

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2011

Black Range Ranger District
Gila National Forest

Kingston Allotment #208



Reviewed By: _____

Date: _____

Permittee

Approved By: /s/ Larry D. Cospers

Date: 01/24/2011

Larry Cospers, *District Ranger*

**BLACK RANGE RANGER DISTRICT
2011 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS
Kingston Allotment**

Permitted Use:

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Lindsey Cattle Partnership.	200 cattle, cow/calf	Term	03/01-02/28

Authorized Use for 2011:

Permittee	Brand(s)	Numbers & Season
Lindsey Cattle Partnership	∩∩ LRC	200 cattle, cow/calf 09/18/2011 - 02/28/2011

Counting Livestock: The standard for counting livestock on “yearlong” allotments is as follows:

- a. All cattle over six (6) months of age on January 1 will be counted against the permitted numbers on the allotment charged at the current rate for the upcoming year. All calves on the allotment under six months of age as of January 1, will be counted against the permitted numbers and charged for at the current rate on the following April 1.

Nonuse: Application for credit or refund must be made in “writing” and “in advance” by the permittee to the District Ranger using Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application). When it is not possible to be timely in getting to the Ranger District Office, the permittee may phone in a request for refund or credit. When this happens, the District will document the phone call and send a copy to the SO Resource Clerk, with their recommendations noted. The permittee will then complete Form FS-2200-1 (Refund, Credit, or Transfer Application) at the next visit to the Ranger District Office. **Note:** credit/refund applications will not be processed unless District personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time of removal of livestock.

Pasture Rotations:

Pasture	Number	On Date	Off Date	Days
North Trujillo	100	03/01	06/30	122
South Trujillo	100	03/01	06/30	122
South Percha	100	07/01	10/30	122
Log Cabin	100	07/01	10/30	122
Shipping	200	11/01	11/14	14

Pasture	Number	On Date	Off Date	Days
Cave Creek/Mineral	200	11/15	02/28	106
Kingston	Not Used			

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.

Please return the enclosed “**Actual Use Worksheet 2011**” document to the Black Range Office immediately after your off-date and no later than **January 5**.

Range Improvements: Range improvements are planned for the Kingston Allotment during the 2011 grazing season.

- Maintain fences around the Trujillo Park pastures to prepare for grazing next year.
- Rocky Rockheader needs 6’ steel round drinker
- Solar system for Curley Well.
- Continued maintenance of water developments, windmills, and corrals as needed to successfully facilitate the grazing operation.

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**”.

Allowable Use: (*Standards by Pasture and Key Area*)

Pasture	Key Area	Key Species	Upland Allowable Use	Riparian Allowable Use
All	<i>Grassland Openings</i>	Bluegrass & native bunchgrass	30-40%	
All	<i>Riparian Areas</i>	Woody riparian species		Not to exceed 25%
All	<i>During “growing season”</i>	All riparian grass & sedge		35%
All	<i>During “dormant season”</i>	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
South Trujillo Pasture		Vicinity of Ruby Tank
North Trujillo pasture		Cluster #TC1
South Percha/Log Cabin		Vicinity of Rice Tank and Cluster #SC3
Kingston Pasture		Vicinity of the Bloodgood Area
Mineral Creek Pasture		Cluster #CM1
Cave Creek Pasture		Escondido Mesa and Telegraph Ridge (sec. 30 between N. Percha & Fence spring).

Salting: Salt should be placed in such a way as to distribute livestock use throughout the area. Place salt well away (>1/4 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.

Supplemental Feed: 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.

Other Resources:

Wildlife and Fish

An analysis was completed for all Gila allotments due to the listing of the Chiricahua leopard frog as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We have determined that livestock grazing on the Kingston Allotment has the potential to adversely affect the Chiricahua leopard frog. As a result of this determination, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will prepare a draft Biological Opinion, which may modify grazing management practiced to minimize the level of affect an action will have on a listed species. However, this determination has not yet resulted in any changes to your grazing permit. As the permittee of the Kingston Allotment, you have applicant status which allows you the opportunity to provide comments to the draft Biological Opinion. This office will keep you informed on the process.

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.

NEPA and Appeal Rights:

These Instructions implement the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) decision for the Kingston Allotment dated 02/23/1999, and are not eligible for appeal under 36 CFR 251.

