troughs (or Tanks), Pipelines and Stockwater Ponds:

1. Spring sources shall be protected from livestock trampling to prevent soil displacement, turbidity, spring source compaction and damage to water collection system. Fences around spring sources will be maintained to the standards established for "range fences" (as below) to prevent livestock from accessing the spring source.
2. Headbox lids or covers shall be in place, or if broken replaced, to prevent dirt, rodents, or other refuse from falling into the headbox.
3. Collection structures need to be cleaned and flushed annually to assure maximum water flow.
4. All outlet pipes and valves from headboxes must be functioning properly.
5. Pipeline leaks will be repaired or the damaged section replaced with materials similar to the original construction materials.
6. Non-functioning valves will be repaired or replaced.
7. Pipelines with valve cover boxes will be kept covered and repaired when needed.
8. Water troughs (tanks) will be kept at heights that make them usable to livestock. Troughs that become elevated from livestock trampling will be periodically backfilled to maintain a usable height.
9. Troughs with holes need to be plugged, mended or replaced.
10. Water troughs that become uneven due to settling will be reset and leveled.
11. Water shall not be allowed to overflow the sides of the troughs. Overflow pipes must be kept clear. Overflow pipes will be buried at least six inches deep (unless steel pipe is used) and the end of the overflow pipe must be protected from trampling by livestock (use rocks). Water from the overflow pipe must be directed away from the trough area at least 30 feet.
12. Inlet pipe shall be protected by anchoring to the trough with a single post next to the vertical pipe and brace or pole supporting the horizontal pipe. Inlet and outlet pipeline will be buried at least 6" deep to ensure protection from trampling. Steel pipe will be used where rock or hardpan prohibits digging.
13. All troughs shall be equipped with a wildlife escape ramp. Wildlife escape ramps shall be maintained in a functional capacity to provide access for small mammals and birds.
14. Troughs, storage tanks, and pipelines will be drained and cleaned annually to prevent algae and debris buildup and damage from freezing.
15. Poles, posts, and trough-framing materials used in the construction of the water development will be maintained, repaired, or replaced as needed.
16. Stockwater ponds will be kept clear of debris, floating logs, dead animals, etc. Where outlet works are provided, they need to be cleaned and inspected regularly. Spillways should be inspected for damage. Rock rip-rap on spillway may need to be repaired or replaced.
17. Ponds need to be drained and cleaned out periodically.

18. Old posts, troughs, pipe, wire, and other materials that have been removed will be promptly hauled off of the National Forest.

Range Fences and Corrals:

1. Fence clearing is six feet wide on each side of the fenceline. All logs, trees, slash brush or other material will be removed unless otherwise specified. All overhanging material will be removed to eight feet vertical clearance. Dead trees in danger of falling on the fence will be felled.
2. All broken wires will be spliced and repaired in such a manner that tension on a wire can be maintained. Wire splices will be made with quality barbwire, 12-gauge size tie wire or type of wire used in initial construction. Nicro-press sleeves may also be used. If there are three or more splices within a distance of 20 feet the strand will need to be replaced to limit the splices.
3. Twisting or kinking of wire to take up slack weakens the wire and is therefore not permitted.
4. Wire will not be stapled or wrapped directly to live trees.
5. Broken or rotten posts, broken braces, and missing staples will be replaced where and when needed to maintain the fence. Replacement post will be cedar (juniper) or treated material.
6. Wires will be re-stretched where needed.
7. Broken or missing stays will be replaced where needed. Replacement stays will be two to three inches in diameter.
8. Fences will be maintained to meet big game standards (bottom wire 16 inches above ground, top wire 40-42 inches above ground) on all fences constructed to this standard.
9. Staples will not be driven so deep into the post that they scar or create a weak spot in the wire.
10. All gates will be closed before livestock enter the grazing units and opened and tied back in the fall after livestock leave the allotment.
11. Gates will be maintained with three or four evenly spaced stays between the uprights.
12. Wire gate tension will be sufficient to prevent the gate from sagging and still be easily opened and closed. Gate loops will be made from smooth wire (barbless wire), not barbed wire.
13. Trees that fall on fences will be cut and removed; broken wires will be spliced and re-stretched; broken poles will be replaced.
14. Broken or rotten sections of log or pole fences and corrals will be replaced as needed.
15. Braces will be tight and in good condition. Loose or leaning brace posts will be straightened and reset. Replacement posts will be four to six inches in diameter at the small end.
16. Corrals will be kept clean of litter, in good repair, and usable condition.
17. Steel posts will be straightened and redriven deep enough that the spade is below ground level. Replace as necessary. Clips will be used to fasten wire onto metal posts.
18. Posts that have been pushed too deep by the snow will need to be pulled and reset.
19. "Let-down" fences will be let-down promptly when livestock exit the allotment and raised and tightened each spring.
20. Old posts and wire that have been replaced or removed will be promptly hauled off of the National Forest.

Livestock Herding Standards:

1. Numbers and season of use will be adjusted annually if determined necessary by the District Ranger.
2. No livestock will be allowed on Forest lands until range readiness as determined by the Forest Service has been reached.
3. Permittees will be required to notify the Forest Service when animals enter the Forest and when they leave at the end of the season.
4. The permittee or association will furnish sufficient riders or herders for proper distribution, protection, and management of livestock on the allotment as required by the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and/or Annual Operating Instructions (AOI).
5. Distribution is critical as utilization is approached. You will be required to move to the next unit or off of the Allotment. Therefore, it is vital that the herd be moved daily out of areas of high concentration to areas typically ignored. Do not allow livestock to concentrate at historically used areas. Strays will not be allowed to stay in previously grazed units and will be moved promptly.

6. Salt is to be used as a management tool to distribute livestock into areas where utilization is lacking and away from sensitivity areas or high utilization areas.
7. Salt should be placed no closer than 1/4 mile from water nor within 100 feet of roads. In some instances, salt may be placed near upland water sources only if there is a problem keeping livestock in the area. Avoid salting in natural passes.
8. Salt will be moved from areas where feed has been used to standards.
9. Livestock should be drifted instead of trailed wherever possible. Prohibit trailing of livestock along the length of riparian areas. Relocate stock driveways where found in riparian areas. Rehabilitate damaged riparian areas to achieve riparian-area goals.
10. Carcasses of dead livestock on National Forest lands will be removed by the owner for a distance of at least three-hundred (300) feet from any live water and one-hundred (100) feet from any trailhead or recreation trail. Carcasses will be removed for a distance of at least five-hundred (500) feet from any campground or picnic area.
11. Rider and herder camps will be kept clean; litter picked up and properly disposed of. Excess hay and other materials will be removed from the camp site when it is moved. Holding pens or corrals used for riding stock will be cleaned up and debris hauled off or disposed of.