

# ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2011

**Black Range Ranger District**  
Gila National Forest

South Fork Allotment #217



Reviewed By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Permittee

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved By: /s/ Larry D. Cospers  
Larry Cospers, District Ranger

Date: 01/24/2011



**BLACK RANGE RANGER DISTRICT  
2011 ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS  
South Fork Allotment**

**Permitted Use:**

Permittee	Numbers	Type	Season
Robert and Susan Cochran.	212 cattle, cow/calf 5 horses	Term	03/01-2/28

**Authorized Use for 2011:**

Permittee	Brand(s)	Numbers & Season
Robert and Susan Cochran	C — LSC	212 cattle, cow/calf 5 horses 03/01-02/28

**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
Hagins	212	03/01	03/14	14
Monument	212	03/15	05/15	62
Lodge	212	05/16	09/30	138
				0
Monument	212	10/01	11/01	32
Hagins	212	11/02	02/28/2012	119

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 South Fork Allotment during the 2011 grazing season.

- Continued maintenance of water developments, windmills, and corrals as needed to successfully facilitate the grazing operation.
- Trick tank in Hagins pasture
- Tom Davis Well – Needs new liner –Check on this.
- Metal Drinker at JHW well Storage Tank – 8 foot Powder River
- Black Hawk Trough Pipeline – Powder River Trough needed. 12 foot. May need new spring box.
- Solar Pump at Beehive Well and Silver Tail Well – SDS-D128
- Fence #001101 – 1 mile of fence materials
- Need a new cattleguard on 226 @ JHW Well.

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
Monument		Cluster C-1
Hagins		Cluster C-2
Hagins		Cluster C-3
Lodge		Cluster C-4
Lodge		NW ¼ Sec 21, T11S, R9W
Allotment-wide		All Riparian Areas

The idea of a key area is to find a site that is representative of a larger area in which cattle obtain the majority of their required forage resources. Key area monitoring will avoid areas directly adjacent to permanent water sources, cattle trails, roads, and fence lines.

Upland areas will be monitored for use on perennial grass species.

Mexican spotted owl protected and restricted habitat will be monitored to ensure that current management is providing cover for rodent prey species, the residual biomass that will support

prescribed natural and ignited fires that would reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire in the Forest, and regeneration of riparian trees.

District personnel will contact the permittees to coordinate site visits to monitor key areas. Permittee participation is encouraged. Forage utilization estimates will be consistent with the Forest Service Range Analysis Handbook methodology, and may also include FS Regional stubble-height standards, as well as other techniques generally accepted in the field of range management.

**Salting:** Salt should be placed in such a way as to distribute livestock use throughout the area. Place salt well away (**>¼ 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*

There is protected and restricted Mexican Spotted Owl habitat on the South Fork Allotment, however, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines there are no restrictions regarding the Mexican Spotted Owl.

Stock tanks must be surveyed for possible aquatic habitat before earth-disturbing maintenance is authorized.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Chiricahua leopard frog as a threatened species in 2002. We have completed grazing consultation on your allotment regarding the effects of livestock grazing on the Chiricahua leopard frog. We determined that livestock grazing may have an affect but not adversely affect the Chiricahua leopard frog. As a result of this determination, there were no changes required of your grazing permit. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with this determination. Therefore, consultation has been completed. A copy of this consultation is on file with your local Ranger District.

We are working on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife in reference to the Diamond Pasture grazing proposal you submitted in 2010. This consultation may require further restrictions than we had discussed, but we will move forward with the proposal and need your participation throughout 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 are subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90 (see enclosed copy of 36 CFR 251 regulations). In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).

After January 1, 2011, a notice of appeal must be filed with Derek Padilla, Acting Forest Supervisor, Gila National Forest, at 3005 E. Camino Del Bosque, Silver City, NM 88061, within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with Larry Cospers District Ranger, Black Range Ranger District at 1804 Date Street, Truth or Consequences, NM 89701.

